

Sports

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Prep playoffs

Who are the favorites for the first round of the high school football tournament? D4

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ OUTDOORS

Hawks face new challenge in Division II

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison might win another state title, but it won't have a chance to defend its Division III championship.

The reason is the Hawks find themselves playing up a grade in Division II this year for the first time. Harrison (7-2) will play host to Pontiac

FOOTBALL

Northern (6-3) in a first-round district tournament game at 1 p.m. Saturday. Coach John Herrington's teams have won a record 12 state championships, including five in a row - the last three in Division III following the expansion of the playoffs to five games in 1999. It might be no more difficult for the

Hawks to actually win the state title in Division II, but advancing beyond the regional level will be. Birmingham Brother Rice and Rochester Adams are in Region 3, also, and they're the only teams to have beaten Harrison. "I think it's one of the very toughest divisions there is," Herrington said, "but playing in the OAA Division I has prepared us well for the state tournament."

"We were hoping to get in Division II. We thought we might have a chance to play Farmington and get back to having a true city championship. We're a little disappointed that didn't work out."

"We've played in a lot of tournaments where we played the same team twice, and we always beat them twice. It's a big task; I suppose that could be a motivat-

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, D7

Sidelines

■ St. Fabian

Tryouts for the St. Fabian CYO basketball teams are scheduled for Nov. 4-8 in the St. Fabian gymnasium (32200 West Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills). Boys and girls interested in participating are urged to attend all of the tryouts listed for their grade.

Eligible players must be either a student or parishioner of St. Fabian or a parishioner of either St. Clare or St. Colman. The try-out schedule is:

1) seventh and eighth boys, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5; and 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6.

2) seventh and eighth girls, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6; and 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

3) fifth and sixth boys, 4:50-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6; and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

4) fifth and sixth girls, 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4; and 4:30-6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

For additional information call (248) 788-9789.

■ Cruisers win gold

The Livonia Cruisers Softball Club, featuring former New York Met Al Moran (Farmington Hills), captured the Huntsman World Senior Games 55-and-over Major Division title recently in St. George, Utah.

The Cruisers, managed by Northville's Ron Heller, beat the Arizona Heat in the gold medal game, 18-15.

They averaged 15 runs per game and hit .621.

The Cruisers, Can-Am Senior Softball League champions for the second straight year, finished 40-8 overall.

Other members of the team are Chuck Hebestreit, Jim Ransiewicz and Brad Smith, all of Livonia; Vaughn Covert and Bob Dellgaw, Redford; Pete Woodard, Plymouth; Mike Kalkack and Frank Vellucci, Northville; Gerald DeMara, Clinton Township; Glen Kemp and Jack Schroeder, Windsor; and Len Zundel, St. Clair Shores.

■ Collegiate note

Western Michigan University senior Mary Gignac (Livonia-Farmington Hills Mercy) had the game-winning goal Sunday as the Lady Broncos (7-8-1, 5-5-0) scored a 2-1 Mid-American Conference women's soccer victory over Toledo.

■ Coach needed

Farmington Harrison High School is searching for a boys tennis coach.

If interested in the position, call FPS athletic director Ron Holland at (248) 489-3352 or fax a letter of interest and/or resume to (248) 474-3802.

■ NCAA recruiting

Student-athletes (grades 9-12), parents and guardians are invited to attend a program called "The Realities of College Recruiting," 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at St. Mary's School, Northville High School.

For more information, call Livonia Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at (734) 744-2660, ext. 48116.



North Farmington quarterback Bryan Smith gives the ball to fullback Ken Uy in a game played last Friday night at Farmington High. The Raiders face perennial power Brother Rice in a Division II playoff game this week. Kickoff is 1 p.m. Saturday at Birmingham Groves.

Bill Bresler / Observer

North-Rice game stirs '78 memory

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The last time North Farmington won a football playoff game Rich Burrell was one of the players and Birmingham Brother Rice was the opponent.

