



Sports

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Hawk hurler handcuffs Canton for a 10-2 win

Heidi Reyst turned in a solid pitching performance Thursday to carry Farmington Harrison to a 10-2 softball victory over Plymouth Canton.

In going the distance, she struck out nine and issued only three walks. Reyst, who has all the decisions for the 2-3 Hawks, scattered five hits.

"That's the best game she's pitched — ever," Harrison Coach Mike Teachman said. "She had complete control all the time."

The Hawks jumped ahead 5-0 in the first inning when Canton committed the majority of its five errors and Harrison sent nine batters to the plate.

The Chiefs' only runs came in the third inning on two singles and a double by Debbie Smith. During Harrison's four-run seventh inning, Edye Fleischer hit a two-run single and Reyst had an RBI double.

Theresa Splz paced the Hawks' nine-hit attack, going three-for-four with a double, two RBI and two stolen bases.

N. FARMINGTON 14, STEVENSON 2: North Farmington had only three hits but took advantage of 20 walks from Livonia Stevenson pitchers to post a 14-2 softball victory Wednesday.

In contrast to Stevenson's number of free passes, North's Robyn Weatherford pitched a one-hitter and walked only one.

Both Stevenson runs were unearned, and Weather-

ford, who struck out two, has not allowed an earned run in the last 20 innings she has pitched.

Kelly Coulson, Jill Hillier and Renee Fishell had two-run singles in the first, second and third innings as the Raiders moved out to a 13-2 lead.

North, 3-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-1 overall, is idle until it meets Farmington Harrison April 27.

MERCY 3, GROVES 0: Amy Edwards was the winning pitcher and also singled home a run Wednesday in Farmington Mercy's win over Birmingham Groves.

The Falcons had nine hits off Edwards, but she held them in check by walking only one while striking out four.

Kristen Orlandoni's run-scoring single in the first inning put Mercy ahead to stay. Edwards got her RBI in the second, and Molly McWood scored the third run on a bases-loaded walk in the fourth inning.

The Marlins were active on the basepaths, stealing seven bases. Edwards, who was two-for-three, and Orlandoni had two stolen bases apiece.

SALEM 4, FARMINGTON 1: Kim Berrie scattered four hits, and Sandy Oberlessen had two hits Wednesday in Salem's victory over the Falcons.

Berrie struck out six and walked two for the 5-0 Rocks. Farmington pitcher Becky Phillips went the distance, allowed eight hits, walked three and fanned one.



Photos by RANDY BOHST/staff photographer

Harrison's Heidi Reyst had her best outing as a Hawk pitcher with a nine-strikeout, five-hit performance.



Canton's only runs resulted from Debbie Smith's third-inning double in Wednesday's loss to Farmington Harrison.

Spengler triple triggers North triumph

North Farmington edged to a season-opening dual-meet victory Wednesday, thanks not only to Alice Jewell's first-place finish in the 3,200-meter run (12:33.6) but to Donna Chuba's third in the same event (12:52.0).

Chuba's third gave the Raiders the point they needed to beat Walled Lake Central 64½-63½ at Central. A victory by the Vikings in the meet's final event, the 1,600 relay, wasn't enough to overtake North.

Jewell's win was one of seven for the Raiders in the meet, and three of those were by Tammy Spengler. Spengler high-jumped 4-11 and was

clocked at 13.30 in the 100 and 27.6 in the 200 to collect firsts in all three.

Suzi Butcher was a winner for North in two other events: the shot put (30-8¼) and the discus (93-8¼). The Raiders also took the 400 relay (55.14).

North is now idle until April 30, when it hosts Farmington.

PLYMOUTH CANTON coach George Pryzgodski knew his team's season opener wasn't going to be easy. Livonia Churchill was expected to challenge Canton for the Western Lakes Activities Association

girls track

Western Division title; beginning the season against such a tough opponent isn't exactly ideal.

And while the Chiefs weren't able to defeat the challengers, they didn't succumb to them, either. A victory in the meet's final event — the mile relay — enabled Canton to forge a 64-64 tie Wednesday at Churchill.

"We were fighting an uphill battle all the way," said Pryzgodski. "They would build a lead, we'd catch up, and then they'd go back in front. But it was our first meet and, considering we have such a young team, I was pleased. We had to win the mile relay to tie, and we did."

Angie Miller, Kristy Brugar, Sher-

ry Figurski and Tricia Carney combined to get Canton the tie with a winning time of 4:23.3 in the mile relay. The Chiefs also won the 880 relay (1:54.99).

