

SPORTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1995

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Soccer rivals in rematch

North Farmington and Farmington will have a rematch in boys soccer at 4 p.m. Wednesday when they play a district tournament game at North.

The Raiders won the regular-season meeting Oct. 11 when freshman Justin Street scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory.

"Our kids are excited to play North again," Farmington coach Luke Juncal said. "We felt we lost a game we should have won the last time. We thought we were the better team, and this is an opportunity to prove it."

Juncal and North coach Ron Metzger hope cooler heads prevail. There were 13 cards given in the first game, with the Falcons getting two double yellows.

"I just hope it's a clean game," Juncal said. "We have to settle down, concentrate on playing soccer and forget about everything else."

Both teams bring 6-8-1 records into the game. "It's hard to beat a good team once, and it's harder to do it twice," Metzger said. "We have our work cut out for us."

"It's going to be a tough game. We have to play hard, and we have to play a much cleaner game," Farmington followed the first North game with a 2-0 win over Farmington Harrison. Tim Rals scored both goals, and Paul Mitchell and Dante Vacca had one assist each.

The Falcons tied Northville 2-2 Monday in a Western Lakes playoff game. Simon Juncal scored one goal and one assist, and Matt Hanks scored the other goal.

Farmington had leads of 1-0 at halftime and 2-1, but Northville scored the tying goal in the final minute.

The Raiders lost their crossover game to Livonia Franklin, 2-0. Harrison plays Livonia Stevenson in the other district game Wednesday. The championship will be played 4 p.m. Friday at Harrison.

Richardson breaks record

Lisa Richardson broke her own school record to win the 100-yard freestyle for the Farmington Hills Harrison girls swim team Thursday.

Richardson finished the race in 54.61, bettering her previous best time of 55.75. She also was first in the individual medley with a 2:19.35 time.

Harrison's Julie Kluka was a double winner in the 200 freestyle (2:06.5) and the 500 (5:38.2). Donna Schwalm won the 50 freestyle (25.45).

She was the first to host Walled Lake Western, 108-78.

"Our girls swam well," Harrison coach Ross Bandy said. "We just didn't have enough depth to win the meet."

North Farmington had three first places Thursday in a 108-77A loss to host Plymouth Salem. Cheryl Farber and Kristian Burke had individual wins and combined with Nerve Alver and Amy Finkel to win the medley relay (1:58.69).

Farber was first in the individual medley (2:23.0) and Burke in the butterfly (1:04.6).

Hockey officers sought

The Farmington Hills Travel Hockey Association has been formed to meet the needs of residents and players at the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile Road.

"With 600 to 700 resident youth playing organized hockey in our area, there is a definite need for a program that will allow players to develop at the upper levels of the sport," Dennis Patterson, association president, said.

The association seeks to fill board positions with persons interested in advancing the sport of ice hockey in the community.

If interested write to the association at 29483 Shenandoah, Farmington Hills, MI 48331.

College grid report

Defensive end Scott Curke of Farmington Hills (Harrison) had a fumble recovery that led Albion College's first touchdown Oct. 14 in a 34-24 victory over Hope.

Curke, one of the six freshman starters — the most since 1984 — has 12 tackles and two assists in two games.

Sophomore quarterback Joe Pesci (Harrison) and Kyle Klein combined for five touchdown passes against Hope.

Pesci, who played in the second and fourth quarters, completed eight of 13 passes for 181 yards and two TDs. Pesci is 34-of-63 for 456 yards and five TDs overall.

Lasorda keynote speaker

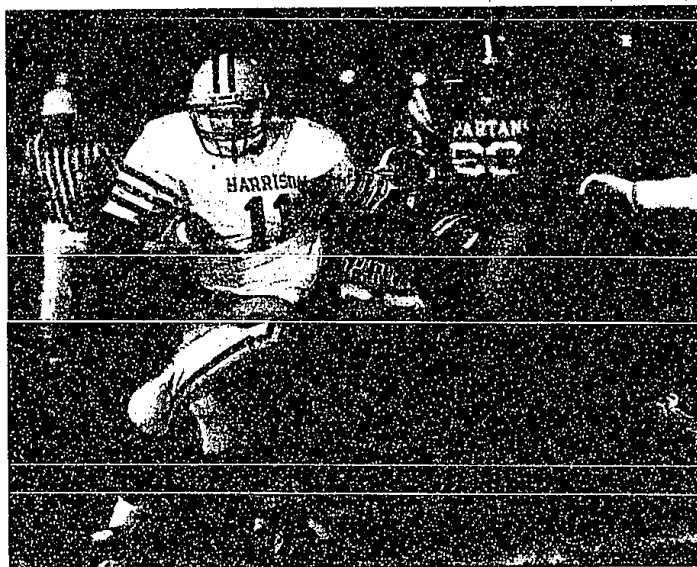
Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda will headline the University of Detroit Mercy Titen Baseball fund-raiser from 6:10 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Polish Century Club.

Ray Lane of TV-50 will emcee the event.

Tickets are \$100 per person (includes family-style dinner and open bar). Tables of 10 are available.

For more information, call UDM head coach Bob Miller at (313) 835-6266, Bob Atkins at (313) 835-6985 or UDM Athletics at (313) 953-1700.

Public information can be checked at this Observer by mail (953) 2141, Sheldene, Leno, 4041 800, fax (313) 951-7774 or phone (313) 953-2141.



End run: Harrison quarterback Kevin Bambenek eludes Stevenson's Dave Swiech on his bootleg run for a second-quarter touchdown Friday.

