

North's Rucker earns spot in state net finals

By TOM BAER

Because of its second-place regional finish, Southfield-Lathrup's entire 10-man tennis team has qualified for the Class A state meet June 23 in Midland.

Lathrup was runner up in its own regional last Saturday, scoring 21 team points, three fewer than first-place Birmingham Brother Rice. Under the state qualifying format, the top two teams in each regional advance to the finals. The winner and runner up in No. 1 singles also qualify if they're not already part of the best two teams.

The qualifying format affects another area netter, North Farmington's Dieter Rucker, who was the runnerup in No. 1 singles in the 13-team Lathrup regional.

Lathrup, coached by Ed Waits, had players in finals of four of the seven flights. All three doubles finishers Lathrup against Rice — and Lathrup won every match.

The No. 1 doubles team of Ron Volles and Dan Lipnik needed three sets to stop John McNulty and Pat Flaherty, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6. In No. 2 doubles, Ken Frank and Brian Salein defeated Jim Call and Mike Desert in three sets, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3. Scott Kalt and Howard Handler bested Jeff Boes and Terry Beahl, 6-1, 6-3, in No. 3 doubles. Lathrup's only singles player to make the regional finals was Peter McKnight, who lost to Rice's Blase Keating, 6-0, 6-4.

NORTH FARMINGTON'S Rucker, a transfer student from West Germany,

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advanced to the top-flight regional singles match, where he dropped a 7-5, 6-3 decision to Rice's Bill Harahan. North coach Norm Staniszewski explained Rucker's success in the regional.

"Dieter's a tall player," Staniszewski said. "He's about 6-foot-4, and

he gets to a lot of shots. He has the size and the range to get to a lot of balls, and he gets them back. That puts a lot of pressure on his opponent."

North's Mike Schupp, just a sophomore, was a big surprise in the

regional, winning the No. 3 singles title with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over Rice's David Heinlein in the finals. Schupp won't be going to the state meet, however, because he didn't play in No. 1 singles.

"Mike played really well," Staniszewski said. "That final match was the best I've seen him play this year." North Farmington and Detroit Catholic Central finished in a third-place tie with 13 points in the regional. Farmington Harrison finished fifth with six points, Farmington High and Walled Lake Western tied for sixth with five points, and Southfield High and Walled Lake Central tied for eighth with four points.

The Class A state meet will be played at the Midland Community Center and at several other locations in Midland.

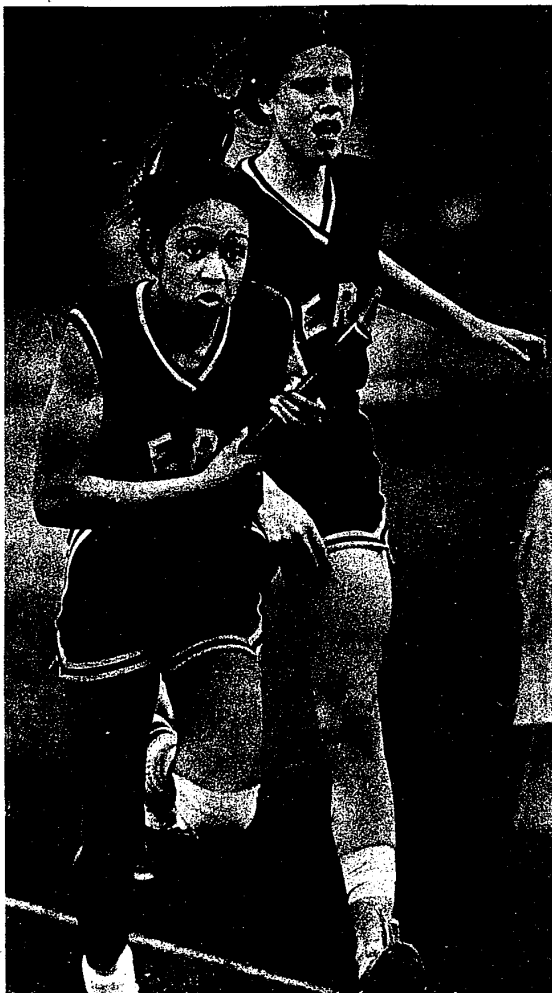
CLASS A TENNIS REGIONAL

TEAM FINISH — 1. Birmingham Brother Rice, 24 points; 2. Southfield-Lathrup, 21; 3. (tie) Detroit Catholic Central and North Farmington, 13 each; 4. Farmington-Harrison, 6; 5. (tie) Farmington High and Walled Lake Western, 5 each; 6. (tie) Southfield High and Walled Lake Central, 4 each; 7. Highland Park, 3; 8. Paradise High, 2; 9. Detroit Mumford, 1; 10. Detroit Central, 0.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

NO. 1 SINGLES — Bill Harahan (Brother Rice) defeated Dieter Rucker (North Farmington), 7-5, 6-3; NO. 2 SINGLES — Mike Schupp (North Farmington) defeated David Heinlein (Brother Rice), 7-6, 6-1; NO. 3 SINGLES — Ted Williams (Brother Rice) defeated Paul Grett (Catholic Central), 6-1, 6-1.

