

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1996

# SPORTS

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## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Wilson stars for Falcons

Beth Wilson still plays tennis for the Falcons and continues to excel in the sport at the collegiate level.

The former tennis standout at Farmington High School is now a freshman member of the Bowling Green (Ohio) State University women's tennis team.

Playing No. 6 singles for the Falcons during most of the fall season, Wilson placed first in the Bowling Green Invitational, second in the Michigan State and Akron invitational and fourth in the Ohio Intercollegiate Tournament.

Wilson also was part of the No. 3 doubles championship team in the latter event.

She concluded the fall season with a dual-meet victory against Youngstown State.

Wilson was a four-year varsity player at Farmington and played No. 1 singles as a junior and senior.

She played a key role in helping the Falcons qualify for the Class A finals in 1993 and '95.

### Whalers toppled

Examine the two teams' respective records, and you'd think the games between them wouldn't be much.

Wrong. Every time the Detroit Whalers collide with the Sarnia Sting, it's a battle. The Whalers are in third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division; the Sting are in first.

Still, the Sting do come out ahead most of the time. They did again last Thursday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, scoring twice in the second period and holding on to record a 2-1 triumph.

The win boosted the Sting's record to 14-3-2 (30 points). Detroit slipped to 7-12-1 (16 points).

Sarnia took the lead with goals by Trevor Letowski and Bryan Blair in the second period. The Whalers cut the deficit in half with a goal by Julian Smith, assisted by Jesse Boulerice and Mark Cadotte, at the eight-minute mark of the final period.

But Detroit could not get the equalizer. Robert Echee was in goal for the Whalers, making 26 stops. Edin McInerney made 32 saves in goal for Sarnia.

### Strong finish for MSU

Michigan State's men's soccer team enjoyed its best season ever, reaching the Big Ten Finals before losing to Indiana 4-0 on Nov. 17.

Earlier in the tournament, MSU tied Wisconsin 1-1, then won the match in overtime on a goal by Steve Williford (Livonia Stevenson).

During the course of the season, the Spartans posted a 12-5-2 overall record to finish second in the Big Ten with a 3-2 mark.

Helping them attain that status was sophomore Jeff Fliss (Plymouth Canton). Fliss scored two goals and had two assists for MSU (six points) while starting 14 of the 17 games.

Williford had two goals and one assist.

### Holiday baseball clinic

Spring training starts early as Madonna University will hold its double diamond baseball camps from 9 a.m. to noon (Session I for ages 8-12) and 1-4 p.m. (Session II for ages 13-18). Sunday and Monday, Dec. 22-23, at the Activities Center.

Madonna's new head baseball coach, Greg Haeger, along with assistants Sean Maloney and L.J. Archambeau, will conduct each session, which costs \$70 (registered prior to Dec. 14) and \$80.

For more information, call (810) 305-5283.

### Cards defeat Crusaders

Madonna University's women's basketball team took a step up in competition Thursday when they played host to NCAA Division II Saginaw Valley State.

Only problem -- the Lady Crusaders didn't really make the trip.

For a half they managed to keep it respectable. The visiting Cardinals led 44-36 at the intermission, converting 18-of-34 shots from the floor (52.9 percent). Madonna made 16-of-39 first-half shots (38.5 percent).

But SVSU eventually wore out the Crusaders, rolling to a 78-60 triumph. Madonna is 2-3.

Katie Cushman collected 25 points, seven rebounds, five assists and two steals to lead Madonna.

### Faro coaches Wings

The Livonia Wings, an under-16 boys premier soccer team affiliated with the Livonia Youth Soccer Club, has acquired Tom Faro as its coach.

Faro has been active in Farmington youth soccer for several years and is the boys varsity coach at Wallied Lake Western High School.

"I'm excited about my association with LYSC and the team I coach," Faro said. "Everyone has such a high level of spirit. In time I'm confident, after we've played together a few weeks, we will be competitive against the better teams."

The Wings play the Farmington Fury, Northville Sting, Novi Jaguars and Ann Arbor Arsenal in division play and will play in several tournaments throughout the year.

## Mercy completes district sweep



BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Cocher Larry Baker said his Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team wouldn't quit, and the Marlins didn't disappoint him Friday.

For the third time in three games last week, Mercy rallied in the fourth quarter to win the Class A district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser with a 59-52 win over Farmington Harrison.

"The coaches are so proud of this team and the character they showed in the fourth quarter," Baker said. "They wanted us much to win this district, and I think they proved tonight they were the best team in this phase of the tournament."

To win the district, the Marlins

defeated three teams with a combined record of 48-13. Mercy eliminated Lahser in the opener (49-47) and West Bloomfield in the semifinals (64-51).

"We faced three strong teams that were all geared up to play us," Baker said. "We've never had a more difficult draw since we had to play Kim Archer and her (Livonia Bentley) team in the opener; and we faced a good Harrison team that year, too."

"Tonight the situation wasn't as extreme in terms of the score, but I thought we looked fatigued. We had some physically tired players who suited it out tonight. Jessie (Brennan), MaryJane (Valade) and Jorja (Kluska) logged some hard minutes."

The Marlins (13-10) take a seven-game winning streak into the regional tournament tonight at Southfield-Lathrup High School.

Mercy plays Plymouth Canton (17-5) in the first game of a double-header at 6; Birmingham Marian and Detroit Pershing meet at 7:30. The championship game will be 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"We have a level of confidence we didn't have earlier in the year," Baker said. "We really came together as a team (in the last week of the regular season). We quit worrying about everything but whether the team was making progress."

Valade scored 14 of her game-high 17 points and Ashley Schumacher 10 of her 14 in the second half. Brennan also played a big role with 16 points. Valade complemented her scoring with 12 rebounds and six assists; Brennan had 11 rebounds.

Amy Noble posted 16 points to pace the Hawks (14-8). Kristine Knutson had 12 of her 16 points in

the second half to keep Harrison in the lead through three-plus quarters. Ari Ault added nine and Kristina Andzrejewska six.

"Brennan and Valade are as tough as any kids we've played against all year long," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "They made a lot of big shots."

"Both teams are great defensive teams. We scouted them seven times; we knew they were the favorite to get the final. The hardest thing about the season ending is that it's been so much fun."

With the Hawks leading 32-30 late in the third quarter, Knutson scored 10 of her team's next 18 points as Harrison extended a 40-36 lead through three periods to 45-39.

But then Mercy went on a 10-0 run over the next two minutes to take the lead.

Brennan fed Schumacher for a layup and the go-ahead basket with 3:42 remaining. It was the first time

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## Hawks achieve 'A' final

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison couldn't stop Leonard Harris in a state semifinal football game Saturday, but the Hawks did keep him off the field when it mattered most.

Of even greater significance was the fact Grosse Pointe North couldn't stop the Harrison offensive juggernaut.

The Hawks scored the last 27 points and rallied to beat the Noranmen at Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley High School, 52-34.

It was the most points Harrison has scored in a single game since winning 54-0 over Standish-Sterling in the final game of the 1990 regular season.

### FOOTBALL

Harrison will play Grandville, a 20-14 winner over defending state champion Lapeer West, for the Class A championship at 1 p.m. Friday in the Silverdome. Both teams are 11-1.

Harris, the senior tailback with 2,365 yards entering the game, rushed for 201 on 20 carries, ran for two touchdowns and scored another on a 69-yard pass play.

But the Hawks countered with 609 yards in total offense and defeated the last 17 1/2 minutes to overcome a 34-25 deficit.

"After last week, we know we're not out of any game," said Harrison senior tailback Sean Sarsfield, who rushed for a career-high 165 yards and three TDs on 26 attempts.

"Once the offense gets rolling and gets in rhythm, I don't think any team can stop us. We were down 14-0 last week (to Trenton) and came right back. There aren't any quitters on this team."

Trailing 34-25 in the third quarter, the Hawks finished the defensive stop they needed when they held North on three downs and forced a punt.

Quarterback Kevin Bambenek's 51-yard pass to Ricky Bryant set up Bambenek's 1-yard sneak for a touchdown. The third of five extra points by Zack Cornwell put the Hawks within two.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM ROFFERTS

Headed North: Nick Shaieb (116 yards and two touchdowns) and Sean Sarsfield (165 yards and three TDs) ran through Grosse Pointe North's defense to help the Hawks win 52-34.

Then, on the kickoff, Harrison got the big break it needed when Cornwell recovered a fumble at the North 27-yard line.

"We seemed to catch fire after that; the guys played hard after that," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

The Hawks had more players going both ways but took control at that point and looked to have more staying power down the stretch.

"That's because momentum went over to our side," Herrington said. "When you get momentum, you're no longer tired, and that's exactly what happened."

The Hawks scored the go-ahead TD two plays after the fumble recovery on Sarsfield's 16-yard run for a 38-34 lead after a fumbled snap on the two-point attempt.

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## Warriors waltz into championship game

BY BILL PARKER  
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Western saw its season-long dream of playing for the Class AA state football championship turn to reality Saturday at Lansing Everett High School.

The Warriors used a potent offensive attack and a smothering defense to run roughshod over highly-touted Rockford, 41-12, in a semifinal.

Western returns to the Silverdome for the first time since 1992 when it was runner-up to Muskegon Reeths-Puffer in the Class A final. The Warriors (10-2) meet unbeaten and top-ranked Sterling Heights Stevenson at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Stevenson reached the finals with a 17-7 victory

### GRID PLAYOFFS

over Westland John Glenn (11-1), the only team to defeat Western this year.

"These kids are dream makers," said Western coach Chuck Appa. "We're going there to win; we're going there to kick some butt, win a football game and a championship."

Senior linebacker Kevin Crane, who led a defense that limited high-scoring Rockford (10-2) to just one first down and 18 yards total offense in the first half, was hoping the Warriors would get another shot at John Glenn.

"It's a little disappointing we don't get to see

Glenn again, but to be the best you have to beat the best," said Crane. "Stevenson has been No. 1 so to be the best we have to beat them."

The shootout many expected with Rockford -- both teams were averaging better than 37 points in the playoffs -- never materialized.

Western did its part, but the Rams' vaunted Wing-T attack was shut down and shut out in the first half by Western's "Grave Diggers" as the Warriors rolled to a 21-0 lead.

Western took the opening kickoff and marched 64 yards on seven plays to set the tone early. Junior quarterback Frank Stanford hit tight end Crane with a 21-yard completion, and senior run-

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