

Sports

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Late-inning surge decides North's fate

North Farmington matched Livonia Churchill hit for hit, but the Raiders couldn't equal the Chargers' six-run seventh inning Friday as they dropped a 12-5 baseball decision.

Churchill led 6-2 entering the final inning when it put the game out of reach. North got three runs in the bottom of the inning during a short-lived rally.

Both teams had eight hits, and the Raiders were led by Trent Hiner, who was two-for-three. Joe Sturtz had a double and scored two runs, and Rick Karcher contributed a two-run triple.

Karcher suffered the loss after working 4½ innings. He allowed

baseball

only two hits, and two of Churchill's two runs scored off him were earned. He walked four and struck out four.

Eric Opalache and Lance Sullivan drove in two runs apiece for the Chargers.

Churchill also won Friday's second game 10-2. North is 3-7 in league games and 3-8 overall.

Farmington's Art Eastman and Jason Connor hit first-inning home

runs Friday to get the Falcons off to a fast start and lift their team to a 12-5 baseball win over Livonia Franklin.

Eastman and Connor hit two-run homers to give Farmington a 4-0 lead before the game was a half inning old.

Eastman also had two doubles, was three-for-four, scored two runs and had four RBI, and Connor was two-for-four and scored twice.

In addition, Steve Howell was two-

for-three and knocked in three runs, and Brian Townsley had two hits, including a triple, and had two RBI.

Darin Magara, 1-2, was the winning pitcher in relief. He went the last 4½ innings, allowed only one hit and struck out four.

THE FALCONS lost the second game 11-6, but it is the first one that counts in the league standings. Farmington is 2-4 in the division, 3-9 overall.

In the nightcap, the Falcons' Norm Celinske, Bob Curtis and Dave Mote were two-for-four. Celinske had a triple and two RBI.

Franklin was led by Brian Whalen, who was three-for-four, and Mike Wenczak and Tim Napier, who both had two RBI.

MIKE HAMMONDTREE tossed a three-hitter and struck out 12 as Westland John Glenn defeated North Farmington 15-1 Wednesday.

Rob Knapp, Jerry Haight and Vano Hill had the only hits off Hammondtree, who also walked five in seven innings.

After Glenn had taken an 11-0 lead, the Raiders scored in the bottom of the fifth inning. Knapp and Hill had back-to-back base hits, and Jerry Haskala's sacrifice fly scored Knapp, who pitched the first three innings and suffered the loss.

Glenn's Tom Walker batted four-for-five, and Clint Straub drove in three runs.

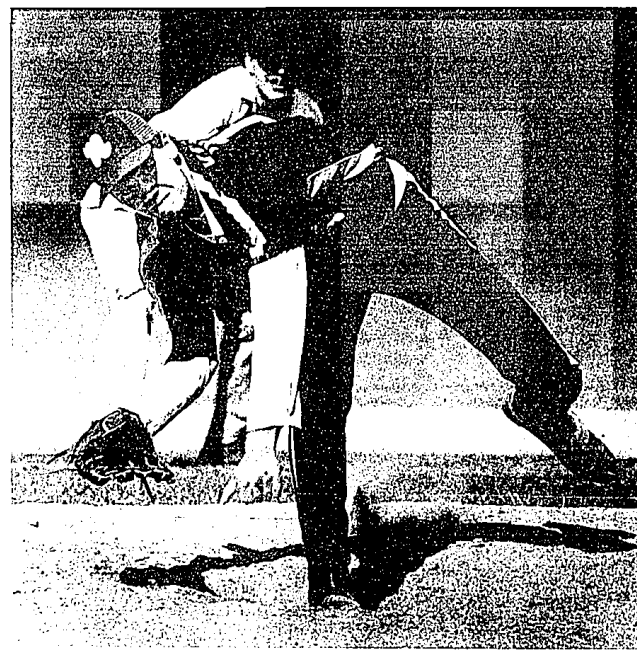
STEVENSON 9, FARMINGTON

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Gerry Haight got back to first base safely on this pickoff attempt as Livonia Churchill's Lance Sullivan takes a high throw.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North Farmington pitcher Rick Karcher held Livonia Churchill batters to only two hits in 4½ innings, but he ended up taking the loss in the Raiders' 12-5 loss to the Chargers.

Six-run inning dooms Hawks

A six-run fifth inning boosted Walled Lake Central to a 9-4 softball win over Farmington Harrison Friday.

The big inning broke a 1-1 tie and gave the Vikings a big enough advantage to fend off a three-run rally by the Hawks in the bottom of the sixth.

