

Year from page C1

the Division 1 Final Four, but they were disappointed for the second year in a row.

Waterford Kettering ended Mercy's title hopes with a 2-1, eight-inning victory in the state semifinals.

Junior Molly O'Malley had the only hit off Kettering pitcher Jessica Braker and scored her team's run in the bottom of the seventh to send the game to extra innings.

Mercy junior Megan Fediuk pitched a one-hit shutout against Grosse Pointe South in the quarterfinals as the Marlins won, 2-0. She was one out away from a no-hitter when Katherine Abel singled.

In the regional, Mercy won the battle between all-area pitchers, turning back Livonia Churchill and Meghan Misiak, 7-0. The Marlins mauled Dearborn in the final, 13-1.

Mercy won the district with victories over Farmington in the opener and Livonia Stevenson.

After being the runner-up the last three years, Mercy finally won the Catholic League title — its second overall and first since 1991. Fediuk tossed a one-hit shutout as the Marlins mercifully Livonia Ladywood in five innings, 10-0. Patty Kolinski's leadoff single in the fifth inning ended Fediuk's no-hit bid.

Farmington Baseball

After winning the Lakes Division and taking runner-up honors in the WLAA, the Falcons enjoyed a brilliant post-season run in the Division 1 tourney.

Farmington (27-11) won district and regional championships before bowing to the eventual state champ, Grosse Pointe South, in the quarterfinal, 8-5.

The Falcons overcame Garden City, led by star pitcher and Major League draftee Justin Ockerman in a regional opener, 8-7. In the finals, they routed Dearborn, 9-3.

Farmington gained momentum and a huge confidence boost by beating Catholic Central in the district, 5-4, and then Livonia Stevenson in the final, 6-5.

Farmington Baseball

The Falcons had the most successful season in school history, advancing to the final game of

the state tournament for the first time.

Farmington lost to Grand Rapids Christian in the Division 2 championship game, 1-0, and ended the season with an 18-4-2 record.

The Falcons won their third district title in four years with a 6-0 win over Dearborn Heights Crestwood and their second straight regional crown by defeating Trenton, 5-0.

Farmington advanced to the state final with a 3-2 win over Potosky. The Falcons, who also won the city title, will return most of their team next year.

Harrison Football

The Hawks were every bit as good as everyone said they would be, playing up to preseason expectations as the best team in Michigan.

In posting a 14-0 record for the second year in a row, Harrison won its fifth consecutive state championship and 12th overall.

The Hawks crushed Fowlerville, Chelsea and Allen Park in the first three rounds of the playoffs, vanquished a good Saginaw team in the semifinals, 31-14, and defeated Fruitport to win the Division 3 title for the third straight year, 28-6.

Harrison finished the season with a 36-game winning streak; coach John Herrington is just one win away from 300 with a career total of 299-58-1, and the Hawks were ranked No. 6 nationally in the final Student Sports poll.

Quarterback Drew Stanton and wide receiver Agim Shabaji will play at Michigan State next year, and fellow seniors Terrill Mayberry and Dave Condeni will play at the Division 1 level, too.

Harrison also won its 15th WLAA championship, rolling over host Westland John Glenn in the title game, 48-7. Stanton was 12-of-16 passing for 251 yards and three touchdowns.

Other Highlights

Farmington basketball: Brad Bareille scored a game-high 20 points, including 16 in the third quarter, in early February to spark the Falcons to a 62-50 victory over North Farmington and the city title in boys hoop. Farmington had defeated Harrison in January, 65-51.

The Falcons, who finished with a 16-6

record, finished second in the Western Lakes Activities Association regular-season standings and were runner-up to West Bloomfield in a Class A district tournament.

Farmington gymnastics: The unified Farmington team achieved a longtime goal by qualifying for the state meet with a second-place finish in regional competition.

Brighton won the regional with a 145.00 score and Farmington had its second best of the season at 144.775. Farmington also had eight girls qualify as individuals — the most ever.

During a highly-successful campaign, Farmington also placed second in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet behind Northville-Novi and defeated No. 3-ranked Brighton in a dual meet. Farmington finished third in the state, setting a team record for highest score at 145.90. Only Northville-Novi (147.575) and Rochester Adams (147.00) fared better.

