

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1995

FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Cobras improve record

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras improved their record to 5-1 by defeating the Clinton Hurricanes 9-1.

Aaron Ward, Rob Sparks, Brent Schoenbach and Mike Liveriola had two RBI apiece to pace the Cobras offense.

Dave Young scored two runs and pitched five innings to record the win. Chris Brode and Ward contributed an inning of scoreless relief to finish the game.

Gymnast lifts Michigan

Amy Russo of Farmington Hills, an eighth grader at Dunkle Middle School, won the all-around competition in the age 13 category with a score of 35.10 at the Level 8 regional gymnastics meet at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky.

A member of the Oakland Gymnastics Training Center in Walling Lake, Russo scored 8.85 on the vault and uneven bars for a second-place finish on both.

On the balance beam, she placed eighth with an 8.65 and finished ninth on floor exercise with an 8.75.

Russo's contribution helped Michigan place first in the region, which includes Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. She is coached by Jeunee Godwin and Dean Smarjasec.

Elite wins state title

The Ann Arbor Elite, a men's soccer team stocked mostly with Oberlin players, won the Michigan Amateur Cup championship Sunday with a 3-2 victory over the Redford Raiders.

Dominic Vella scored two goals at Holloway Field in Ann Arbor, the first on a cross from Wayne Worosz and the second with an assist from John Truskowski. Andy Cosenza scored the other goal, and Farris Hermia assisted.

The Elite will play the Wisconsin champion in the upcoming regional tournament.

On Friday, the Elite won its first Inter-Regional Soccer League game, 4-1 over the Grand Rapids Explosion.

Vella scored two goals, Cosenza and Hermia one each. Vella also had two assists, Bill Joker and Ryan Carriere one apiece.

The Elite (1-2) plays the Des Moines Menace at 7 p.m. Saturday at Holloway.

Mercy posts golf wins

Farmington Hills Mercy put its dual-meet golf record at 11-1 with a 204-224 victory Tuesday over Dearborn at Tanglewood Golf Course.

Karen Porter turned in a round of 50 strokes to lead the Marlinas. Erin Moug and Jaclyn Denmore shot 51 and Tina Madej posted a score of 52.

Mercy began the week Monday by defeating Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes 228-268 at Silver Lake Golf Course.

Carris Sheridan recorded a 55 to pace the Marlinas. Kristen Smith finished with 56 strokes, Moug 58 and Denmore 59.

Mercy plays Livonia Churchill today and travels to Saline for a regional tournament Friday.

Santello, Respert hailed

Edford Catholic Central Athletic Director Robert Santello will be receiving the Ed Lauer Person of the Year Award at the Catholic League Coaches Association and Catholic League Hall of Fame induction and reunion dinner, Monday, June 12 at the Warren Chateau, 6015 E. 10 Mile (just east of Mound).

Michigan State University consensus All-American basketball player Shawn Respert (Redford Bishop Borgess) will also be one of the nine Athletes of the Year who will be honored.

A golf outing kicks off the day's activities (tee times 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.) at Maple Lane Golf Course (14 Mile and Hoover).

Tickets (golf and dinner) are \$60 per person. Dinner only is \$30 (or \$55 per couple).

For more information, call (813) 237-8900.

Wildcats are champs

The 13-year-old Western Wayne Wildcats finished with an unbeaten record to win the state AAU girls basketball championship, May 5-7, in Grand Rapids.

Members of the Wildcats, who will compete July 14-22 in Amarillo, Tex. in the AAU National Tournament, include Kelly Ables, Lindsey Baber, Latrice Blasewski, Jannell Cobor, Brea Pastalaniec, Andrea Proett, Brooks Ratha, Katie Schwartz, Angela Sillman, Lindsey Smith and Latrice Sterling.

The 11-year-old Wildcats also qualified for the nationals (July 7-15 in Kennesaw, Ga.) by finishing third recently in its division at the state level.

Members of the Wildcats include Dawn Allen, Janine Gustafella, Katie Kelly, Becky Kowalski, Amanda Lonta, Megan Lukaski, Angela New, Jessica Shusterie, Summer Smith, Jenna Van Wagener, Brianna Wolcott and Ashley Williams.