Harrison's Keri Prieskorn, a junior center fielder, had a two-run single in the sixth and was two-for-three for the game.

Sophomore catcher Lisa Donovan also was two-for-three for the Hawks, who slip to 3-4 in the division and 4-7 overall.

Heidi Reyst, 4-6, suffered the defeat, though only two of WLC's runs were earned. She walked four and struck out one.

DAWN MARSELAC was the winning pitcher, striking out seven

softball

Hawks and walking four. Kelly Thayer was two-for-four and stole three bases for the Vikings.

On Wednesday, Harrison used a five-run fifth inning to gain a 7-4 victory over Walled Lake Western. Almee Katz' two-run single gave the Hawks a 2-0 lead in the third inning, and a bases-loaded, two-run single by Stacie Kool was the big blow in the fifth.

Harrison also was active on the basepaths in the fifth. Katie Doll and Theresa Spitz each had two of the Hawks' five stolen bases in the inning, and Doll had three for the game.

Reyst was the winning pitcher. She recorded five strikeouts and

walked one.

JOHN GLENN 1, N. FARMINGTON 0: North Farmington's Robyn Weatherford pitched a two-hitter Wednesday but got little hitting support as Westland John Glenn edged the Raiders.

North, which managed three hits off Glenn pitcher Dawn Williamson, had runners thrown out at home plate in the sixth and seventh innings.

Glenn scored the game's only run on Jenny Okon's sacrifice fly in the fourth inning.

FRANKLIN 5-12, FARMINGTON 3-8: Livonia Franklin rallied twice in the late innings Friday to sweep a softball double-header from Farmington.

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Harrison trackmen keep slate perfect

Farmington Harrison won every field event to crush Northville 84-53 and remain undefeated in boys track with a 5-0 record in dual meets.

In the field events, the Hawks, 3-0 in their division, had double winners in Mark Bonasso and Brian Soeder.

Bonasso won the shot put (40-10) and discus (119-8), and Soeder captured the high jump (6-0) and long jump (20-2).

Harrison's Eric Cole and Eric

Wise tied for first place in the pole vault as both reached a maximum height of 12-0.

IN ADDITION, WES Wood won the 300-meter low hurdles (41.1), Aaron Yaverski the 200 dash (23.4), Chad Burgess the 800 run (2:07.1) and Chris Hart the 1,600 run (4:37.0).

The Hawks accomplished their 31-point victory despite winning only one relay, that being the 3,200 in which Brian Morris, Scott Ratsoos, Bob Widenhammer and Dave Foss posted a 9:59.8 time.

BRIAN NEUHARDT and Chris Hill had three first places apiece Thursday to help Plymouth Salem win a showdown with Farmington in Western Lakes Activities Association boys track.

Neuhardt took top honors in all three dashes, winning the 100-meter race in 11.0 on Farmington's track, the 200 in 22.5 and the 400 in 50.6.

Hill won the 300-meter low hurdles in 40.1 and anchored the Rocks' victories in the 400 and 800 relays. Garrett Bowie, Greg Pahl and

boys track

LaMar Crayton combined with Hill to win the 400 in 45.8, and Chris Turnbull, Shawn Simms and Bowie carried the baton prior to Hill's anchor run in the 800, which Salem won with a 1:33.9 time.

THE ROCKS ALSO won the discus and long jump with James Blaylock throwing the discus 129-6 and Sean Hunter jumping 19-9.

Despite the first places, it was Kevin Jones' second-place finish in the 3,200 run — the next to last

event — that locked up the victory for Salem.

That got the Rocks off the hook since they had a 69-53 lead before Farmington, with its outstanding distance runners, won the 1,600 relay to cut the final margin to a one-point difference.

"What Jones did sewed it up, but obviously every point along the way made a difference," Salem coach Gary Balconi said. "Our distance runners knew they would have to work real hard, and they did an excellent job."

FARMINGTON WAS led by Brandon London, who won two events and was on both of the Falcons' winning relay teams.

London's individual victories came in the high jump (6-0) and 800 run (1:59.5). He teamed with Dave Barringer, Ron Smedley and Mark Langdon to take first place in the 1,600 relay (9:34.8), and London, Smedley, Tom Hunt and Langdon won the 3,200 relay in 8:42.2.

Chris Inch was a double winner for Farmington with firsts in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs. He recorded times of 4:18.3 and 9:57.5, respectively.

The Falcons also won two other field events, Ed Sudzina taking the shot put (49-6) and Andrew Holliday the pole vault (15-0).

Salem is 4-0 in the WLAA and 4-1 overall. Farmington's record stands at 2-3.