NO. 1 DOUBLES — Ron Volles and Dan Lipnik (Lathrup) defeated John McNulty and Pat Flaherty (Brother Rice), 6-2, 6-4; NO. 2 DOUBLES — Ken Frank and Brian Salein (Lathrup) defeated Jim Call and Mike Desert (Brother Rice), 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; NO. 3 DOUBLES — Scott Kalt and Howard Handler (Lathrup) defeated Jeff Boes and Terry Beahl (Brother Rice), 6-1, 6-3.



Mercy's Kathy Whalen (back) and Sherry West were part of the Marlins' 880-yard relay. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Runners qualify for state meet

Mercy, North track shine

By TOM BAER

North Farmington and Farmington Our Lady of Mercy emerged as the big winners after the state Class A boys' and girls' track regional at Farmington High last Saturday.

Mercy won the girls' regional with 49 team points, six more than runner-up Livonia Stevenson. And Mercy qualified girls for seven events for the Class A state meet June 3 at Brighton High School.

North Farmington occupied first place for most of the boys' regional before falling to second with 37½ points. Livonia Churchill took first with 38½. North will be represented in five events at the state Class A finals June 3 at Flint Northwestern.

Southfield High, which finished fifth in the boys' regional with 24½ points, qualified trackmen for four events at the state meet. Farmington will be represented in two events at the boys' state meet, and Southfield-Lathrup had one qualifier.

Farmington Harrison's girls, seventh in the regional with 13 points, qualified for three events at the state meet.

Mercy, coached by Bob Kirkland, was especially strong in the relay events, winning the mile and the 400-yard relays, and taking second in the 880.

The 440 crew (Terry Whalen, Kathy Whalen, Ann Miller and Sherry West) went :32.6 The mile team (Lynn Yadach, Julie Basford, Carole Basford and Chris Dosman) was clocked at 4:11.4, and the 880 squad (West, Terry Whalen, Kathy Whalen and Basford) finished in 1:47.6.

Mercy's Sue Heinlein won the two mile run in a regional-record 11:41.3, and finished third in the mile at 5:23.1. Yadach won the 880 run in 2:21.0, and teammate Michele Collins placed second in 2:21.1. Collins also took second in the mile in 5:22.0. Terry Whalen qualified in the 220 dash, finishing third in :27.5.

HARRISON'S RUTH Grabowski qualified in the 440 with a first-place time of :38.4 in the regional. Another Harrison athlete, Terry Duckett, finished third in the high jump with a 5-2 showing. Harrison's 440 relay qualified for the state meet with a third place in :54.3 in the regional.

In the boys' regional, North Farmington earned four firsts, including the discus (Mark Biehl, 158-9½), the 330 low hurdles (Mike Miller, :38.0, a regional record), the 120 high hurdles (Art Doran, :14.8), and the 100 dash (Ivy Cohen, :10.4).

North's 440 relay (Bob Henderhan, Cohen, Doran and Miller) finished second in :45.1. Miller finished second in the 100 dash (:10.5), and Cohen took second in the 220 dash (:23.8).

Southfield High got a first place in the shot put from Dave Wal-

moth, who threw 54-5½. Teammate Bob Church landed second in the two mile (9:20.8) and the mile run (4:27.6). Southfield's other qualifier was Mark Lee, who jumped 6-3 to finish third in the high jump.

Southfield coach Chuck Balog is optimistic about Church's chances in the state meet. "I only see a couple of people beating him out," Balog said. "Bob's been running incredible times in the two mile, and each time he runs his two mile, he comes back and runs the mile an hour later. He's been running his lifetime best in the mile, too."

FARMINGTON HIGH will be represented at state by Rick McKibben, who won the high jump at 6-3, and by Jim Brancheau, who tied for third place in the pole vault at 12-7.

Southfield-Lathrup's lone qualifier was Jeff Goforth, who finished third in the 330 low hurdles with a time of :39.1.

Failing to qualify any runners for the state meets were Harrison's boys' team and the girls' squads from Southfield High, Lathrup, Farmington and North Farmington.

In a Metro Suburban Association boys' dual meet last Monday, Troy Albers defeated Lathrup, 87-71. Lathrup took six firsts. Craig Rowley won the 120 high (:12.2) and the high jump (5-10) for Lathrup. Dave Foley took the two mile (10:25.0), Andy Krasur won the mile (4:48.9) and Greg Symons won the pole vault (12-6). Lathrup's mile relay (John Alexander, Rowley, A.J. Sheelz and Krasur) won in 5:50.0. Lathrup is 3-6 overall and 1-4 in the MSA.

