

## Farmington trio going to state finals

By DAN O'MEARA  
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Farmington will be well represented at the state finals in girls tennis this weekend with three schools competing. North Farmington and Farmington Hills Mercy earned return trips to the season finale, and Farmington High will make its first appearance in several years.

North won the Division 2 regional tournament hosted by Farmington Friday while Farmington was the runner-up. Mercy also was second Friday in a Division 1 regional at Troy, which won the event.

"Right from the beginning, our goal was Oct. 12 (the day of the regional)," Farmington coach Carl Badynee said. "We knew we had a chance to go to state."

## GIRLS TENNIS

"I'm really proud of the girls, because we set a goal and worked all season. Sometimes I thought we were slipping away from it, but we definitely showed up Friday and played outstanding."

The Division 2 state finals will take place in Holland; the Division 1 championships will be determined in Midland.

"The state meet is a whole other level of play," Badynee said, adding North Farmington's Emily Jaffe, the regional champion at No. 1 singles, was a No. 1 seed in the regional and could be a No. 4 at state. "That's how strong the competition is. A lot of them are nationally-ranked junior players."

"There are a ton of teams on the West Side of the state that are super strong. But that being said we're not going just

to have fun. Whatever we can take we're going to take. It's not just a vacation for us; we're going to work."

Farmington's Monica Ramany and Nancy Okechukwu won the No. 3 doubles regional championship over No. 1-seeded Jenna Street and Jessica Hoffman of North, 6-3, 7-5 (13-11).

"Before the regional, I had been telling the girls, 'Bringing a certain attitude on to the court is half the battle; You can't be afraid of any opponent,'" Badynee said.

"Our No. 3 doubles was strong right from the beginning. They got blown out by North in the conference meet, but the girls walked off the court knowing they could beat them. They walked on to the court with the right attitude for the finals and took it to them."

"The tiebreaker was a nail-biter. It was getting dark, and I don't think anybody wanted it to go to a third set. But I

was telling the girls, 'If it goes to a third set, fine; just don't back down.'"

Farmington's No. 2 doubles team of Stephanie Arnold and Karen Turkovich defeated a higher-seeded opponent before losing to North's Michele Boothroyd and Chrissy Dwyer in the final, 6-4, 6-0.

"I always thought they were good, individual players," Badynee said. "They finally jelled as a team. Maybe, by the end of the season, they figured out each other's strengths and weaknesses and were able to cover."

In the finals, North's Bethany Nestor and Kelly Davis were straight-set winners over Farmington's Brittany Nucitelli and Allison Lyon at Nos. 2 and 4 singles, respectively.

"I wasn't surprised by any means they made it to the finals," Badynee said,

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## Prep season ends for most football teams but not all

It's have and have-not week.

This weekend marks the end of the line for a great number of Oberlin-area teams (the have-nots). For several others, it will be a tune-up for what lies ahead in the state playoffs (the haves).

And there are still a couple of teams at Redford Catholic Central and Wayne Memorial — who could be "haves" if they win this week. Both are 5-3; CC plays at Dearborn Fordson and Wayne hosts Westland John Glenn.

(By the way, the playoff pairings will be aired on Fox Sports Detroit starting at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.)

The final week of the regular season is also special to a few teams who take on their city rivals. Wayne and John Glenn is one; it's the only one with something other than city pride at stake. It's also the only game of this type featuring two teams with winning records.

## GRID PICKS

The other two match-ups are more lopsided. Plymouth Canton, 7-1 this season, goes against Plymouth Salem, which is 1-7. The other has Livonia Stevenson, 4-4 after Friday's loss to Walled Lake Western, going against Livonia Churchill, 2-6 following its victory over Farmington.

On paper, neither of these games should be close affairs, but when city bragging rights are at stake, players can suddenly step up and become something far more than what they were. Which is why, in games like these, there's never truly an upset.

As for the Game of the Week — well, it has to be Wayne vs. Glenn. The Zebras could make the playoffs for only the second time in school history with a win, but that won't be easy against Glenn. The Rockets were gliding along with just one loss on their ledger until they ran into all-world team Farmington Harrison and got punished 48-7 in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game.

