

Hawks hammer Mustangs, 13-2

With the help of a nine-run second inning, Farmington Harrison was able to mercy visit Northville in five innings Monday, 13-2.

Drew Stanton pitched a three-hitter, striking out 10 and walking one while going the distance.

The Hawks supported him with 12 hits, including two apiece by Kevin Zerbo, Greg Hocking and Jake Ghannam. Zerbo and Hocking also drove in three runs each and Ghannam two. Harrison is 6-2 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and was 16-6 overall heading into a Wednesday game at Plymouth Salem.

"We didn't do well with the bats Saturday," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "I'm glad we woke up today."

On Saturday, the Hawks led a non-league doubleheader to visiting Birmingham Brother Rice, 5-4 and 5-1.

Harrison trailed 5-0 in the first game when it scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Matt Petry was the winning pitcher and Rob Whipple the loser.

Whipple went 3-for-3 as the Hawks outhit the Warriors, 8-7. Petry had two hits and one RBI.

Harrison had just two hits off Rice pitcher Ray Vytas in the second game. Andy Wingert allowed three runs over four innings and took the loss.

The Warriors had nine hits and were led by Mark Leutz, who had three hits and three RBIs.

Big hit lifts Raiders

Freshman Scott Hegstrom's bases-loaded double in the first inning sparked host North Farmington to a 5-1 victory over Walled Lake Central.

Hegstrom knocked in three runs with his double during a four-run inning. The Raiders (8-11) added another run in the

BASEBALL

sixth.

Matt Clark was 2-for-3 with a double and a run scored; Brynn Smith was 2-for-2, was hit by a pitch twice and scored a run, and Jason Berthiaume had an RBI with a sacrifice fly.

Justin Prinstein pitched a complete game for North, now 6-3 in the WLA Lakes Division. He allowed five hits, walked one and struck out two.

"We played great defense," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "It was the first time this year we didn't give up an unearned run. We played solid defense."

On Tuesday, the Raiders chalked up a non-league victory over visiting Bloomfield Hills Andover, 7-1.

North pitcher Eric Odmarch threw a complete game, scattering five hits and walking four while striking out three.

The Raiders had eight hits, including a pair of triples by Mike Hand, who also had three RBIs. Berthiaume, Kris Clark and Hegstrom had two hits apiece, also. Clark and Brad Levick had RBIs singles.

The loss dropped Andover to 16-6 overall.

JOHN GLENN 7, FARMINGTON 1: Westland John Glenn continued to stay one game behind Livonia Stevenson in the Lakes Division baseball race in the WLA following a win Monday over host Farmington.

Glenn, now 19-5 overall and 6-2 in the Lakes, was led by Brandon Aljouny, who went 3-for-4, including a three-run homer in the sixth inning to put the game away. Craig Lewis went 3-for-3 and scored a run for the Rockets, while Ricky Verville added two hits and two RBIs.

Bob Heuchlins had an RBI single for the Falcons, who slipped to 9-9 overall and 5-3 in the Lakes. Winning pitcher Julian Fraser allowed three hits and only two walks over seven innings. He struck out six. Farmington starter Tony Lutman, who worked 3.2 innings, allowing four runs, took the loss.



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Talking to kids is FUN-damental

Was it Bill Cosby? Or was it Art Linklater who once said: "Kids say the darndest things."

There I was, a big kid again, speaking to students last Tuesday at Taylor Elementary School in Livonia as part of "Young Authors Day."



BRAD EMMONS

Of course, they're pretty young, while I'm getting up there. I'm a middle-aged guy who wants to run one good marathon before he passes on.

For some strange reason, Taylor principal Richard Steele thought I'd be a good invite, or perhaps even a captivating guest. So what do fourth, fifth and sixth graders want to know about the journalism profession?

Before the first session had barely begun, a kid wearing a Shanahan jersey asked:

"Do you cover the Red Wings?"

I sheepishly replied: "Our newspaper doesn't cover the pro teams. We can't compete with the News and the Free Press. We come out only twice a week. If we covered those teams it would be old news."

Tragically, that answer seemed to let the air out of more than a few balloons around the classroom.

Instead, I wanted to talk about my passion to read the Major League box scores in the paper as a youth. I wanted to explain to them my career as a scribe started when I joined the staff of "The Packet," the school newspaper at Franklin High School.

