

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Softball coach retires

Tuesday's pre-district loss to Plymouth Canton was Jerry Osborne's last game as coach of the Farmington varsity softball team.

Osborne, 35, has decided to retire from coaching after six seasons in charge of the program.

He has three young children — boys ages 10 and 8 and a 5-year-old girl — and wants to be more involved in their athletic activities.

"It's time for me to watch them play ball and be a spectator," Osborne said. "I'm going to do exactly what our parents did (Tuesday) and the Canton parents did — show up and watch my own kids play ball."

"I come home and ask my wife 'How did they do?' They want to see their dad over on the sidelines, too."

Osborne has been a high school coach for 10 years. Prior to arriving in Farmington, he was an assistant varsity baseball coach at Melvindale for three years and the JV baseball coach at Riverview for one year.

"It's something I'm going to miss but, in retrospect, I'm not going to regret my decision," he said.

"It's been outstanding. I've loved coaching (at Farmington). The administration was very helpful; the players and parents were fantastic."

Osborne will continue to teach at Farmington High School.

6-on-6 soccer program

The Farmington Soccer Club has organized a coed six-on-six small-field summer soccer program open to players entering ninth grade and above.

The cost is \$12 for six games (June 24-July 28). Registration continues through Friday, June 9.

For more information or to register, call program coordinator Beth Diehl at 474-2399 or Eric Springer at 476-5829.

Hawks 2nd in tourney

The Michigan Hawks, an under-14 girls soccer team coached by John Buchanan, finished second in a Nike-sponsored tournament last weekend in Chicago.

The runner-up finish puts the Hawks in an international tournament this weekend in Beaverton, Ore.

The Hawks are Kyle LaPorte (Livonia), Melissa Dobbyn (Livonia), Erin Dean (Dearborn), Maureen Pawlak (Novi), Marissa Sarskian (Canton), Nicole Cautillo (Northville), Kate Cummings (Troy), Whitney Guenther (Northville), Jordan Falcuson (Plymouth), Sabrina Muat (Bloomfield Hills), Deanna Kubas (Novi), Nikki Hermann (Novi), Jill Kehler (Ft. St. Vrain), Jenny Szymanski (Troy) and Erica Rose (Farmington Hills).

Kennedy assists WMU

Davron Kennedy of Farmington Hills (Harrison) helped Western Michigan University's 1,600-meter relay team to a fourth-place finish in the Mid-American Conference women's track championships May 18-20 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Kennedy, Justin Phillips, Angela Cole-Curry and Heather Johnson had WMU's fastest time (3:47.34) in that event at the MAC meet.

The same group had the third-best 400 relay time (47.68). Kennedy, Cole-Curry, Johnson and Marcee Grange were second in the 1,600 sprint medley at 4:11.98.

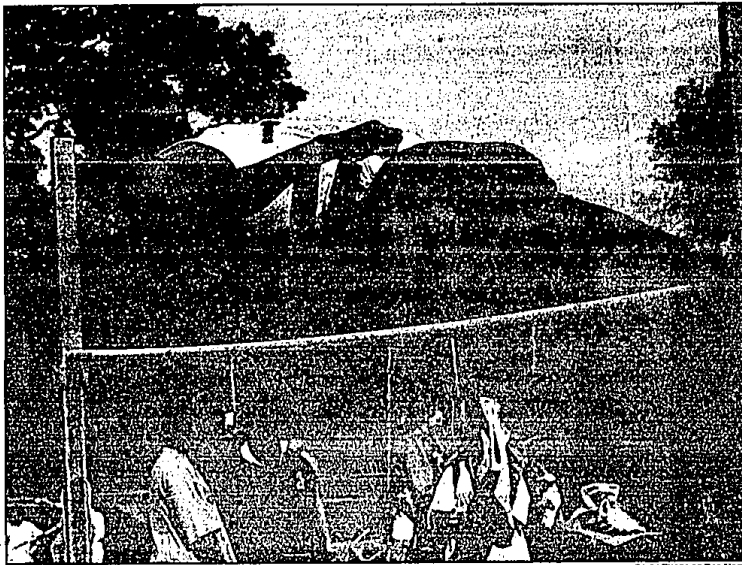
Kennedy is also WMU's top hurdler over 400 meters with a 1:03.98 time.

Rockets registration

The Farmington Rockets will register football players Saturday, June 3, at Farmington High School.

Returning players can register from 9 a.m. to noon, new players from 1-3 p.m. Youths who are between the ages of 8 and 14 are eligible.

Registration will take place at the blue equipment shed next to the Farmington football field. The fee is \$180 per player.



Event winner: Jeremy Mazes helped Farmington High win the high jump Tuesday in the Ambrose-Eccentric Relays. He was fourth in the Oakland County meet; Harrison's Brad Tucker was third.

County champs repeat

BY DANIEL STICKERAD
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A couple of familiar winners ran away with trophies in the annual Oakland County track-and-field championships Friday at Clarkston.

