

Raiders capture OAA crown

BY DAN O'NEARA
STAFF WRITER

Mike Hand pitched a complete game and North Farmington defeated host Waterford Mott, 4-3, to win the Oakland Activities Association Division II baseball championship.

The North victory on May 21 coupled with Farmington's loss to Birmingham Grays gave the Raiders sole claim to first place in the division by a one-game margin.

It's the first title for the Raiders since 1996, when they won the Lakes Division and Western Lakes Activities Association championships.

North finished 9-3 in the OAA Division II and was 17-8 heading into a four-team tournament Saturday in Ypsilanti.

The Raiders scored a run in

the top of the fifth inning to take a 3-2 lead and got the winning run in the seventh. The Raiders added a run in the bottom of the last inning. Hand pitched a three-hitter, striking out seven and refusing to issue a walk. He boosted his record to 6-3. North's Chris Clark (double, triple) and Bryan Smith had two hits and two RBI apiece. Scott Hegstrom hit a three-hitter, striking out seven and scored twice and scored two runs.

"Hand pitched a whole of a ballgame," North coach Jim Ferguson said. "The kids were just elated. Everybody played well. They were really happy. It was a pretty nice ride home."

"When we lost to Farmington, (the Raiders) were in the dumper. They had to fight back and win all the rest of these games."

Zatkin's gem leads Hawks

Thirteen turned out to be a number that didn't represent luck, just quality, for Harrison senior pitcher Eric Zatkin.

The Hawk hurler pitched perhaps the best game of his varsity career Wednesday, tossing a one-hitter with 13 strikeouts to lead his team to a 7-0 win over Royal Oak Kimball.

The win puts Harrison at 17-9 overall and 8-6 in the OAA Division I. Zatkin hit one batter with a pitch and issued no walks, facing just two batters over the minimum. He got plenty of early run support from his teammates, courtesy of the long ball. Nick Vitiana went 2-for-4, slugged a two-run homer and had three RBI in the game.

Kevin Zerbo added a two-run shot.

RAIDERS

FROM PAGE D1

The Raiders, champions of the Oakland Activities Association Division II, led 2-1 when they cruised for eight runs in the bottom of the third inning.

North had 12 hits and only one strikeout, and Milford supplied some help with four errors.

They were a much better team than the score indicates," Horwitz said, adding none of his team's eight runs in third inning was earned.

The Monarchs dropped the ball twice on attempted putouts at the plate and had an over-throw at first base.

"We were very lucky," Horwitz added. "But our kids played well; they got the bat on the ball, and we made some good plays. And, of course, Mike did another great job of pitching."

Bryan Smith and Rich Hegstrom were 3-for-3 to lead the Raiders. Chris Clark had two hits, including a solo home, and Scott Hegstrom hit a two-run triple.

Adam Vieder had an RBI single, he and Smith scored two runs each.

Rich Hegstrom had a double, drove in a run and scored a run. In a tournament Saturday at Eastern Michigan University,



BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

North Farmington first baseman Rich Hegstrom takes a throw from pitcher Mike Hand in an attempt to catch Milford's Jeff Fabi off base Tuesday in a pre-district baseball game.

North defeated Alma, 8-7, and lost to Plymouth Salem in the final, 9-7. Scott J. Hegstrom and Smith had two hits and one RBI apiece in the opener; they also scored two runs each. One of the Smith hits was a double.

Clark belted a two-run homer, and Vince McKeon had an RBI double and scored a run.

Smith, Chris Clark, Matt Clark and Vieder had two hits apiece in the Salem game.

Matt Clark had two RBI, Rich Hegstrom and Chris Clark one each. Smith scored two runs on errors.

Markus Barlage, Tim DePaulis and Andy Anderson also scored runs. Hostetter and Blake Evenson had two hits and one RBI apiece. Brian Alpert made it 6-4 with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the seventh; Hostetter followed with a two-out single, but the lead runner was out at the plate.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

DIVISION I SOFTBALL
Saturday, May 31: Farmington Harrison vs. Farmington, 10 a.m.; Redford Union vs. Redford Catholic Central, noon.
Saturday, May 31: Championship, 2 p.m.
At Walled Lake Western
Saturday, May 31: White Lake Lakeland vs. North Farmington, 10 a.m.; Walled Lake Central vs. Walled Lake Western, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 31: Championship, 4 p.m.
At Walled Lake Western, 1 p.m.
DIVISION II BASEBALL
Saturday, May 31: Championship, 4 p.m.
At Redford Catholic Central

DIVISION II SOCCER
Thursday, May 29: Farmington at Novi, 7 p.m.; Walled Lake Western at Northville; Walled Lake Central at Novi, 7 p.m.
Friday, May 30: Championship, 6:30 p.m. at Novi Middle School.

DIVISION III SOCCER
Wednesday, May 28: Bloomfield Hills Lehigh (C) vs. Farmington Harrison (D); Birmingham Marian (E) vs. Bloomfield Hills Andover (F).
Friday, May 30: Auburn Hills Avondale vs. Birmingham Seaholm, 4 p.m. at Seaholm; C.D. winner vs. C.F. winner, 7 p.m. at Seaholm.
Saturday, May 31: Championship, 7:30 p.m. at Seaholm.

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SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE D1

Danieliewicz struck out 31 opposing batters as the Raiders edged the Mustangs in 16 innings, 1-0.

The record for single-game strikeouts is held by Pinconning's Angie Rosich, who had 32 versus Fenton in the 1993 Class B state final, which went 20 innings.

Danieliewicz allowed five hits and two walks. The Raiders had only four hits, struck out 10 times and made three errors.

In the top of the 16th, Milford hit a run disallowed. With two outs, a runner at first base initiated an attempted steal of second. The North center fielder started to come in, and the batter hit the ball over her head for a triple. The Milford player scored; however,

she missed third and was called out.

In the bottom of the 16th, North's Monica Hayworth reached base on an error and was sacrificed to second by Lindsay Smith.

Following a walk to Brynn Allen, Amy Berke hit a ground ball up the middle. The ball hopped over the shortstop's glove, and Hayworth scored on a head-first slide.

"The throw was late, but she was making sure she was in there," North coach Dave Brubaker said.

"It's the longest game I've ever been involved in, and I've never seen 31 strikeouts either." Berke had two hits, Lori Tapper and Smith one each. The Raiders are 17-14 going into a district game Saturday with Lakeland at Walled Lake Western.

"We hadn't seen any pitching in four days and you could tell,

Brubaker said. "We just didn't hit the ball on the nose today. We were lucky to eke it out today."

"If we don't come out and put a little more offense behind Beth and score some runs, it won't matter who we have pitching. It's not going to do us any good."

"Today we were hoping we could get seven innings in and not worry about (Danieliewicz's sore arm) too much, but we were in a real dogfight."

"We hit one or two balls hard. The Milford pitcher was throwing a good game, but she wasn't overpowering. We were hitting the ball right at people."

"It was one of those days. They made all the plays until the end. Hopefully, we'll come out with a little better performance Saturday."

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MICHIGAN HOCKEY

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