

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Girls in lacrosse semifinals

Farmington United advanced to the semifinals of the Michigan Women's Scholastic Lacrosse Association Division C playoffs Thursday by defeating Rochester, 22-6.

Katie Ellis, Stephanie Ford and Stephanie Yacoub scored four goals each in a game played at North Farmington. Lindsey Hirzel had three goals and Jenny Adams two; Kristie Boskey, Candice Christopher and Allison Lyon added one apiece.

"The girls played a real strong game," Farmington coach Mike Mehall said. "They played with a lot of heart and energy. It was one of our better games."

"Hopefully, it will take us to two more wins, and we can walk out with the championship."

Mehall added the Farmington defense "wasn't overly challenged; as we're hoping to refine our defense and work a little on offense in the next few practices."

Farmington advances to play Flint Powers in a semifinal game 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Lansing Waverly. The other semi will match Waverly against Bloomfield. The final will be played Friday at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

Powers took a 10-9 victory from Farmington (14-6-1) in a recent game.

"We're hoping we can swing it to our side this time," Mehall said. "It was a very tight game the last time, and the girls have set a goal to pull a win on this one."

"(The Chargers have) a team of athletes. They're a new team but they have adapted to the sport quickly. We have to see if our skill set can match their athleticism."

Richmond all-star player

Farmington Harrison's Ayana Richmond has been selected to play in the 23rd Annual Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan High School All-Star Game.

The Class A-B girls game will be played 1 p.m. Saturday, June 22, at Brighton High School. Richmond joins Heather Hopkins (1992) and Amy Roble (1998) as former Hawks to play in the game.

This is a great and well-deserved honor," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said of the 5-foot-7 guard.

Richmond is fifth in career scoring and third in career steals at Harrison. She averaged 16 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.5 steals and two assists per game last season to lead the Hawks to a runner-up finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 12-10 record.

Gymnasts do well in meet

Four gymnasts from the Sports Club of West Bloomfield represented Michigan in the Level 8 regional May 11-12 in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

The best gymnasts from five states that comprise Region 5 (Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky) competed.

There were six age categories, and Michigan was first in four of the six and second in the other two. There were approximately 56 gymnasts per age division. The local gymnasts and their scores were:

Lauren Tucker, Junior A: vault, 8.925; bars, 9.475 (second); beam, 8.95; floor, 9.625 (second); all-around, 36.975 (12th).

Lindsay Chirio, Junior A: vault - 9.25; bars, 9.55 (first place - Region 5 champion); beam, 9.2; floor, 9.675 (first place - Region 5 champion); all-around, 37.675 (second).

Danielle Zajt, Junior B: vault, 8.525; bars, 9.275; beam, 8.8; floor, 9.475 (10th); all-around, 36.075.

Ashley Hagaman, Senior C: vault, 9.075 (fifth); bars, 9.175 (fifth); beam, 8.225; floor, 9.325; all-around, 35.8 (eighth).

Callahan receives award

Josh Callahan of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) received a four-year varsity award for his career contribution to the Albion College men's track and field team.

The Britons posted a 4-1 record in Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association dual meets and finished second in the league meet. Albion had five individual champions and a winning relay in the MIAA finals.

Callahan, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Callahan, also served as an Albion team captain.

(Information for the Farmington Sports Scene can be submitted to the Observer by fax at (734) 591-7279.)

Hawks win 4th league title in row

Whipple winning pitcher in championship contest

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Rob Whipple enjoys pitching in championship games, and it's understandable why he does.

The senior right-hander has a record this season (3-for-3) of which he can be proud after he pitched Farmington Harrison to the Western Lakes Activities Association baseball title Wednesday.

Whipple threw a four-hitter in which he struck out eight and walked one as the Hawks merited host Farmington High in five innings, 14-2.

"I like to pitch in any championship game," Whipple said. "You face the best teams."

"I went out there and did what I always do - try to throw ground balls and if I strike someone out it happens."

Whipple was the winning pitcher against Kalamazoo Central in the Farmington Tournament and versus top-ranked (Division I) Heritage in the Saginaw Invitational.

The WLAA championship was Harrison's fourth in a row and its sixth in the last eight seasons.

"We're leaving the league and it's nice to be able to win the league once more before we move over to the OAA (Oakland Activities Association)," coach John Herrington said.

BASEBALL

"Our big goal is to do well in the state tournament. We just want to stay loose and keep playing the way we are."

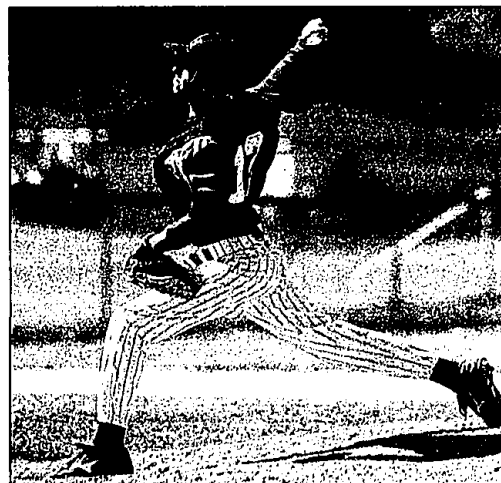
"We'll probably live off Whipple and (Drew) Stanton in the tournament. It's a tough decision which one to pitch, but it's a nice decision when both are doing so well."

The only thing that marred a solid performance Wednesday by Whipple was a two-run homer by Farmington's Tony Luttman in the bottom of the third inning.

