

# Sports

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ HEALTH



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## Sidelines

### Girls state tennis

Following the first day of competition Friday in the Division II girls state tennis tournament at Holland, North Farmington was tied for fifth place and Farmington was in seventh.

Okemos and Forest Hills Northern were tied for the lead entering the second day Saturday with 16 points apiece.

Birmingham Marian had 15, Birmingham Seaholm 13, Bloomfield Hills Lahser and North H. each, Farmington was tied with three other teams with 10 points apiece.

North's Emily Jaffe, Amy Berke and Kelly Davis were in the quarterfinals Saturday at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 singles, respectively.

The No. 1 doubles team of Christy Byer and Michelle Boothroyd and the No. 2 team of Jessica Hoffman and Alyssa Trolsky also advanced to the quarterfinals.

The match between North's Samantha Keiman and Grosse Pointe North's Devon Crawford to determine who would be in the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles was incomplete Friday.

Farmington's Brittany Nuccitelli, Kristie Boskey and Allison Lyon also made it to the quarterfinals at Nos. 2, 3, and 4 singles, respectively, as well as the No. 2 doubles team of Monica Ramsey and Ellie Harding.

In the Division I tournament in Midland, Farmington Hills Mercy and Ann Arbor Pioneer were tied for fourth place with 16 points each. Grosse Pointe South was the leader with 20.

Mercy's Angela Kaza and Kall Blanchard advanced to the semifinals Saturday at Nos. 2 and 3 singles, respectively.

### Boys golf finals

Farmington Harrison's David Koch advanced to the second day of play Saturday in the Division II state golf tournament at Forest Akers in East Lansing, but the Hawks failed to do so as a team.

Koch shot a six-over-par 78 and was within seven strokes of the lead.

Harrison missed by three strokes as a team. The top 12 teams play the second day; the Hawks were tied with Battle Creek Harper Creek for 14th, each with 236 strokes. East Grand Rapids was the first-day leader with 303.

### Selection Sunday

The announcement of the 256 schools qualifying for the Michigan High School Athletic Association football playoffs and first-round pairings will be announced at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, through television, radio and Internet venues.

Leading off at 5:30 p.m. is the Selection Sunday Show on FOX Sports Net, a 30-minute program carrying the first announcement of qualifiers and pairings. The MHSAA will produce the program, hosted by John Keating and Matt Shepard.

There will be statewide radio coverage for the first time, too. The announcements will begin at 5:45 p.m. with in-depth coverage until 7 p.m.

## Raiders earn playoff berth with 21-6 win

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington is headed to the state football playoffs for the first time in 11 years and the third time in school history.

The Raiders are guaranteed a spot in post-season play after scoring a 21-6 victory over visiting Pontiac Central Friday.

North is 5-2 overall and needed five wins to be assured of a playoff berth since it plays an eight-game schedule.

The Raiders had to overcome the forfeiture of an earlier victory, however, which put their playoff chances in jeopardy at the time.

"It's a tribute to the kids, to go through everything they went through," North coach Rich Burrell said.

### FOOTBALL

"They promised me when I was all depressed about it. They said, 'Don't worry about it; we got your back; we're going to get it.'"

"I'm going to sleep well tonight. I haven't slept well since that happened, since the forfeiture. It takes a lot of pressure off us."

For a half Friday, the fifth win was in doubt after Central's Antoine Carr returned a punt 56 yards for a touchdown late in the first quarter.

The Raiders were held scoreless until 22 seconds remained in the second. Bryan Smith's 35-yard pass to Marcus McComb set up a 4-yard TD run by

Smith. Kyle Lambert kicked the extra point to give North a 7-6 halftime lead.

"That was big," Burrell said. "We wondered if we could throw on their defense, because they have such great athletes. It was a great catch by Marcus."

"It was definitely an emotional lift going into halftime after not having much success offensively in the first half."

Central had been stopping the North running game, and the Raiders decided to pass on first down after holding the Chiefs on fourth down at midfield.

"The safety had been playing up, and he cheated over to the tight end," North offensive coordinator Rick Lee said. "We ran a fly route and the tight end went to the outside. The safety jumped on the out; we eliminated him, and Marcus made a great play for the ball."

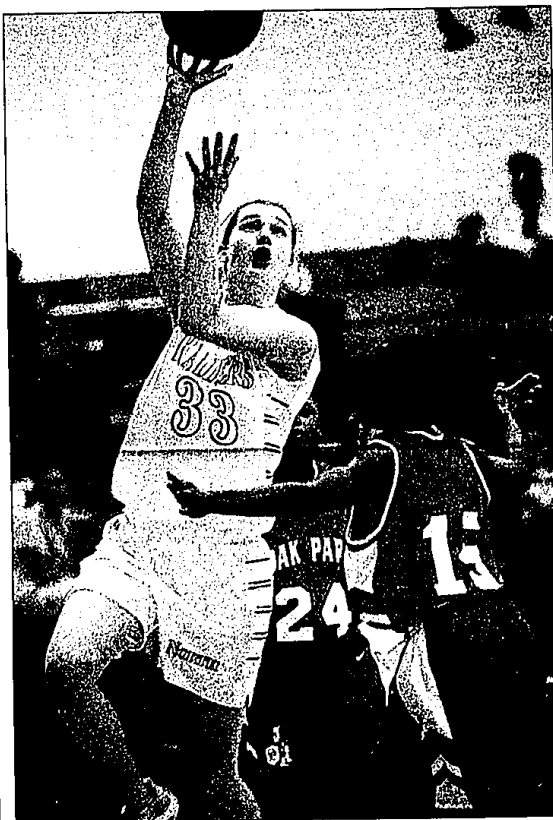
The Raiders scored again at 8:03 in the fourth quarter, covering 75 yards in just three plays. After runs by Smith and Kenny Uy, Smith passed 31 yards to Alan Wertheimer for six points. Lambert's PAT made it 14-6.