Hawks stay alive in division race



Farmington Hills Harrison scored the last nine runs Monday and rallied to defeat Plymouth Canton in a key Western Division baseball game, 10-4. The victory keeps the Hawks in the title chase.

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

They should have been feeling pretty good, those Plymouth Canton Chiefs.

Their must-win game, Monday at Farmington Harrison, was half over and they were in command with a 4-1 lead.

A victory would give Thursday's game with Livonia Franklin a championship aura — the winner would be baseball champion of the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division, and would play Lakes Division titlist Plymouth Salem for the league crown.

But there are seven innings to a high school baseball game for a reason. As Canton coach Scott Dickey described it, "We kicked it around a bit."

That was a reference to Harrison's fourth and sixth innings, when the Hawks pushed across a total of nine runs — more than enough to offset the Chiefs' advantage, and certainly enough to keep Harrison in the hunt for the Western Division title, with a 10-4 victory.

The win upped the Hawks' record to 6-3 in the division, same as Livonia Franklin's. They are 10-5 overall. And Canton? "We're out of it now," said a disappointed Dickey, his team now 5-4 in the division. "We had to win this one and beat Franklin (Thursday). We'll play for the districts now."

Harrison will play Salem — a team the Hawks defeated 7-1 earlier this

season — for the WLAA championship if Franklin loses to Canton today. Otherwise, Franklin will go against Salem for the title.

With hard-throwing Jake Lawson on the mound for Harrison, it figured to be a low-scoring affair Monday. Canton's strength was in a solid corps of pitchers and good defense.

Harrison scored first, getting a run in the second on doubles by Aaron Lawson and Zack Cornell. But Lawson wasn't in complete command, and the Hawks' defense was shaky; in the first three innings, the Chiefs got four hits and four walks and, combining them with three Harrison errors, parlayed it into four runs.

Indeed, if Lawson wasn't striking them out, it seemed he wasn't getting them out in the first three innings. Of the nine outs made by Canton, six came on Ks.

But the difference between the two teams wasn't pitching or defense; rather, it was hitting prowess, and that advantage was Harrison's. The Hawks collected 13 hits in the game, and seven went for extra bases.

"This is the best hitting lineup I've ever had," said Hawks coach John Herrington, now in his 24th year as Harrison's varsity baseball coach. He qualified it, adding, "If it continues. They're hitting .375 as a team."

The school record for batting average in a season is .338.

Canton's third-inning surge began with Mark Bilo's single. Lawson

See HAWKS, 6C



Master of the mound: Jake Lawson pitched another solid game to guide the Hawks to victory over Canton.

Mustangs stun Marlins in playoffs, 5-4

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy softball coach Jack Falvo had a bad feeling about playing rival Birmingham Marlinas again Monday.

"I was petrified to play Marian," he said. "I was afraid we would come up flat and expect to beat them."

The Mustangs made Falvo's fears a reality when they upset the host Marlinas 5-4 in the first round of the Catholic League playoffs.

Mercy had beaten Marian four times earlier in the season and was the Central Division champion with a 10-2 record. The Mustangs were the low seed, having finished fourth at 1-11.

"We lost once in extra innings, twice by one run and 4-2," Marian coach David Falkenburg said. "We thought we could beat them."

Their coach was kinda worried. They beat us four times, and he didn't want to play us again."

SOFTBALL

The Mustangs are 7-17 overall and will play Riverview Gabriel Richard in the semifinals 7:30 p.m. Friday at King Boring Field in Dearborn. The Marlinas are 15-8.

Injuries played a role in Marian's season. Captain and center fielder Susy Michalski played her first game a week ago after knee surgery, and catcher Nicole Schulte suffered a broken arm in the first Mercy game.

"Now we have them back, and that has made a big difference," Falkenburg said. "I expect our team to pick it up and be on a roll when we get to the district."

Marian also had a fine pitching performance from Erin Butts, who allowed five hits (just two after the first inning), struck out 10, walked three and hit one batter.

Mercy led 2-0 after two innings, but

Marian scored twice in both the third and fourth innings to take the lead.

A walk to Erin Thompson, and an error on Ellen Kozlowski's grounder were followed by consecutive RBI singles by Breean Walas and Michalski in the third.