Farmington wrestlers: The Falcons ended their third consecutive district tournament championship and fifth in the last six years. They defeated North Farmington in the final, 58-23.

Farmington edged Fennell in the following week's regional semifinal match, 42-35, but lost to Birmingham Groves in the tournament final, 62-15.

Wrestling: The Marlins won a Class A regional in girls skiing with 73 points to finish ahead of runner-up, Valed Lake Central, which was second with 98.

Liz Kujala paced Mercy by finishing third in the slalom and fourth in the giant slalom. The Marlins were sixth out of nine teams in the state meet, and Kujala was the team's top skier in both events again.

Farmington volleyball: The Falcons had their best season in a long time with the crowning achievement being a district tournament championship.

Farmington topped 11-time defending champion Farmington Hills Mercy in the first round of the district, 4-15, 15-9, 15-8. The Falcons went on to defeat Southfield in the semifinals and Berkley in the final.

It was only the second year Farmington had been assigned to the Berkley district, but it was the school's first district title in volleyball in more than a decade.

St. Fabian basketball: Farmington Hills St. Fabian captured the Catholic Youth Organization's citywide championship in boys basketball in March.

The Falcons defeated Grosse Pointe St. Clare in the final game of the seventh and eighth-grade tournament, 35-32. They finished with a 22-2 record, including a 10-0 mark in the CVO West Suburban Division.

Snows basketball: The fifth- and

sixth-grade girls and boys basketball teams at Our Lady of Sorrows enjoyed successful seasons in which they won division titles.

The girls went undefeated for the second straight year, finishing 19-0 following a 20-0 season the previous year.

Fire hockey: The Farmington Hills Fire, a travel hockey team, won the Pee Wee A state championship in early March, taking a 3-1 win over the Grand Rapids Grizzlies in the final.

The victory avenged a 5-4 loss earlier in the round-robin state tournament. The Fire needed overtime earlier the same day to defeat the Port Huron McDonald Flags in a semifinal game, 4-3.

North boys tennis: The Raiders won the WLAA crown for the fifth straight year in May by two points over perennial challenger Northville, 25-23.

North Farmington winners were Chris Copeland and Rob Frankel in singles flights and the doubles teams of Steve Jeff-Greg Boothroyd and Dan Carlson-Dan Levy.

The Raiders also won their fourth regional title in as many years and advanced to the Division 2 state tournament again.

North tied for seventh place in the state. Copeland and Frankel fared best among the Raiders, reaching the semis.

Harrison girls track: Harrison captured its first regional championship, scoring in all but one of the 17 events at Warren Fitzgerald to unseat defending Division 2 state and regional champ Detroit Renaissance, 147-132.

Harrison baseball: The Hawks earned their third consecutive Western Lakes championship with an 8-0 victory over Farmington.

Senior Matt Zatklin pitched a six-hit shutout and sophomore Kevin Zerbo went 3-for-4 with two home runs and four RBI to lead Harrison.

The Hawks, who have won five of the last seven league titles, finished at 22-8 after losing to Country Day in a district tournament.

Farmington girls soccer: Lorraine DeDomenico scored two goals to help the Falcons defeat North Farmington, 3-0, and win a Division 2 district championship.

Farmington outplayed host Grosse Pointe North in a regional tournament game the next week but was on the short end of a 2-0 score.

The Falcons finished one win shy of matching a school record for single-season victories with a 15-7 record.

St. Fabian softball: The Falcons reached the final game of the CVO tournament for the third time in four years and won their second championship. With pitcher Dana Frank leading the way, St. Fabian compiled a 17-1 record.

Homets softball: The Farmington Hills Hornets, a summer team composed of high school players, were 15-1 in the regular season and won the Girls Incentive Fastpitch Softball League with a 4-3

win over the Plymouth Lightning in the championship game.

Blues baseball: The 12-year-old South Farmington Blues concluded a successful summer of baseball by winning the consolation championship in the USSSA World Series in Hutchinson, Kan.

The Blues were 6-2 in the tournament, winning their last five in a row to finish No. 1 among the 42 teams in the consolation bracket.

Mercy swimming: The Marlins retained the title of Oakland County champions, winning the annual meet for the first time. Mercy had 279.5 points to easily outdistance runner-up Birmingham Marian (132).