"(Wertheimer) was being rocked; they were putting some licks on him," Lee said. "He was spinning and fighting his way to the end zone."

"It was a big-time catch for him and a nice strike for Bryan. He hung on to it and got himself in the end zone."

After a short punt, North got the ball at the Central 19 late in the game. The Raiders scored five plays later on Smith's 3-yard run with 1:10 remaining. Lambert kicked the 21st point.

PLEASE SEE RAIDERS, C3



### Raiders vs. Knights

North Farmington's foot-1 Junior Kristin McElean takes the ball to the hoop over Kandice Perryman (24) and Rachel Williams (15) in an Oakland Activities Association basketball game Thursday. Oak Park won, 49-34. See the story inside today's sports section.

BOB BRISLIN / OBSERVER

## Undefeated Falcons pitch shutout, 14-0

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

### FOOTBALL

The Falcons keep marching on, Farmington High stayed unbeaten and passed a major test in its quest for the perfect football season Friday afternoon.

Coach John Bechtel's ballclub earned a 14-0 victory over host Highland Park, arguably the toughest opponent Farmington has faced to date.

"They're a very good team," Bechtel said of the 6-2 Polar Bears. "We played a team with great talent and great speed that is well coached. We're excited. Our kids played really well today."

Now comes another big test for the 8-0 Falcons, who will play host to North Farmington (5-2)

in a game to decide the Oakland Activities Association Division III title Friday night.

Farmington is 5-0 in the division and North 4-1.

"We're looking forward to the opportunity to play them," Bechtel said. "They, obviously, have played well. It's kinda fun to see a situation where both of us are vying for the title. It's not our goal to co-own that title."

"We're happy to be where we're at, and it's a great credit to our kids, our coaches and our parent organization."

"We're happy we can share this with the Farmington community."

PLEASE SEE FALCONS, C2

## Hawks beat Wolves, gain share of crown

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

### FOOTBALL

A lot of people figured Farmington Harrison's offense was pretty much one-dimensional this year, relying almost exclusively on all-state tailback Marcus Woods.

But senior wingback Charles "Cha-Cha" Pickett showed the Hawks have other capable athletes Friday night in a 43-24 win over visiting Clarkston.

Pickett caught six passes from quarterback Jake Ghannam for 155 yards and two touchdowns, and he added 86 yards rushing on six carries.

"I don't know where they've been hiding him," Clarkston coach Kurt Richardson said. "Their skill kids are so much better than ours."

"I thought the quarterback, from what I saw on film earlier, has improved tremendously. He's pretty good."

Of course, Woods did his part, too. He gained 120 yards on 25 carries and scored four touchdowns on short runs of 4, 6, 10 and 3 yards.

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, C2

## Farmington win good preparation for post-season

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

### SOCCER

A win over Troy Athens was just the boost Farmington's soccer team needed to sharpen its focus in preparation for this week's district tournament.

The Falcons avenged an earlier loss to the host Red Hawks, 1-0, in an Oakland Activities Association Division I game Thursday.

Chris McDaniel scored the lone goal in the 30th minute of the first half off a cross from Matt Konopinski.

McDaniel beat an Athens

player to the ball at the near post and headed it into the net.

Farmington, which was 14-4 overall with one regular season game remaining Saturday with Troy, outshot Athens, 16-9. Goalie Andrew Martin received credit for the shutout.

"For the first 20 minutes, they were the better team," Falcons coach Luke Juncal said of the Red Hawks. "They had a few chances. We picked up our play after that and dominated the last 15 to 20 minutes."

"We were in control the whole second half. Their goalie made some outstanding saves to keep them in the game."

"We really played well on both ends. Defensively, we were solid. Up top, we were creating a lot of chances."

Farmington appears to be at the top of its game at the right time of the season, Juncal added.

"I'm real happy with what the boys are doing right now," he said. "They're playing as a team. Everyone seems to be focused, and they're just doing a tremendous job."

"We're playing with a lot of consistency, which we need to do in order to do well in the state tournament."

Farmington will be at Northville, the runner-up in the Western Lakes Activities Association, for a Division I district opener Monday night.

Northville (10-5-3) lost to Plymouth Salem in the WLA championship game Wednesday, 5-0.

"The fact we have everybody healthy right now is very important," Juncal said.

"We lost a couple games when we had starters missing. We're

one of those teams that cannot afford to have any starters miss games."

"Usually, we have very close games with (Northville), and it should be another fine game. If we play our game, we should do OK. We just have to play the way we're able to play."

### LAKERS DEFEAT RAIDERS

North Farmington dropped its final regular-season game Thursday to visiting West Bloomfield, 3-1.

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, C3

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