

# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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## South captures district, earns regional berth

South Farmington begins the quest for an American Amateur Baseball Congress regional championship today following its victory in the Ann Arbor district tournament.

The Mickey Mantle ballclub (ages 14-16), which finished third in the NABF national tournament last year, defeated host Ann Arbor 6-1 last Saturday and advanced to the Coldwater regional.

South, 27-7-1, plays the Kalamazoo district winner at 2:30 p.m. Farmington will have to win five games and possibly six to win the tournament, the winner of which goes to Waterbury, Conn., for the nationwide event.

Eric Miller pitched a three-hitter as South cruised past Ann Arbor. In going the distance, he walked five and struck out one, raising his record to 3-0.

"He pitched a great game," South coach Lou

Pirronello said. "He kept them off balance. He only struck out one, but they hit a lot of balls on the ground."

KEVIN YOUNG and Rich Hamel, a postseason addition from Riverview, were 3-for-4 as Farmington outliff Ann Arbor 12-3.

Young belted a two-run homer during a five-run fourth inning and gave Farmington a 3-0 lead. Hamel had a double and two RBI, and Jay Alexander was 2-for-4.

"We really played good defense," said Pirronello, adding outfielders Billy Hardy and Paul Pirronello made outstanding catches. "Ann Arbor put the ball in play, but we made a lot of good plays."

Kevin Vanord played an outstanding game at shortstop, he added.

After the district tourney, South bolstered its

pitching staff with three draftees. Farmington added Ron Hollis, a 14-year-old from Brighton, Steve Hendrie of Southgate and Bob Czeczowski of Riverview.

"I think our chances are real good," said Pirronello, assessing the regional outlook. "We had good pitching, and now we have even better pitching."

WESTLAND, WHICH received an automatic bid to the regional based on its first-place finish in the Little Caesars League of which South is a member, plays Clawson, winner of the Plymouth Salem district, in another first-round game.

In other action, Oliver's Plaza, the champion of the Saginaw district, plays the Macomb winner, and host Coldwater faces Team Tire, which also got an automatic bid as champion of the Macomb League.

## Woodside is crowned champ in NSSL meet

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

There was a changing of the guard Sunday at the Beech Woods pool in Southfield in the Northwest Suburban Swim League championship meet.

Perennial powerhouse Bloomfield Surf, which had won the meet for the last 11 years, was upset by league rival Woodside Athletic Club, 652-645. Heart of the Hills finished third with 521.50 points followed by Orchard Valley with 449, Forest Hills with 389.50, Woodbrooke Hills with 324.50, Cranbrook with 321.50, Village with 309.50, Kendallwood with 283 and Pleasant Ridge with 276.50.

Rounding out the bottom six places were Beach-Wood with 272, Farmington Glen with 263.50, Beachview with 249, Huntington Woods with 141 and Livonia C.B. with 120.

Overall, 750 swimmers competed in the 52-event, two-day meet in which 14 new records were set.

Although Woodside led throughout the meet, the championship wasn't decided until the final relay was completed.

With just two events remaining, the girls 64 and under 200 free relay, Woodside (WAC) was holding a comfortable 45-point lead. But WAC didn't have a relay team in either of the last two final heats while Surf had a team in both. In the consolation heats of the two events, which were held Saturday, Woodside finished second (eighth overall) in the girls race and sixth (12th overall) in the boys race, good enough for a combined total of 12 points.

To win the meet Surf had to win one of the final two relays and finish no worse than second in the other.

Surf finished second to Village in the girls race, 1:54.71-1:55.21. But they couldn't pull it off in the boys race as Orchard Valley touched first in 1:43.28. Farmington Glen was second in 1:43.66 and Surf finished third in 1:44.68.

"I'M SPEECHLESS," said Woodside coach Darin Abbasse, whose team finished 4-3 in dual meets. "It's been a long time (since someone other than Surf won). I know this is our first (league meet victory) in 12

years and I think it goes back beyond that. Mike Schmidt had built this team for four years and I was just fortunate enough to be able to come in and build on what he already had established."

If this year is any indication of things to come, Woodside may be the team to beat in the future.

"We're real strong and very competitive in the younger age groups," said Abbasse when questioned about the secret to his team's success. "From 13 years on up we have about 20 kids, but from 12 on down we have about 130 kids. These younger kids are the growth and the future of Woodside. This is probably the strongest age group swim meet in Michigan. You're seeing some of the fastest kids in the state at this meet."

