

# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/644-1101



(F1D)

## Hawks battle to end, but lose in semifinals

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

"It was a great season," coach Glenn Bruhan told his Farmington Harrison soccer players.

The most successful season in school history carried the Hawks all the way to the Class B semifinals in Oxford, where it ended Wednesday night with a 4-3 loss to East Grand Rapids.

Harrison, the last Western Lakes Activities Association team to exit from the tournaments, finished with a 12-6-2 record.

The Pioneers, also enjoying their best year, are 18-3-1 and will meet Mount Clemens Lutheran North, a 1-0 winner over Richard Gull Lake in the other semifinal, for the state championship at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School.

"It's been a tremendous year," Bruhan said. "We won three games in overtime (during the district and regional tournaments), and they showed a lot of character in those three."

"That was a real accomplishment, and they should be proud of it. I know I am."

### soccer

THE HAWKS played from behind most of the night, but they had a chance to send yet another game into overtime in the final seconds.

Harrison trailed 4-2 since early in the second half, and it looked like the score would remain that as the EGR defense consistently cleared the ball from its end and denied the Hawks many scoring opportunities.

Providing a further hindrance was the fact the last 14 minutes were played in a steady rain, sometimes a downpour, that made the field slick and created another obstacle for Harrison.

But Bruhan's bunch began pressing late in the game, and Craig Bailey cut the deficit to one with two minutes left.

TO THE right of the goal, Bailey scudded himself on the wet field while struggling against gravity to maintain control. He did and fired the ball into the EGR net.

"You could tell he just wanted that

goal, and the first one he scored was a rocket, too," Bruhan said of a first-half goal that tied the score at 2-2.

The Hawks kept the pressure on EGR, and Bailey dropped the ball squarely in front of the Pioneer goal on a throw-in from the corner with less than 30 seconds to play. There was a frantic scramble for possession, and a teammate got off a shot. But the last-gasp effort was wide left.

"It's a game of inches," Bruhan said. "That last one was just six inches off."

EGR jumped in front 2-0, but Thierry Bersot and Bailey pulled the Hawks even. Mark Manion beat a defender 1-on-1 to give the Pioneers a 3-2 halftime lead, and Dick Hillary's second goal, this one off a penalty kick at 34:24 in the second half, gave the Pioneers a two-goal advantage.

THE HAWKS also got a chance to score on a penalty kick, but EGR goalkeeper Brian Bolen dove to stop Bailey's shot just inside the right post.

"You can't take anything away from their goalkeeper; he won the game for them," Bruhan said.

## Falcons take regional title

Farmington had been a bridesmaid long enough in girls cross country.

The Falcons finally finished on top Saturday when they won the Class A regional at Royal Oak Kimball.

Catholic League champion Farmington Hills Mercy was runner-up in the regional and also will take its team to Saturday's state meet.

"We've been excluded from first place in all these big meets all year," Farmington coach John Barrett said. "So this is the first time we sorta put our act together."

The Falcons peaked at last year's regional, and Barrett had been hoping all season they would do the same again.

FOR THE most part, Farmington did, with an overwhelming performance by sophomore Amy Trunk lead-

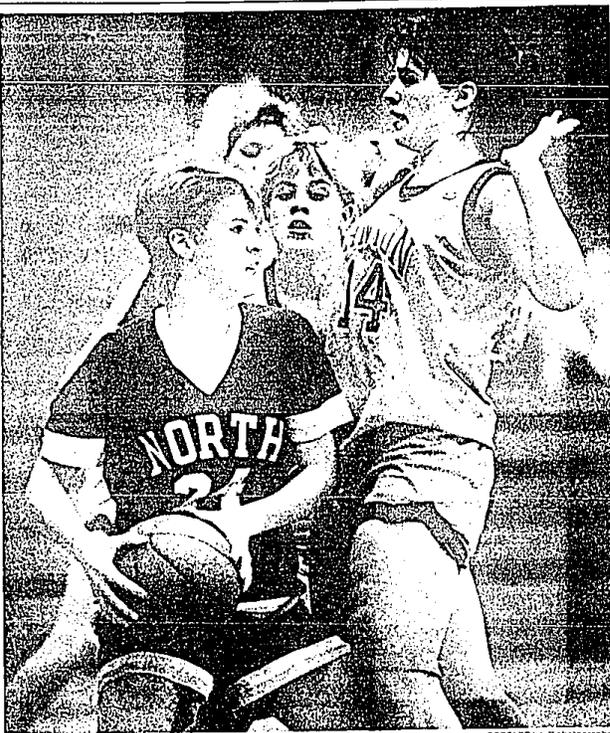
### girls cross country

ing the way. She captured first-place honors with her best time of the season, 19:50.

Trunk was only 14 seconds off the school record of 19:36, which belongs to teammate Bonnie Stecker, who posted that time at last year's state meet. Stecker ran her best time of the season and was third overall at 20:24.

