

OAA

FROM PAGE C1

by insinuating anyone should with the above statement, I was merely pointing out the lay of the land.

Harrison is in Division I (of the OAA, which takes into consideration the strength of a program as well as the size of the school itself) because it has been so good for so long.

I should add the Hawks are three-time defending Division III state champions. As has been well documented on these pages, they leave the WLLA with 15 league titles. Then there's that business of 12 state championships, too.

There's no doubt the Hawks face a grueling test this year, especially with Brother Rice and an improving West Bloctown program in the first and last games.

The general perception is Harrison faces more of grind in the OAA. In fact, the word I hear on the grapevine is the OAA-DI teams are eager to see

how the Hawks fare playing a "real schedule" and are eager to push them through that grind.

With Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin no longer on the schedule, Harrison won't have any paties to play, so the thinking goes. In other words, there won't be any brothers, no more "off weeks" for the Hawks.

The OAA-DI is tougher from top to bottom than the bigger WLLA. In 1999, all six teams made the playoffs. Now it has eight teams; whereas, the WLLA had 12 teams with a two-division format.

The rest of the best in the WLLA - Westland John Glenn, Plymouth Canton, Walld Lake Western, Walld Lake Central and Livonia Stevenson - are as good as any of the OAA-DI football teams.

I suspect a lot of people, including a good many here in Farmington, hope the Hawks get their comeuppance and fall flat on their faces in the OAA-DI. It will be a definite challenge for Harrison without a new team it had the last two

years, but I don't see that happening. The Hawks have sufficient talent and team speed to contend for the division title.

While the WLLA is officially history for the Farmington schools, I think league pride will be at stake, especially during the inaugural OAA school year.

The Farmington are newcomers, the new kids on the block, who are eager to show they can compete and succeed against OAA competition.

As a perennial champion, Harrison football will be eager to prove itself and back up its record of amazing success in the WLLA, and the opposition will be just as eager to give the Hawks a rough welcoming to the OAA.

Hopefully, the move to the OAA means the dawn of a brighter day for Farmington High and North Farmington. It should and I think it will.

With few exceptions - 1999 when the Falcons were nearly WLLA champions and 1997 when the Raiders won 6-2 - both struggled against the big-

ger schools in the Western Lakes. The persistent request to address that inequity was a major factor in the Farmingtons going to the OAA.

Both schools will be in the eight-team OAA Division III for football, competing against others of similar size and with comparable programs.

Their division opponents will be Ferndale, Pontiac Central, Oak Park, Berkley, Avondale and the new school in the Rochester district, Stoney Creek.

Ferndale, which won the mythical Class A championship exactly 30 years ago in the pre-playoff era, and Berkley should be the prime competition.

The Raiders lost a lot of good seniors from last year's 3-6 team, but the Falcons will be trying to rebound from an 0-9 season. But, we need to remember it was they were playing. If they're anywhere as good as they were in the aforementioned years, I think they'll do well in the OAA.

I don't know if Farmington and North will dominate the division, as I've heard suggested, but I do see them winning some games. Let's suppose they do well. We could have the Falcons and Raiders playing for the division championship in the ninth week of the season on Oct. 25 at Farmington.

Furthermore, a playoff berth could be at stake, too. Remember, a team needs six wins to qualify now, and I'd say six wins is a good bet for each team. If both are undefeated going into that game, that would be a bonus.

It's entirely possible, maybe even probable, the two could meet again the very next week in the first round of the playoffs.

That would depend on how they're seeded. If they do make it to the post-season, I think it's a virtual certainty North and Farmington will be grouped in the same district.

If you're anticipating an all-Farmington district, don't count on it. While nothing is certain until the MHSAA determines who goes where in November,

Farmington and North would most likely be in Division II and Harrison in Division III again.

Ironically, while North and Farmington enter the season with their best chance of making the playoffs, the likelihood of Harrison not qualifying is the greatest in recent memory.