So how will they react to that thumping? And can Wayne push itself enough to give Glenn a battle?

Speaking of battles, yours truly — for the second-straight year — earned the honor of writing the ninth week's prediction column with his (lack of) sterling success in the first eight weeks. The eight-week standings find a new grid guru in town: Livonia/Westland's Brad Emmons at 96-20 after a 10-4 Week Eight.

Farmington's Dan O'Meara, the long-standing but now "former" guru, moved into second with an 11-3 week, elevating him to 90-28 overall. Then there are the "have-nots" — the guys who have never been guru. Redford/Garden City's Paul Beaudry (87-29 overall) and, well, me (88-30). We both struggled through 8-6 Week Eight.

## THURSDAY GAMES

(Both at 4 p.m.)

Wyandotte Mt. Carmel (3-7) at Redford Bishop Borgese (7-1); These two teams do share some things. Both suffered from one-sided losses last week. Mt. Carmel blanked 22-0 by Taylor Zee Christian and Borgese beaten 33-0 by Royal Oak Shrine. Something tells me it won't hurt Borgese as much. PICKS: Borgese — Beaudry, Risk, O'Meara, Emmons.

Redford St. Agatha (4-4) vs. Detroit Loyola (0-8) at Det. Urban Lutheran; The Aggies are coming off a "bye" week, getting a forfeit win over Hamtramck St. Florian that evened their record. Loyola just keeps getting bounced around; last week, East Catholic did the honors, beating the Bulldogs, 26-8. The week off should have helped banged-up St. Agatha, which is bad news for Loyola. PICKS: St. Agatha — Beaudry, Risk, O'Meara, Emmons.

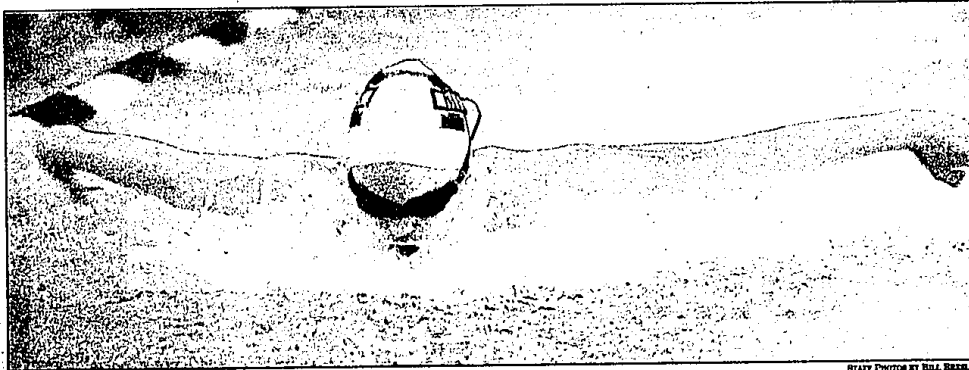
## FRIDAY GAMES

(all times 7 p.m. unless noted)

Garden City (3-8) at Dearborn Edsel Ford (5-7); The Cougars had been playing pretty tough against most of its opponents — uh-huh, but is until Monroe struck them with a 26-0 thrashing last Friday. But Edsel Ford has struggled even more. Last week, Dearborn whipped the Thunder, 28-0. So who wants this game more? PICKS: Garden City — Beaudry, O'Meara, Emmons; Edsel Ford — Risk.

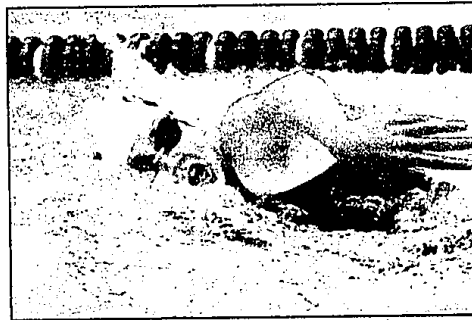
Please see GRID PICKS, D2

## Marlins remain unbeaten in dual meets



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BERLIN

**Mercy defeats Foley:** Farmington Hills Mercy won its seventh consecutive dual meet without a loss in girls swimming and diving Tuesday afternoon. The Marlins cruised to a 90-11 win over visiting Madison Heights Bishop Foley in a Catholic League contest. Mercy's Elizabeth Garlow (above) participated in a pair of relay victories, while Moira Cronin won the 500 freestyle (right) and helped the Marlins win the 200 freestyle relay. Mercy will put its undefeated record on the line Friday night in a dual meet at Ann Arbor Pioneer, another perennial state power. The Marlins have one more dual meet remaining Tuesday at home against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep before attempting to defend their league title on Saturday, Nov. 10. See Page D5 for results of the Mercy-Foley meet Tuesday.



