

SPORTS

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1996

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Vipers win Cup title

The Farmington Vipers defeated three opponents in freezing temperatures to capture the Farmington Cup in the boys under-10 age group of the Farmington Soccer Club at Little Caesars Field Nov. 2-3.

Frank Arcori scored the only goal as the Vipers won their first game over the Falcons, 1-0.

The Vipers won a shootout, 4-3, to defeat the Renegades later the same day. Arcori, Masayuki Aso, Ryan Epstein and Michael Lieberman scored goals in the shootout.

The winners employed a 2-3-3-2 formation designed for midfielders James Borregard, Chris Schoops and Aaron Work. The team effort was supported by Matt Jackson, Chris Johnson, Ryan Nelson and Maneet Dharin.

In the final game Sunday, the Vipers shut out the Hornets, 2-0. Scott Hegstrom scored an unassisted goal, and Arcori scored with an assist from Work.

The Vipers dominated the game with good defensive play by Jarret Hale, Tyler Wicklund and Maxwell Working.

Goalies Bryan Cook and Hegstrom blanked the opposition. The Vipers had a final season record of 7-1-3.

The Vipers are coached by Joel Lieberman, Keith Epstein and Craig Hepstrom.

Phantoms city champs

The Farmington Phantoms No. 1 won the girls under-12 city championship in a round-robin soccer tournament Nov. 9 against the Farmington Force and Wild Things.

After playing a scoreless tie with the Wild Things, the Phantoms won the title with a 3-2 victory over the Force.

The Force scored first but the Phantoms answered with three straight goals, extending their unbeaten streak to 10 consecutive games.

The Wild Things and the Force also tied, 1-1.

"The girls on all three teams were able to showcase their talents to classmates on the opposing teams and develop a friendly rivalry," Phantoms coach Steve White said. "The games were close, fun and could have gone either way."

The players on the Phantoms team are Jessi DiDonato, Jackie Andrusiak, Amy Paquette, Lindsay Kronzer, Alicia Orihel, Michelle White, Leslie Orihel, Alana Knopow, Elizabeth Fullerton, Mary Atallah, Rachel Button, Katie Keshishian, Rachel Liberty, Lindsay Dougherty, Danielle Liebowitz and Michelle Rzepka.

(See team photo on Page C2).

"Anyone interested in joining the club as a player (boys and girls age 8 through adult), coach, volunteer or sponsor, call Randy Daigler at (810) 474-8585.

Coaches needed

Walled Lake Schools has immediate openings for a gymnastics coach, head coach and an assistant coach for varsity cheerleading (basketball season), head coach for girls soccer and an assistant coach for varsity volleyball.

Interested candidates should contact Athletic Director David Yarbrough at (810) 960-8373.

■ Athletic officials at Birmingham Groves High School are looking to fill two assistant wrestling coaches positions.

Applicants should have prior high school experience or have wrestled at the college level.

Anyone interested should contact Groves head varsity wrestling coach Andrew Wilson at 594-4909.

■ Birmingham Seaholm High School is seeking an assistant coach for the girls lacrosse team.

Interested candidates are asked to call Mike Brocca at (810) 264-7117 daytime or (810) 646-8305 during evening hours.

■ Dearborn Heights Crestwood High School has openings for coaches in varsity cheerleading, varsity and JV volleyball.

For more information, call athletic director Don Zielinski at (313) 278-0900.

Soccer coaches clinic

The Farmington Soccer Club will conduct a U.S. Soccer Federation E License coaching class from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8 at Warner Middle School, located on 14 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, in Farmington. (The E License is a pre-requisite for a D license to coach Premier League teams.)

The cost is \$25 for all three sessions. (Spaces are limited so register early to ensure a spot.)

