

## Sidelines

### HHS track camp

The Junior Olympic Development Camp for young track and field athletes will be June 16-19 at Harrison High School. The camp is intended for boys and girls, ages 8-18. Beginners and experienced athletes are welcome. The camp hours are 9 a.m. to noon each day. The cost is \$55 for Explorers (two days), \$85 for Explorers and Competitors (four days). The coaching staff includes Harrison boys coach John Reed, girls coach Mark Babcock, boys assistant John Schumacher and Swift Track Club coach Fermon Tate Jr. For more information or to register, athletes should call Tate at (313) 971-4121.

### Adult hockey

Suburban Hockey's Rise & Shine 4-on-4 Adult Ice Hockey League begins play Tuesday, July 15, at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills. Games will be played 7-8 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The league season runs through Sept. 4. Each team will consist of 13 players and one goaltender and will play an eight-game schedule (one per week). Players sign up individually. All players will receive a membership to the SIC Fitness Club throughout the eight weeks of league play. For more information or to register call SIC at (248) 888-1400 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

### Vikings openings

The HHS Vikings football program has positions available for varsity players and cheerleaders. The participation fee is \$150, plus limited fundraising to cover the balance of the total cost of the program. Anyone interested in registering should contact either Jeff Hunter (553-0051) or Charlie Fleetham (476-7577) for football and Shari Gambill (427-0003) for cheerleading. The season runs from August 10 to October, plus any playoff games. Games are usually played on Saturdays or Sundays. Practices are Tuesday through Friday. Home games are played at North Farmington High School.

### Hockey tryouts

Tryouts for the Farmington Unified high school summer hockey team will be 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, and Friday, June 20, at Suburban Training Center. Athletes entering the ninth through 12th grades at one of Farmington's three public high schools are eligible to participate. For more information, call coach Mark Veltucci at (248) 730-2233.

## Marlins earn Final Four softball berth

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy kept playing away and doggedly working its bunt-and-run strategy Wednesday in a state quarterfinal softball game at Bishop Foley High School.

The Marlins were finally rewarded for their persistence when Erin Agency scored the lone run in the seventh inning of a 1-0 victory over Harper Woods Regina.

Mercy coach Jack Falvo said:

"I told the girls, 'The bunt game is working. All we have to do is get a runner on, and we can work the runner around; we can go to the bunt.' I told Erin, 'Find a way to get on base, and we'll get you in.'"

Agency drew a walk from freshman pitcher Nicole Neulitz to start the seventh, advanced to second on a "bum" Karaglan's sacrifice and moved to third on a wild pitch.

With two outs, Kelli Ferrara put down a bunt in front of

home plate that enabled Agency to score.

Neulitz seemed to hesitate momentarily, as if she might go to first base with the ball, then made a short, under-hand toss to catcher Jenna Fischlone.

But it was too late. Agency was on top of the play and slid safely under the tag.

The third baseman and pitcher bunched each other, so she couldn't go to first base then. Regina coach Diane Lufley said, "I wish Nikki had dived for the runner, because

she might've had a better chance to make a play."

It was an anxious moment for Falvo and the Marlins, who ran themselves out of the first inning and left the bases full in the fifth.

"I thought, 'Oh, no! Did we run ourselves out of that (inning, too)?" Falvo said.

(Agency) was so aggressive; she was going to get in there. Erin made an excellent slide and got her feet in there.

"And God bless Kelli. She's been working hard to improve

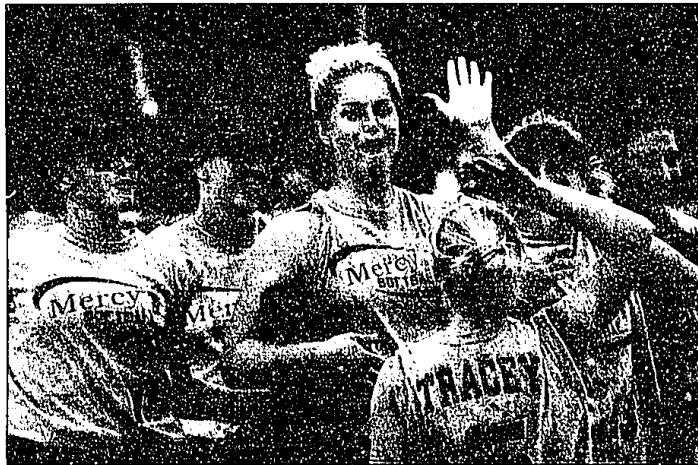
her bunt game, and it paid off today."

"Inside that little, 5-foot-1 body is one heckuva competitor with a big smile."

The victory means Mercy (29-2) is going to the Final Four in Battle Creek for the fourth consecutive year. The Marlins, who were the state runners-up last year, will play Escanaba (34-2) in a Division I semifinal game at 10:30 a.m. Friday.

Mercy senior infielders Anna

PLEASE SEE MARLINS, B4



Sophomore pitcher Dana Frantz (center) is congratulated by Farmington Hills Mercy teammates (left to right) Erin Agency, Anna Schneider, Caitlin Tracey, Carly Tracey and Kelli Blanchard after shutting out Garden City in the regional final Saturday.

## Mercy ace no-hits GC in regional

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

There was a running joke before Saturday's regional softball final at Allen Park: The first team to score twice wins.

