

Sports

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(F1C)

Mercy zaps Chargers in district final

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

It took Farmington Hills Mercy an hour and 33 minutes Saturday to rout Southfield Lathrup, 8-0, in the Southfield Class A district soccer final.

Translated, the final hour sounded at 1:37 p.m., allowing the crowd plenty of time to catch the basketball playoff game on television between the Detroit Pistons and Boston Celtics.

The Mercy faithful couldn't have asked for better script.

"We won, and now they can go home and watch the Pistons," said Mercy coach Gene Fogel, moments after the Marlins accepted the district championship plaque.

The win improves Mercy to 11-1-1 overall.

soccer

This was the first district crown ever for Mercy, and it will long be remembered, even though the opponent was Lathrup, a team that finished the season at 3-14-1.

Lathrup advanced to the district final (for the first time in the school's history) by defeating host Southfield, 3-2, Thursday in a shootout.

MERCY HOSTS No. 3-ranked Livonia Churchill in a pregame game Wednesday. The Chargers defeated Livonia Stevenson 1-

0 Saturday, in the Redford Union district final.

"Sometimes you've got to be lucky in the districts," said Fogel, the fifth-year coach. "We were fortunate with the district draw. In the past, we've faced teams like Northville, Churchill and Stevenson in the districts, and everyone ended up knocking each other off."

"But now there's only 16 teams left in the state. There will be no easy games. I think any of the 16 can win the state."

Mercy dominated from start to finish against Lathrup, bombarding the Lathrup goalkeepers with 55 shots on goal. Jenny Binkley, a key member of the way in the nets for Lathrup and did not play as poorly as the score may have indicated.

The lonely figures at the other end of the

field, meanwhile, were Mercy goalies Kelly Boudry and Renee Larabell, who shared the duties. Each Merlin goalie made one save in one half of work.

"THIS WAS ABOUT our best win we've had all year, because it has substance," said Beaudry, one of five seniors who graduated from Mercy the night before. "We've been ranked in the state polls, but we haven't been consistently ranked. Maybe now we'll get some respect. We're working our way up the states."

With the five Mercy seniors participating in graduation ceremonies Friday night, Fogel was concerned how they'd respond. Mercy led 3-0 after one half, however, with

senior Stacy Nolta scoring once and Karen Baldas, another senior, collecting two goals before halftime. The other seniors are Beaudry, Maureen Scullen and Colleen Raftery.

"There was an all-night party for the seniors at the Mercy gymnasium, but our seniors used their common sense and left at 2 a.m., so they could be ready today," Fogel said. "They were willing to sacrifice for the team. Our five seniors are four-year letter winners, and they work hard."

Five different players scored second-half goals for Mercy. Freshman Dana Lehmkohl began the onslaught, followed by seniors sophomore Kathy McDonald, Raftery, sophomore Anne Scullen and sophomore Elizabeth Demattia.

Raftery also assisted on three Mercy goals.

Hicks' 2-hitter helps Hawks slip into district

Farmington Harrison extended its streak into next week's district baseball tournament with a 2-1 victory Friday over visiting Livonia Clarenceville.

Jason Hicks tossed a two-hitter Friday, leading the Hawks to this Class B predistrict victory.

Hicks, 3-3 on the season, walked one and struck out 10 in going the distance.

Clarenceville took a 1-0 lead in the second inning, but the Chargers answered with two in the fifth.

Millard Coleman (two hits) scored Harrison's first run on an RBI single by Hicks. Bryan Waudron scored the winning run on Rob McDonald's sacrifice fly.

B.H. LAIHER 9, N. FARMINGTON 8: The Raiders used three pitchers Friday but couldn't shut down Bloomfield Hills Laiher's offensive attack as the Knights pounded out a predistrict victory.

"We just didn't get the pitching," said North coach Irvin Horwitz. "We had some errors, too, but they were a good-hitting team."

Vanoy Hill took the loss, allowing three runs in 2 1/2 innings of work. Bob Bellach was the starter but left the game after 1 1/2 innings, having allowed four runs on two hits and five walks. Rick Racher pitched the final three innings and gave up two runs.

Obviously, the Raiders were led by Joe Sturtz's 2-for-4 performance. Jerry Hakala had two hits and Racher added a two-run double.

"Our senior group is strong," said North coach Irvin Horwitz. "We had some errors, too, but they were a good-hitting team."

