



Harrison follows script to state finals

By Tom Panzenhagen
staff writer

"They couldn't write a script like that," Farmington Harrison second baseman Ken George said. If they did, no one would buy it. But it really happened. With two out in the seventh inning and Harrison trailing Livonia Stevenson — coached by Ken George's father, Jim — 2-1, the junior George doubled home three runs and the Hawks went on to win, 4-3.

Harrison then polished off Dearborn, 10-9, in Saturday's regional finals at Plymouth Canton High School. That win was no less dramatic as Harrison scored all its runs in one inning. But it was their come-from-behind dramatics in game one that exemplified the spirit of these Cinderella Hawks, who finished seventh in league play but now have won 14 of their last 16 games. Overall they are 17-10.

STEVENSON twice was one strike

away from clinching the opener. But in the seventh, with Brad Rounds on third, Vince Enright delivered a two-out, two-strike single off starter and losing pitcher Bob Ogilvie that narrowed the gap to 2-1.

Dan Murray then singled and Brian Smolinski walked, setting the stage for George, who took a ball and two strikes before bouncing one off the wall in left-center field.

"That's the most pressure you can have on a high school kid," Harrison coach John Herrington said of George's at bat.

Jim George — emotionally drained and near tears moments after the game ended — said, "I still don't believe it. I'm really proud of Ken, but I wish it wouldn't have come down to this. I didn't want him to strike out or embarrass himself. I wanted him to hit the ball right at somebody."

"I wish someone had hit one for us in the bottom of the seventh, then we would have won 5-4 and Ken would have done everything he could."

"But it wasn't in the script," Ken George — all smiles after the game — said, "That's the biggest thrill of my life." Asked whether his father said anything to him, he said, "Dad gave me a nice hug."

THE SECOND GAME featured another Harrison comeback.

Down 6-0, the Hawks sent 15 batters to the plate and tallied 10 runs on nine hits in the third inning.

Number nine hitter Murray started the rally with a single. Smolinski doubled him to third and both came home on the first of two John Miller RBI singles of the inning.

Mike Colovos then drove a high fast ball off losing pitcher Scott Mason over the center field fence, accounting for two more runs.

The next three hitters — Rounds, Shawn Brennan and Ken Rudberg — singled and Rounds scored on a wild pitch, tying the score. Enright then walked and Murray — batting for the second time in the inning — was hit by a pitch, forcing in the go-ahead run.

Murray was the 10th consecutive Hawk to reach base without an out.

The eighth run came home when Dearborn shortstop Brian Keating flagged down a George grounder up the

Two to go for Hawks

Harrison needs two more wins to claim the state Class A baseball championship.

With Saturday's wins over Livonia Stevenson and Dearborn, they advance to the state finals being hosted by Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

The Hawks will play Jenison High School — winners of the Lansing-Spartan regionals — at 3 p.m. Friday. The winner of that game plays for the championship at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Harrison's last appearance in the state tournament was as a Class B team in 1981. They lost in the semifinals.

middle but couldn't make a play. Miller then delivered the last two runs of the inning with another single.

DEARBORN scored four in the first off starting pitcher Vince Enright, who faced only four batters and allowed three runs. Rudberg gave up the fourth run in the first, and two more runs in both the second and third innings.

Gary Schmidt took over for Rudberg in the third and finally settled things down, allowing only one run on one hit in 2 1/3 innings of relief.

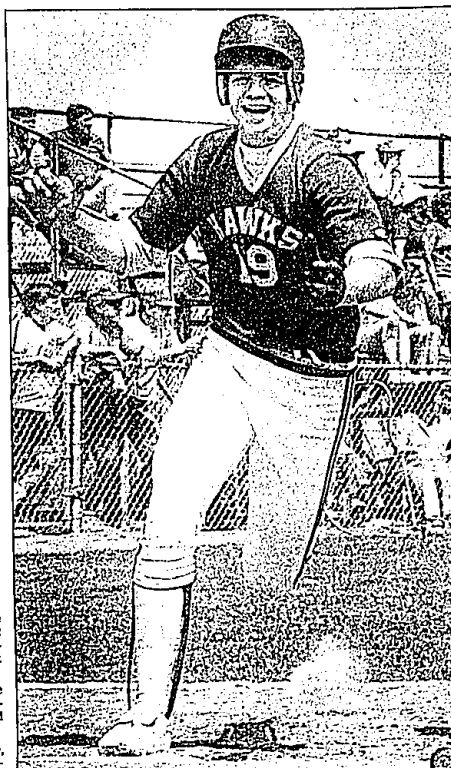
Mike Inch — who went the distance in game one, raising his record to 8-2 — collected the save, limiting Dearborn to one hit and no runs in the last 1 1/3 innings.