Southfield captured its sixth consecutive girls title, and Pontiac Northern collected its seventh straight boys championship (eighth in 10 years).

"Seven in a row for Northern; my hat goes off to them," Clarkston coach Walt Wyniemo said. "That's quite a feat."

While Northern joined Clarkston and Farmington Harrison as favorites into the boys meet, Southfield wasn't labeled as the team to beat in the girls.

TRACK & FIELD

our best options and to get us prepared for the state meet. This was a great tune-up."

Southfield senior Melanie Williams scorched the Clarkston track for four wins in the 100, 200 and 400 while anchoring the winning 800 relay.

Lindsay Bond won both hurdles events and also contributed to a Southfield win in the 1600 relay.

While not every team loaded up with its top lineup, opting to let individuals shine in certain events, the meet still provided many exciting races.

Clarkston opened the day with a win in the girls 3,200 relay, and Nicole

Please see TRACK & FIELD, C3

Falcons' miscues result in 11-1 loss

BY C.J. RISAK
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Half of Tuesday's pre-district tournament baseball qualifier between Farmington and host Plymouth Canton was ugly.

Unfortunately for the Falcons, that half of the game was all theirs.

Two errors in the first inning led to two runs for the Chiefs, and it never got better for Farmington, which bowed out with an 11-1, five-inning, mercy-rule thumping.

BASEBALL

Canton (21-8) advances to Saturday's district tournament co-hosted by Canton and Salem. The Chiefs meet North Farmington at 11 a.m. at Canton, while Salem plays host to Livonia Stevenson at 11 a.m. The championship will be at approximately 1:30 p.m. at Canton.

"I was hoping you didn't come to this game," said Farmington coach Pete Finn, his team exiting with a 17-11 record. "This was our worst game of the year."

"We weren't really mentally in it. I can't explain it; it was a tough day to be a coach. We were in one mercy situation all year."

Figuring out the difference in this game wouldn't be too tough: The Falcons committed nine errors, while Canton made one.

Combine that with the pitching of Chiefs' ace Jon Johnson, and you can't lose. Johnson surrendered just three hits and did not walk a batter, striking out five in five innings.

"He did a pretty good job," said Can-

Please see BASEBALL, C2



Frustrated Falcons: Meghan O'Rear makes contact with the ball, but her team never had a hit.

Canton's Stewart tosses no-hitter at Farmington

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Laura Stewart's near-perfect pitching and timely hitting provided the ideal post-season start for the Plymouth Canton softball team.

The senior right-hander picked a good time to throw her first no-hitter Tuesday in a pre-district game against Farmington.

Stewart's superb pitching and bases-loaded single sparked the Chiefs, who were visitors at their own diamond, to a 7-0 victory over the Falcons.

It wasn't until the sixth inning when Stewart said she became aware of the no-hit bid.

"When we came back in, our third baseman said 'You have a no-hitter, not to jinx it or anything.' I only had one more (inning) to go," Stewart said. "I haven't thrown one yet, so I always figure there's one (hit) in there somewhere. I've had my one hits and two hits. I've been working for this for a long time."

Stewart, who had seven strikeouts, was just two walks away from pitching a perfect game.

After walking Meghan O'Rear in the first inning, she retired 18 batters in a row until putting Kim Livingston aboard with two out in the seventh.

"I've been really sick, so it felt good to get back in the swing of things and throw really well," Stewart said.

"The drop curve was working real well. They were swinging late, so I stayed with that and the fastball. I stayed with the fast ones, and I stayed on the corner."

A bout with the flu kept Stewart from pitching against arch-rival Plymouth Salem on May 24, and the Chiefs lost a mercy-rule game, 14-1.

SOFTBALL

She returned to pitch Friday in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game, but North Farmington was a 9-0 winner over Canton.

"I thought she was extremely on today," Canton coach Jim Arnold said, adding Stewart was back to 100 percent. "She was having fun today. All her pitches were working, and she seemed to be very relaxed out there."

"The defense played a good game behind her. This is what this team is capable of doing if they're relaxed and they go out there and play ball."

After a rough week, it was a nice turnaround for the Chiefs, who will face North again in a district semifinal game Saturday at Canton.

"Hopefully, this is the start of an uphill climb all the way to the state finals," Arnold said. "We have the athletes to do it. It's just a matter of playing relaxed, having some fun and doing the things we know we can do."

"We need to play this well Saturday. North Farmington has beaten us twice; hopefully, the third time will be the charm."

The Chiefs (20-11) gave Stewart all the support she needed with a four-run first inning, and Stewart helped her cause with what proved to be the game-winning hit.

A leadoff walk to Paula McKernan and back-to-back singles by Michelle Devoe and Jonelle Brown loaded the bases for Stewart, who delivered a two-run single.

Please see SOFTBALL, C2

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