Mercy starter Heather Jonna walked Cathie Goodman to start the fourth, and Shannon Spengler greeted reliever Dana Dziekan with an RBI double. Spengler scored on a wild pitch to make it 4-2.

Piper Metz scored her second Mercy run in the fifth on the last of three strikeouts/passed balls.

Katie Kus sealed the victory with an RBI single in the top of the seventh. Mercy got a run back in the bottom half on Rachel Geiger's grounder.

Geiger also drove in the first Mercy run, and the Marlinas made it 2-0 without benefit of a hit on three passed balls (two after strikeouts).

Mercy also had five hits but was helped by five Marian errors. Metz

and Jennifer Lis had two hits each, and Walas had two for the Mustangs.

"The last few weeks our bats haven't worked very well, and we've been getting by on manufactured runs," Falvo said. "We stole a lot of games by playing good defense and playing off other teams' mistakes."

"Give Marian credit. They came here ready to play and capitalized on our mistakes."

"They actually did (hit the ball well), but we made some plays and Erin had 10 strikeouts; so she pitched a good game," Falkenburg said.

Despite Marian's tradition in athletics, it was the first Catholic League playoff game the Mustangs have won in Falkenburg's nine years as coach.

"Reggie has always been so powerful; it seemed we always played Reggie and got beat," Falkenburg said.

"We've worked hard to get to a higher level, and we're not there yet as evidenced by this game," Falvo said.

Raiders finish 2nd in WLAA tourney

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Kinning Li is one tennis player making up for lost time.

The Plymouth Salem junior, who moved to this country at age 9 from Mainland China and didn't start playing competitive tournaments until he was 14, won the No. 1 singles title Tuesday at the Western Lakes Activities Association boys tournament held at Livonia Stevenson High.

Northville, winning a pair of singles titles and three doubles crowns, captured the WLAA team title for the second straight year. The Mustangs are unbeaten this year (11-0) in dual meets.

North Farmington finished second, while Salem and Stevenson took third and fourth, respectively. See statistical summary.

Li defeated Stevenson senior Mark Findling in the championship final, 6-4, 6-2, to improve his season record to 16-1.

Earlier in the season, Li beat Findling in a three-setter.

"I tried to be more patient this time," Li said. "He (Findling) is a baseline player with a good first serve."

"I tried to go to his backhand and I thought I returned serve well," Findling, meanwhile, ousted

TENNIS

Northville's No. 1 Matt Schwagla, who retired with a knee problem after dropping the first set, 7-6, and trailing.

"Mark has been playing well," said Stevenson coach George Croll. "Both he and Li hit extremely hard. I'm sure Mark is glad he's going to the Dearborn regional."

Li, meanwhile, enters Friday's Class A regional in Ann Arbor, rated one of the toughest in state, seeded third in his flight.

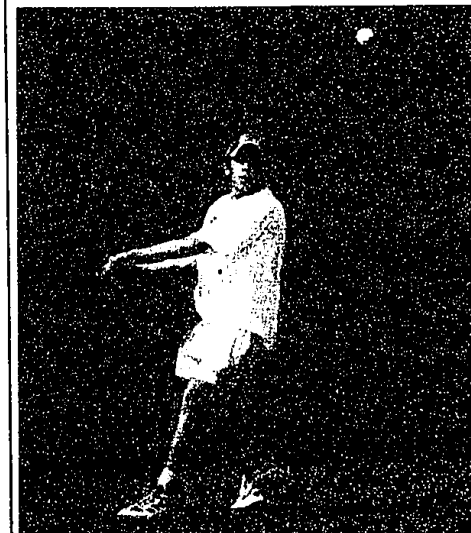
"It's going to be tough to get out of that," said Li, an honor student who carries a 4.033 grade-point average. "But winning the league (WLAA) is rewarding because all the hard work has paid off."

Li has improved immensely since last year when he reached the WLAA semifinals at No. 1 singles.

His on-going program includes lifting weights three times per week, hitting against a ball machine and three-hour practice days.

Currently he is ranked No. 2 in the Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association Boys 16s and No. 3 in the Boys 18s.

See TENNIS, 6C



Tennis action: Nomit Shah returns volley at No. 4 singles Tuesday, finishing second in his flight.