That was in 1978 when the Raiders toppled the No. 1-ranked and heavily-

FOOTBALL

favored Warriors in a Class A semifinal contest, 27-6.

Burrell is now in his fifth year as head coach at North, and he will lead the Raiders against Rice in another playoff game Saturday.

As was the case 24 years ago, the Warriors will be solid favorites in the Division II district tournament clash. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. at Birmingham Groves - the same site as the first meeting.

"I pulled out my scrapbook," Burrell said. "The kids all have copies of the articles. They're well aware of the scenario. There are some very eerie simi-

PLEASE SEE NORTH-RICE, D3

Harrison boys 2nd in region, going to state

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison's boys cross country team qualified for the state meet Saturday for the first time since 1991.

The Hawks finished second in the Division II regional at Royal Oak Kimball. Orchard Lake St. Mary's had 35 points and Harrison 67. St. Clair Shores Lakeview was the third qualifier with a score of 89.

"It's been a long time since we had a team go to state, so we're very excited,"

CROSS COUNTRY

Harrison coach John Reed said.

"We've been real close. The last two years we were fourth in the regional by less than five points. We've always been a bridesmaid; so we finally made it."

"Although we knew we had a shot, we had to keep our focus, because other teams you're not thinking of can rise up and run well."

"We had to stay focused all the way through, and the kids were able to do that."

Senior Brian Coats was Harrison's top runner with a second-place time of 17:03. The individual winner was St. Mary's Brendan Goodwin in 16:43.

Harrison seniors Eric Lachowski (18:22), Wayne Wright (18:35), Matt Drew (18:52), Nick Israel (19:56) and Andrew Singer (19:18) finished 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th, respectively.

PLEASE SEE HARRISON, D5

Falcons ready to rebound in playoffs

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Where the Farmington High players and coaches are concerned, the good news is they get to play and coach a football game again this week.

Following their 7-0 loss to North Farmington in the regular-season finale, the Falcons will refocus their efforts and

FOOTBALL

start anew in the playoffs.

The second season begins at 7 p.m. Friday when Farmington plays host to Detroit Henry Ford in a Division II district tournament game.

"The first half of the season is over and we're 8-1," Falcons coach John Bechtel said. "We're OAA Division III co-cham-

pions and we played at an incredibly high level. I think we proved something to a lot of people."

"Now the second half of the season starts. We have the opportunity to do some great things, and that's what our goal is. We're determined to do everything in our power to play at a high

PLEASE SEE FALCONS, D7

Mercy edges Foley, gains semifinal nod

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy advanced to the semifinals of the Catholic League girls basketball tournament with a first-round victory Tuesday over host Bishop Foley, 68-65.

The Marlins (10-7) will play Central Division champion Livonia Ladywood at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Schoolcraft College.

Whitney Johnson scored a game-high 24 points Tuesday to lead the Marlins. She also had three steals and three assists.

Freshman Lindsey Lorida had another big game with 12 points and 11 rebounds despite sitting out part of the second quarter and most of the third in foul trouble.

Anne Roosevelt contributed a solid effort with 13 points and five rebounds. Barb Maczka, who had five assists, and Samantha Foggia added five points apiece.

BASKETBALL

The Ventures had three players in double figures - Juli Smith with 19 points, Bridgette Maynard 17 and Valerie Schilk 13.

Mercy was 23-of-37 shooting free throws and Foley, the AA Bracket runner-up, 19-of-28.

The Marlins outscored the Ventures in the second quarter, 20-13, to take a halftime lead of 30-27.

Foley pulled even at the end of three, 48-48, but Mercy was three points better in the finale, 60-57.

The score was tied at 65 with a minute remaining. Roosevelt made three of four free throws to clinch the win.

With six seconds left, a Foley player had the ball at mid court but was whistled for traveling. Mercy was able to run out the clock.

"We didn't play our best game

PLEASE SEE MERCY, D6



Bill Bresler / Observer

Whitney Johnson (foreground) led Mercy to a Catholic League tournament victory over Bishop Foley Tuesday. She is guarded by Foley's Juli Smith.

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