NORTH FARMINGTON was limited to victories in four events Thursday while losing to a formidable Westland John Glenn boys track team, 102-35.

The Raiders' Chad Henry won the high jump (6-0), Adam Kahn the 300-meter low hurdles (41.3) and Jeff Simpson the 3,200 run (10:33.0).

The North foursome of Bill Krall, Doug Cohen, Henry and Kahn also captured the 800 relay with a 1:39.3 clocking.

John Glenn's Dan Liedel won the 800 (2:08.8) and mile (4:46.4) runs, and Marcus Lowe won the 160 (11.4) and 200 (23.7) dashes.

Getting it straight

Rocks, Falcons emerge from confusing race

It appears the wacky Western Lakes Girls Soccer League race is finally being sorted out.

Plymouth Salem can wrap up its first title ever with a victory today at home over Farmington, its closest pursuer.

Through Friday, the Rocks led the circuit with a 9-1-2 record. Right behind was Farmington at 8-1-3. Then, three other teams were in a logjam for third — defending champion Livonia Churchill (10-2-2), Plymouth Canton (9-2-2) and Northville (8-2-2).

On Wednesday, Salem took a giant step toward the title with a convincing 7-3 victory at Livonia Stevenson. It was the Rocks' second straight win over the Spartans this season.

Coach Ken Johnson was ecstatic with his team's play, particularly in the first half as the Rocks built a commanding 4-0 lead.

Sophomore Jill Estey continued her assault on opposing goalies, scoring four times. Michelle Minton added two goals and an assist and Teri

soccer

King added another goal.

Karen Carney scored twice for Stevenson and Lori Green had a goal and two assists.

On Friday, Salem travelled to Livonia Franklin and came away with a 4-1 win as Estey notched her 22nd goal of the year. Minton, the freshman, scored twice to up her total to 17. Sara Hayes scored in the second half to give the Rocks a 4-0 lead.

Toni Stiglmair scored the lone goal for Franklin, which dropped to 5-7-1.

CANTON 2, CHURCHILL 1: In one of the biggest surprises of the year Wednesday, Plymouth Canton up-

ended visiting Livonia Churchill as Shannon Meath scored twice, both on assists from Jenny Russell.

The Chiefs got superb defensive play from Tricia Greenhalge, Cheryl Nigra, Renee Rice and Molly Menard to help make things easier for goalie Jen Saul.

"I think the Stevenson win last Friday gave us a shot in the arm and picked us up a little bit," said Canton coach Don Smith. "If you let Churchill score a couple on you early they're really tough, but we scored early and I really picked us up. I thought we could stop them from scoring a lot on us, but I didn't know if we could score on them."

On Friday, Canton got a pair of goals from Michelle Longino in a 4-0 triumph at Walled Lake Central.

Russell and Julie Stabnick also scored for the Chiefs, while Michelle Fortier and Lori Stoecklein drew assists.

On Thursday, Canton blanked visiting North Farmington, 2-0, as Stabnick and Amy West scored on corner kicks from Longino and Russell, respectively.

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District pairings

CLASS A DISTRICT

GIRLS SOCCER

TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

ANN ARBOR HURON

Monday, May 11: Ann Arbor Pioneer (A) at Plymouth Canton (B), 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13: Ann Arbor Huron at Plymouth Canton, 6 p.m.; Belleville at A-B winner site, TBA.
Saturday, May 16: Championship final, 2 p.m. at Ann Arbor Huron (winner advances to the Lansing-Wolverine regional vs. Brighton district champion, May 23).

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Monday, May 11: Livonia Ladywood (A) vs. Farmington Hills Marcy (B), 4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13: Livonia Stevenson at Livonia Churchill, 7 p.m.; Farmington at site of A-B winner, TBA.
Saturday, May 16: Championship final, 10 a.m. at Schoolcraft College (field No. 8

(winner advances to the Troy Regional vs. Northville district champion, May 23).

NORTHVILLE

Monday, May 11: Walled Lake Central (A) at Northville (B), 7 p.m. (distative); Walled Lake Central (C) vs. Novi (D), TBA.
Wednesday, May 13: C-D winner at North Farmington, 4 p.m.
Friday, May 15 or Saturday, May 16: Championship final to be announced (winner advances to the Troy Regional vs. Schoolcraft College district champion, May 23).

SOUTHFIELD

Wednesday, May 13: Redford Bishop Redford at Livonia Franklin, 4:30 p.m.; Redford Union at Southfield, 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 16: Championship final, noon at Heights regional vs. Dearborn Edgewood district champion, May 23).