SPORTS



Falcons earn chance at state title

BY DAN¹O'MEARA STAFF WRITER domeara@oc.homecomm.net

Don't be down if you did your best

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FRIDAY GAME Radiord Calibelis Central (6-3) at Westland John Gienn (6-37), 7 pm.: Homm, here to think about this for a while, I don't think Monroe coach Raph Carduccies entive pack feelast profiction from Friday night will come true. After his team? loss to John Genn, Carducci – Insite in Islaam, then to three reporters – predicted a CC win over the Rockets.

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(Beaudry is the Redford-Garden City sports edi-tar for the Observer, He can be reached at (734) 953-2106 or pheaudry@oe.homecomm.net.)

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For most of the first half Wednesday night, Farmington soccor players and fans must have wondered if they were witnessing a replay of last year's state

witnessing a replay of last year's state somifinal game. Farmington reached the same point in the tournament a year ago and out-played Birmingham Groves only to lose in eventime. But the deja vu exporience lasted only so long this time. The Falcons rai-lied from a 1-0 deficit and overcame Peteskey in a game played at Linden High School with a 3-2 vitory. "Last year was an advantage for us,"

Harrison nets district crown with 42-6 rout

BY DAN O'MEARA STAFF WRITER domeara@oe.homecomm.net

domean2000.homecomm.set Was it just another day at the office for the undefeated and all-world Farm-ington Harrison football team? Neither coach John Herrington nor his players, who are enjoying a fine season, would characterize it that way, but win No. 11 probably looked like it to outside observers. The Hawks made it appear easy as they clobbered Chelseen for the second straight year Saturday in a Division 3 playoff game. 42-6, and won a district tournament championship at Harrison.

FOOTBALL

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Farmington coach Luke Juncaj said. Most of the boys were on the team last year, and they didn't want to loso again. They wanted a victory, and it showed in the way they played tonight. The Falcons (18-3-2) advance to the state championship game for the first time to play Grand Rapids Christian (19-4-1) in the Division 2 final 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Lowell High School. We're playing very well right now, Juncaj said. The play the way we did tonight, I think we're going to be OK Saturday.

"It's certainly going to be a great game. A lot of people are excited about this, and we're going to give it our best

this, and we regoing ways ways effort." There was some doubt Wednesday whether or not the Falcons would get there. Farmington dictated the play and had the ball near the Petoskey goal for most of the first half but was unable to

score. Instead, the Northmen (19-5-2) ended up with the first goal when Aaron Sunday converted a penalty kick with 4:41 left in the half after Jimmy Evans was fouled during a rare foray into Falcon territory. Juncaj remained confident, however.



His players, instead of being shaken, appeared to be more motivated. "The boys kept going, and I knew it was only a matter of time before we got n goal," Juncaj said. We've been down like that other times, and we came back pretty much every time. "Before we gave up the penalty kick, we had seven quality chances and a few that we put ever the top of the goal. We should have been up by that """ "" we re down 1-0 and still kept playing. I think the boys were OK with that, In a game like this, it's casy to give up a goal. Physes are TALCOMS, DA Please see FALCONS, D4



Body slam: Harrison defenders Agim Shabaj and Jake Ghan-nam(4) bring a Chelsea player back down to earth Saturday.

Hawks clash with Jaguars in 3rd round

BY DAN O'MEARA STAFF WRITER

n homecomm.net

Star Warrie domean 800-chomecomm.net Allen Park has had another fine foct-ball season, as is its tradition. One might even argue the Jaguars of the Mega Conference Red Division title in their first year at that level. Allen Park faces a much bigger task Saturday. The Jaguars (9-1) will try to scient their season will what would surely be a moumental victory if they can achieve it. The opponent in n Division 3 regional championship game will be nationally-ronsider duy all to be the best team in the state. Kickoff is 1 p.m. at Harrison. As far as tradition, the Hawks are mantched. They've won 11 state championships and 32 consecutive games, a streak that includes a 46-7 vin over the Jaguars in last year's anyoffs. "We're honored to be playing a team hoover said. "We just hope we can be a

Please see PREVIEW, D3

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Western Lakes swim finals



Run to daylight: Harrison's Drew Stanton runs for a 37-yard gain Saturday with blocking assistance from guard Pat Corcoran.

earn 4th championship overall



12 years's' I know a lot of teams would just like to be there." Ironically, this is not the Shamrocks' best team. In fact, Magni doesn't think it's as good as last year's aquad, which placed four runners on the all-state team and finished fourth overall. But, there's a lat to be said for being in the right place at the right time. "We pulled an upset," said Magni. "We came in with six guys who weren't in the finals last year and five who weren't on varsity. I told them we had nothing to lose. We had no No. I runner. They went out relaxed." John Krawiee - the only member of the team to run in the state finals last year and was löth -dian't run until the fourth meet of the season. David Lucas ran JV last year and emorged as the best runner down the stretch. Krawie was fith overall and second in the team race; Lucas was

Please see CROSS COUNTRY, D4

Double winner: North Farmington senior Lindai McErlean won the IM and back-stroke Saturday in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet. See results D5.

STATE PROTO BY RETAY MITT

a small contribution from Zack Miller – were 16-0F24 through the air for 154 yards. "We have to shore up the pass defense," Herrington said. "Allen Park ball all over the place." Harrison was three-and-out on its

Shamrocks best in state again,

Dan O'Meara, Editor 734 953 2141

BY PAIL BEAUDRY STAFF WRITER pbeaudry@co.homecomm.net

pbeaudry@oo.homecomm.net The mantra that Redford Catholic Central cross country coach. Tony Magni has preached to his team all year was that a team is as only good as its fourth and fifth runners. Is turns out that on Saturday, CC's fourth and fifth runners were good enough to lead the Sham-rocks to their fourth state championship and first since 1989.



BIAT PHOTO IT BATAN MICHA Team effort: That's what was required for Catholic Central to win a state title.

CROSS COUNTRY "I know we'd have two in the top 10 and that Kyle Jeket would make the top 30, "said Magni, "I told the other four runners on our team that two of them would have to step up and they did." The Shamrocks won the title with 186 points, outdistancing Milford (205), Travorse City West (221) and Grand Ledge (249). "It's funny," said Magni, "A lot of people have come up and said, You mean you haven't won in 12 years? I know a lot of teams would just like to be there."