



Mercy shocks Falcons in district final

By Dan O'Meara
Staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy won a district soccer title Friday, but it could easily have been the state championship judging from its post-game jubilation.

The Marlins achieved possibly their greatest victory in school history when they upset No. 1-ranked Farmington in the final of the Class A district at Southfield High, edging the Falcons 1-0 in a sudden-death shootout.

"This is like winning the state for us," said Mercy goalkeeper Renee Larabell, who was outstanding in stopping quality shots by Farmington.

The Marlins, ranked No. 6 in the state and 12-1-4, will be host to the Dearborn district winner Wednesday afternoon. Farmington finishes the season 13-2-1.

"This really helps after the stunning loss to (Birmingham) Marfan," Mercy coach Henry Klimes said in reference to the 4-3 loss to the Mustangs in the Catholic League final a

week earlier.

"I TOLD THE girls 'We hit our low, why don't we go for a high?' I don't think anybody expected us to give Farmington that kind of game, but the kids never gave up."

The Falcons, champions of the Western Lakes Activities Association, were considered strong contenders for the state title after getting as far as the Class A semifinals last year.

"I guess when Farmington gets in the playoffs we're not meant to go

all the way," coach Cathy Cole said. "There's no No. 1 in the state tournament. Everyone has to earn the right to go on."

After both teams made three of five goals in the regular shootout, Mercy freshman Carrie Dziadosz scored first in the sudden death. Farmington senior Carrie Maier, playing with a pulled hamstring in her right leg, was too high on her shot and bounced it off the front of the crossbar.

Maier, who injured herself running track Wednesday, was noticeably slowed by the muscle pull and hardly played in the second half, returning with 6:40 left in regulation.

"I'm not going to blame it on the leg or anything," said Maier, who attempted the shot with her right foot. "I can't explain it. It's just one of those things that happens."

"A PENALTY kick is like flipping a coin, but give them a lot of credit because they won."

The Marlins went first in the shootout and led 3-2 on goals by Dana Lehtikall, Kathryn Dudley and Kathy McDonald. Julie Dugan and Amy Trunk were successful on Farmington's first two shots, but Larabell stopped Sue Gibson's attempt.

But Mercy's Tania Macloco and Donna Wilhelm fired shots right at Farmington goalkeeper Mandy Cannon, who had only to raise her hands to knock them down. That gave the Falcons a chance to win it, but Jody Perrie's shot was wide left.

"I think we had our opportunities but, unfortunately, didn't cash in," Cole said. "(Larabell) is a good goalkeeper and did a great job. They've got a good team, and I hope they go far."

After a first half that was marked by quality midfield play, Farmington kept the action centered in the Mercy end for most of the second half. The Falcons outshot Mercy 13-5 in the last 40 minutes of regulation.

"The whole first and second half I was playing a waiting game,"



Michelle Lorenz of Farmington (left) and Anne Scullen of Mercy fight for position and possession of the ball Friday.

Klimes said. "We were bringing our center/halfback (Tania Macloco) back, because they were releasing their stopper or sweeper. I was more content to play the defense and wait for our breaks."

MacDonald, Carrie Bowler, Shannon Gibbons, Colleen O'Connor and Beth Zlobro played key roles on defense for Mercy, but Klimes couldn't say enough about Larabell.

"I really have to praise Renee," he said. "She was tested and played well. Farmington is a helluva team, and we knew we had to play our best defensive game of the year."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Carrie Maier (left) of Farmington tips the ball into the goal during the final result, a 1-0 victory by the Marlins in a sudden-death shootout.

Harrison, Farmington score pre-district wins

Gary Devine handcuffed Auburn Heights Avondale on two hits Friday and struck out 14 to lead Farmington Hills Harrison to a 6-1 Class B pre-district victory at Avondale.

The triumph advances Harrison to the district at Avondale against the Madison-Detroit Renaissance pre-district winner, at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Devine lived up to his name; the only run scored off him was unearned, and he walked just one.

Was that Devine's best pitching effort this year? "Yes, definitely," answered Harrison coach John Herrington, whose team improved to 9-12. "They couldn't hit his curve ball."

While Avondale was having trouble hitting the ball, the Hawks were banging out 10 hits. Andy Smith led the attack with two hits and two runs batted in. Steve Hagopian and Eric Weisner added two hits apiece, with Hagopian knocking in a run.

FARMINGTON GOT another strong game from Chris Schmidt, both on the field and at the plate, as the Falcons bounced Detroit Henry Ford from the state tournament with an 11-4 Class A pre-district win at Henry Ford Friday.

baseball

The Falcons, now 19-2, advance to the district tournament at Southfield. They play Livonia Franklin at 9:30 a.m.; the winner meets the Redford Catholic Central-Livonia Churchill winner at noon.

