

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Lawson has big year

Freshman catcher Aaron Lawson's first season of collegiate baseball was a huge success as he helped Wayne State University compile a 28-14-2 record.

Lawson (Farmington Harrison) led the Tartars with a .377 batting average, and he had a team-best .990 fielding percentage, making just one error all season.

He was second in home runs (9) and slugging percentage (.656), third in total bases (80), tied for third in doubles (8), fourth in RBI (36), fifth in hits (46) and sixth in runs scored (31).

WSU coach Rodger George was named GLIAC Coach of the Year, and the Tartars won the GLIAC title with a 17-7-1 record.

CC basketball camp

There will be two sessions of the Catholic Central Boys Basketball Camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 15-19 and July 6-10, in the CC gymnasium.

CC varsity coach Rick Coratti, along with varsity assistant John Mulroy, will direct the camp. Former CC all-stater and former University of Detroit standout Greg Wendt will also be on hand.

The cost for each session is \$120. For information, call (248) 348-2508.

NFWB seeks players

The 16-and-under girls NFWB-Ultimate Precision fastpitch softball team is seeking talented high school players for the upcoming summer season.

The team will compete in weekend tournaments from late June through July. For more information, call Rob Schrock at (248) 471-3666.

Tigers assist benefit

Former Detroit Tiger pitching ace Mitt Wilcox will be master of ceremonies for the Fourth Annual St. Louis Center Celebrity Golf Dinner on Monday, June 29, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

Wilcox, president of the Tigers Alumni Club, will be joined by former Tigers Mike Kilkenny, Marvin Lane, Scott Lusader and Tom Timmerman and former Detroit Lions Dorne Dibble and Tom Watkins.

The cost is \$350 per golfer or \$2,500 for a hole sponsorship. For more information, call the St. Louis Center at (734) 478-8430.

Summer in-line hockey

Suburban Hockey Schools and Play It Again Sports are teaming up for a four-week summer inline hockey program beginning the week of June 29.

Sessions will be 3-4 p.m. (ages 7-10) and 4-5 p.m. (ages 11-14) Mondays and Wednesdays at Devon-Aire Ice Arena in Livonia.

Another session will be 11 a.m. to noon (ages 7-10) and noon to 1 p.m. (ages 11-14) Mondays and Wednesdays at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The cost is \$76 per player. Each participant will receive a jersey. For more information, call (248) 478-1600 or fax (248) 478-1601.

Hawks fall 1 goal shy

Danielle Strickland scored all three goals, two of them unassisted, for Farmington Harrison in a 4-3 loss to Westland John Glenn in girls soccer Wednesday.

Lauren Liebowitz had the one assist; Regina Bander and Tiffany Nelson led the Harrison defense in the Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game.

The Hawks tied the score with under five minutes remaining, but the Rockets scored the game-winner with less than a minute to play.

The loss left Harrison with a 3-7-3 record; Glenn is 11-6.

Laskowski sets record

The pole vault was inadvertently omitted from the results of the May 12 Farmington Harrison-Livonia Churchill boys track meet on the Thursday Observer.

Harrison's Derek Laskowski took first place in that event with a school-record vault of 13 feet, 6 inches.

(Farmington readers can find news for the Observer Sports Scene at (734) 691-7279).

Raiders hold on to WLAA crown



It was a big week for the North Farmington boys tennis team, which repeated as Western Lakes Activities Association champ and won a Division II regional tourney. The Raiders will try to add a state title later this month.

North Farmington proved that nice guys can finish first.

The Raiders repeated as Western Lakes Activities Association boys tennis champions last week, capping an unbeaten regular season in a tournament played Tuesday and Wednesday at Livonia Stevenson.

North scored 28 team points; Northville was second with 23 and Plymouth Canton a distant third with 13 in the 12-school field.

