

Sports

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Monday, May 30, 1988 O&E



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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, 9-0, 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 a 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 11-4-1 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 3-1-1.

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 final 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 Bishop played most 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 Boudary and Renee Larabell, who shared the duties. Each Marlin 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 Boudary, 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. Fogel led 3-0 after one half, however, with

senior Stacy Nolte scoring once and Karen Baldas, another senior, collecting two goals before halftime. The other seniors are Boudary, Maureen Scullen and Colleen Rafferty.

"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 Lehnkuhl began the onslaught, followed by tallies from sophomore Kathy McDonald, Rafferty, sophomore Anne Scullen and sophomore Elizabeth Demattia.

Rafferty also assisted on three Mercy goals.

Hicks' 2-hitter helps Hawks slip into district

Farmington Harrison extended its season 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 Wauldron scored the winning run on Rob McDonald's sacrifice fly.

B.H. LAISER 9, N. FARMINGTON 6: The Raiders used three pitchers Friday but couldn't shut down Bloomfield Hills Laisher's offensive attack as the Knights pounded out a predistrict victory.

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

Veney Hill took the loss, allowing three runs in 2½ innings of work. Bob Bullach was the starter but left the game after 1½ innings, having allowed four runs on two hits and five walks. Rick Rachner pitched the final three innings and gave up two runs.

Offensively, the Raiders were led by Joe Sturtz' 2-for-4 performance. Jerry Hakala had two RBI and Rachner added a two-run double.

baseball

Scott Kipp led the Knights with three hits and three RBI.

N. FARMINGTON 9-13, CHURCHILL 5-7: The Raiders improved to 5-10 in the Western Lakes and 5-11 overall after sweeping this double-header Wednesday from visiting Livonia Churchill.

Andy Drake was the winning pitcher in the opener, working the final four innings in relief of starter Vasey Hill. Drake shut the Chargers down, allowing two hits, no walks and fanning three.

Joe Sturtz sparked the North offense with a solo home run in a 2-for-4 batting performance. He also drove in two runs. Brian Miller went 3-for-4 (single, double, triple) and drove in two runs.

In the nightcap, the Raiders scored six runs in the top of the eighth inning to earn the win.

Jay Marcoux drove in the winning run with a two-out, two-run single. Drake, who was 3-for-4 with four RBI, followed with a two-run single, and the Raiders added a couple insurance runs before their half of the inning ended.

Jerry Hakala was 2-for-3, scored four runs and drove in a run, and Rick Rachner added a 3-for-5 performance with two RBI.

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

four innings. Bob Bullach picked up the save striking out six in the final four innings.

SOUTHFIELD 8, FARMINGTON 0: Dale Hayes slashed a base-loaded double Tuesday, May 24, to help power Southfield past Farmington 8-0 in a qualifying-round baseball game.

David Held pitched a four-hitter for Southfield, 9-15. He walked only one and struck out three. Darin Magara was the loser, giving up 10 hits in seven innings. He fanned four and also walked one.

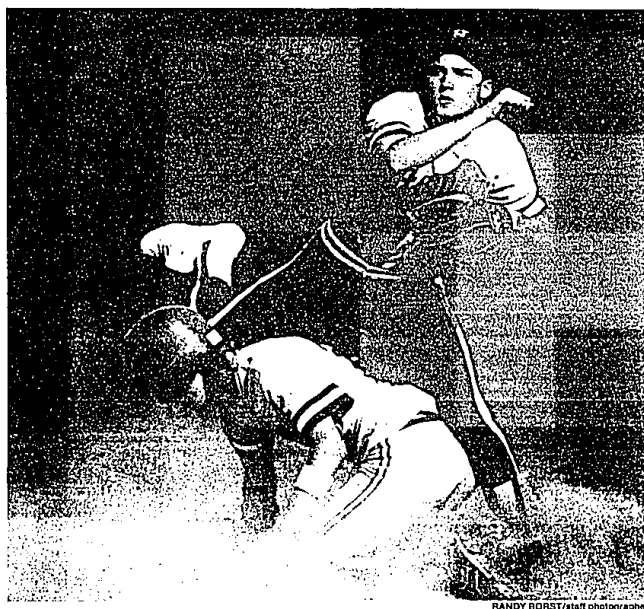
Hayes, Jason Bridges, Richard Nabeed had two hits apiece for the winners. Bridges also knocked in two runs.

STEVENSON 3, HARRISON 0: David Houghtby pitched a two-hitter Monday, May 23, and handcuffed the Hawks in Western Lakes baseball action. Houghtby pitched a complete game, never faced more than four batters in one inning and threw 96 pitches, getting the best of a usually-potent Harrison lineup in the process.

"They are a real good hitting team; that's why it was such an impressive thing what David did," Stevenson coach Jim George said. "He pitched the game of his life, and it was a real big win."

