

# Falcons face Rocks in regional

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with a 4-6 record, Gravin isn't surprised to see his team in a regional tournament again.

"I thought this would be a good team," he said. "The surprise was we didn't start out very well. We're starting to prove it now. At state tournament time, you just hope to get into a good groove."

That was evident Saturday when the Rocks toppled state-ranked Ypsilanti 8-6 with a come-from-behind

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win of their own and beat Adrian (23-6) in the final 3-2.

"This particular district is the most gratifying of the three," Gravin said. "The reason is we had all-state caliber players on the '87 and '88 teams. Todd Marion and Tim Dowd are two of the finest players in the Big Ten and the Mid-American Conference.

"There isn't a guy on this team — yet, anyway — who has the kind of credentials. It's been a united effort, and that is a real pleasing."

The Rocks are likely to face Farmington left-hander Chris Schmid, who is 8-0 and won both regular-season games with Salem. He boasts a 1.99 earned run average, and he has 76 strikeouts and 20 walks in 67 innings.

**SALEM, HOWEVER,** beat Adrian's power-pitching left-hander Dan Lack, who had 97 strikeouts in 63 innings, to win the district.

"We've swung the bats with confidence against good pitching," Gravin said. "It was a real bonus to swing the bats well against them."

Schmid started against Franklin in the district opener, but he pitched only two innings and left with a 7-0 lead. He started and won the CC game.

"I'd start him in any game, but when it's one loss and you're out, you have to make sure you're in the ballgame," Kansman said.

Kansman is waiting to see if Brian Viechlo can pitch before deciding who starts the Salem game. Viechlo hasn't pitched since May 7 when he hurt his arm warming up between innings, and when he was making a comeback he injured a knee sliding into third base against Livonia Churchill.

The Falcons have capable pitchers in Eric Miller and Kevin Young. Mil-

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**P.J. Green of Farmington and coach Kevin Kansman contemplate a possible dash to home plate in an earlier game. The Falcons meet Plymouth Salem in a first-round regional game Saturday.**

ler is 6-2 with a 2.71 ERA. 26 strikeouts and 16 walks in 41 1/3 innings. Young is 5-0 with two saves.

**ROB KOWALSKI**, who went the distance in the second Farmington game, is the likely starter for Salem. Kowalski is 8-1 with a 3.37 ERA. He's allowed 60 hits in 52 innings, but he has 55 strikeouts and only 15 walks.

Jeff Paluk, the other starter, has a 4-0 record and 2.01 ERA. Scott Rodgers, 2-2, has overcome early-season difficulty and pitched well, getting the victory in the district final.

"Hopefully, we'll pitch well," Gravin said. "The first time we didn't, and the second time I didn't pitched pretty well. Rodgers was out of sync early in the year."

Gravin believes the Rocks, who beat Taylor Center 8-7 in an earlier tournament, will be in the game with

Farmington if they get the pitching. The offense should be fine.

Rodgers and Dave Makowicz improved their averages with 4-for-4 hitting in the Ypsilanti game. Rodgers had six hits, including two home runs Saturday, and leads the team with a .415 average and five homers.

Catcher Scott Nlemiec has a team-high 35 hits and .402 average. Eric Nielson is hitting .404, Makowicz .393 (four homers, 10 RBI) and Brian Rudolph .419 (22 RBI, 20 runs). Tom Noonan, an all-league player last year, leads with 23 RBI and has struck out just twice in 76 at-bats.

"THIS IS A real team," Gravin said. "It's nice when you get contributions from a lot of people, because anyone can pick you up at any time."

"Noon isn't having the great offensive year he did a year ago, but he's getting some clutch RBI."

Farmington has plenty of heavy hitters, too, led by Young with a .512 average. He also has 37 RBI and 14 extra-base hits (four homers, eight doubles and two triples). Young has been chosen to play in the annual high school all-star game on Friday, June 22, at Tiger Stadium.

Schmid carries a .476 average (25 RBI, three homers, 10 RBI), Miller .378, Kevin Van Ord .368, Mark Veljosec, who had the game-winning hit — a two-run, seventh-inning double in the district final, .368 and Dave Wilson .303.

"What's helped us is that we've been strong up and down the lineup," Kansman said. "The people who have played have contributed."

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**KATHRYN A. DORNAN,**  
City Clerk

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# Stchekine captures state cycling crown

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"That's helped me prepare for it. I'm psyched up."  
Stchekine has an uncle in France who has arranged for him to train and compete with a local team. The most famous event in cycling, the Tour de France, takes place each year in that country.  
"I'd like to become a professional someday if I could," Stchekine said. He has no great expectations for the national meet in August other than to perform well and gain from the experience.  
That sounds like another uphill climb, but right now Stchekine is king of the hill.

# State track results

Continued from Page 1  
Goba, who also was the Oakland County champion in cross country as was Kiel, ran the 3,200 in 9:39.3 at the county meet on May 25. Gutting was fourth in the shot at that outing with a put of 50-9.  
In the boys Class B meet at Jackson Northwest High School, Farmington Hills Harrison's Marcus Bolar netted eighth place in the 100 dash at 11.4. Tony Shalek threw the shot 48-1/2 but didn't score any points.  
North Farmington's 3,200 relay was 12th in the Class A girls meet. Sophomores Jenny Weh and Lisa Wantuck, freshman Emily Shively and senior Lisa Rives ran the race in 10:04.7.  
Rives had qualified in the Individual 3,200 but didn't compete because of injury. North's Lisa Handziak and Farmington's Sue Gibson failed to make the finals in the long jump.  
Meroy's Jeanette Turner (discus), Gail Marie (high jump) and the Marlin's 3,200, 800 and 1,600 relays also competed at state but didn't score.  
North Farmington's Todd Pawlowski performed well in the Class A boys meet, but he failed to make the finals in the shot put or the discus.  
In the shot put, Pawlowski threw 48-3, approximately eight inches below his personal best. His best distance in the discus was 134-8.  
North coach Julie Honkala was pleased with the effort.  
"Being a junior, he was trying to PR (throw a personal best) and to get the experience of being in the meet," she said. "He was very pleased with what he did and I was, too."

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