Baseball from page D1

"We had our one and two go Saturday," Sontag said. "We felt we needed a fresh arm. He's like our third (pitcher).
"But we went 13-1 in our league, and we did it with three pitchers. All three were ready, but Ely was obviously the one today."

The Hawks (28-7) had just two singles off Ely, who faced two batters more than the minimum. Danny Doig hit safely in the first, but Harrison didn't have another hit until Andy Wingert in the eighth. Both were erased on forceouts.
"It didn't seem like his pitches had much velocity, but the ball

erased on forecouts.

'It didn't seem like his pitches had much velocity, but the ball was moving and we couldn't hit it," Harrison coach John Herington said of Ely's pitching.
Herrington downplayed the effect of a strong wind blowing in from center field.

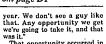
'I don't think it was too much of a factor, because we hit mostly ground balls," he said. "We didn't hit any balls to the outfield that they had to make plays on. "We had been hitting the ball great throughout the tournament, but we didn't hit today."
Rob Whipple started for Harrison and had a no-hitter through three innings, but he struggled ittle by getting behind in the count.

count.

Herrington brought in Drew
Stanton after Whipple gave up
consecutive hits to start the
fourth. Stanton finished the
game, giving up three more hits
and three walks while striking

out five.

"We struggle against a kid like
Stanton," Sontag said. "He's the
hardest thrower we've seen all



that. Any opportunity we get we're going to take it, and that was it."

That opportunity occurred in the bottom of the eighth, and the Bears (30-6) eapitalized on it to win the game and advance to the semifinals Friday in Battle Creek against Essoxville-Garber.
Tyler Bondy hit a leadoff single, and Ryan Sontag bunted him to second, however, Stanton overthrew first base, putting runners at second and third.
Stanton issued am intentional pass to A.J. Eppler to load the bases. After a strikeout, Ely hit allyball to short right field.
Harrison's Mike Sacha make the eatch, but his throw to the plate was up the third-base line abit; Bondy was able to silde in safely with the winning run.

"Obviously, we had a tough time scoring runs all day," Dave Sontag said. "We looked at it as an opportunity, It was a chance we had to take. I'd doi 1 again.

"We took a chance earlier on a flyball to left field and they throw us out. We're a club that likes to force the issue. We're not a team that sits back and waits osee what happens."

In the fourth, defferson have a tought one out. Richard Goltowski's flyball to left was cought by Danny Doig, who made a perfect throw to catcher Bill Richeson for the putout on Eppler.

Sacha fielded a hit by Ryan

By DAN O'MERA
STAIF WHITER
domears@co.homeconum.net
Coach Angolo Gust thought
three runs would give his Harper
Woods Notro Dame baseball team
a fighting chance Saturday afterneon against Farmington Harrison.
He knew Harrison pitcher Drew
Stanton would be tough to be beat,
which he was, but Gust didn't
count on the Hawks getting 15
hits off four Fighting Irish pitchers.

That was more than enough to give Harrison a 7-3 victory in a Division II regional tournament final at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep Wich School.

High School.

It was the first regional championship for the Hawks have since 1985. Harrison faced Monroe Jefferson in a state quarterfinal game



ball: Harrison's Drew Stanton fields a bunt in Tuesday's quarterfi-

The Hawks added three more in he sixth to clinch the deal. Irish reliever Steve Schwartz departed after giving up a two-run double to Zerbo with Doig (single) and Stan-

ton (double) on base.

The next Notre Dame pitcher

The next Notre Dame pitcher issued consecutive walks and was quickly removed. The last one eurrendered an RBI groundout to Rob Whipple before ending the inning. Doig was 3-for-4; Ghannam, Stanton, Zerbo, Whipple and Hocking had two hits apiece. The other hits were from Andy Wingert and Nick Vitanis. "The good thing about this team is that we can start a rally anywhere in the lineup," Herrington said, adding the Hawks also play good defense. "The five, six, seven batters can hit and move the ball. If you're

"The five, six, seven batters can hit and move the ball. If you're down one and have the last part of

the lineup coming up, usually you're dead in the water. But it's you're dead not like that

Embree, Mike Maltese and Mike Melnyk had two hits each for

Melnyk had two bits each for Notre Dame.

As well as Harrison has done in baseball in recent years, it's image as a football school supersedes that success in the mind of others.

A half dozen baseball players were on the Harrison football team that won a record 12th state championship last fall.

Furthermore, the Hawks look more physically mature than most teams, especially with 6-foot-4 Stanton pitching and hitting No. 3 in the order and 6-2 Zerbo batting cleanup.

"Take a good look at them," Gust said. "Do they look like a baseball tenm? I asked No. 99 (Anthony Faletti) if he was a

Hawks top Irish in regional final

defensive end instead of a pinchhitter.

"They're a Division I ballclub.
They (The Michigan High School
Athletic Association) have no business dropping them to Division II
in baseball.

"They wan Division I in football.
Leave them in Division I and see'
how they do. They played in Division I all year and now they're
playing Division II.

A reporter raised three fingers
to indicate the Hawka actually'
won Division III in football, but it
didn't matter; Gust was on a roll.

"There's no complaints, no crying," Gust added, 'I've knownJohn Herrington a long time. But
they are a petty mature ballclub. I
guess I have to feed my kids.

Depending on the sport, Harri-

guess I have to leea my Amorore.

Depending on the sport, Harrison has always been cither Division II or III since the MHSAA is signed schools to divisions.

While the Hawks have been Division II throughout the base-hall season, they did play virtually all Division II schools, including every Western Lakes Activities Association opponent.

HARRISON 10, AVONDALE 0: Rob Whip ple pitched a one-hit shutout Saturday in a regional semifinal game at Photiac Notre Dame Prep. Whipple struck out eight as Harrison mercied Auburn Hills Avondate in





He's outta there: Harrison shortstop Andy Wingert makes a forceout on Jefferson's Ryan Wagner in the quarterfinal game

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