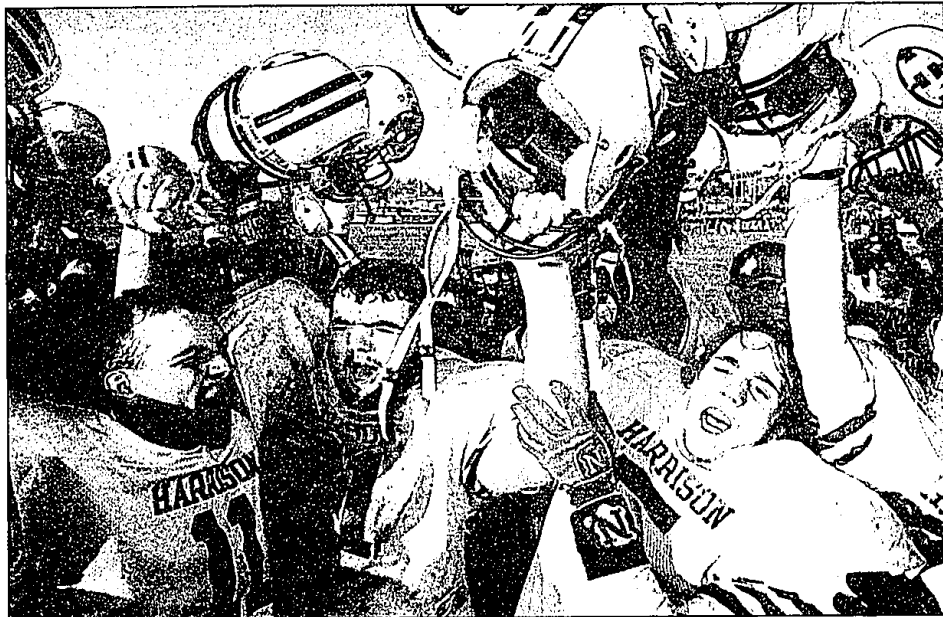
Checks, which should include name, address, age and phone number, must be made payable to Farmington Soccer Club, c/o Andrew Gordon, 38927 Plumbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, 48331.

For more information, call (810) 489-5741.

Rice coach honored

Birmingham Brother Rice coach Bob Stark was recently chosen Region 4 Class A Boys Coach of the Year by The Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association.

Since assuming responsibility of the track program at Rice in 1989, Stark has guided the Warriors squads to Central Division, Catholic League and state regional championships.



Happy Hawks: Harrison players Kevin Bambenek (11), Francis Gojcaj (71) and Chris Burgess celebrate Harrison's regional championship victory Saturday over Trenton. The Hawks have to win two more games to claim the big prize, a state title.

Hawks rally to win regional



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

If the mark of a championship football team is its ability to deal with adversity, then Farmington Harrison has to be feeling good about its chances in the Class A tournament.

The Hawks rallied from a two-touchdown deficit Saturday to defeat host Trenton, 35-21, and win their 13th regional championship in 14 chances since the state playoffs were first expanded to eight teams.

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Farmington Harrison spotted Trenton a 14-0 lead Saturday in a Class A playoff game, then rallied for a 35-21 victory. The Hawks will play Grosse Pointe North in the state semifinals this week.

"If this was a prize fight, they kept jabbing and jabbing, and we could never get off the ropes," Trenton coach Bob Czarnecki said. "Today they were the better football team, and they proved it."

The Hawks (10-1) will play Grosse Pointe North in a semifinal game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. The site was still to be determined.

After spotting the Trojans a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, Harrison came back to force a halftime tie but also had to overcome a seven-point

deficit early in the second half.

Senior quarterback Kevin Bambenek mixed the pass with the run as Harrison outgained Trenton 240-138 on the ground and 130-119 through the air.

Bambenek and senior fullback Nick Shiebel scored two touchdowns each and senior tailback Sean Sarsfield one.

Shiebel had scoring runs of 2 and 16 yards, Bambenek 1 and 8. Sarsfield, the leading rusher with 77 yards on 17 carries, scored from 2 yards.

"We came together as a team and all did our jobs," Sarsfield said. "We just did what we knew we could do."

"We know we can drive the ball on anybody. With our grubbers, I think

we have possibly the toughest line in the state. I'd trust those guys against anybody; they were just doing what they normally do."

The Hawks were reeling at the start as the Trojans (9-2) blocked a Harrison punt and stopped the Hawks on fourth-and-1 at midfield.

Trenton drove 30 (five plays) and 65 yards (eight plays) to score on its first two possessions.

Fullback Bob Adams ran 4 yards for the first touchdown and tailback Harold Leavell 10 for the second; two extra points put the Trojans on top with 2:21 still to play in the first quarter.

"They stunned us early," said Harrison coach John Herrington, adding

See HAWKS, C3

Warriors blitz Bulldogs in AA romp

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

It's no wonder they call themselves the "grave diggers." They bury you early and never let you get out of the hole.