Caitlin Kelly was the only individual winner in the 100 freestyle, but Mercy also won all three relays. North Farmington, led by Linda McEneaney's victories in the IM and backstroke, was third. In November, the Marlins won their 11th consecutive and 35th overall Girls' State championship. Katie Benedict, Kelly, Katie Naglick and Kristin Loides were individual winners. Mercy achieved a fifth-place finish in the Class A state meet.

North girls tennis: The Raiders defended their WLAA championship, winning six of the eight flights. North had 30 team points and Northville 20.

Emily Jaffe won at No. 1 singles, Bethany Kestor No. 2, Amy Berke No. 3 and Kelly Davis No. 4. The doubles champions were Michele Boothroyd and Chelsey Dwyer at No. 1, Kim Soloz and Allison Kay at No. 2.

The Raiders, who were 11-0-1 in dual meets, also added a regional championship and qualified for the Division 2 state tournament.

Farmington and Farmington Hills Mercy were regional runners-up and also went to state. Mercy tied for third in Division 2; North was fourth and Farmington 16th in Division 2.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

North Farmington High School athlete Emily Jaffe won the singles championship at the International Macceball Games in Israel in July.

Matt Daly of Livonia, a former standout at Redford Catholic Central, and Jessie Lair of West Bloomfield were the men's and women's winners in the annual Founders Festival road race.

Alan Sydnor of Farmington won the one-meter U.S. national championship in radio-controlled sailboat competition Aug. 2-5 in Mystic, Conn. The event was part of the Second Annual Model Yacht Regatta.

Ashley Cohegan of Farmington Hills won the 50-meter backstroke in the USA Swimming Central Zone meet in August at Oakland University. Her time of 30.83 seconds qualified as a top-10 national time.

SPORTS NEWS STORIES

Farmington schools leave WLAA: Farmington Public Schools accepted an

invitation in October to join the Oakland Activities Association starting in the fall of 2002. The move ended a 39-year connection with the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The WLAA voted in February to expand from 12 to 15 teams, welcoming new schools in the Plymouth-Canton and Walled Lake districts and Wayne Memorial. When a re-alignment plan to create parity was rejected by WLAA principals, Farmington started looking in the direction of the OAA and eventually made the jump to a new league.

The athletic directors proposed a plan to align teams by sport in three divisions, but the majority of WLAA principals wanted each district to be represented in each division with permanent assignments regardless of strength of programs.

Farmington Hall of Fame: Farmington High School created a sports hall of fame to honor its great athletes from years past. The initial class was inducted in April and consisted of Rex Cowley, Mike McGuire, Nate Durham, Mark Churella and Carrie Maler. All five attended the event.

Cowley won a gold medal in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympic Games; McGuire was the state two-mile champion in 1973 and an All-America runner at the University of Michigan; Durham was a state champion in the pole vault and the first Michigan prep to clear 15 feet.

Churella was a state champion wrestler in 1975 and a three-time NCAA champion at the U-M. Meier was the first recipient of the Miss Soccer Award in 1990 and later led Wisconsin to a Big Ten title.

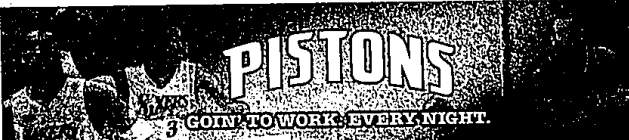
Hawks lose No. 1 fan: Fran Herrington, wife of Farmington football coach John Herrington, died June 27 after a three-month battle with cancer. She was 60.

Mrs. Herrington, who wore a football jersey with her name and the No. 1 to every Harrison game, was remembered as a warm, fun-loving person and as the Hawks' greatest fan.

Ballplayer's recovery: Nick Hippler, a June graduate of Farmington High, was injured July 10 while touring Europe with a U.S. baseball team. He was pitching at the time he was struck in the head by a batted ball.

Hippler, who was a three-year starter at catcher for the Falcons, required surgery and spent a month in a Dutch hospital. He received a warm homecoming when he returned to Farmington in August.

Coaching retirements: Several longtime Farmington coaches decided to retire. Mike Teamahan, who coached boys basketball at Harrison for 21 seasons and girls softball for two decades, left the bench for a final time, as did Linda Perkins at North Farmington (girls basketball) and Denny Mikel at Farmington (boys basketball).



PISTONS

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Tuesday, January 8 • 8:00 PM
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