Regional track summaries

CLASS A — BOYS' REGIONAL

TEAM FINISH — 1. Livonia Churchill, 38½ points; 2. North Farmington, 37½; 3. Livonia Franklin, 29; 4. Garden City West, 27; 5. Southfield High, 19½; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 21½; 7. Wayne Memorial, 19½; 8. Plymouth Salem, 17; 9. Farmington High, 15½; 10. Plymouth Canton, 8; 11. Garden City East, 6; 12. Westland John Glenn, 5; 13. Southfield-Lathrup, 4½; 14. Livonia Stenley, 4; 15. Northville High, 3; 16. Farmington Harrison, 2.

STATE MEET QUALIFIERS

HIGH JUMP — 1. McKibben (Farmington), 6-3; 2. Ball (Stevenson), 6-3; 3. Lee (Southfield), 6-3; DISCUS — 1. Biehl (N. Farmington), 158-9½; 2. Kiehl (Churchill), 158-10; 3. Jarczynski (Stevenson), 154.

POLE VAULT — 1. Brancheau (Garden City West), 12-11; 2. Kmet (Franklin), 12-11; 3. (tie) Brancheau (Farmington) and Shandlen (Churchill), 12-7; LONG JUMP — 1. Roper (Garden City West), 14-1; 2. Chachewski (Churchill), 13-9½; 3. Coran (Northville), 13-10.

SHOT PUT — 1. Walmoth (Southfield), 54-5½; 2. Kiehl (Churchill), 53-10; 3. Dasher (Staten), 52-4; TWO-MILE RUN — 1. Blaha (Wayne Memorial), 11:41.3; 2. Church (Southfield), 11:28.2; 3. Jones (Churchill), 11:27.2.

220-YARD LOW HURDLES — 1. Miller (N. Farmington), :38.0 (regional record); 2. Otkinger (Garden City West), :38.6; 3. Goforth (Lathrup), :39.1; 880-YARD RELAY — 1. Livonia Churchill, 1:47.6; 2. Livonia Franklin, 1:50.6; 3. Livonia Stevenson, 1:50.5.

(Continued on page 2C)

Delp fires no-hitter as Falcons triumph; Raiders, Hawks win

Farmington High's pitching ace, senior Kevin Delp, fired a no-hitter last Monday afternoon as the Falcons edged Waterford Township, 1-0, in an Inter Lakes League baseball game.

The win lifted Farmington to 7-2 in the ILL — good for second place behind Livonia Stevenson — and 11-6 overall.

Delp, a righthander, struck out four, walked one and hit a batter. "He had a real good curve and good control that day," said Farmington coach Richard Roy.

Delp also had two of Farmington's four hits. His first-inning single drove in Joe Hauska, who had singled, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Delp's other hits was a two-out triple in the sixth inning. Mark MacDonald collected Farmington's other two hits.

N. FARMINGTON — GLENN

Barry Balbes boosted his pitching record to 5-1 as North Farmington overcame Westland John Canton, 9-5, last Monday in the Northwest Suburban League. The win put North at 16-2 overall and 9-1 in the NSL.

Balbes, a senior lefthander, gave up five hits, fanned five and walked one. North had 10 hits, including a pair of doubles by Ron Fredericks. Tom Jeffery and Andy Salinas each had a single, and Tom Godwin had a single and a double.

Earlier, North took a doubleheader from non-league Birmingham Groves, 4-1 and 5-3. Sophomore Rich Nutter was the winning pitcher in the

second game, allowing six hits, fanning five and passing two.

North Farmington entertains Farmington High on Thursday (May 25). On Friday, North plays at Farmington Harrison. Both games begin at 3:45 p.m.

HARRISON — NORTHVILLE

Winning pitcher Brett Homovec was hard to hit last Monday as Farmington Harrison blanked Northville High, 5-0, in the Western Six League. Harrison is 12-5 overall and 6-3 in the WSL with the victory.

Homovec, a righthander, scattered four hits, struck out six and walked one. He has a 5-4 pitching record. Fred Backner paced Harrison's nine-hit attack with a bases-loaded double in the first inning and an RBI single in the third.

Last Saturday, Harrison defeated Plymouth Salem, 1-0, in a pre-district game. Winning pitcher Mark Becker allowed just two hits, fanned five and walked one. Al Godwich's singled drove in Kevin Collier in the fourth inning.

Harrison entertains Plymouth Canton at noon on Saturday (May 27) in another pre-district game. Canton, a WSL team, has beaten Harrison twice this season.

Pre-district preview
see page 2



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