## N'ville comeback denies North victory

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## FOOTBALL

North Farmington made a 23-point improvement from its first football game against Northville, but it wasn't content with another moral victory Saturday.

The reason is the rematch was a game the Raiders could have won and probably should have. North, which lost the season opener by a 42-12 margin to Northville, built a comfortable halftime lead of 27-6 but succumbed to a second-half rally.

The result was a 41-34 loss to the visiting Mustangs.

"It's extremely disappointing," North coach Rich Burrell said. "That loss hurt more than any other this year, because it's one we just gave away."

"We had them bent at halftime; then the bottom fell out. I guess we got overconfident and felt we only

had to play two quarters. Everything that could go wrong did."

The setback dropped the Raiders to 2-6 overall with one game remaining. The Mustangs upped their record to 5-3 and kept alive their hopes of making the state playoffs.

North led 6-0 after one quarter following Bryan Smith's 1-yard quarterback sneak. Northville tied the score in the early second period when Drew Herpich passed 20 yards to Robert Cameron for a TD.

But the Raiders scored the last 21 points of the half to take a commanding lead at the intermission. Smith sandwiched a pair of TD passes to Brian Johns and Marcus McComb covering 53 and 25

yards, respectively, around a 7-yard scoring run by Justin Cook.

In the third quarter, Northville's Tim Downing had a 5-yard TD run, and Herpich passed to Matt Smith for a 19-yard TD.

Smith scored on a 6-yard run and Jon Moll's extra-point kick made the score 34-20 at the end of the quarter.

But the Mustangs dominated the fourth, 21-0. Herpich passed 11 yards to Cameron for another TD and twice to Bill Atkins for TD connections of 22 and 19 yards. Pat Kalleher made all three PATs.

"The first half was awesome," Burrell said. "We were doing everything right. It was two different halves with two games."

"It was a complete reversal. It seemed every time

Please see FOOTBALL, D2

## 5th win sign of progress for Harrison

Three late goals secured a 5-1 win for Farmington Harrison over host Westland John Glenn in boys soccer Monday.

The victory in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game improved Harrison's overall record to 5-9-2.

That would be a modest achievement for most teams, but it represents a marked improvement for the Hawks, who were winless a year ago.

"We haven't had three wins in the last four years total," Harrison coach Tim Russell said, "so five wins is a great step."

"The other nice part is we have a

## BOYS SOCCER

stronger JV than we've ever had, so that's going to be a bonus going into next year."

"There's no doubt the guys on this team have helped the rebuilding process. They're really changing the attitude of the program."

Russell added the only games in which the Hawks were beaten decisively were those with Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson.

"We were in every other game," he said. "The guys realize if we had played

better in three or four games we could be over .500, but that's part of the learning process."

Marjol Tani and Chris Kollins scored two goals apiece for Harrison, which led 2-1 at halftime and scored three more goals in the last 15 minutes.

Moon Lee added his first goal of the season. Tani also had an assist, as did Brett Laird, Eric White, Brian Kirma and Alfred Gjekaj.

"The best thing about the game today is we played around pretty significant injuries," Russell said, adding Noah Bander was injured and Emory Erikson was hurt during the game.

"Tonight, one of the standout players

was Marjol. Glenn likes to kick the ball deep into the opposing zone. He put so much pressure on them they couldn't just send the ball."

"Kirma was all over the field, intercepting passes, making some great slide tackles and heading the ball toward the opposing goal. He had his best game by far."

Goalie Dustin Babier also made a key save halfway through the second half to keep the score 2-1.

"If he hadn't made that save there's no telling how the game would have turned out," Russell said. "He was in

Please see SOCCER, D4