The Raiders, who were 12-0 in dual meets, held pretty much true to form in the tournament, capturing five of eight individual lights en route to the title. "It was a nice kids," North coach Dennis King said. "Some teams are made up of kids who are a little harder to handle for various reasons, but this group is a source of pride both for their school and the community. They conduct themselves well on and off the court. It's just a great group of guys."

North junior Brad Jaffe repeated as WLAA champion at No. 1 singles, raising his individual record to 14-1 on the year with a 6-0, 7-6 win over No. 2 seed Matt Thomson of Northville.

Runner-up a year ago at No. 3 singles, North senior Steven Krieger took the 1998 title with a 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 victory over No. 2 seed Matt Nagy.

Heading into the regional tournament at Northville, Krieger was unbeaten in 11 matches.

The Raiders won three of four doubles flights, led by unbeaten No. 1 doubles junior Justin Stroet and sophomore Chris Erickson. They improved to 15-0 on the year with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Northville's Matt Schlanser and Derek Sokolosi.

North's hottest doubles team of late is the No. 2 tandem of junior Mark Frankel and Jay Berman, who yielded just nine games in three WLAA tourney matches.

They ran their season mark to a perfect 18-0 with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Churchill's Eric Williams and Scott Williams in a battle of Nos. 1 and 2 seeds.

In their last eight matches, Frankel and Berman have lost just 12 games.

Sophomores Geoff Stroet and Andrew Golaszewski, paired up for the final stretch of the season at No. 4 doubles, also maintained their top-seeded position with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Slava Leshinski and Mike Caran.

"There's been a lot of competition for that spot this year," King said. "Geoff and Andrew have played the last six matches together and they're 6-0."

The meet, however, wasn't completely dominated by North, the state's No. 2-ranked team in Division II. In a battle of top seeds, Northville's Matthias Egge took the No. 2 singles crown with a 6-2, 6-1 win over North senior Nimit Shah, who is 12-3 on the year.

Northville also garnered the No. 3 doubles title as Mark Thomson and Chris Gorlica, the top seeds, ousted North's sophomore duo of Greg Fox and Brady Dwyer.

Both losses this season for Fox and Dwyer (10-2) have come against Northville.

"I would have liked to see our No. 3 doubles and No. 4 singles win, but we knew going in those would be close matches," King said. "Everything else

Please see TENNIS, D2

Ready on the basepath



Hawk standout: Becky Vosler has played a key role in right field and at the plate for Farmington Harrison's softball team, which defeated Livonia Franklin Friday, 7-2, to put its overall record at 18-6. See story on Page D3.

Hawks, Raiders to decide championship

The Western Lakes Activities Association baseball championship is certain to remain in Farmington for another year.

It will be an all-Farmington final when North Farmington plays host to defending champ Farmington Harrison to determine the 1998 winner at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Harrison's 14-3 victory Friday over visiting Livonia Franklin guaranteed the Hawks their third appearance in four years in the championship game.

The Hawks tied Walled Lake Western for first place in the Western Division — both with 9-1 records — but

BASEBALL

won the tiebreaker.

Harrison had the better conference record, including crossover games. Harrison was 14-2 overall in the WLAA and Western 12-1.

"AR" we lost the second game to Western, we knew we had to win all the rest," Harrison coach John Herington said. "The kids rose to the occasion and did it."

"There were no close games in the bunch; so we're feeling pretty good, but facing either (Jeff) Trzoss or (Kirk) Tay-

lor will be a big job."

North clinched its first Lakes Division title since 1992 by defeating Westland John Glenn, 3-2, Thursday. That gave the Raiders a three-game lead and meant they could afford a 12-11 loss Friday to host Plymouth Salton.

The Raiders, who were WLAA champs six years ago, are 8-1 in the division with a makeup game to be played Monday at Farmington.

HARRISON 14, FRANKLIN 3: The Hawks scored eight runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and merited the visiting Patriots after 4½ innings Friday.

Zack Cornwell had three hits, including a double and a triple, and four RBI to pace Harrison, 18-3 overall.

Bobby Austin also had three hits: Mike Fisher, Andy Gutierrez and Joe Gianann clipped in two apiece. All four had two RBI each.