That doesn't mean the Hawks, who have qualified more times (20) than any school in the state, won't. I happen to think they will.

But, faced with a very demanding schedule, Harrison could find it difficult to achieve the necessary six wins.

Stay tuned. We'll know those answers in about two months. In the meantime, it should be an interesting season - hopefully, a successful one for all three Farmington teams.

And, as you know, the Observer will be there to cover it as it happens.

Don O'Meara is the sports editor of the Farmington Observer. He can be reached at (734) 953-2141 or by e-mail at domara@oe.hcom.net.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

STINGRAY REGISTRATION

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swim team will conduct registration for its short course season beginning Wednesday, Sept. 4.

There will be an informational meeting 7-9 p.m. Sept. 4 at the Farmington YMCA where the registration forms will be available for new swimmers.

The competitive swim program runs from Sept. 9, when

swimmer evaluations for group placement will begin, to early March. Team participation is open to anyone between the ages of 6 and 18. Participants are required to be a YMCA member.

There are five groups and levels, and depending on ability, participants will swim either at the YMCA or one of the local high school pools.

For more information visit the Website at www.fyys.org or call Cathy Warnick at (248) 553-

0276 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

ADULT HOCKEY SIGNUP

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is conducting registration for the upcoming season, which starts Sept. 3 and runs through March at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The FHAA is registering teams for the over-18 division, teams and individuals for the

over-30 and individuals for the over-40 and over-48.

There will be a player draft in divisions that have individual registration. Goalsies are needed. Teams in the over-30, over-40 and over-48 groups will play 42 games plus playoffs.

To sign up call the FHAA at (248) 471-6004 or leave a message on voice mail.

DOGGERS BASEBALL TRYOUTS

The Metro Detroit Dodgers are seeking players interested in playing competitive baseball in the 13-and-under division of the 2003 Little Caesars Baseball Federation.

Tryouts will be 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17 and 18, at Drake Field, which is located on Drake Road, south of Grand River in Farmington Hills. For more information contact Dave Quiroz (248-408-7362) or Kevin Sanderson (248-790-5677) or visit our website at www.metrodetroit-dodgers.com.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

- Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17 & 18.
- 18 holes at Whispering Willows, 18 holes at Fox Creek.
- Entry fee \$90. Maximum handicap 36.
- Entries close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.
- Crossover starts on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- For pairings and starting times call 476-4493 after noon Thursday, Aug. 15.
- Entries will be open to the first 200 golfers.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Handicap _____ Cart? _____

• U.S. & A. Index or ten 18-hole score cards are required (as of deadline date).

• Send entry blank with check (no cash) payable to T&E, Inc.

Attn: Tournament Director
Whispering Willows Golf Course
20500 Newburgh, Livonia MI 48152

• Pairings will be made by the tournament committee.
No requests for individual pairings will be taken.
No changes will be made.