Jay Marcus drove in the winning run with a two-run double. Dan Bellach was the starter but left the game after 1 1/2 innings, having allowed four runs on two hits and five walks. Rick Racher added a couple insurance runs before their half of the inning ended.

Jerry Hakala was 2-for-3, scored four times and drove in a run, and Rick Racher added a 3-for-5 performance.

Racher was the winning pitcher. He gave up seven hits, two runs and walked three while striking out four in the first

Marlins prolong prep days

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Six of Farmington Hills Mercy's finest softball players picked up their diplomas Friday night, along with most of the 1988 Class A district team.

But the more mercs at least, the group isn't ready to forfeit its eligibility on the field.

Behind the ace-hitting of junior Amy Edward, Mercy defeated Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood 2-0 in a Class A predistrict game Friday.

Mercy, 8-3 overall, will play Livonia Franklin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in its district opener at Claude Alloue Field in Redford. Ladywood ends its season at 13-13.

The Mercy seniors wanted to extend their season, but had something to tell their team now that school is out.

"We're great, but we have the feeling that we're not in the tournament," said coach Karen Kiel. "We still have to come to mind, and we still have to give it our best effort. Besides, I don't think it's something I like to do all the time."

Mercy coach Karen Kiel will indoctrinate her cast of seniors, which includes four-time starting catcher Nelly Tracey and starting shortstop Kristin Drucker. Other seniors are Amy McWood, Jillie

now she's striking out five or six a game and not walking anybody. A no-hitter today would have been nice, but..."

LADYWOOD COACH Kim Lineonger, the pitching of Shannon Waller, who scattered six hits, and pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the sixth without allowing a run.

Ladywood played better than expected, said Lineonger, and her only regret was having to face Mercy this early in the state playoffs.

"Drawing Mercy didn't help; I expect them to win it (the districts)," Lineonger said. "We beat them earlier this year 2-1 and lost to them 4-3, so I expected a low scoring game. Both pitchers pitched real good today. Overall, the season was a success. It's a good mix."

Brown will welcome back Edward for another year of the mound. Edward batted Ladywood batters, who batted for 6% of Ladywood's hits. Before Kiel faced a single to center field.

Kiel's hit advanced Diana Dumanzki to second base with Ladywood's only threat. Edward struck out Carl Rodol, however, to end the game. Dumanzki reached base on a walk, the first at-bat in three games by Edward.

"I think Amy would strike out as many batters as she's been," said Brown. "But I think she's been great," said Brown.

MERCY COACH Karen Kiel will indoctrinate her cast of seniors, which includes four-time starting catcher Nelly Tracey and starting shortstop Kristin Drucker. Other seniors are Amy McWood, Jillie

we had a couple kids who came along and really helped us."

"(Nelly) Gatto moving in (to the school district) is (Shelli) Gatto, a freshman, stepping right in and made us tough in the sprint relays," he said.

Devine, in addition to winning the shot put with a throw of 35 feet, 4 inches, set a school record in the discus. She achieved a distance of 120 feet, 9 inches to break Bel Sherron's four-year-old mark of 119-9.

Devine is hoping Devine, who has broken her own shot put record numerous times this spring, can duplicate Wednesday's efforts in the Western Lakes meet today in Livonia.

The Falcons will most likely be pitted

against Western Division champ Plymouth Canton in the battle for first place. North Farmington is the defending champion.

"If we get through like that out of her in the conference meet, it will be a big help," Brown said.

Kiel dominated the distance runs, winning the 1,600-meter race in 5:40.0 and the 3,200-meter race in 12:54.0.

In addition, Farmington's Julie Lawton captured the high jump (4-8), Shelli Gatto the 500 hurdles (52.0) and Amy Trunk the 400 dash (10:29).

As usual, the Falcons also prevailed in the sprint relays, another of the team's forte's.

Carrie Maier and Angie Forge ran the

lead-off and anchor legs in both events, respectively. They combined with Jo Fox and Gatto to win the 400 relay in 51.6, and Trunk and Nicole Tocino won the 4x100 relay (5:09.0).

CHURCHILL 4, HARRISON 4: Despite ending the dual-meet season with a loss Wednesday, the Hawks consider the 1988 season to have been a success.

Harrison finished above preseason expectations by winning four of six dual meets and ending up 3-2 in the Western Division.

"At the start of the season, we thought we'd be lucky to win two but we won four," coach Mark Babcock said. "We've come along a lot faster than we expected."