Ghanann (4-1) pitched the first 3½ innings to get the victory. Cornwell limbed on the mound, Jamie Preffer was the losing pitcher. Franklin's Brian Waldo had two hits and one RBI.

On Wednesday, Zack Burton improved his pitching record to 6-0 as the Hawks defeated Walled Lake Central in a WLAA crossover, 9-2.

Burton tossed a three-hitter and was helped by back-to-back home runs by Cornwell and Fisher.

Please see BASEBALL, D2

Marlins breeze to Class A regional victory



Perfect weather conditions produced record scores Friday in the Class A regional girls golf tournament at Sylvan Glen Golf Course in Troy.

Farmington Hills Mercy captured the championship with a regional- and school-record round of 323. The old mark was 363 set by Troy Athens in 1988.

Rochester Adams was second at 338 and Harper Woods Regina third in the 19-team tournament at 367.

Those three teams qualified for the state tournament May 29-30 at the Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing.

Mercy, which has qualified for state the past five years, and Adams, which placed sixth at state last year, are eyeing top-10 state finishes this spring. The Marlins are state-ranked while the Highlanders are not.

"We've been getting a little better each week, and we seem to be peaking at the right time," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "The Marlins didn't make it to the second day of competition at last year's state meet."

"Maybe we peaked a little early last year. This team knows what it's facing and it's ready for it."

Adams coach Carl Pasbjerg will head to state with the same group that went last spring.

"We're not ranked in the top 10 and Mercy is No. 2," he said. "I truly believe we're a top-10 team, maybe even top five. Now we have the state finals to prove it."

"Grandville, Clio and Mercy seem to

GIRLS GOLF

be a step ahead of everyone else, but I think we can play with them. I really believe we can qualify for the second day, and that would make us a top-10 team."

Adams junior Kim Benedict defended her individual regional title with a record-round of 76 (40-36) on the par-70 layout, and that score included a triple-bogey on the eighth hole, the hole she was penalized for playing the wrong ball. The old record was 79 set by former Seaholm player Patti White.

Mercy's low scorers were juniors Jenny Borowiec and Angela Harbar, who were third and fourth overall with rounds of 79. Harbar's score was a personal record. Senior Kristen Smith shot 81 and freshman Erin Borowiec 84 for the Marlins.

"What's interesting about this team is that different players have great days for us," said Kowalski, whose team won the Catholic League title for the seventh consecutive year Tuesday by shooting 324, a school record until Friday. "This really is a team in the true sense of the word."

Jenimason is regional medalist

Farmington sophomore Cassie Jenimason shot an 18-hole score of 77 to capture medalist honors Friday in the Class A regional tournament at Oak Pointe Golf Course in Brighton.

Jenimason was just four strokes over par, shooting 40 on the front nine and

firing a 37 on the back. She will compete in the state finals May 29-30 as an individual qualifier.

"Cassie shot her best-ever round, and she picked the right time to do it," Farmington coach Ann Marie Sophia said.

"She was so ready. Using the score card at the driving range, she was plotting out her whole match. She knew just which club she should use on each hole. She figured she didn't have to use her driver and could be more effective with the 3-wood or irons."

"She was really focused on her strategy going into it. Cassie has a great work ethic and has been an inspiration to everyone else."

The Farmington unified team placed fifth with a 351 score and was just six strokes away from qualifying for the state finals. The third and final qualifying team shot 355. Farmington's Laura Cunniff shot 88, Carrie May 95 and Stephanie Unger 101.

"Last year everyone had the jitters and was too stressed out," Sophia said. "This year they overcame that and focused on what they were doing and playing good golf."

Farmington hopes to challenge for the Western Lakes Activities Association title Tuesday at Hudson Mills Golf Course in Dexter.

"Our expectations are real high to have a greatly-improved performance at the conference meet," Sophia said. "We did a bonding weekend (May 9-10)

Please see GOLF, D2