The Hawks already were ahead 7-0 at the time. Whipple responded by retiring eight of the last nine batters he faced, and the only runner the Falcons had was the result of an error.

"It made me buckle down a little more," Whipple said of the homer, adding the curveball was his best pitch. "I refocused and took care of business."

"I was spotting the fastball and throwing the curve. Usually, that's my best pitch. I have the best control over the curveball; I'm most confident in that pitch. I've been throwing it since I was 10 years old."



Staff Photos by Bill Bresler
Pitching ace: Harrison's Rob Whipple was the winning pitcher in a championship game for the third time this season Wednesday.

Whipple had plenty of offensive support with 11 hits off three pitchers. Farmington also made five errors, Harrison two.

Kevin Zerbo had another big day at the plate, just as he did last year when the Hawks beat the Falcons in the championship game, 8-0.

He was 3-for-3 and had three RBI with a pair of singles and a double. Stanton was 3-for-4 with two RBI; he and Zerbo scored three runs each.

Greg Hocking had two hits, including a three-run homer, and Anthony Faletti added an RBI single. Jake Ghannam walked twice and scored two runs. Bill Richeson also had two hits, and Danny Doig scored two runs, too.

"For a while (Zerbo) wasn't getting

the RBI," Herrington said. "When he's up with men on base, he's dangerous. He's hitting the ball a ton."

The Hawks (22-6) have had an unexpected but key contribution from Richeson, "who is hitting .586 in the ninth spot and does a lot for us," Herrington said. "Jake Ghannam is very much improved and is hitting over .400."

"Beating Heritage in the tournament gave our kids a lot of confidence. But, as we found out in the middle of the season, that can all change in a hurry; so we have to keep working."

Harrison scored a run in the first inning on a two-out double by Stanton and an RBI single by Zerbo. The Hawks

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Raiders regain Western Lakes crown

BY BRAD EMONS
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Tip your caps to the North Farmington girls softball team.

The Raiders got only one runner on base in 10 innings against Livonia Churchill ace Meghan Misiak, but scratched together two runs in the top of the 11th inning to beat the host Chargers, 2-0, and capture the Western Lakes Activities Association championship.

PREP SOFTBALL

North (23-12) won its second WLAA title in three years. Next year the Raiders will be moving to the Oakland Activities Association.

"I told people we were doing a lot of rebuilding this year, and a lot of people didn't expect us to be here let alone win our division (the Lakes)," said North coach Dave Brubaker, a Churchill graduate now in his 16th season with the Raiders.

"But when we're on our game, we can play with just about anybody. We've beaten some accomplished teams this year."

Both Danielewicz, who as a freshman hurried North to a 0-0 victory over Plymouth Canton in the 2000 WLAA championship game, gave up five hits and struck out 14. She walked one and hit one batter.

Misiak, whose 18th birthday was spoiled, lost for only the third time this year despite 19 strikeouts, no walks and two hits allowed.

Alissa Melvin struck out to lead off the 11th, but she reached base safely when Misiak's changeup, in the dirt, took a bad hop and glanced by catcher Ashley Crawley. Melvin then moved up on a passed ball.

The next hitter, shortstop Emily Jaffe, singled to put runners on first and third. After Misiak fanned



Staff Photo by Jon Jacobson
Key play: Alissa Melvin slides past Churchill catcher Ashley Crawley to score the winning run Wednesday as North Farmington won the Western Lakes softball championship, 2-0.

Sarah Reading, second baseman Jehan Hindo executed a perfect suicide squeeze bunt to score the game-winning run.

The Raiders added a second run when Jaffe scored on a passed ball.

"That bunt by Jehan was a beauty," Brubaker said. "She was also the defensive star of our team today."

She had seven chances, three putouts, an error and three assists."

Churchill went down in order in the bottom of the 11th as Danielewicz got a strikeout, a fly to right and a pop to short.

Please see RAIDERS, C4

Brother Rice edges CC to win Catholic League

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
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Chris Shea's world was turned upside down a couple weeks ago when his house tragically burned down. At Friday's Catholic High School League baseball championship game, he was all smiles.

The Birmingham Brother Rice senior delivered the game-winning single as the Warriors edged arch-rival Catholic Central 3-2 in an eight-inning thriller at Comerica Park, giving them the 2002 CHSL title. Rice, 24-6 on the season, will face off with West Bloomfield in a pre-district game Tuesday.

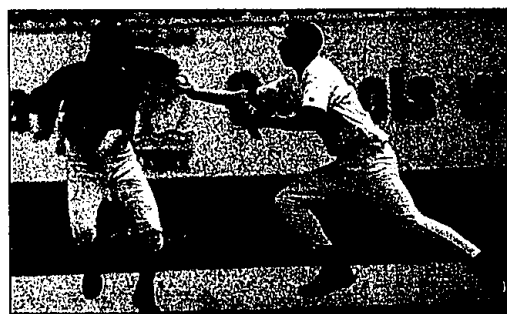
Shea got just enough of a groundball

up the middle with the bases loaded to score sophomore Doug Pickens in the bottom of the eighth inning, helping Rice avenge a sweep at the hands of CC two weeks earlier.

Rice coach Bob Riker, who played in the CHSL title game at Tiger Stadium in 1985 for the Warriors, said his team came to compete in this game, unlike the twinbill sweep by the Shamrocks that cost the team the outright CHSL regular season title.

"This was a great day for our school,"

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Staff Photo by Jon Jacobson
In a pickle: CC's Derrick Brooks is caught in a rundown and tries to avoid a tag by Rice infielder Tim Kalczyński of Farmington.