WOODSIDE WON 11 events, finished second in eight events and third in six. Jenny Vanker (girls 7-8 division), Liz Huckabay (girls 11-12 division) and Heather Horne (girls 15-17 division) paced the victors with two individual victories each. Ruck-

Please turn to Page 4



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Aaron Yaverski starred in football and track at Farmington Harrison High School, but he'll concentrate on track when he gets to Albion College in the fall. His prep exploits earned him Athlete of the Year honors.

## Harrison's Yaverski reaps special honor

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Change always brings new challenges, and more than one awaits Aaron Yaverski in his freshman year at Albion College.

Besides breaking ground for what he hopes will be a law career, the former star athlete at Farmington Harrison faces another in the sports arena.

But he has proved equal to the task many times before, and with such proficiency that he has been selected the Observer's Male Athlete of the Year in Farmington.

Yaverski, who starred in football and track for the Hawks, plans to continue competing in the latter, but he anticipates college competition will precipitate a change of events.

One of the area's most dominating sprinters the last two years, Yaverski might end up running longer distances instead of the short dashes he is used to such as his favorite 200-meter race.

"I REALIZE I probably won't be a 200 man," said Yaverski, adding he thought some college coaches thought he had "baked out" in high school and backed off on recruiting him. "I may be moving up to the 400 and 800 to make use of my speed."

"I'd rather concentrate on something I can be good at instead of something that's my favorite," he added. "I'm sure in time I can make the 400 or 800 my favorite."

Yaverski established — or helped to set — school records in four events, the 100 (10.8) and 200 (22.3) dashes and the 800 (1:30.6) and 1,600 (3:24.0) relays — but he is not without experience in his potential college events.

In his only attempt at running the 800, he had a "respectable time" of 2:05.0 and finished second without any training, and he has been clocked at 50.9 in the 400.

"The 800 will be a little more work for me," he said. "I think I can work into it even before the winter season starts."

"With the proper training and attitude, I can make that the event for me."

ALBION WAS ONE school eager to have Yaverski in its track pro-



Aaron Yaverski  
Male Athlete of Year

gram, but the Britons also were interested in the 6-foot-2, 195-pound tailback as a football player.

In fact, Yaverski might have been more coveted for the latter sport. After giving it much thought, he decided to concentrate on track rather than risk an injury that could jeopardize his track career or future health, he said. Trying to juggle two sports and the academic workload also was a consideration.

"At the time, I was really into football," said Yaverski, who helped Harrison reach the Class B final against Grand Rapids Catholic Central last November.

"We had just come off the loss in the Dome, and I didn't want my career to end on a loss. But, after everything settled down, I figured it was best for me not to play."

Yaverski, however, was a major reason the Hawks went 11-3 last fall and rolled up 3,218 yards in total offense, the second-best, single-season total in school history.

He paced Harrison's ground game with 1,166 yards rushing (8.5 average) and 17 touchdowns. Yaverski was named to the All-Observer team as well as other all-suburban squads.

WHAT IS SURPRISING is that Yaverski was the team's No. 2 tailback until Rick Witte was injured in

the fourth game against Walled Lake Western. Yaverski stepped in and rushed for 195 yards and two touchdowns as Harrison whipped the Warriors 31-15.

"I hated to see Rick get injured, because he's a good friend," Yaverski said. "You hate for your opportunity to come off somebody's misfortune."

"But when it came I wasn't about to sit back. I took advantage of the opportunity, and I think I showed I could play as well as anybody else in the state."

Yaverski's biggest moment on the gridiron came in the opening round of the state playoffs when the Hawks steamrolled Allen Park 29-6. He rushed for 174 yards and three TDs that afternoon.

"Going into that game, all the press was about Allen Park's big back (John Jaskowski), and I was a nothing back. Nobody had ever heard of me," Yaverski said.

"I went in there and did my thing. I did all the right things, and it was one of my best games."

YEVERSKI, WHO also played basketball his freshman and sophomore years in addition to four years of football and track, was a key to Harrison winning its first Western Lakes Activities Association track championship last spring.

He won the 200 dash with a record-tying time of 22.5, was second in the 100 sprint and anchored Hawk victories in the 800 and 1,600 relays.

"That was the biggest thing to happen in my track career, winning the league," he said. "That was something we had been shooting for since we were freshmen."

"We had been touted as the best freshman track class when we came to Harrison, and it was a big moment for me and the team."

Yaverski, who finished high school with a 3.4 grade-point average, plans to study history and political science at Albion with the hope of going to law school eventually.

"Right now, I'm looking for a future in law or politics, or a combination of both," said Yaverski, adding he might like to campaign for a prosecutor's office one day. "That's where my interests lie at this point in time."

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