Farmington Hills Mercy (28-2) had the last laugh against Garden City as the Marlins shut out the Cougars in every way possible for a 3-0 win to advance to the Division I quarterfinals.

"They had a lot of good arms and played well," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said of the Cougars, who ended the season at 28-7. "I didn't know much about them heading in, but I do now."

PLEASE SEE REGIONAL, B2

## Rice rolls into state semifinal

BY CHRIS MAYER  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Brother Rice players' dream of going to Battle Creek became reality Tuesday.

The second-ranked Warriors were all business during a methodical, 7-1 Division I quarterfinal baseball victory over Port Huron Northern in Orionville.

Catcher Doug Pickens and left fielder Cody Nolen homered on consecutive pitches in a pivotal third inning, and left-hander Matt Petry pitched a complete game to help Brother Rice reach the state

### BASEBALL

semifinal round for the first time since 1994.

One semifinal has Brother Rice (35-3) matched against fifth-ranked Portage Central (29-5) at 2 p.m. Friday at Bailey Park in Battle Creek.

Portage Central defeated Adrian in eight innings Tuesday 4-3. Brother Rice defeated Southgate Anderson in the 1994 Class A title game, and the Warriors would like nothing more than to hoist another championship trophy.

"It feels good to be going to Battle Creek, but it's not that big of a deal for us right now," Petry said.

"Our goal is to not only get there; our goal is to win there. I think we're ready physically, but we just need to get the mindset now before we get there."

"We'll continue to do the same thing," Brother Rice coach Bob

PLEASE SEE RICE, B5

## Grand slam sinks Harrison in 7th inning

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The last one always hurts the most.

It's the lack of opportunity for redemption that makes the final defeat of a season the most painful.

And it was easy to see on coach John Herrington's face that Farmington Harrison's 9-6 loss Wednesday to Grosse Pointe South in the state high school baseball quarterfinals was going to linger with him a long time.

Charlie Mackinnon's walk-off grand slam with nobody out in the bottom of the seventh ended the Blue Devils' state

champions two years ago, to advance to the Division I semifinals Friday in Battle Creek.

"Grosse Pointe didn't quit," Herrington said. "But the walks hurt us. Like any high school game, the walks hurt."

South (28-11) scored the first run of the game, but Harrison roughed up sophomore Andy Abraham, who will be playing defense for the Mississauga Ice Dogs of the Ontario Hockey League next fall, for three runs in both the second and fourth innings to take a 6-1 lead into the fifth.

But Hawks' ace Andy Wingert, bound for Central Michigan's baseball team, slowly started showing the

strain of having pitched Harrison (21-10) into the quarterfinals.

The Blue Devils scored twice in the fifth and two more times in the sixth to pull within a run at 6-5.

They would have tied the score except third baseman Jake Ghanman made an exceptional relay of a throw from left fielder Dan Williams on winning reliever Ben Jensen's RBI single and nailed spruiling Kyle Hadas at the plate.

Ghanman's relay was about six inches off the ground—right where catcher Kevin Zerbo needed it to make a no-sweep tag.

"That helped," Herrington

said. "But I knew Andy was coming out, and I knew they had the top of their order coming up (in the seventh). I knew we didn't have it won."

Wingert had warned his coach the tank was about empty with three miles of highway yet to go.

Wingert took a no-hitter into the fifth, but singles by Brendan Butler and Jensen, plus a groundout to second and a wild pitch, gave South its second run. Mike Arrighi double made it 6-3, but he was thrown out trying to steal third, ending the inning.

Two walks and a two-out

PLEASE SEE HARRISON, B4

## Hawks take advantage of Cougar mistakes

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Harrison was on top of its game and Garden City was not Saturday afternoon in a Division I regional tournament final at Allen Park.

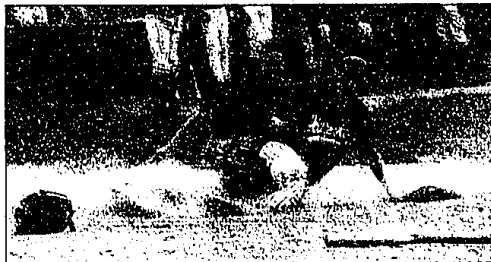
Harrison capitalized on a series of Garden City miscues to win the championship baseball game with an 8-0 victory.

The Hawks had just five hits, but they didn't need much offense.

"The Cougars committed five errors and were further hurt by a series of passed balls and wild pitches."

"We had a couple games like that, but this wasn't the time to do it," Garden City coach Steve Herman said.

"We were kind of tight. We gave them two early runs, and that was enough to keep their confidence up."



Harrison's Danny Dolg was tagged out at the plate in the fourth inning by Garden City catcher Jon Crum, but the Hawks still scored plenty of runs in their 8-0 victory.

"We struggled to get guys on base, and it was tough to come back."

The die was cast in the first inning, when the Hawks had just one hit but pushed across two runs.

Harrison lead-off batter Jake Ghanman, who had two hits and scored three runs, and pinch-runner Dominic

Carino were at second and third.

Ghanman scored when an infield groundout by Kevin Zerbo was misplayed for an error, and Carino came around to score, too, on an overthrow at first base.

"We didn't have a lot of big hits, but we

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, B4