

## Ault sisters are team within team

**Harrison High seniors and twin sisters Ali and Ari Ault have been double trouble for opposing teams for four years during their three-sport prep careers.**

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When Ali Ault goes out to pitch for the Farmington Harrison softball team these days, she feels a little bit alone, even though she has eight teammates around her.

The reason is her twin sister, Ari, isn't behind the plate to catch her pitches as she had been for the past three seasons.

A knee injury has kept Ari on the sidelines for the first three games, but she still roots for her sister and the Hawks from the dugout.

Ari's misfortune has been difficult for both girls, not only because of the working relationship between pitcher and catcher but the countless hours they spent practicing and the bond between them.

"I was really angry and sad, because I like working with her," Ali said. "I was just very mad, because I was looking forward to senior year and what we could do with the team."

"She made me a better pitcher. She made me more comfortable, because I knew she could catch anything. I didn't have to worry about a bad pitch."

Ari first injured the knee playing basketball late last fall. That caused her to miss the entire volleyball season, and she hurt it again the third day of softball practice.

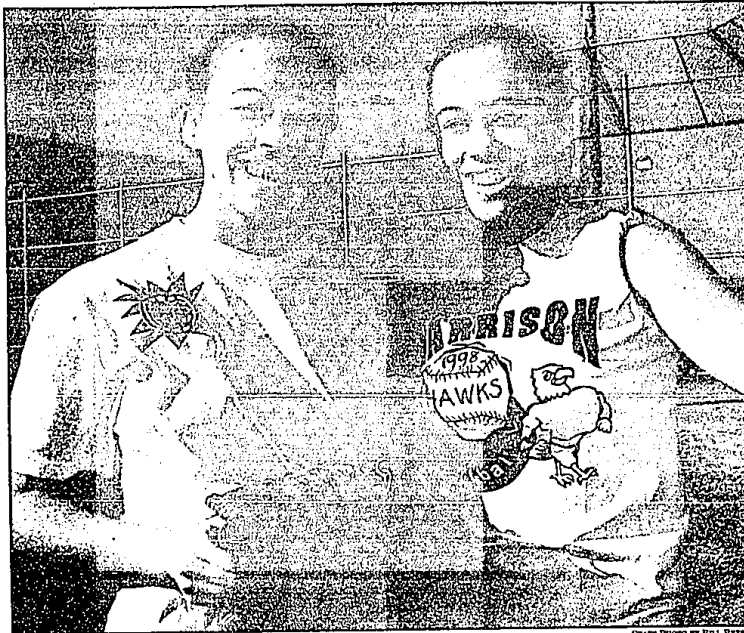
"It was very, very hard, because this is my senior year and all," Ari said, adding she had hoped to be all-league again and all-state. "This is the one I was looking forward to, when our team could be the best. Then there's the whole college thing."

Arthroscopic surgery revealed a torn ACL, but Ari has been doing daily therapy and is awaiting a brace that will allow her to play again.

When she does return, it will probably be as a third baseman and not a catcher, though Ari would like to play her old position again.

"I'll do it (play third base), anything to play," Ari said. "It's not my favorite position but — whatever it takes. I love catching; playing the field is boring. When you're catching, you'll see the whole game. It'll just be weird."

The Hawks have compensated for Ari's absence and are 3-0 thus far, however. All has stepped up her game,



**Dynamic duo:** Sisters Ali (left) and Ari Ault are four-year varsity softball players at Harrison. Ali has been the pitcher and Ari, currently rehabbing an injury, the catcher since they were freshmen.

according to coach Mike Teachman, and the trio of junior Jennelle Welling and sophomores Gayle Terras and Kelly Taylor have handled the role of catcher well.

"Her doctor doesn't want her to catch, but maybe we can do like (former Major League catcher) Tony Pena and have her stick her leg out," Teachman said. "She can basically throw from a seated position, and she has a very strong arm."

"We don't want to do anything that would be detrimental to her health, but I think it would be good for her mental health to be able to catch her sister a few innings in her senior year."

If there's one thing that character-

izes and motivates the Ault sisters, it's the competitive drive and determination both exhibit.

That's what makes Ari's injury and idleness all the more difficult for her, but at the same time offers some assurance she will play again.

"We're definitely very competitive," Ali said. "That's always something that shows up. When we go out there, we want to win."