Strong finish lifts Hawks to 3rd straight grid title



Harrison High got a big boost from one of its smallest football players Friday. The Hawks rallied behind senior Jason Granger to overcome an 18-17 deficit and defeat Livonia Stevenson 31-18 for the Western Lakes championship.

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The numbers will say it was Farmington Hills Harrison's 11th Western Lakes Activities Association football title, seventh in the last eight years and third in a row.

But the Hawks' 31-18 championship conquest Friday over host Livonia Stevenson was dialed up by No. 2 in the green and gold jersey — 6-foot-8, 165-pound senior speedster Jason Granger.

After squandering what appeared to be a commanding 17-0 halftime

lead, the Hawks needed a pair of scores in the final 10 minutes to erase an 18-17 deficit to win the battle of divisional champs.

Granger, although gimpy and bloodied, broke the Spartans' back with an electrifying 87-yard kickoff return with only 9:44 remaining to put the Hawks back on top, 23-18. He then cut loose for 40 yards on the next series and brought home the WLAA trophy for Harrison with a 4-yard touchdown run and two-point conversion sweep with 6:17 to go.

Granger, who sat out a majority of

the second quarter with a perforated lip, finished with 128 yards on 18 carries.

"He looked like Mel Gray on that play," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said of the pivotal kickoff return. "He wasn't juking around, he just took off."

"It really wasn't our kicker's mistake. We were trying to go away from him, but the ball took a bad hop. In fact, it almost went over his head."

"Great players step up when they have to, and when they needed it, he stepped up big-time. That was a big momentum shift."

Harrison coach John Harrington, who has orchestrated all 11 Hawks' WLAA title quests along with seven state championship runs, calls Granger "an outstanding competitor."

See FOOTBALL, 4C

Falcons, Raiders winners

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington re-experienced the emotional high that comes with winning Saturday while denying Livonia Churchill the same.

Senior John Lessway rushed for 222 yards and scored three touch-

FOOTBALL

downs as the host Raiders defeated the winless Chargers 20-7.

North hadn't won a game since the season opener and is 2-0 overall.

"This is good for the kids; they needed it," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "When you play hard every week and don't win, it gets frustrating."

"Something like this rejuvenates you. It shows if you keep practicing and playing hard, something good will happen."

Churchill coach Steve Naumcheff doesn't doubt his players have done that, but he wishes they had a victory to show for it.

After being close in games with Northville and Livonia Franklin the two previous weeks, the elusive victory seemed attainable, if not likely.

"The kids have been asked over and over again to keep improving in the face of a tough situation," Naumcheff said. "There will be a reward sometime down the road because of the way they've dealt with adversity."

"But I also hope there is a near-term reward, and that is for a superior effort against (Livonia) Stevenson. Our goal will be the same as every week — to win and stop a very good Stevenson team."

The Raiders scored on their first possession, taking a 7-0 lead after a 7-yard TD run by Eric Jones and the extra point.

In the third quarter, Rich Beal took a Brad Rivers pass to the Churchill 1, which led to Lessway's first TD.

The Chargers cut the deficit in half when Todd Wilson (22 carries for 155 yards) ran 4 yards for a TD and Churchill converted the extra-point kick.

North was pinned at its own 8 following the kickoff and a holding penalty, but Lessway sprinted 92 yards for another TD.

"John has played great all year, but we've featured him more as the season progressed," O'Leary said. "He's a better back than people think he is."

See WIDE, 4C

Farmington's girls 2nd in WLAA meet

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson captured the first jewel in the triple crown for girls cross country by repeating as Western Lakes Activities Association champions Friday at Cass Benton Park.

The Spartans, undefeated in dual meets, winners of all six invitational titles this year and now WLAA champs, moved on to the Class A regional title Saturday at Ann Arbor's Buhr Park.

X-COUNTRY

Stevenson, expected to challenge Troy Athens for the state title, took five of the first seven places to win the Western Lakes championship for the third time in the 1990s.

Stevenson scored 21 points with state-ranked Farmington second with 57 and Plymouth Salem third with 66. See statistical summary.

The sophomore tandem of Kelly Travis and Kelly McNelliance took first and second, respectively, with times of 16:20 and 16:34 over the rain-soaked 6,000-meter course.

North Farmington's Becky Naglik (20:01) and Salem's Leah Rutherford (20:02) were wedged in between Stevenson's Jeannette Stojewski (20:04), who ran the all-time sixth best Spartan time; freshmen Kim McNelliance (20:16) and Laura Pilon (20:19).

"This is the best group I've ever had, and I've had some awfully good kids and teams," Stevenson coach

Paul Holmberg said. "But we still have to prove ourselves going into the regional."

"We don't have to change our routine a great deal. We'll still do our basic work, only shorter and faster reps."

Despite a cough, Travis repeated as individual champion as temperatures plummeted and the winds kicked up late Friday afternoon.

"It was really slippery and you had to watch your step on the wide turns," Travis said. "All during warmups it was pretty rough, but we're pretty used to it. We ran a meet against Salem that was worse than this, but it got a little cold at the end."

Farmington, which also impressed by placing five girls in the top 15 and six in the top 20, tried to force the pace at the beginning.

McNelliance, who ran her best time of the year on the Cass Benton course, hung behind eighth-place finisher Ann Grimaldi of Farmington (20:25) during the first mile before making her move.

"I was looking to pass their number one girl," McNelliance said. "After the first mile I was third. I knew they would try to go out fast. We could guess so."

Farmington, which lost its first dual meet of the year to Stevenson on Tuesday at Oakland Community College, 21-27, put forth a fine showing.

Behind Grimaldi, for the Falcons

See WLAA, 2C



Ann Grimaldi and Kate Adams paced Farmington.

SHAWN LAMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER