

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Cobras win fall title

The 12-year-old North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras travel baseball team concluded the fall season by winning a league championship with a 16-0-1 record.

The Cobras defeated F.X. Coughlen of Macomb by a score of 14-7 to win the championship Oct. 12.

NFWB's Andy Wingert earned the Most Valuable Player Award. Matt Clark was named the top pitcher in the league, and Dan Graham was crowned the hitting champion.

Other members of the Cobras are Ben Darga, Sam Grossman, Dan Lentz, Matt Petry, Doug Pickens, Evan Rodriguez, Bryan Smith, Nick Vitannis, Kevin Zerbo, Kevin Lamb and Anthony Faletti.

The Cobras had an overall record of 65-10-1 for the entire year, including the summer season.

Free softball clinic

The North Farmington girls softball program will co-sponsor a free clinic from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, at North Farmington High School.

There will be no charge for admission; no registration is required. The event is open to players, coaches and fans.

The guest speakers will be Mike Candrea, head coach at the University of Arizona, and Doug Gillis, a United States national team member.

The clinic will include live demonstrations, a post-clinic question and answer session with each instructor and a softball equipment booth.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the Doug Gillis Pitching School. Call (248) 474-7476 for more information.

Inline hockey clinic

Roll-America Inline Hockey Academy will have a Thanksgiving weekend hockey clinic Nov. 28-30 at U.S. Blades, 5700 Drake Road in West Bloomfield.

The fee is \$95 for all three days and includes a hockey jersey. The Division I session (ages 6-9) will take place 9-11 a.m. each day, Division II (ages 10-12) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The head instructor is Paul Lubanski, coach-in-chief for the USA Inline Hockey Great Lakes Region and coach of the 10-and-under 1997 USA national inline champions. The assistants are David Miller and John Wasielewski.

The next session of Roll-America's inline hockey school will be Dec. 29-31 at U.S. Blades. For more information call (248) 661-9759.

Penny pledges help

Grant Hill and the Detroit Pistons will team up with Oakland County Special Olympics for the Pennies-A-Point pledge program for the 1997-98 Pistons season.

Pennies-A-Point entails pledging pennies for every point Hill scores in regular-season games. Pledge proceeds go to Special Olympics for training, competition, uniforms, equipment and other costs throughout the year.

Pledge cards are available at the Special Olympics office by calling (248) 674-4924.

Goalkeeper clinic

The Livonia Family YMCA Soccer Club will host a free two-hour goalkeeping clinic for its soccer enthusiasts at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Livonia on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Pat Harrington of the Detroit Safari pro soccer team will lead the clinic. For more information, call Christy Nolin at (313) 261-2161, ext. 324.

Michigan Golf Summits

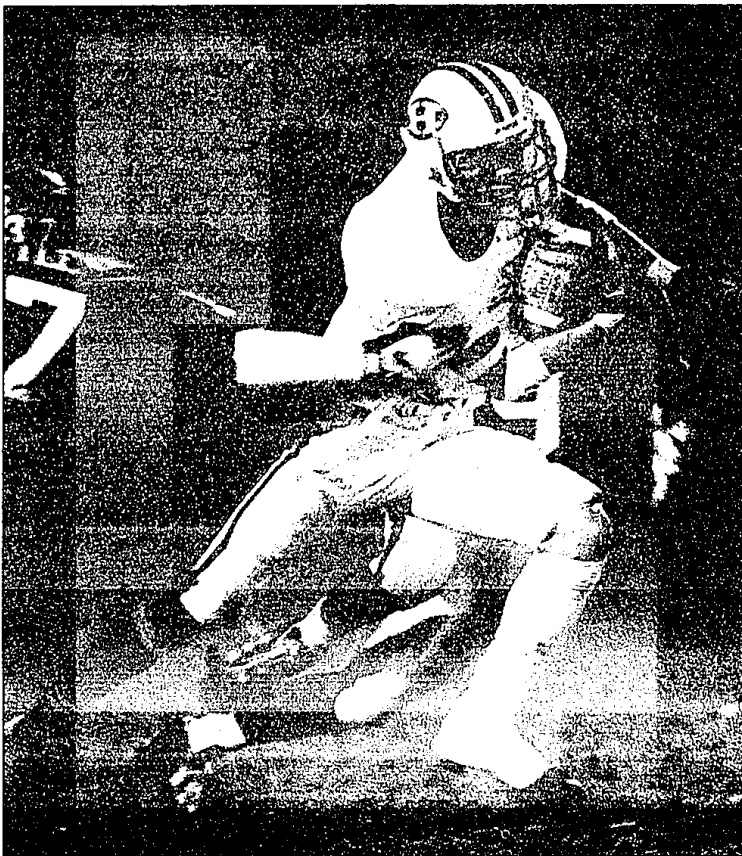
Eastern Michigan University and AT&T will present the Michigan Golf Summits for women Sunday, Nov. 9, and Monday, Nov. 10, at the Eagle Crest Conference Resort, 1275 Huron Street, Ypsilanti.

The Michigan Spirit of Golf Award dinner will be Sunday, Nov. 9. Featured speakers include Joyce Kazmierski, former LPGA tour pro; Dr. Deborah Graham, sports psychologist; Brad Dean, director of golf and PGA head pro at Crystal Mountain Resort; Troy Rogers, Michigan State University associate professor of turfgrass management.

For more information, call (313) 485-7221.

Champs again!

Hawks earn 12th Western Lakes grid title



Hawks on the move: Farmington Harrison junior Ricky Bryant sprints past a pair of Walled Lake Central defenders on a kickoff return Friday. Harrison won the game and the WLAA title, 27-6.

■ Farmington Harrison is the king of Western Lakes Activities Association football again after defeating Walled Lake Central Friday in the championship game, 27-6. The Hawks have won six of eight titles in the '90s.

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

The Hawks are back on top of the roost.

After a year's absence from the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game, perennial power house Farmington Harrison returned to the top of the WLAA Friday with a 27-6 dismantling of Lakes Division champ Walled Lake Central.

The Hawks have won the championship 12 of the 16 years the league has been in existence, including eight of the last 10 titles.

"It's an indescribable feeling," said Harrison senior tackle Brian Lewis, who led the Hawk defense with six tackles and a sack.

"Our main goal this year was to win the division title since we didn't get it last year. Once we accomplished that, this was our next goal. It's great."

Harrison, ranked No. 1 in Class A, used a stifling defense and took advantage of a couple costly Central turnovers to improve to 8-0 on the season.

Holding a slim, 7-6 lead with time approaching, the Hawks capitalized on a bad snap on a Central punt.

Harrison junior defensive end, Jeff Foster pounced on the loose ball in the Viking end zone for a quick and easy 13-6 halftime lead.

"It was pretty much a statement to the first half," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We couldn't get the passing game going, and Central was playing well."

"It was a tight ball game, then they gave us that touchdown at the end of the first half. In the second half, we came out more aggressively and took over up front."

Central coach Darrell Harper felt the botched punt was the turning point in the game.

"That TD off the punt broke our back," Harper said. "It was 7-6 and we were playing right with them; then we gave them that easy touchdown, and it was over."

Please see HAWKS, E2

Warriors rally to win, stay in playoff hunt

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

FOOTBALL

The defending state Class AA football champions exorcised one of its demons Friday night.

Walled Lake Western rallied from a 14-0 late third-quarter deficit Friday to beat host Westland John Glenn in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover between second-place divisional teams, 20-14.

Western, now 7-1 overall, remains in the hunt for a playoff berth in Class AA-Region II. The Warriors finish their regular season Saturday night at home against rival Walled Lake Central (6-2).

Glenn, which lost its second straight,

falls to 6-2. But even with the loss, the Rockets still have hopes of securing a spot in Class AA-Region III if they can win Friday night at Wayne Memorial (1-7).

Starting at a 14-point deficit on the scoreboard, Western coach Chuck Apap had to be wondering whether it was going to be a repeat of last year's pair of regular season losses administered by Glenn.

"I apologized to my team at halftime," said Apap, whose team trailed 7-0. "I screwed around and ran different formations and had us in different offensive sets."

"We went back to the basics. We saw another girl at the dance and we forgot about the one we brought and got us there. I told our kids I didn't care what the score was, we were going back to the basics."

The Rockets, using an effective ground game to eat its valuable time on the clock, rode the legs of senior fullback Sean Heard (21 carries for 100 yards) and junior tailback Reggie Spearman (17 for 85).

And this occurred despite the absence of three-year starting quarterback Justin Berent, one of Glenn's most prolific passers in school history. (Berent was lost for the season with a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament

following last week's 27-21 loss to Walled Lake Central.)

"We played all our defenses knowing he'd (Berent) would play, but right away I told our coaches, 'Guess What? They're running the fullback and tailback and they're not throwing as much.' And they were doing a nice job of it."

Figuring out Glenn's offensive attack was tough enough, but the Warriors also had problems moving the ball against Glenn's defense.

Western ran just three offensive series through three quarters, getting stopped on their first possession at the Glenn 5 after the Rockets muffed the

Please see WARRIORS, E2

Raiders win with no time on clock, 36-35

Samantha McComb's free throw with no time on the clock Thursday allowed North Farmington to take a 36-35 victory from host Livonia Stevenson in girls basketball.

The Spartans led 35-31 with a little more than four minutes left.

North's Melissa Gratz threw a long pass to Katie Viskile, who sank a layup to make it a two-point difference.

McComb sank two free throws with under 11 seconds remaining to tie the score.

During that time, the Spartans shot the ball twice when they weren't supposed to do that, according to Stevenson coach Wayne Henry, had a turnover and missed a couple free throws.

The Spartans inbounded the ball under their basket with 2.7 seconds left and threw it to mid court.

McComb intercepted the pass, drove straight for the Stevenson basket and was fouled in the act of shooting as time expired.

"It was unbelievable," said North coach Linda Perkins of the finish. "We really needed this one for the (league) playoffs."

"They took us out of our game, and we weren't doing things very well. That's to their credit."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

"To our credit, the girls did a great job in the man-to-man defense at the end and were doing things right when it counted. It was nice to pull this one out."

McComb scored a game-high 17 points and Viskile nine. Stephanie Dultz had 10 points and Lindsay Guskic eight for Stevenson.

The Raiders made 17 of 31 free throws; the Spartans converted six of 14 chances.

"We didn't have the court maturity to hang on to (the lead)," Henry said. "We complicated matters by not taking care of the ball."

"We know North Farmington was a quality team; we knew it would be a challenge."

"If we had won, we would still have a shot at fifth (place). Now we could be anywhere from sixth to ninth."

Both teams are 9-9 overall. In the Western Lakes Activities Association, the Raiders are 6-3, the Spartans 4-5.

Stevenson led at halftime, 23-22, but North was ahead going into the final quarter, 29-28.

HARRISON 75, W.L. WESTERN 29: The Hawks took charge early in this game, racing to a 25-0 lead in the first quarter Thursday on their home court.

Farmington Harrison led 40-7 at halftime and 57-15 after three quarters.

The Hawks remain in contention for the Western Lakes Activities Association crown with an 8-1 record.

Harrison, now 12-3 overall, plays host to Walled Lake Central on Tuesday and first-place Plymouth Canton on Thursday in its last two WLAA games before the league playoffs.

Any Robie, who made two three-point field goals to start the game, scored a game-high 18 points.

McGregory Fletcher tossed in 16 points. Cassie Jenson, 13 and Kerstin Andziewski, seven. All nine players scored for the Hawks.

Kellie Kaske, Carey Coomer and Angie Balconi scored four points apiece to lead Western, 27 and 3-22.

The Hawks made 15 of 23 free throws, the Warriors 10 of 18.

W.L. CENTRAL 67, FARMINGTON 11: The Vikings scored all of the 23 points knocked down in the first quarter and came back to tally 13 more in second to hold a 41-0 lead at the half.

Farmington (0-15, 0-9) finally managed to get on the board in the third quarter and trailed 49-8 after three periods.

Kelly Duce paced Central (7-8, 4-5) with 18 points and two steals. Leah Douglas had nine points, Kristen Brady eight and Hartman contributed 11 rebounds, six assists and four steals.