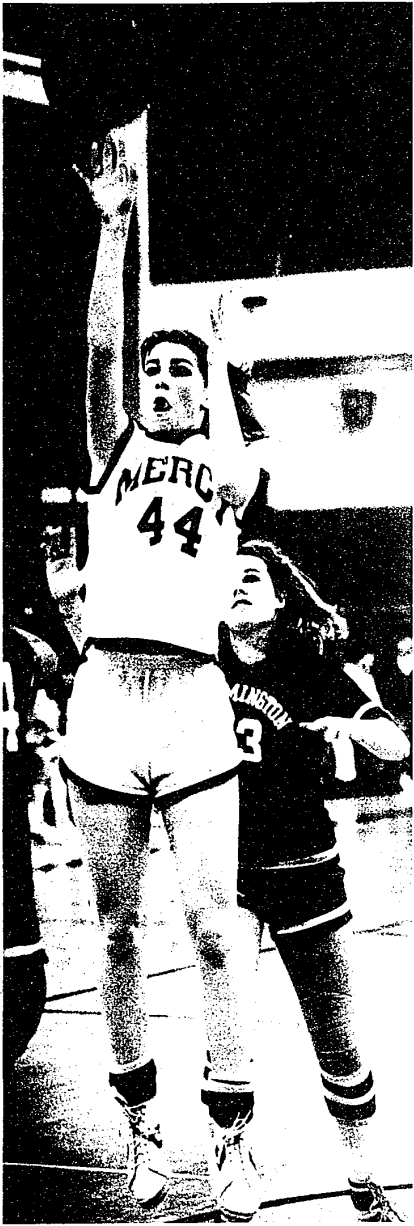


# Year's top sports stories



Mercy's Denise Basford puts up a shot in the district final against Farmington High.

What were the top local sports stories of 1980 in the Farmington area?

Farmington Harrison High School's football team, which won 10 straight games and a league championship before finally losing in the semifinal round of the state Class B football playoffs, provided quite a few exciting stories.

Harrison's 21-14 victory over city-rival North Farmington would rank as one of them. So would the Hawks' 7-6 win over Jackson Lumen Christi in the opening round of the state playoffs. Or, how about Okemos' 14-3 victory over Harrison last Nov. 15.

But the action wasn't limited to football. Farmington Our Lady of Mercy and Farmington High, two of the area's best girls' basketball teams, clashed in a state Class A district game in late November. A Mercy player made a free throw with no time left to give the Marlins a 47-46 victory.

The year was stocked with exciting sports happenings. Here are just a few of them.

## JANUARY

Farmington Harrison's basketball team started the new year off on a sour note by losing, big 94-94, to Plymouth Salem, a team no longer on the Hawks' schedule . . . Doug Nowels, a Harrison graduate, was making a name for himself as the goaltender on Ferris State College's outstanding hockey team . . . North Farmington's wrestling team recorded wins over Livonia Franklin (65-0) and Harrison (42-19) . . . In a basketball upset, Farmington High surprised Livonia Stevenson, 76-73, as Jerry Liphardt scored 27 points and Bill Lehman added 14, half of those coming from the free throw line in the final quarter.

## FEBRUARY

North Farmington's Kathy Temple, one of the state's best high school gymnasts, added another laurel to an already long list by being named the Outstanding Gymnast of the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational . . . Harrison's John Rudel established himself as one of the area's best prep freestylers by winning two events, the 200- and 500-yard freestyles, at the all-Oakland County swimming championships at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills . . . Oakland Community College's basketball team used 16 points by John James to overcome Michigan State University's junior varsity, 61-49 . . . Jeff Dwyer won three events to pace North Farmington's boys' gymnastics victory over Trenton High . . . In high school basketball, Harrison crushed Farmington High, 87-67.

## MARCH

John Donovan, a senior at North Farmington, gave his school its highest wrestling finish ever by taking second place in the 112-pound competition at the Class A state meet at Lansing Eastern High School . . . Five more Farmington-area wrestlers qualified for the state meet: John Murphy, Dave Denny, Mark Bartram and Greg Lemanski, all of Farmington High; and Bob Cushing of Farmington Harrison . . . Farmington High and North Farmington lose their state basketball tournament openers, but Harrison whipped South Lyon, 69-56, in a Class B district game . . . North Farmington won its eighth-straight Northwest Suburban League swimming championship by winning the league meet at Redford Union . . . Tom McPhillips, OCC's basketball coach, hinted that he might leave that position . . . Piney eliminated Harrison, 56-51, in the basketball district final at South Lyon . . . In the state girls' gymnastics meet, North's Temple defended her championship on the parallel bars, placed second in the all-around competition and tied for first in the balance beam with teammate Shanne Casillo . . . Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows' seventh-and-eighth-grade girls' basketball team swept through the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament, finally losing to a Grosse Pointe team in the city finals.

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Harrison's Ken Kopko gains yardage against North Farmington. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Harrison's baseball players whoop it up after winning a state Class B regional championship at Riverview High School.



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