Senior Tracey Radke, who had been unable to long jump because of a knee injury suffered last fall in basketball, competed in that event for the first time and captured first place at 15 feet, 2 inches.

She also ran the 400 relay, took 30 feet, 6 inches to win the shot put and anchored Harrison's winning 400 relay team.

Kamala Malosh, a double winner in the sprints, Nelly Hafim, Stacey Roemer and Radke ran the relay in 53.4. Malosh was clocked at 13.1 in the 100 dash and 27.6 for 200 meters.

Churchill's Colleen McPhee won both hurdles races and Karen Kantor the 1,600 and 3,200 runs.

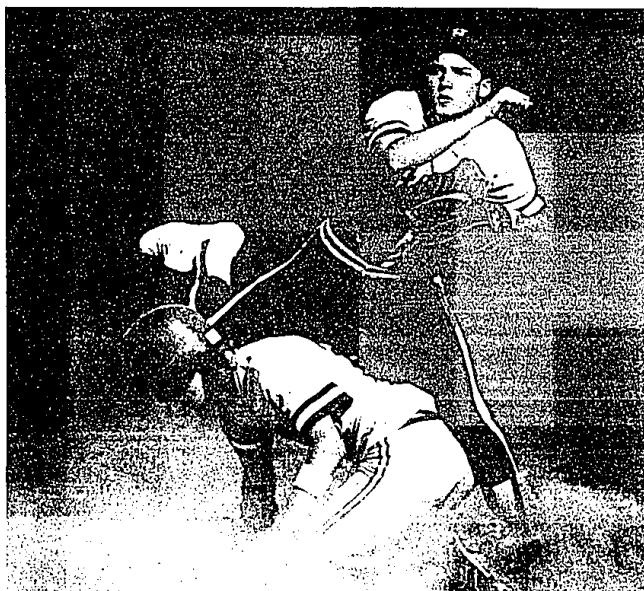
Devine, Kiel lead Falcons to division title

Farmington High celebrated a division championship in girls track and field Wednesday after dousing off Walled Lake Central 78-62 and completing an unbeaten dual-meet season.

The Falcons, led by double winners Kristi Devine and Jennifer Kiel, finished 8-0 in the Lakes Division and 6-0 overall. It is the first such title Farmington has won under third-year coach Bruce Brown.

"I thought we'd be OK," Brown said of his preseason impression, "but I didn't realize we could do this."

"Besides the regular people we depend on,



Jason Lichman turns a game-ending double play for Harrison as the Hawks beat Clarenceville 2-1 in predistrict baseball. Harrison travels to Durand for the Class B district tournament Saturday.

Hawks, Farmington ousted from tourney

Redford Union scored 10 runs on 12 hits Friday as the visiting Panthers eliminated Farmington from post-season softball play, 10-8.

Trailing 10-1, the Falcons came on strong in the bottom of the seventh inning, scoring seven runs to pull within two in the Class A predistrict game.

"We had a nice rally," Farmington coach Rich Roy said. "It just came up a little short."

Sherly Zenon was the winning pitcher, limiting the Falcons to seven hits.

Kelli Foss paced Farmington's offense with two hits.

Stefanie Koleski was slapped with the loss, allowing eight hits and walking four through the first six innings.

"Our chances are pretty good," Roy said. "I expect them to take the districts. But I also know that they've taken one game at a time, and we have a tendency to play to the opponents' level."

"We've given a team like (Central Division champion) Harrison Wood a chance to play good games and lost by one," Roy said. "But we've beaten (Redford Bishop) Durand, Durand, Durand, Durand."

"We have to keep improving. It's a lot of it has to do with Kelli," Roy said.

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softball

Farmington finished the season at 5-17.

SHRINE 4, HARRISON 1: Karen Nofrari (2-0) drove in Robyn Cohen with a first-inning single, striking the Hawks to an early lead in this predistrict game Friday against visiting Royal Oak Shrine.

Unfortunately for the Hawks, it was their only run of the afternoon as Shrine went on to win the game.

Keri Prieskorn was tagged with the loss.

Stefanie Koleski was slapped with the loss, allowing eight hits and walking four through the first six innings.

"This is the best game we played all year," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "We just kept improving."

"It's a great experience for us in the games, so we have a chance to win. She usually doesn't walk many. Today she walked a lot but it was hot."