## FARMINGTON --FARMINGTON HILLS SPOŔTS

### **Raiders rout Blue Javs**

North Farmington scored five second-half goals Tuesday and pulled away from a 1-1 half-time tie to defeat visiting Southfield in boys soc-

time the to defeat visiting Southfield in boys soccr, 6-1.

Sophomore midfielder Craig Hearn scored
three goals to lead North. Junior Tony Claramitaro, junior Dan Gabriel and sophomore Justin
Street anded one goal aplece.

Street and junior Amit Klatchko recorded two
assists each, Claramitaro and Gabriel one each.
Scnlor Jeff libbetson was in goal for the Raiders.
"The nice thing is it gets us up for the league
opener against (Livonia) Churchill," North coach
Ron Meteyer anid.
"Our midfield surprised us and really dominated. We improved as the game went on and came
out of it with no injuries."

#### **Granger paces champ**

Roy Granger scored two touchdowns Saturday to help the Down River Raiders capture the Michigan Football League title with a 17-14 victory over the Flint Falcons.

The former Farmington Harrison standout caught four passes for 100 yards, including touchdown plays covering 68 and 21 yards. He also returned two punts for 25 yards and one kickoff for 20 yards at Melvindale High School.

### **Auto racing results**

Paul Hahn of Farmington Hills led the 55-car field in qualifying for the ARCA street stock race saturday, Aug. 17, at Flat Rock Speedway. Hahn started in the pole position after posting a 13.664 qualifying time and finished eighth place overall. Dan Lippner of Southgate edged Rick Knowles by a fender to win the event.



Tower of power: Coach John Herrington considers 6-foot-3, 285-pound senior Francis Gojcaj (left) one of the best tackles in the state. He is a three-year starter on defense.

# Hawks boast size, strength



There's no doubt Farmington Harrison's football team is bigger and stronger than it was the last three years, but the issue of better remains to be answered. A new season starts Sept. 6 at Oxford.

BY DAN O'MEARA

EY DAN O'MEARA
STAT WAITEA
Farmington Harrison's strength
lies in different areas this year, but
nobody wonders if the Hawks will
have a strong football team. That
much is expected of the perennial
high school power.
The Hawks, with six starters
returning on offense and defense,
look to be serious contenders for a
possible fourth consecutive Western
Lakes Activities Association title.
Harrison was 8-2 last year, losing
in the first round of the playoffs to
Class A finalist South Lyon, and
boasts seven state championships
and a 224-62-1 record under coach
John Herrington.
"We feel good about (the senson
outlook). Herrington said. 'Our
kids have shown a lot of desire and
discipline in the presenson and during double acssions.'
Whereas the Hawks relied on
their skill players and a potent
offense to compensate for defensive
shortcomings in recent years, Hartsoffense to compensate for defensive
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compensate for the compensate of the service of the
startor since he was pressed into
action midway in his sophomore
year.

Bambenck, who guided Harrison
to he Class A crown two accre and

year.

Bambenek, who guided Harrison to the Class A crown two years ago, completed 56 of 107 passes for 712 yards and three touchdowns last

season. In his varsity career, he is 107-of-191 for 1,449 yards and 10

seasen. In his varsity career, he is 107-0f-191 for 1,449 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"He has good leadership qualities, and I think he's going to do an outstanding job this year," Herrington said. "Ho's releasing the ball quicker and reading the secondary better." Harrison's graduation losses included all-state tailback Jason Granger, the second-leading rusher in school history with 4,056 career yards, which means the offonse probably won't be as explosive.

Herrington said he might operate by committee at that position with seniors Sean Sarsfield (5-11, 190) and Chris Knox (5-10, 170) and junior Chris Ghannam (6-7, 160).

Sarsfield was the starting wingback, catching nine passes for 160 yards. Knox, a transfer from Tennessee, was a standout in track and is the fastest player on the team with a 4.6 time in the 40.

The Hawks might not get to the end zone as quick as they did with Granger in the backfield. They might have to grind it out instead but still should get there behind a big line.

"I think the running game will be sound." Herrington said. "Obviously, we won't be a big-play offense like we were.

"It will have to be more of a team and a lith be blacked and a team and a lith the blacked and a team and a lith the leader and a team a lith a team and a lith blacked and a team a lith a lith a lith a leader a lith a lith a leader a lith a l

we won't be a oig-play oftense like we were.

"It will have to be more of a team game. All the blockers have to dheir job; everybody has to execute, and we have to hang on to the ball."

See HAWKS, 50

## Marlins begin '96 campaign with more experienced team

BY DAN O'MEARA

It's a far better situation in which coach Larry Baker and his Earmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team find themselves

basketoan to the first of the first of the previous year, the Marlins had little varsity experience a year

little varsity experience a year ago.

The result was the lowest victory total (5-15) in Baker's 21 seasons and the end to Mercy's string of six consecutive district championships.

"It cortainly is a different atmosphere," Baker said, noting the Marlins return nine players, including four starters. "We do

### BASKETBALL

have experience, and we're coming together as a group.

"While we didn't have great success with an inexperienced group last year, we're challenged and know what to expect this year."

and know what to expect the year."
The returning regulars include senior tri-captains Mary Jane Valade, Keisha Brooks and Jena Kluska.
Valade begins her fourth year on the varsity and is the most experienced of the players, hav-ing played in every game the last two seasons.

two seasons.
The 5-foot-8 post carned All-Catholic honors last year after

leading the Marlins in scoring with nearly 11 points a game and rebounding (by a margin of one over Brooks) with a 7.85 average.

"Mary Jane has been playing extremely well," Baker said. "We went to St. Joseph for a five-way scrimmage, and everyone was asking me who she is. She was pulling up and drilling the 15-foot shot of hers.

"She's an extremely dedicated basketball player and a wonderful kid to coach. She, Keisha and Jena have just a great work ethic, and we hope to make that the mark of this year's team."

The 5-10 Brooks also plays 16-6-10 Brooks al

### Coach sees better year at Harrison

By Neal Zipser Staff Writer

After a one-win season, things can only look up.
But at Farmington Hills Har-rison, coach Frank Ivezai has legitimate reasons to be opti-mistic.
The Hawks have added a cou-ple talented defensemen, with a veteran midfield crew and a

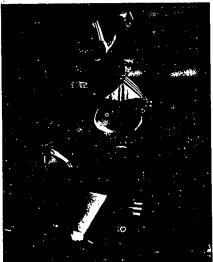
### SOCCER

front line capable of finding the back of the net. It's a recipe Ivezaj looks forward to seeing on the field.

the field.
"We will be much better than last season," Iveraj said. We have a solid defense which makes a big difference. This season teams won't be able to come in on us and score as easily as they did last season."

The Hawks did lose last season's best player, Neal Mower, to graduation. Mower played all





Senior leader: The Hawks look to David Kupferer (front) to be their main scoring threat this season.