IF THERE was a star of the meet, it was Churchill's Karen Kantor. She won three individual events and led off the Chargers' winning two-mile relay, a remarkable feat in itself. But the events she ran — and won — made Kantor's performance even more startling: the 880 (2:35.1), mile (5:58.5) and two mile (12:49.3).

"She ran competitively four miles in the meet," noted Pryzgodski. "I've

never seen anybody do that."

Canton had its share of solid performances, including three firsts in the field events. Sue Perko was best in the shot put (30-feet, three-inches), Janet Armstrong won the high jump (4-9) and Sherry Figurski captured the long jump (14-7).

Winners for the Chiefs on the track were Tonya Walaskay in the 110 hurdles (18.4) and Carney in the 440 (1:04.8).

Canton will resume its season Saturday, when it combines with Salema to host the CEP Invitational Saturday.

One Lap attracts a motley sort

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

And they're off!

Sixty-three cars and their crews left the Unkroyal Goodrich Technical Center in Troy Friday morning on a grueling, 10-day, 8,000-mile rally tour of the country.

The drivers included airline pilots, salesmen, professional drivers, computer technicians and one state trooper from Alaska who admitted he will use a radar detector to avoid the law during his turns behind the wheel in the fourth annual One Lap of America.

Vehicles included such high-performance machines as 1987 Audi Quattros, Mustang GTs and Dodge Shelby's. They also included a 1974 Plymouth, Jeeps, vans, a Ford with 95,000 miles and two ancient but thoroughly renovated Ford delivery vans (one from 1922, the other from 1927).

RICHARD WISE of Bloomfield Hills was one of a three-man crew in car 21, a Dodge Shelby owned by Paul Milnar of Pound Ridge, N.Y. The back seat looked just about big enough for a cup of cheese. The high-performance car has a suspension that Milnar said bounces to every crack in the road.

The car was built for speed and durability, not comfort. So why was Wise so excited about the prospect of spending the next 10 days cramped inside, traveling the country at an average predicted speed of 48 mph, 24 hours a day?

"It's an enormous change of pace and relief from day-in, day-out busyville and what I do the rest of the year," said Wise, a food broker for The Pelester Co. in Livonia. "It's a modern-day adventure. It brings excitement and stimulation."

Milnar, who owns the car, named the team the Tiger Rallye Team. When he's not driving in rally events around North America, he flies a 747 at 600 mph for Flying Tiger Airlines. The car, despite its gleaming looks, has 35,000 miles on it, including two 5,000-mile Alcan rallies from Seattle to the Arctic Circle and back to Vancouver.

The third member of the Tiger team was Dan Goodwin, who — when he isn't racing around the country waiting for his radar detector to go off — is a state trooper in Alaska.

All three have driven in One Lap of America before, with Goodwin on the team that finished fourth two years ago.

ONE LAP OF America grew out of the legendary, and highly illegal, Cannonball Runs that Burt Reynolds made famous in a couple of movies. Brock Yates, who wrote the Cannonball screenplays and is editor of Car and Driver Magazine, organized the original Cannonball runs and has been organizer of the rally since it went legal three years ago.

Yates was in Troy for the start, as was drag-strip legend Don (Big Daddy) Garlitz, who served as official starter. NBC crews were there for an upcoming hour-long special. Time Magazine and Sports Illustrated had photographers and report-

ers to document the beginning of the event.

Local drivers included Jim Bardia of Bloomfield in the Benhanna 1922 Ford delivery van; Erhard Dahm of Southfield in a 1988 BMW; Wayne Wolfe of Rochester Hills in a 1929 Ford delivery van; John Kish of Livonia in a 1986 GMC safari van; Michael Ardolean of Auburn Hills in a 1985 GMC van; Nick Hulea of Farmington in a 1986 Audi 5000 Turbo; Carl Grotte of Farmington in a 1986 Oldsmobile; and James Bacon of Bloomfield in a Buick Regal.

Some of the better-financed crews had support vehicles complete with extra tires, tools and mechanics. Some even had what are called blocker cars, to run ahead of the rally cars during stretches where, despite official protests to the contrary, excessive speeds are planned. The blockers attract the attention of cops, with the volunteer drivers picking up tickets so that the racers can zip through unmolested.

"You built up some time so you can do things like stop and eat," admitted Goodwin.

THOUGH SPEEDING is an accepted part of the rally — banners for Escort radar detectors were everywhere at the start and there probably wasn't a car without a detector in the race — the event is one of timing more than speed.

The race isn't so the swiftest, but to the team that hits certain checkpoints closest to schedule.

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STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Sixty-three vehicles left Troy Friday to begin a 10-day journey across the United States.