www.HomeTownLife.com

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

ACUPUNCTURE
Carl J. Sarnacki, M.D. - www.americanacupuncture.com
ADVERTISING AND MARKETING SUPPLIES
Espresso - www.espresso.com
APARTMENTS
Can Be Investments - www.can-be.com
ARCHITECTS
URS Greiner-Woodward Clyde - www.urscorp.com
ART MUSEUMS
The Detroit Institute of Arts - www.dia.org
ASPHALT/CONCRETE PAVING
Ajax Paving Industries - www.ajaxpaving.com
ASSOCIATIONS
Michigan League for Nursing - www.oenline.com/mln
Oakland Youth Orchestra - www.oymoi.org
Suburban Newspapers of America - www.suburban-news.org
AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES
AVS Audio - www.avsaudio.com
AUTOMOTIVE
Auto Extend Warranty - www.autoextend-warranty.com
Competition Limited - www.hioutubus.com
Davis Auto Care - www.davisautocare.com
Great Lakes Components - www.greatlakescomponents.com
John Rogin Buck-Suzuki - www.johnrogin.com
AUTO RACING
Milan Dragway - www.milandrway.com
BAKING/COOKING
"Jilly" Mix - Chelsea Milling Company - www.jillymix.com
BOOKS
Apostolate Communications - www.apostolate.com
CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT
Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma - www.ctcl-mf.org
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce - www.annarbor.org
Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce - www.bbbc.com
Hawthorn Chamber of Commerce - www.hawthorn.org
Livonia Chamber of Commerce - www.livonia.org
Northville Chamber of Commerce - www.northville.org
Novi Chamber of Commerce - www.novi.org
Redford Chamber of Commerce - www.redfordchamber.org
CHAPELS
Historic Village Chapel - www.historicvillagechapel.com
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center - www.home.sweet.home.org
CHILD SAFETY ITEMS
Knifesafe - www.knifesafe.com
CLASSIFIED ADS
Home Town Newspaper - <http://www.hometownlife.com>
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers - <http://www.observeandeccentric.com>
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Beverly Hills Police - www.beverlyhillspolice.com
City of Farmington Woods - www.farmingtonwoods.com
Common Ground Sanctuary - www.commongroundsanctuary.org
Detroit Regional Chamber - www.detroitchamber.org
Leadership Oakland - www.leadershipoakland.com
CREDIT BUREAUS
Ann Arbor Credit Bureau - www.a2cb.com
DENTISTS
Family Dentistry - www.familydentist-sna-dss.com
Novi Dental - www.novidental.com
Smile Maker - www.smilemaker.org
DOCUMENT PROCESSING
Total Solutions Inc. - www.totalsol.com
EDUCATION
Livingston Educational Service Agency - www.liveston.org
Oakland Schools - <http://oakland.k12.mi.us>
ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR
ABL Electronic Service, Inc. - www.ablsvr.com
EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY
Greenberg Laser Eye Center - www.greenbergye.com
Michigan Eyecare Institute - www.michigeyecare.com
FESTIVALS
Music and Motorfest - www.musicandmotortest.com
FIBERS
Linden Lane Farms - www.fibersoflindigan.com
FLOORING
Dando Hardwood Flooring Company - www.dandofloors.com
GALLERIES
Cowboy Trader Gallery - www.cowboytradergallery.com
Put your business On-Link!
call 1-800-809-4614

What kind of bank do they throw in with that free checking?

BANK ONE

No transaction fees
No per check charges
No fees per deposit
No monthly service fee w/\$500 min. balance
No charge for our Visa® Check Card
No fee for debit card purchases
No fees at Bank One ATMs*
No hunting around for our 3500 ATMs
No annual fee for overdraft protection**
No fees for Bank One by Phone***
No fee for Bank One Online Banking
No hassle at 1800 convenient branches
Three free months of online bill payment***
* Opening Bonus: \$20 gift card
* Up to \$200 in gift cards when you add other select Bank One products

Compare Value One Checking to any other checkbook in town, and get a lot more than a checkbook. (Fee free to use this handy checklist.) Call 1-888-963-1111, click www.bankone.com/valueone or stop in today.

BANK ONE

Member FDIC. *A nominal fee applies to Rapid Cash® ATMs. **Credit products are subject to approval. ***A monthly fee of \$4.95 will be incurred to continue online bill payment past the promotional period. Offer available while supplies last or until September 22, 2002, at participating locations. Some restrictions may apply. Must have an open qualifying checking account to receive gift cards for some products. Customer will receive a coupon to request gift cards by mail. See coupon for redemption instructions. Gift cards cannot be redeemed for cash. Offer not valid on account conversions or in combination with any other offers. Offer is only available on consumer products. For check and savings accounts, the value of the gift card is considered interest and will appear on 1099 reporting. Minimum balance to open Value One Checking is \$25. ©2002 Bank One Corporation.