At least that's the way the playoffs are going for Walled Lake Western, which is scoring so many post-season points the second-team Warriors are getting almost as much playing time as the starters.

For the second straight week, Western took a commanding first-half lead and was never in trouble. This time it was Brighton whose

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season ended at home Saturday while Western (9-2) continued its drive towards a second state-championship game appearance in the last five seasons.

Western crushed Brighton, 50-21, and now advances to the Class AA semifinals where the Warriors face Rockford (10-1) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Lansing Sexton High School.

"I can't say enough about our kids. They have a dream and it's been a

great effort," Western head coach Chuck Appa said. "Our dream isn't done. We want to be dream makers."

It's the offense keeping that's dream alive.

Western averaged nearly 28 points a game during the regular season but has produced its two highest-scoring efforts of the year in the playoffs. The Warriors are averaging 48 points in the post-season.

"We told the kids we expect to score every time we have the ball; that's what our plan is," said Appa.

"That's what our expectations are. The thing that's helping us is pla-

tooning. We just wore (Brighton) down by the end of the game. But we're getting better. I didn't show everything we could do during the season. You have to save certain things."

"I'm not surprised at what we've been doing," he added. "We've worked real hard on our passing game; we've been able to develop and find things."

Brighton found itself down big time after the first two quarters despite taking an early lead.

The Bulldogs, led by highly-touted

See WARRIORS, C3

Marlins ready to begin district tourney

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls basketball team is as ready as it can be for the start of district tournament competition today.

The Marlins finished the regular season Friday with a four-game winning streak, defeating Western High of the Detroit Public School League, 64-38.

The four consecutive victories enabled Mercy to reach .500 and take a 10-10 record into tournament play at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

The Marlins were scheduled to play the host Knights, who knocked Mercy out of the tournament last year, in the first game of a doubleheader at 5:30 p.m.

"Most importantly, we're taking some genuine confidence into the post-season," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "I don't think we've played any better than we did this week; so, hopefully, we can keep it going."

The game was close Friday through three quarters, but the host Marlins pulled away in the final.

Mercy had only a 38-34 lead going into the fourth period; then it exploded for 26 points to turn the game into a rout.

Senior Keisha Brooks and sophomore Jessie Brennan scored eight points apiece in the final quarter. Freshman Susie Robb and senior Mary-

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Jane Valade added four each and senior Jena Kluska two.

"Both teams pressed the whole game, and we were able to take ours up a notch in the fourth quarter," Baker said. "This was quite a nice way to end the regular season, because it was a real nail-biter at that point."

Valade finished with 16 points; Brennan scored 14, Brooks 13 and Robb eight.

Sophomore center, Natesa Motley, the best player in the PSL, according to one coach, was held to 13 points (none in the fourth quarter) while being guarded by Brooks.

Senior forward Nietha Nobes added nine for Western (16-4).

Brooks and Valade overcame early foul trouble and, after spending time on the bench, played very well in the final quarter, Baker said.

He added Brennan and Brooks asserted themselves on offense and took the ball to the basket hard during the late run.

"We can appreciate that we rocked a good team tonight," Baker said. "Western was a good team that came to play, so this was good competition."

"That was the whole idea here, to try to build

ourselves up, and now we'll see if that is indeed what we did."

On Thursday, the Marlins won their third straight as they poured Detroit Pershing, 74-28.

"It was nice to get a strong offensive production so close to the tournament," Baker said. "The girls moved the ball real well in the second half."

Valade scored 18 points and Brooks 14 (plus eight steals). Junior forward Ashley Schumacher and Jessie Brennan contributed 12 each.

Laura Simmons had nine points for Pershing (14-4).

HARRISON 64, LAKELAND 47: The Hawks also won their final tuneup Thursday before the state tournament.

Harrison only led 25-23 at the half. A 19-13 third quarter proved to be enough for the visiting Hawks to get by.

"We're used to playing for such high stakes," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "I think it was hard for us to play without anything on the line. We're looking forward to the start of the district."

The Hawks (13-7) play at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday against the winner of the Farmington-North Farmington game.

Lakeland (3-17) had the game's leading scorer in sophomore Dawn Houck, who scored 23 points, which included five triples.

Any Robb led Harrison with 18 points and eight rebounds; Kerstin Andzejewski scored 13 points and also added eight rebounds.

Mahogany Fletcher and Sarah Colbert provided the Hawks with a much-needed defensive spark in the second half.