

Farmington teams win big in WLAA openers

North Farmington and Farmington Harrison opened the softball season Monday with a pair of impressive Western Lakes Activities Association victories.

That was especially true for the Raiders, who whipped perennial WLAA power Walled Lake Central on the latter's diamond, 8-1.

The Hawks used a six-run sixth inning to pull away from visiting Northville en route to a 14-6 triumph.

Playing its second game but first in the WLAA, Farmington was no less impressive Monday in defeating Westland John Glenn, 9-1.

Freshman Beth Danielowicz

SOFTBALL

pitched a one-hitter for North, 1-0 in the WLAA Lakes Division. She struck out nine and walked two over seven innings.

The Raiders supported Danielowicz with eight hits. The Vikings made four errors, the Raiders one.

"I thought our girls came out and played real poised softball," North coach Dave Brubaker said. "The girls went out there to win the ballgame."

"When you have someone throwing a one-hitter and you got good defense, it makes coaching a heckuva lot easier."

"Beth was right on tonight; she had everything under control."

Samantha McCumb went 3-for-4 and scored three runs to lead the Raiders. Danielowicz helped her cause with two hits, including a double, and scored a run.

Chrisley King, Staci Russell and Alyssa Stanbridge had the rest of the North hits. Russell, Stanbridge and Kristy Reinhardt also had one RBI apiece.

"I liked what I saw at the plate," Brubaker said. "The girls hit the ball and ran the bases well."

"We got all the kids in; all 15 did something. When was the last time you could say that

about a Walled Lake Central game?"

Kristy Marszalac started, pitched five innings, gave up five runs and took the loss.

The Vikings (0-1, 1-3) scored their only run on a walk, a hit by Sara Ston and a sacrifice fly by Brittany Coram in the fifth inning.

Hawks start with win

Senior Lindsey Emmett pitched a four-hitter for Harrison, 1-0 in the WLAA Western Division. She struck out seven and walked seven over seven innings.

Only one Northville run was earned as the Harrison defense made five errors. Northville committed three miscues.

The Hawks out-hit the Mustangs, 12-4, and scored 10 runs over Northville starter Maureen Ennos, who worked the last 5 1/3 innings.

"It was a typical opening game," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, adding the wind made it difficult to play on the hill overlooking Eight Mile Road. "We didn't make good decisions sometimes, either."

But the Hawks were more

aggressive offensively, stole 12 bases and put the Mustangs "back on their heels," Teachman added.

Jenelle Welling went 3-for-3 and Kelly Taylor 3-for-4 to lead Harrison; Kim Spaulding and Gayle Ternes were 2-for-4.

One of Welling's hits was a bases-loaded triple. As the catcher, she also threw out four runners trying to steal bases.

Taylor and Spaulding, who stole three bases, scored three runs each; Ternes and Spaulding knocked in two runs apiece.

Mytty stars for Falcons

Senior Melissa Mytty was every bit as impressive as North's Danielowicz, striking out 17 batters and walking one in host Farmington's win over Glenn.

The Rockets had just three hits off Mytty, who had at least two strikeouts in every inning and struck out the side in the second, third and seventh.

Glenn pitcher Stephanie Fedulchak gave up 14 hits and five walks over seven innings.

Julio Rotenheiser was 3-for-4 with two RBIs for the Falcons. Meghan O'Rear, Mytty, Danielle

Lewis, Becky DePottor and Amy Paquette had two hits apiece.

Lewis had two doubles and two RBIs; Mytty hit a triple, scored three runs and had two RBIs; Rotenheiser also had two RBIs and Paquette one; Randi Brown scored twice while pinch running for O'Rear.

"Two of Glenn's hits went for extra bases. Abby Massey tripled and scored her team's lone run, and Amanda Ross hit a double."

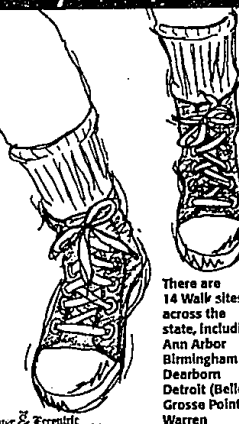
"I was real happy with the way we hit the ball," Farmington coach Jerry Osborne said. "We didn't have any strikeouts; we put the ball in play and made the other team make plays on us."

"We had a couple errors that didn't hurt us. Fortunately, Melissa pitched so well; otherwise, the errors could have hurt us."

"We're working on being a better defensive squad. Offensively, I'm very happy with our performance in two games."

The Falcons lost their season opener April 4 to Southfield Christian, 4-3. The game was called after five innings because of the weather.

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scored a run. Kammer had an RBI, too.

Joel Geary was 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs to lead the Vikings. He also scored a pair of runs.

"I was disappointed we lost but very happy with the way we played," North coach Irv Horwitz said.

"We came through and had some chances, but we didn't get the key hits. Otherwise, we could have won the game."

Jeff Granat pitched four

innings for North, but the loss went to reliever Scott Stein, who gave up six of 10 hits, three walks and two runs over the final three innings.

FRANKLIN 8, W.L. WESTERN 3: Franklin pitcher Joe Ruggiero deserves the title "Mr. Everything" following Monday's effort against WLAA foe "Valley Lake Western."

Ruggiero did everything but sell popcorn between innings. He tossed a complete game seven-hitter while contributing three hits and two RBIs to the plate. The Patriots improved to 1-2 overall

and 1-0 in the WLAA. Western fell to 3-1 overall and 0-1 in the league.

Franklin broke a scoreless tie in the top of the third when Chris Hall singled and scored on Ruggiero's double.

Hall was a catalyst throughout the game, stepping out two hits and scoring three runs.

The Patriots padded their 1-0 lead in the fifth when John Nigle singled, stole second and scored when Hall reached on an error. Hall crossed the plate moments later when Ruggiero doubled.

The Warriors tied the game, 3-3, when they scored one run in the fifth and two in the sixth. Franklin had a three-run rally in the seventh.

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