Dearborn, which defeated Southgate Anderson, 6-0, earlier in the day to advance to the regional finals, finished the year 20-7.

For Livonia Stevenson in game one, Ogilvie pitched six strong innings, permitting no runs on four hits — before being roughed up by George and company in the seventh.

Spartan DH Joe Conway collected two RBIs on a sixth-inning double, and Chris Tancill hit a solo homer in the seventh.

Stevenson finished the year 15-11.



RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Farmington Harrison first baseman Vince Enright celebrates as he scores from third on Ken George's game-winning double in semi-final regional baseball action Saturday. The Hawks, who defeated Livonia Stevenson 4-3, scored all of their runs in their last at bats. They also beat Dearborn later in the day to win the regional title.



RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Hawk catcher Mike Colovos homers against Dearborn, driving in two runs during Harrison's 10-run third inning. The Hawks put the game away in the third when they sent 15 batters to the plate. John Miller also drove in four runs with two singles during the rally. Harrison now advances to the state baseball finals Friday in Kalamazoo.

Mercy sprinters pace All-Area squad



Sue Naster Borgess, Sambia Shivers Borgess, Amy Rozman Stevenson, Tracey Balog Mercy, Jamie Holcomb Harrison, Terri Ford Mercy, Angela Dugas Ladywood, Karen Opp John Glenn, Joan Arndt Ladywood

By Brad Emons
staff writer

THE 1985 Observerland girls track season was full of highlights. It started with the Observerland meet, where sprinter Terri Ford led Farmington Hills Mercy to the title.

It was also a big year for all-purpose runner Karen Opp and Westland John Glenn. Carrying just 12 girls on its roster, Glenn still managed to win several titles, including the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) for the second consecutive year.

Redford Bishop Borgess, Plymouth Salem, Plymouth Canton, Livonia Franklin and Livonia

Ladywood also made strong showings during the course of the year. Numerous school records were broken throughout the area.

Area coaches gathered recently to select the top individual performers and top relay squads. They also selected Opp as Observerland Trackwoman of the Year. Here are the final results of that meeting.

FIELD EVENTS

Anna Pariah, shot put, Westland John Glenn: The past two seasons Pariah has led the area in both the discus and the shot put. She took fifth in the shot put and was seventh in discus at the state meet.

Headed next year for Eastern Michigan University, the Glenn senior holds school records in the shot put (41 feet) and the discus (117-10). "Anna is the hardest worker on the team — a great attitude," said Glenn coach Ernie Hightet.

Sue Naster, discus, Bishop Borgess: A junior, Naster ranked right behind Pariah in both the shot put (37-1/4) and discus (117-3). She finished eighth in the state in the discus and was first in the Catholic League, regional and Operation-Friendship meets. Naster holds school records in both events. "Not only does Sue do so well in competition, but she's carrying a 3.4 GPA," said Borgess coach John McGreevy.

Sambia Shivers, high jump, Bishop Borgess: Shivers was the All-Area high jumper last year, competing for Farmington High. After transferring to Borgess, Shivers enjoyed another big year with an area best leap of 5-3/4.

The senior standout won the Catholic League, regional, Operation-Friendship and set an Observerland meet record. "Sambia is a friendly person who is a great ambassador for our team," McGreevy said. "She always leaves a track meet having made one or two friends from the opposition."

Amy Rozman, long jump, Livonia Stevenson: A senior, Rozman is making her first appearance on the All-Area team with a season-best leap of 17 feet.

She recorded best jumps at the regional, Western Lakes Conference and Observerland meets.

Rozman also ran the 200- and 400-meter events, as well as legs on the 400, 800, 1,600 relays. She is the Spartans' two-time MVP.



Denise Durrer Salem

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Tonya Harbin Mercy, Michelle Smith Mercy, Tonya Faison Mercy, Sue Willey Ladywood, Monica Gail Ladywood, Michelle Sanchez John Glenn, Laura Grazzilli John Glenn, Pam Eldridge John Glenn, Karen Kantor Churchill