"Amy seems to really get charged up for the big

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DILL DRESLER/staff photographer

### Cagers in playoffs

Donna O'Brien searches for a teammate to take a pass during North Farmington's game at Plymouth Canton in the final round of the Western Lakes playoffs Tuesday. The Raid-

ers lost the game 71-35. Canton's Heather Miller (14) tries to avoid committing a foul. See Page 2D for game story.

## Allen Park to provide opposition for Hawks

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

If Allen Park football coach Ed Bellas is correct, Saturday's first-round playoff game between his Jaguars and Farmington Harrison could be a "defensive coordinator's nightmare."

The Hawks, who finished the regular season 8-1, will take on undefeated Allen Park at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Class B action. The Jaguars earned the home-field advantage by virtue of their second-place finish in Region 4.

The top four teams in each region qualify for post-season play, with Nos. 1 and 2 going to No. 4 and the Nos. 2 and 3 teams squaring off. In the other game, Monroe Catholic Central plays Monroe Jefferson.

Harrison and Allen Park boast high-powered, highly productive offenses, and Bellas anticipates a high-scoring contest. Both teams have scored more than 300 points in nine games.

"How do you hold down two explosive teams?" Bellas asked.

HE CALLED Harrison coach John Herrington, with his offensive traps, passes, quick pitches and sweeps, is a "defensive coordinator's nightmare." But he added his offensive shot-caller, Ron Pascauzi, the former Lincoln Park head coach, will give Harrison's defense coordinator some nightmares, too.

But Bellas said his team can meet the challenge of preparing for all that Harrison will throw at it in one week.

"My defense is a basic defense, and we've been doing a lot of things, putting in a lot of things, all year," he said.

But offense is Allen Park's strength, and the offense's ability to jump on teams quickly took pressure off the defense. The Jaguars have never been behind in a game, and the first-team offense has played in only 28 of a possible 34 quarters, never in the fourth.

"The defense has never had to

### football

FARMINGTON HARRISON		
39	Southfield	8
41	Livonia Franklin	8
31	W.L. Western	15
35	Plymouth Canton	9
36	Livonia Churchill	0
14	Northville	8
6	West John Olives	14
62	West Bloomfield	0
312	8-10	47

ALLEN PARK		
27	Crossed He	18
43	Taylor Kennedy	6
17	Taylor Truman	7
28	Redford Thurston	12
45	Taylor Center	0
41	D.H. Ahnappos	20
32	Metrodale	17
34	D.H. Crestwood	14
303	Del. Lincoln West	82
	8-0	0

carry the load," Bellas said, "because we score so early in games. The defense didn't get that much experience out there, but they're going to get it Saturday."

BOTH TEAMS like the big play for the quick score, and Allen Park is known to use trick plays and gimmicks.

"They have a lot of formations and try to confuse you with unbalanced lines; they try to outthink you," Herrington said. "It will take a lot of work on defense this week to adjust."

Herrington doesn't share his counterpart's vision of a wide-open offensive duel, however. He might have more reason to believe the defenses will have a say since the Hawks have allowed only half the points (47) Allen Park has (82).

"Both teams have scored a lot of points, but in the playoffs defenses tend to dominate," Herrington said. "It won't be a 50-40 ballgame."

The key player for the Jaguars is all-purpose back John Jaskowski (6-0, 175), whom Herrington said is a definite All-State prospect and

one of the best backs his coaching staff has seen.

JASKOWSKI moves around in various formations and is often used as a misdirection back. Usually, wherever he is opponents can count on the ball being there, too, one neutral observer noted.

While averaging less than 10 carries a game, Jaskowski has rushed for 1,056 yards, and he has more than 1,600 yards when return yardage is added in. He has used his 4.5 speed to score 18 touchdowns and is a threat on kickoff and punt returns, having returned several of each for scores.

"I think their quarterback is a good passer, although we haven't seen him throw that much," said Herrington of the two times Harrison has scouted the Jaguars.

Quarterback John Leverton (6-1, 185) has completed over 50 percent of his passes and reportedly has thrown for over 500 yards. Chris Buchanan (6-0, 175) is the real workhorse at tailback and has several three-TD games, and fullback Mike Kilburg (6-0, 210) is used mostly as a blocking back. Center Greg Campbell is considered the team's best lineman.

"They have good solid kids," Herrington said. "They have 11 or 12 who are real good football players."

THE HAWKS have tried to play two-platoon football, which could provide an edge, Herrington said, but he added, "We've won a lot of games playing guys both ways."

Injuries and illnesses have forced some Harrison players to play two ways. But offensive tackles Jim Addis and Erin Reinmuth could be back in uniform. Fullbacks Rob Bruhn and Rich Esker, both of whom missed the Western Lakes championship game with John Glenn two weeks ago, are healthy again.

This year's team compares well with other Harrison ballclubs and is as balanced as any the Hawks have had, Herrington said.

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