Houghtby also had one of three RBI singles for the Spartans, 7-8 in the league. Mike Dalmonico and Ron Bryan also drove in runs. Sean Murray and Dan Justice had the only Harrison hits.

Craig Murray scattered five Stevenson hits, struck out six and walked three. "It was a nicely pitched game by both sides," Harrison coach John Herrington said.



Jason Lichtman 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.

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 the rest of the 1988 graduating class.

But for one more week at least, the group isn't ready to forfeit the eligibility on the field.

Behind the one-hit pitching of junior Amy Edwards, Mercy defeated Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood 2-0 in a Class A predistrict game Friday.

Mercy, 25-8 overall, will play Livonia Franklin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the district opener at Claude Allison Field in Redford. Ladywood ends its season at 15-12.

The Mercy seniors wanted to extend their season, had have something to hide their time now that school is out.

"We're graduated, but we have the feeling that you're still at Mercy," said senior second baseman Molly McWood. "We still have to come to school every day to practice and it gives us something to do. Besides, I love softball, and it's something I like to do all the time."

MERCY COACH Sherry Brown will make her last of seniors, who finished their prep careers starting catcher Nicki Prater and shortstop Kristi Orlando. Other seniors are McWood, Julie

softball

Jovian, Mandy McKenna and Suzi McNish.

Orlando scored Mercy's second run Friday on an RBI double by junior Kerry Sayers in the second inning. Mercy scored both its runs in the second, with McWood scoring the first run on a Ladywood error.

"Our senior group is strong," Brown said. "Usually all six play at some point in the games for us. They are important to our team, but we also have seven juniors who are instrumental to our success. It's a good mix."

Brown will welcome back Edward for another year on the mound. Friday, Edward baffled Ladywood hitters, who were hitless for 6½ innings before Kaitlin Knittel scored a single to center field.

Knittel's hit mirrored Dana Domanski to second base with Ladywood's only threat. Edward struck out Lori Knoll, however, to end the game. Domanski walked home on a walk, the first at-bat in three games by Edward.

During the season Amy would strike out as many batters as she'd walk, said Brown. "But

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 Linenger praised the pitching of Shannon White, 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 this season, Linenger said, 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 district)," Linenger said. "We lost earlier this year 2-1 and lost to them, so I expected a low scoring game. Both pitchers pitched real good today. Overall, the season was a success. What can you say?"

Brown also expects Mercy to prevail in the districts.

"Our chances are pretty good," Brown said. "Actually, I'd be pretty disappointed if we didn't take the districts. But I also know that this team takes one game at a time, and we have a tendency to play in the opponent's level."

"We have given a team like Catholic Central Division champion Harper Woods a good game and lost by one run. But we've beaten Redford Union, Brighton and the place team, by one run."

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."

Shelly Zenoni was the winning pitcher, limiting the Panthers 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.

The Panthers were paced by Lisa Fretter with three hits and Trudy Bates and Janine Sorel with two each.

Redford Union, 5-14 overall, plays the winner of the Livonia Churchill-Redford game next Saturday in the district tournament at RU.

softball

Farmington finished the season at 5-17.

SHIRINE 4, HARRISON 1: Karen Najarian (2-3) drove in Robyn Cohen with a first-inning single, slaking 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 Priestorn was tagged with the loss. She struck out five, walked eight and gave up six hits in going the distance for Harrison.

"This is the best game we played all year," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "We just kept improving. A lot of it has to do with Keri (Priestorn)."

"She keeps 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."

Devine, Kiel lead Falcons to division title

Farmington High celebrated a division championship in girls track and field Wednesday after dusting off Wallied Lake Central 78-52 and completing an unbeaten dual-meet season.

The Falcons, led by double winners Kristi Devine and Jennifer Kiel, finished 5-0 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,

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

(Nicole) Tocco moving in (to the school district) and (Shelly) Gaul, a freshman, stepping right in to save me some 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 Beth Sherman's four-year-old mark of 119-9.

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

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 throws 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 5:40.9 and the 3,200 contest in 12:34.0.

In addition, Farmington's Julie Lawlor captured the high jump (4-8), Shelly Gaul the 300 hurdles (52.0) and Amy Trunk the 400 dash (1:02.9).

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

Carrie Maier and Angie Forge ran the

lead-off and anchor legs in both events, respectively. They combined with Jo Fox and Gaul to win the 400 relay in 51.6, and Trunk and Nicole Tocco were their 800 teammates as Farmington posted a 1:50.9 time.

CHURCHILL 85, HARRISON 43: 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 had a toss of 30 feet, 6 inches to win the shot put and anchored Harrison's winning 400 relay team.

Kamala Malook, a double winner in the sprints, Nivla Hakim, Slacey Roemer and Radke ran the relay in 53.4. Malook 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.