

## Hawks face Wildcats again in semi

■ Farmington Harrison will play Oxford in a rematch of the season opener Saturday in a state semifinal football game at Rochester High.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domears@oc.homecomm.net

It was a game played nearly three months ago, and that's long enough for coaches John Herrington and Bud Rowley to want to forget it now.

In a rematch of the season opener won 48-0 by Farmington Harrison, the Hawks will meet Oxford in a semifinal game of the Class A football playoffs 1 p.m. Saturday at Rochester High.

It won't be the first time Harrison (11-0) has played the same team twice in the regular season and tournament. The Hawks also faced Northville twice in 1993, winning the post-season game en route to a state championship.

"It was so long ago it's almost like playing a team for the first time," Herrington said. "I'm sure they want to show they've improved a lot since then, and they have improved tremendously."

The Wildcats (9-2) rebounded to win nine of 10 games, share the Flint Metro Conference title with Fenton and capture a regional championship.

"It was tough, to work hard in the off season and wait since the eighth grade to be playing on the varsity and get shelled in the first game," Rowley said. "It took the wind out of our sails, and it took us a while to recover and come back."

"We're trying to forget that. We've gotten better and we're playing better. We're not going to worry about that first game."

Oxford won four straight following the Harrison loss, including a 45-21 win over arch-rival Lapeer West, before losing to Fenton. The Wildcats have won their last five games.

"The kids got themselves back on track," Rowley said. "They worked



Leading rusher: Junior Kevin Woods had 166 yards on 20 carries Saturday in Farmington Harrison's 33-15 playoff victory over Dearborn to become the team's leading rusher with 688 total yards.

their tails off and had a real fine season."

"We're honored to play Farmington Harrison in the semifinals. They're probably one of the finest football teams that's been around in a long time. We're very excited about the opportunity to be out there on the field with them."

Rowley said the Wildcats didn't make any major changes or do anything different to turn their season around.

"We just worked hard," he said. "We made some adjustments with the kids we have. We're being a little more focused and intense, and that's pretty much where we're at."

The Wildcats don't have any stars on their team, according to Rowley, but senior tailback George Gomez is the workhorse in the Oxford offense. He has rushed for 1,500 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Quarterback Brad Nowacki has com-

Please see HAWKS, C6

## Hawks have to put first Oxford contest in past; it's 0-0 now

When it was decided Farmington Harrison would play Oxford again in a Class A semifinal football game, I'll bet your first thought (if you're a Hawk fan) was something like:

"Hey, this is going to be easy for Harrison," or maybe it was "This looks like a free pass to the finals."

Like you, I had similar thoughts. Certainly, the possibility (and that's the key word) exists when we recall how Harrison destroyed Oxford in the first game of the season, 48-0.

Obviously, the Hawks will be heavy favorites, and it will be one of the biggest upsets in tournament history if the Wildcats should accomplish the apparently impossible and win the game.

The rematch Saturday at Rochester High School presents some interesting dilemmas for both sides.

When I consider a second Harrison-Oxford game, I wonder "How do you prepare yourself if you're a player, your team if you're a coach, mentally to play a team you've not only beaten once but completely demolished?"

It causes me to believe this game will be won (or lost) between the ears as much as the goal lines. This week the game preparation seems to be as

Please see O'MEARA, C6

## Marlins expect to contend for Class A championship

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domears@oc.homecomm.net

Coach Jim Downs gave each of his Farmington Hills Mercy swimmers going to the state meet this weekend a sheet with the team's itinerary.

At the end, he wrote the Marlins finished in sixth place last year. Under 1996, Downs listed fifth, fourth, third, second and first, and asked each girl to place a check mark next to her choice.

"Really, it was something to give them a little food for thought," Downs said. "The whole idea is we have to move up from sixth. We should move up, but how good are we going to

### SWIMMING

be?" Mercy will send another strong contingent to the Class A championships Friday and Saturday at Eastern Michigan University, and Downs expects the Marlins to be among the teams battling for the title.

Ann Arbor Huron is the favorite, according to Downs, and Grosse Pointe North, Ann Arbor Pioneer and Bloomfield Hills Lahser will be in the running, too.

"There will be a lot of teams fighting for first," Downs said, "but a lot of teams that won't be

in the top six or seven will do certain things that are going to drive other teams nuts."

"Rochester Adams has a very fast medley relay. Some teams like that will have one or two strong relays, one or two strong kids."

"This year will be different. There's not going to be a runaway like (Birmingham) Seaholm was last year. It's going to be real close."

Mercy's hopes rest with a core group of six swimmers who will compete in one or two individual events and also fill three relay teams.

Junior Elizabeth Posvar, who

Please see SWIMMING, C3

## Flyers make hockey debut



First game: The first hockey game played by a Farmington high school team ended in a 3-1 loss Tuesday to visiting Bloomfield Hills Lahser. Farmington's Aaron Wilkin (left) and Lahser's Mike Baker chase the puck. See story on C4.

# 4 DAYS THIS WEEKEND

THURS 10-9 • FRI 10-9 • SAT 10-6 • SUN 12-5

# ODDS & ENDS, NEW &

# USED SKI SALE

CASH & CARRY. LAST YEARS STYLES 50-70% OFF.

WE HAVE GATHERED UP ALL THE ALPINE MERCHANDISE.

ODDS & ENDS, NEW & USED - OVER 1000 PAIRS OF ALPINE BOOTS, SKIS, BINDINGS, POLES & A GREAT ASSORTMENT OF LAST SEASONS WINTER CLOTHING, JACKETS, PANTS, SWEATERS & MORE, FROM ALL OF OUR BAVARIAN VILLAGE SKI SHOPS AND PUT IT ALL TOGETHER FOR ONE GIGANTIC SALE AT ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION

Birmingham Basement, 101 Townsend at Pierce