"I can't stand losing," Ari said. "People say winning isn't everything, but it almost is. If you don't want to win, why play? Our whole lives are just very competitive, even off the field."

Teachman and Harrison girls basketball coach Pete Mantyla know how

much the Aults like to compete. Both girls played four years of basketball, and Ari was the starting varsity point guard since she was a freshman.

"They're just super, super competitive," Teachman said. "They don't know the meaning of 'The game is over; the other team has scored more runs.' If there's an ounce of effort they can put forth, they're going to do it."

Teachman has also seen the girls mature from a time when they wouldn't "give an ounce, even if they were facing themselves in the mirror" to "not competing against each other but with each other."

Please see SISTERS, D4

### FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### MSU wins roller title

Michigan State University's national champion roller hockey team includes four Observerland players: Dan Tremblay of Farmington Hills and the Livonia trio of Edward Krushka, Nick Lewarno and John Hunt.

The Spartans, who are coached by Rejean Tremblay of Farmington Hills, completed an unbeaten season by defeating California-Santa Barbara, 5-4, in the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Tournament April 15-18 at Crystal Lake, Ill.

After defeating Cal-Davis, State University of New York, Brockport and University of Florida in pool play, No. 1-seeded MSU eliminated Cal Poly Tech, Colorado State, Penn State and UCSB to finish the season 35-0-2.

Trailing 4-2 in the final against UCSB, the Spartans scored three goals in the last 2:10 to win the national championship.

Other players are Jeremy Jones, Mike Fenner and brothers Allen and Andrew MacMillan of Brighton, Jaime Bufalino and Mike Soppala, Grosse Pointe; Dante Damiani, Trenton; Justin Bayer, Bloomfield Hills; Tim Kopechik, Shelby Township; John Schroeder, Grand Blanc; and Mike Mackeri, Waukegan, Wis.

#### Gymnasts to nationals

Shelby Gribeck of Farmington Hills and Jennifer Sturgis of Novi qualified for the Level 9 nationals in youth gymnastics on Sunday, May 9.

Both girls train at the Farmington Gymnastics Center.

At the regional competition in Indianapolis on April 18, Sturgis was fifth on floor exercise and ninth on bars. Both were 14th in all-around scoring.

#### LaCrosse still perfect

Senior Erin LaCrosse of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) improved her Alma College pitching record 6-0 when she pitched a five-hitter against Kalamazoo on April 17. The Scots recorded the Horvath in the second game of a doubleheader, 16-0, and extended their Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association winning streak to 29 games, going back to last season.

As of that date, Alma, ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Central Region and sixth nationally in Division III, was 33-3 overall and 12-0 in the MEAA.

#### Fury under-13 champ

The under-13 Farmington Fury, a boys premier soccer team in the Little Caesars League, won two Division A titles at Total Soccer Wixom.

The Fury was 6-2 in the first session from October through December and 7-0-1 in the second session from January through February.

Each player received a plaque for each session. It was the first championship for the Fury, which the team together as a team for several years.

The Fury also competed in the National Indoor Soccer Championship in Cleveland in February. The Fury placed second in its division, losing a goal-differential tiebreaker to determine which team advanced to the championship round.

(See team photo on Page D3).

#### Marlins rout Mustangs

Junior Susie Roble and sophomore Abbey Shepher scored two goals apiece Thursday in Farmington Hills Mercy's 4-0 victory over visiting Birmingham Marian in girls soccer.

The Marlins are now 3-1 in the Catholic League and 5-2 overall.

Emily Jackson scored the only Farmington Harrison goal Wednesday in a 6-1 loss to defending state champion Livonia Stevenson in girls soccer.

Jackson scored on a long free kick with 12 minutes left in the game, marking the first time the Hawks have ever scored on the Spartans.

Harrison's Regina Bender had an outstanding second half at sweep, according to coach Glenn Breuhan. Lauren Liebowitz, Emily Houser, Sarah Greene, Sarah Duffy, Katherine Leik, Jackson, Danielle Strickland, Taylor Goff, Amber Kosis and Okana Petrova also played well for the Hawks, he added.

Harrison is 2-3 overall and 1-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

(Sports fax number: 734-691-7279.)

