

## Sports

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(P10)



# Raiders capture league championship

## No. 1 singles crown won by Harrison's Davidson

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

In a tennis tournament featuring 103 matches, many turning points and even more raindrops, it seemed unfair to shoulder much of North Farmington's burden on Pam Gressler.

After all, the girl is so petite. Nonetheless, North won the Western Lakes Activities Association girls tennis meet Thursday at Livonia Stevenson, edging Northville 17-15.

The tournament began Tuesday but extended through Thursday because of rain and cold temperatures. North, winner of the Nos. 2 and 3 doubles flights played Wednesday, had to count on Gressler at No. 4 singles to keep winning later that day. Gressler was the last remaining North player competing.

FOR EACH MATCH won, a team earned one point. Without Gressler's three match wins (two coming Wednesday) en route to the No. 4 singles crown Thursday over Plymouth Salem's Ann Gilmore, North would have tied Salem for second with 14 points.

Gressler, the second seed in her flight, defeated Northville's Diane Vogt, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. In the quarterfinals and Walled Lake Central's Wendy Wolsky in three sets in the semifinals.

"If Pam would have lost to Northville, they'd have won the thing," North coach Norm Stankiewicz said after accepting the tournament plaque Thursday. "If you stay in coaching long enough, you sense which girl is going to have a critical match. It just happened to be Pam's day to have one yesterday."

Salem claimed third place with 14 points followed by Livonia Stevenson (13), Walled Lake Central (11) and Farmington Harrison (10).

North, because of its regular-sea-

son dual meet record of 10-1, also claimed the overall title. Salem, also 10-1, was second, Northville third and Stevenson fourth. The conference title takes into account the dual-meet and league meet results.

Every championship at the WLAA meet was decided between the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds in each flight.

"AS COACHES, we've done a good job of seeding," said Stevenson coach George Croll, the tournament host. "This was about as close as any conference meet we've ever had. In seeding, the proper theory is the best players should play each other in the finals."

No. 1 seeds prevailed in five of the seven flight championships. The only exceptions were in Gressler's 6-3, 6-4 win over Gilmore and when Salem's No. 1 doubles team of Michelle Minton and Beth Cundiff defeated Stevenson's Tina Gelmlis and Diane Walsh. The Stevenson duo entered the tournament unbeaten in 19 matches.

In one of the meet's best matches, Minton and Cundiff defeated the Stevenson duo, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), a marathon affair that ended the tournament Thursday and gave Salem third place by one point over Stevenson.

"We knew it was going to be rough," Cundiff said. "I never thought we'd get off the court. We were out there so long. If we stopped concentrating for one second, we'd have lost it."

Croll wasn't disappointed by Stevenson's fourth-place finish, and he praised Gelmlis for her leadership. "I'm proud of the girls," he said. "I told people at the beginning of the year we wouldn't be awesome but we'd be competitive."

"TINA IS THE sparkplug for us. She's always energetic and real enthusiastic. She practices real hard and sets a good example."



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Kori Davidson of Harrison earned the title as championship. In doing so, she helped the best tennis player in the Western Lakes Activities Association by winning the No. 1 singles

North dominated doubles play, with the tandem of Heather Reilly and Lori Sampson getting the Raiders a win in No. 2 doubles, 6-3 and 6-4, over Stevenson's Amy Snow and Mary Frances Larabell. North's No. 3 team of Amy Bordin and Lynn Cohn downed Stevenson's Kathy McConnell and Molly Vogt, 7-6 (9-7), 7-4.

In singles play, it was no surprise that sophomore Kori Davidson, the tournament's top seed, marched through her flight unscathed.

Davidson, who won't turn 15 until December, defeated Salem's Misy Smith in straight sets in the semifinals and Walled Lake Central's Jackie Brown, 6-0, 6-4, in the finals.

Davidson, who lost to Dearborn's Sue Somerville (now a senior) last fall in the Class B finals, hopes to get another chance at the title this year.

SAID HARRISON coach Bernie Goldstein: "She plays intelligently and makes the right shot when on the court. I don't think she's slow. In my mind, she's only 14 and probably hasn't grown enough to where she has as much speed."

The Nos. 2 and 3 singles championships belonged to Northville. The Mustangs' Abby Edwards prevailed at No. 2, and Karen Vogt won the No. 3 title.

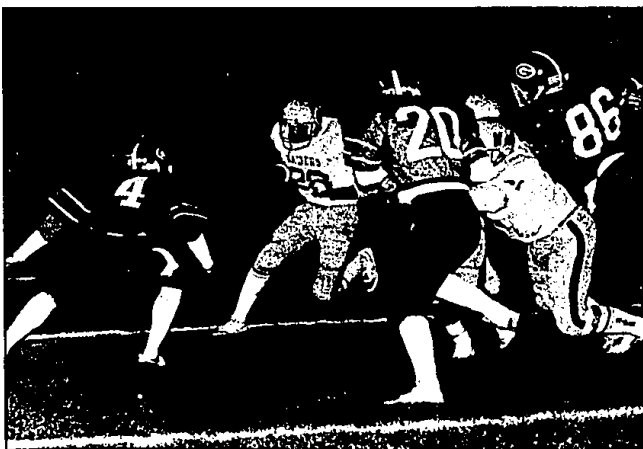
Only a handful of flights needed to be finished Thursday afternoon when the weather was more tolerable. Play was delayed Tuesday and Wednesday because of the frigid weather and rain.