I told them writing sports consists of "Who, What, When, Where and How," and how it may differ from creative writing.

I had a kid in each 60-minute session draw a pyramid on the chalk board. I countered by drawing an inverted pyramid.

"We take the most important facts of the story and put them at the top, then you work your way down," I implored. "When you read about a game, the first thing you want to know is the score."

I also told them stories can't be too complicated. I remembered what my old journalism professor at Franklin College, Dr. Robert Chupp, always said: "You're writing for an eighth-grade audience."

I followed by asking a fairly tough question: "Give me the definition of nocturnal."

"That's somebody who comes out at night and sleeps during the day," one smart young lady answered.

I replied: "That's me. Sports writers work into the wee hours of the morning, sometimes until 2 or 3 a.m."

"Sportswriters don't work banker's hours, 9-to-5."

By this time I had run out of interesting tidbits about my job.

The students began to get a little restless and the teachers seemed to be preoccupied with either keeping order, getting in a catnap (just kidding) or grading papers.

Time to go to Plan B. The last resort. Open the floor for questions. Here's a random sample:

"Have you ever met Scotty Bowman?"

Can't say I have, but I know a guy who's close to Scotty. He keeps track of ice time at all the home games.

Does that count?

"Have you ever met any of the Red Wing players?"

I did meet Mr. Hockey, Gordie Howe, way back when.

"Have you ever been in the Red Wings' lockerroom?"

Yes, in 1983. I do recall inter-

viewing 16-year-old Al Irfano. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic team playing at The Joe in an exhibition game. I did venture into the Wings' room and talked with Dwight Foster about young Al.

"Have you ever met Ben Wallace?"

Back in January I interviewed Joe Paterno. I know Lloyd Carr and Dick Vitale. I worked for the Pistons from 1979-92 and knew a lot of the coaches and players. I interviewed Mike Modano before he became rich and famous. I've written numerous articles on Olympic gold medalist Sheila Taormina. I've also covered a lot of Tim Shaw's football games at Clarencville.

Does that count?

"Have you ever met Jerry Stackhouse?"

That was a definite "Yes," drawing some oohs and aahs. I related how I wrote a piece last summer on the Piston forward playing pick-up ball at Schoolcraft College.

"Can you get me Chris Chelios' autograph?"

Never been a big autograph person. But I did get Stan Musial's one time when he appeared at Wonderland Mall.

"Do you know Brian Griese?" (the kid was wearing a Colorado Avalanche jersey).

"How can you walk around school with that shirt on," I asked.

"It's not really mine, my cousin gave it to me," the Joe Sakie look-alike replied.

"Do you root for Michigan or Michigan State?"

I gave them the politically correct answer: "I like Michigan football because of Lloyd Carr and MSU basketball because of Tom Izzo. I always root for Michigan and MSU against Ohio State and Indiana."

"Do you know Chris Webber?"

I covered a game when he was a gangly 6-foot-7 freshman at Detroit Country Day. They played in that little gym over at Temple Baptist in Redford.

Does that count?

"What's your favorite sport to cover?"

Nothing like a good Friday night football game between two good teams with a big crowd.

"What about hockey?"

I've seen my share of good high school hockey games. And we also cover the Whalers, you know.

"Can you get me any autographs of the Whalers?"

They're usually pretty fan friendly over there at Compuware Arena. Heck, they may even let you go into the lockerroom after a game.

"Can I have your autograph?"

Never been a big autograph person (as I said before), but might as well get out the pen, as long as it's OK with the teachers. (Shockingly, a sizeable line of students formed.)

"Can you write 'Jerry Stackhouse' on this piece of paper? My brother won't believe it," one whippersnapper asked.

Another fraudulent request came through: "Could you put Chris Chelios down here because when my cousin sees it he'll get really mad."

Figure I better not forge anybody's name for fear of facing a federal indictment. Autographs are big business, you know.

I'll just stick to Brad Emmons, Livonia-Westland Observer Sports Editor.

Wow, kids just ask the darndest things.

(Emmons is the Livonia-Westland sports editor for the Observer and can be reached at (734) 953-2123 or by e-mail at bemmons@de.homecomm.net.)



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