## Chiefs overcome Raiders for 3-1 victory

**ST. CATHARINE**  
Farmington's Canton Chiefs defeated the Raiders 3-1 in a baseball game Saturday.

Canton coach Scott Dickey said, "We thought we should have beaten them then."

There was no sign of panic or lack of confidence this time out, even though North (1-2 in the WLAA and overall) drew first blood — on a solo home run by Jason Melvin in the second inning.

It was the only error Canton pitcher Jon Johnson would make. The Chiefs' pitching has been exemplary all season, and it was no different in this game. Johnson tossed a four-hitter as he improved to 3-0; he did not walk a batter and struck out eight.

"We've been pitching really well," said Dickey, "and our defense is much improved."

Johnson is only part of the Canton mound equation. Ben Tucker improved to 4-0 with an outstanding

pitching performance. Dickey's starter, returning veteran

While the Canton defense has been equally impressive — according to Dickey, the Chiefs had not committed an error in five previous games, until Joe Cortellini's harmless misplay to start the Raiders seventh — their offense is often challenged to produce runs.

Against North, Canton turned two hits and an error into two runs in the fourth inning to take the lead.

Steve Lueck opened the inning with a hard smash that bounced and hit North first baseman Paul Kammer in the face, knocking him out of the game.

Lueck stole second and moved to third on Oliver Wolcott's groundout to short. Phil Ross delivered the run with a deep sacrifice fly to right field.

But Canton wasn't through. Johnson aided his own cause by slamming a long fly to right-center field that

reached near the fence but couldn't glove. The ball fell for a triple.

A two-out ground ball to third by Jason Evans was misplayed for an error, allowing Johnson to score the go-ahead run.

Johnson, meanwhile, was almost untouchable. He didn't allow a baserunner in the fifth and sixth; in the seventh, Cortellini's error put a man on, and Melvin got a one-out single to give the Raiders runners at first and second.

But a fly to right and a grounder back to the mound ended the North threat. Two of North's four hits were by Melvin.

The Chiefs managed just five hits, Lueck getting two. They scored their final run in the sixth with a Wolcott hit and two ground balls, the second resulting in an error that allowed the run to score.

Please see BASEBALL, D2

## Red Devils prevail when state's best meet

Two of the best girls golf teams in the state went head-to-head in competition Thursday, and it was Grosse Ile defeating host Farmington Hills Mercy, 167-173.

Mercy sophomore Erin Borowiec was the match medalist with a one-over-par 37 at Coyote Golf Course in Milford.

Jennifer Borowiec shot 44, Angela Harbar and Lindsey Denmore 46 apiece for the Marlins, who are 3-1 in dual meets.

Grosse Ile, the defending Class B-C state champion, was led by Sarah Martin and Kristin Buhl, both of whom shot 40. Monica Krauss finished

### GIRLS GOLF

at 43, Erica Gaynier and Stacy Chapman 44.

The Red Devils are "the only team we play that we match up with from top to bottom," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said.

There was a bit of nerves on both sides at the start, because both teams knew it was a big match and they won't see any better competition. Once they got into their games, both teams settled down and played very well."

The Marlins also improved to 2-0 in

Catholic League matches Thursday by defeating Dearborn Divine Child in a rain-shortened dual at Glen Oaks.

The teams played just six holes with Mercy winning, 135-151. LaTanya Foster shot 32, Denmore 33, Maureen McFawn 34 and Maureen McDonald 36 for the Marlins.

Divine Child counted the scores of Stephanie Tierney (36), Shilpa Guthikonda (37), Lauren Hickson (37) and Katie Zakar (41).

#### Farmington golfers record win

Farmington's unified high school golf team evened its dual-meet record at 1-

1 with a win over visiting Livonia Churchill on Wednesday, 196-200.

Cassie Jemison of Farmington was the match medalist for the second time this season with a round of 43 at Glen Oaks Golf Course.

Farmington's Carrie May shot 48, Karen Berger 51 and Katie Perry 53. In non-scoring roles, Nikki Bourgeois shot 54 and Kelly Raymond 62.

Churchill (4-1) was led by Heidi Aitama, who shot 46. Ashley Johnson and Julia McLaughlin reported scores of 50 and Jennie Luna 64.

Stacy Loucks added a 55 and Kelly Parzuchowski 62 for the Chargers.