Schmidt ran his pitching record to 7-0 with a five-hitter, walking three and striking out 11. He also was a major contributor at the plate, slugging a double and a triple and driving in two runs.

Farmington had a 5-2 lead after six innings; a six-run seventh led the victory. Gary Shep's two-run double was the key blow in the inning. Shep also brought in a run with a suicide squeeze bunt in the second.

Kevin Young had a double and a triple, knocking in one run, and Eric Miller scored three runs for the Falcons.

NORTH FARMINGTON got a superb pitching performance from Andrew Margolick, but Milford got an

even better one from John Finley, as the Redskins edged the Raiders 4-2 in a Class A pre-district game Friday at North.

"He did a great job," said North coach Irv Horowitz of Margolick's pitching. "It wasn't his fault at all. It was a well-pitched game by both teams."

Margolick went the distance, allowing two earned runs on six hits and three walks, striking out seven. Finley fanned 10 Raiders, however, surrendering just four hits and two walks.

North had a chance to pull it out in the seventh, when it scored twice and had the bases loaded with two out, but a strikeout ended the Raider season. Jason Hamill singled in one run and Dale Turken had a sacrifice fly to score another in the rally.

Hamill had two of North's four hits. Scott Richards led the Milford attack with two hits, an RBI and two runs scored.

The Redskins scored three times in the fifth to take command, thanks to two hits, two errors and a wild pitch. Todd Morris tripped to open the inning; he scored on Richards' single.

The Raiders bowed out at 9-9.

See golf's legends armed and ready for Bear.



Ameritech, the pros in communications, bring you the pros in golf at the \$500,000 Ameritech Senior Open. Come watch 78 of the best players on the Senior PGA Tour - including Don January, Gene Littler, Billy Casper and Bruce Crampton - as they take on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort in Northern Michigan, July 16-22, for the benefit of United Way Charities.

Ameritech, a leader in advanced

communications and information products and services in the Great Lakes region invites you to come out and see who bags The Bear.

The Ameritech Senior Open. To purchase advanced discount tickets and for tournament information, call 1800/332-GOLF.

AMERITECH

Illinois Bell • Indiana Bell • Michigan Bell • Ohio Bell • Wisconsin Bell • Ameritech Applied Technologies
Ameritech Audiotex Services • Ameritech Credit • Ameritech Development • Ameritech Information Systems • Ameritech International
Ameritech Mobile Communications • Ameritech Publishing • Ameritech Services • Tigon Voice Messaging

Paulin just misses no-hitter

Moe Paulin came within one strike of a no-hitter in Farmington Hills Mercy's Class A pre-district softball game at Livonia Churchill Friday, but Vikki Lucas ruined those hopes with a single, and the Marlins had to settle for an 8-4 triumph.

The win sends Mercy (10-16) to the district tournament at the Southfield Civic Center against Northville, at noon Saturday.

Paulin went 6½ innings, giving up one unearned run on one hit and seven walks, striking out three. Krista Miller relieved and allowed three runs (two earned) on two hits before striking out the final batter.

Marcy Knodling was the losing pitcher for Churchill. She surrendered seven hits and five walks.

Kathleen Berrigan ignited the Marlin offense with two hits, two runs scored and four stolen bases. Paulin also had two hits, two runs scored, a run batted in and a stolen base.

FARMINGTON HARRISON sur-

softball

vised an erratic pitching performance from Shelby Bourens to beat Bloomfield Hills Kingswood 12-9 in a Class B pre-district game Friday at Harrison.

The win was only the second of the season for Harrison, and it advances the Hawks to the district tournament Saturday. Harrison is 2-14 for the season; Kingswood bowed out at 5-13.

Bourens pitched six innings and was tagged for nine runs. Only four were earned, however, and she allowed just six hits. But she walked 16 — and struck out 12.

That's erratic.

"Most of the walks were caused by the wet ball," claimed Harrison coach Mike Teachman.

The Hawks got only six hits, but

they came at the right time. Nancy Ballard and Karen Najarian each had two hits. Najarian driving in three runs — two with a double in the sixth — and Ballard collecting two RBI and stealing two bases.

Jill Minewasser contributed a single and a walk, scoring twice, and earning this praise from her coach: "We just brought her up from the JV and she gave us a big lift."

ERRORS and walks proved to be Plymouth Salem's undoing Friday in a Class A pre-district softball game with Plymouth Canton. The Rocks outbatted Canton 16-9, but they also outscored (7-3) and outwalked (14-3) the Chiefs, who claimed a 16-13 win at Salem. Canton advances to the Westland John Glenn district to play Belleville at noon Saturday.

Andrea Welling, in relief of Jenny Garvey, was the losing pitcher. Stacey Thompson was the winner.

Thompson had two hits and two runs batted in for Canton (now 23-2).