"The weather definitely had an effect on the kids," Salem coach Judy Braun said. "It took longer for them to warm up and the wind was terrible."

### tennis

*'I'm playing better than last year, but so is (Sue Somerville). I'd like to win the state, but it'll be tough. I'm so slow. I have to improve my running.'*

— Kori Davidson  
WLAA tennis champion



Jerry Hakala of North Farmington tries to turn the corner, but the John Glenn defense, led by Casey Killingbeck (4), stands in the way. The Raiders suffered their first loss, 20-8.

## Glenn passes North in Lakes grid finale

By Brad Emone  
staff writer

If there was any doubt about Westland John Glenn's ability to throw the football, quarterback Eric Stover laid that to rest Friday.

The junior signal caller connected nine of 14 passes for 118 yards, including three touchdown passes, leading the host Rockets to a 20-6 victory over previously unbeaten North Farmington.

By winning the Lakes Division title again, Glenn's victory sets up another classic confrontation Saturday with another unbeaten team, Farmington Harrison. Glenn has beaten the Hawks in two previous Western Lakes Activities Association championship games, including a 14-6 victory last season. (Harrison will host Saturday's WLAA final at 1 p.m.)

But before Glenn coach Gord Gordon wanted to start thinking about his next opponent, he wanted



to reflect on his team's victory over North and the performance by Stover, who also added 37 yards on the ground in five attempts.

"THIS IS MAYBE the most effective throwing we've done this year," Gordon said. "And Eric is only going to get better and better. He's smart and he's a team player."

"We felt we could throw, but a lot of teams hadn't seen us do anything but run. And we had been running with success. We knew they (North) would stack it up against us."

Prior to the Lakes Division showdown, Glenn's offense consisted solely of the running of 210-pound tailback Bryant Satterlee, who only a week earlier in a 32-6 victory over

previously unbeaten Plymouth Salem, scored five TDs while rushing for 104 yards.

But on this night the Raiders held the bruising senior to 86 yards in 20 carries, but failed to stop the passing of Stover.

"It's tough to tell how well a team can throw when they're leading by teams 34-0 and only passing three to four times a game," said North coach Jim O'Leary. "That kid (Stover) was just unbelievable. He did a tremendous job."

"We wanted to force them to throw, and they did it. They did it by kicking our butts."

NORTH, HOWEVER, took the opening kickoff, marching 75 yards in 12 plays, capped by quarterback Mike Filipovich's 1-yard run around end. The TD was set up when Filipovich hit sophomore wide receiver Chris White on a 34-yard pass. The

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## Farmington-Salem meet to decide title

Thursday will decide the fate of Farmington's boys cross country team in the Lakes Division, but the Falcons had some unfinished business to attend to last Thursday.

Farmington, 4-0 in the Lakes and 7-0 overall, defeated Livonia Stevenson 23-32 in a dual meet at Cass Benton Park, setting up a division showdown against Plymouth Salem, also 4-0, at Oakland Community College.

Salem won the Lakes Division title last fall, edging Farmington with a sixth-man tiebreaker. The Falcons, however, came back to win the league crown. Farmington claimed four of the six best times against Stevenson. Brad Moore earned individual honors, clocking 17:34, one second ahead of teammate Ben Goba.

Scott Freeborn of Stevenson was third at 17:34, and Farmington's Matt Langdon (17:41) finished fourth. Fifth place belonged to Stevenson's Dan Lambert (17:43) and Farmington's Paul Brandt (17:45) was sixth. Stevenson runners rounded out the seventh through ninth positions: Keith Klassa (17:45), Rod Westlake (17:55) and Dave Horan (17:57). Gene Tokraks of Farmington was 10th (18:10).

WALLED LAKE Central edged North Farmington 27-21 Thursday in a dual at Oakland Community College.

North's loss evened its overall record at 4-4, but the hard-luck Raiders, who were missing their No. 3 runner, Jason Blederman,



with a stress fracture, fell to 0-4 in the Lakes Division.

Mark Kwiatkowski took first-place honors for Central, clocking 18:48. North claimed two of the next three positions, with Jason Kocembo finishing second (18:55) and Jeff Simpson taking third (17:41), posting out Central's Teague Whalen, who had the same time.

Central's Dennis Hahn (18:26) was fifth. Scott Simpson finished sixth (18:30), for

North, teammate Marc Harwin clocked 18:31 for seventh place and Josh Chinits was 10th at 19:02.

PLYMOUTH CANTON had the better depth Thursday, and the Chiefs used it to take a 22-33 victory from Farmington Harrison at Oakland Community College.

The teams split the top four places, but Canton captured the Nos. 5-9 places to lock up the meet. The Chiefs are 3-1 in the Western Division and 4-1 overall.

Canton's Brian Beach and Mike Ream were first and third, respectively, in 16:51 and 17:16, but the Hawks countered with Jeff Barringer and Dave Foss claiming sec-

ond and fourth, respectively, in 16:53 and 17:19.

But the Chiefs decided the meet beginning with Matt Hall's fifth-place finish and 17:45 time. Jim Gallagher was sixth (17:47), Brad Hiboer seventh (17:59), Jason Napolitano eighth (18:08) and Aaron Moore ninth (18:28).

The latter earned the right to compete in Canton's next dual meet by virtue of his Thursday performance.

"He's been close to running varsity all year," coach Jim Hayes said. "One of his goals has been to run in a varsity meet, and he will be our No. 7 runner in the Franklin meet."

"That's nice, though someone else has to suffer. He earned his spot, however."