

Harrison upset by Seaholm

An otherwise successful baseball season for Farmington Harrison had a sudden and disappointing finish Saturday.

The state-rated Hawks made an early exit from post-season play when they were upset by Birmingham Seaholm in a Division 2 district tournament game, 11-10.

Adding to the frustration of the Harrison team was the Seaholm won it with an unearned run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

And that was after the Hawks (20-4) had rallied with seven runs in the sixth to tie the score.

"Even though we're real happy with the season, it didn't end on a good note for us," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

"I thought we had a real good shot at going a long way in the tournament, because we had played so solidly."

The Hawks dug an early hole for themselves when the Maples scored six runs in the second inning to take a 9-3 lead.

Chad Herron's second home run — he hit a two-run blast in the first inning — helped Seaholm take a seven-run lead in the third.

"We had never given up more than seven runs in any game," Herrington said. "Our pitching has been pretty good, but when (Tim) Doig came up injured we couldn't quite shut the door."

Doig started but departed before the first inning was over due to a pulled muscle in his neck.

Brant Porhola and Matt Zatkis took a turn on the mound before ace Jimmy Kay (8-2)



One more time: Harrison senior Brian Nelson, who has been pictured in the Observer sliding into home plate previously, makes another attempt to score Saturday.

pitched the final four innings and took the loss.

Herrington was saving Kay for a possible second game against Beverly Hills Country Day, which won the district with a 9-5 win over Seaholm in nine innings.

With two runs in and two outs in the Seaholm second, a dropped flyball kept the inning alive for the Maples, who scored four more times.

"We never seen anything like it," Herrington said. "We couldn't get the last out. Before we knew

Raiders just miss title win

Plymouth Salem's quest for its first district baseball title since 1995 went from a walk in the park to a walk on the wild side during the seventh inning Saturday against North Farmington.

The Rocks carried a comfortable, 7-2 lead into the final frame of the championship game before the gutsy Raiders pushed across four runs to make it 7-6.

Salem relief pitcher Chris Hardy finally extinguished the comeback when he got North's Brian Lafer to pop out to second baseman Ryan Cook with the bases loaded and two outs.



Action at the hot corner: Salem's Chris Eicher slides into third base ahead of the tag by North's Jeff Vieder.

BASEBALL

Hardy, who relieved starter Jason Lukasik with runners on first and second and no outs earlier in the seventh, was engulfed by his celebrating teammates immediately after Cook squeezed the final out.

"We beaten North Farmington five times this year, but they made it closer every game we played," sighed Salem coach Dale Rumberger, as he clenched the district championship trophy moments after the game ended.

"This one got a little too close at the end for my tastes."

Salem will take a 20-13 record into the Division 1 regional tournament Saturday at Royal Oak Kimball. The Raiders finished with a 6-15 mark.

"If we get pitching, I think we have as good a chance as the other three teams in the regional," Rumberger said.

"We've been hitting the ball real well lately. (Salem has) rocked 22 home runs this season. Hopefully, we can put it all together Saturday."

The game began in spectacular fashion when the first batter, Salem's Steve Stiles, drilled a long drive toward the gap in left-center field.

What appeared to be a sure double turned into a long out when Lafer, the center fielder, made a spectacular, diving catch.

That didn't deter the next two Salem hitters, Chad Goethe and Lukasik, who followed with a single and double, respectively.

With runners on second and third, Rock catcher Ian Winter grounded out to second base; however, Goethe scored the game's first run on the play.

The Raiders tied it at 1-1 in the bottom of the second when catcher Ethan Goodman led off with a walk, advanced to second on an error and scored on a sacrifice fly by Mike Sack.

Salem bounced back with three runs in the third to grab a 4-1 lead. Winter and Adam Kolb keyed the inning with clutch, two-out RBI singles.

After North sliced the deficit to 4-2 in its half of the third, Salem chalked up its second straight three-run inning in the fourth to make it 7-2.

Stiles knocked in the first run with a sacrifice fly. Two batters later, Lukasik ripped an RBI single. The third run scored on an infield error.

Lukasik coasted with the five-run lead, allowing just one walk and one hit from the fourth

through the sixth innings. But the wheels started to fall off in the bottom of the seventh when Lukasik walked the first two batters.

With two on and nobody out, Rumberger brought in Hardy, who yielded an RBI single to the first batter he faced, Ross Patterson.

After getting Zach Lesaway to pop out to Cook, Hardy hit Goodman before giving up a single to Paul Kammer to load the bases and bring the tying run to the plate.

After a strikeout, the suspense intensified when Sack laced a run-scoring single and leadoff batter Jeff Vieder drew a walk to make it 7-6.

But Lafer couldn't match his game-opening heroics, as Hardy induced him to pop the ball into Cook's waiting glove.

North coach Irv Horwitz said his team's gritty comeback didn't surprise him.

"We've never quit all season," he said. "We lost to Salem four times this year before this game;

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