

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Herrington gains fame

Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington will be inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame tonight at the Cobo Conference Center in Detroit.

Herrington is a member of the 2001 class that includes former Michigan and NFL offensive tackle Dan Dierdorf, Eastern Michigan and NBA star George Gervin, late broadcasting legend J.P. McCarthy, Tigers pitcher Jack Morris, Lions linebacker and kicker Wayne Walker and Pistons player George Yardley.

Herrington has a 285-54-1 record in 31 seasons as the only head football coach in Harrison history.

His teams have won a record 11 state championships, including four in a row since 1997. Harrison's 19 playoff and 14 state-final appearances are records, too.

The Hawks also have won six Western Six Conference and 14 Western Lakes Activities Association titles.

Herrington is also coach of the Harrison baseball team, which is ranked No. 1 in Division II and plays host to Farmington in the WLAA championship game Friday.

Gymnasts to nationals

The Level 7 girls gymnastics team representing the Sports Club of West Bloomfield qualified Saturday for the national championships this summer in Florida.

The team of Ashley Hagaman (37.225), April Meyers (36.9), Veronica Perera (36.725), Lauren Leland (34.575), Michelle Heller (36.025), Lauren Tucker (37.975), Lindsay Chirio (37.40) and Shayna Danto (38.625) achieved a score in excess of the required 31 points in the U.S.A.I.G.C. Regional in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The coaches are Jeanne Norwood and Dean Smarjesse.

Raiders earn 5th straight WLAA title

N. Farmington extends streak in boys tennis

BY DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington is still the king of boys tennis in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Raiders captured their fifth consecutive tournament championship Tuesday by a two-point margin over Northville, 25-23.

It also makes second-year coach Mark Shenton 2-for-2 since he took charge of the team from Rick Jones at the start of last season.

"The kids in the program know about the tradition and want to keep things going in the right direction," Shenton said.

"I know the players are extremely proud to keep the streak going for North as the conference champion."

The Raiders had champions at four flights and managed to reach the semifinals in all eight.

But it was a hard-earned success story for North on the heels of a close battle with Northville in a regional meet Friday.

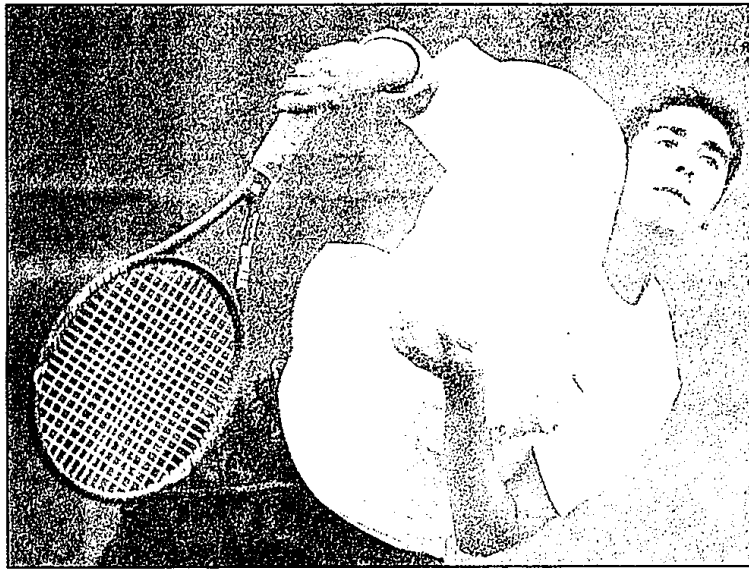
"The regional was exciting and very intense," Shenton said. "Emotionally and physically, it took a lot to come through in those matches."

"It was a little tough to regroup and get back up to playing a high level of tennis, but we were able to survive."

"We had a little letdown from the regional. It showed in parts of the lineup, but the good thing is we were able to play as a team and other people picked up the slack."

North winners in singles competition were Chris Copeland and Rob Frankel at the Nos. 2 and 4 flights, respectively.

Copeland overcame Livonia



Tournament action: North Farmington senior Jay Berman was the runner-up at No. 1 singles Tuesday in the Western Lakes tournament, which the Raiders won for the fifth consecutive year.

Churchill's Robert Simkow in the semis to defeat Northville rival Mark Thomson in the finals in two sets.

"After a shaky start, he played very well in the third set (against Simkow) and played extremely well in the final against Thomson," Shenton said. "He comes up big in big-time matches."

Frankel whipped his Northville opponent in the semis but needed three sets

to dispose of Plymouth Salem freshman Mike Ware in the finals.

"He played very steady matches all day," Shenton said. "When it came down to the finals, he was able to pull through against a younger player who was playing very well."

North's Jay Berman defeated Northville rival Dean Conway in straight sets in the semis but lost to

Livonia Stevenson's Brady Crosby in the final.

"Jay played him pretty tough in the first set," Shenton said. "Brady is a tough competitor, and Jay came up just a bit short."

After losing the first set in the finals to Churchill, North's No. 1 doubles

Please see RAIDERS, D5

Hawks win 1st regional crown

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison used a balanced team effort to win its first girls regional championship in track and field Friday at Warren Fitzgerald.

The Hawks scored in all but one of the 17 events to upset defending state and regional champion Detroit Renaissance, 147-132.

Harrison was runner-up last year in the Division II regional to the Phoenix, which went on to capture its fourth consecutive

GIRLS TRACK

state title — the first three in Class B.

"It was close most of the way, but we had enough to get the job done," Hawks coach Mark Babcock said. "I think we were a little more well rounded. In my opinion, that was a big difference."

Babcock believes this year's team just might have the best balance of talent and ability of any he has coached in his 21 seasons at Harrison.

sons at Harrison.

"The team we had with Allison Noe and Krista Snow was a pretty good team, but there aren't too many that can match the balance of this team," he said.

"It's pretty exciting for us, never having won a regional and having an unseated team like Renaissance."

"You have to have something special to beat a team like that; so we're really pleased. A lot of kids were pretty proud walking around school (Monday)."

Please see HAWKS, D3



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Regional golf tournament:

Farmington Hills Mercy senior Erin Borowiec (right) and Livonia Stevenson's Kristen Polanski get instructions on the first tee at Carrington Golf Club course Monday morning. Borowiec was the regional medalist.

Marlins prepare for state meet

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy golf coach Vicky Kowalski is faced with a dilemma most coaches would like to have.

Kowalski has seven solid varsity players, but she can use only five in the state tournament June 1-9 in East Lansing.

In the next week, Kowalski has to decide who will compete for the Marlins, who won the Division I regional tournament Monday at Carrington Golf Course in Monroe.

GIRLS GOLF

Her solution is to send her team to Forest Akers Golf Course, which is where the state meet will take place, for a playoff Friday.

"I told the girls all seven of them got us where we are," Kowalski said. "They've pushed each other and made each other better."

"Now we need to find out which five play best at Forest Akers. They know we can win

the state tournament. All seven are in this together, even though five will play."

One player won't participate in the playoff, however. Senior Erin Borowiec will be in Florida to watch her sister, Jennifer, compete for Ohio State in the NCAA championships.

Nobody will find fault with that since Borowiec, one of the best players in the state, is a sho-in to be among Mercy's top five.

The six contenders are Christi-

Please see GOLF, D4

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