

# SPORTS

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1993



BRAD EMONS

## Hoop fans will like these candy treats

**T** rue confectionaries. I have a sweet tooth when it comes to state high school basketball tournament. March Madness? Sounds like a candy bar to me.

It's also the same month some of us celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But let's face it cage fans, most of these area teams will turn into gooey chocolate by March 17.

That's the week of the regionals, which means it's time to break out the bats and balls.

Oh, fudge, another spring sports season just around the corner.

Time is up.

I'm not going to hide my Cadbury bar in the cupboard any longer.

Let's handicap the field as we sneak in a bite (or two). (Records through Friday only.)

### GOOD & PLENTY

**Redford Bishop Borgese (11-8):** Despite the record, there's something about this team I like. Maybe it's guys like Perry Robinson, Randy Whitfield and Charles Smith which make me believe they could get all the way Class C regional final at Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher and match up well against Southgate Aquinas.

### ALMOND JOY

**Plymouth Salem (17-2):** The Rocks have it made. W.L.A.A. championship game at home, district at home, potential first-round regional matchup with Berkley at Southfield-Lathrup. The key — James Head. He has to play less like Mike (Air Jordan) and more like Dona. Oh, just wanted to let you know that Detroit Pershing, the Doughboys, stand in the way in the regional final.

### OH, HENRY

**Wayne Memorial (16-4):** The Wolverine A League co-champions have staggered into tournament, but with a coach named Chuck Henry and players like Antonio Dodd and Andre Graves, things could turn out sweet in the Garden City district despite three tough obstacles — city rival Westland John Glenn, Romulus and then Belleville.

### NESTLES CRUNCH

**Redford Catholic Central (11-9):** The Shamrocks, led by Brian Paluk and Damien Bakerville, could make it to St. Patrick's Day with a little luck. Their own district, however, is brutal with the likes of Detroit Henry Ford and 6-foot-10 Marco Hammond tonight, followed by Southeastern Michigan Association champion Southfield on Wednesday. Coach Bernie Holowicki has reason to be concerned.

### MILKY WAY

**Westland John Glenn (12-7):** The Rockets have made strides this season under first-year coach Mike Schuette, but could be a year away. Sophomores Guy Rucker and Brent Washington will be back along with Tony Goins. Not a bad nucleus. A victory over Wayne in tonight's opener is not out of the question. Glenn lost by only three the last time out.

### PAY DAY

**Farmington Harrison (9-10):** The good news is that the Hawks earned a first-round bye, but the bad news is that they get district favorites and tournament host West Bloomfield in the next round. The Lakers, led by Harley Marks and Matt Doms, beat Harrison in this year's season opener, 63-53.

### BABY RUTH

**Plymouth Canton (8-11):** The Chiefs lost in overtime against Salem in their previous meeting, so tonight's rematch could be a dandy, although the Rocks appear to be on the upswing again.

### GUMMI BEARS

**North Farmington (8-11):** The Raiders should reach the West Bloomfield district final with a victory Wednesday over Farmington. But then things could get a little chewy after that for coach Tom Negoshian's club.

### STARDUST

**Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (12-8):** Son of Swami predicts host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist will walk away with the district trophy. But not so fast, Swami. Huron Valley's Melton Stoumdenrick could have the last word before it's all over. The 6-1 jumping jack led the Hawks to a district crown a year ago.

See MARCH MADNESS, 3C

## Hawks gain WLAA consolation title

Farmington Hills Harrison will take some momentum into this week's district basketball tournament after winning the WLAA consolation title.

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER



It was only a consolation game, but Farmington Hills Harrison played like it had something to prove Saturday, beating Westland John Glenn for third place in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball playoffs, 66-56.

The Hawks, who finished the regular season at 10-10 overall, pulled away from the Rockets in the second half. The game was played at Plymouth Salem High.

Center Calvin Pruitt, a 6-foot-6 junior, led a balanced Harrison scoring attack with 18 points.

"We felt this was an important situation for us," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "A lot of teams don't show up for this. The other (consolation) games don't mean anything except the championship, but was a selling point for me to try team."

Sophomore Nick Williams came off the bench to contribute 13, while reserve forward Jeff Cialo and starting guard Jeremy Teachman added 10 apiece.

"For Calvin (Pruitt) it was a big challenge type of game," said Teachman, whose team beat Glenn earlier this season, 65-52. "I was proud of him because he went the whole first half with no fouls."

"And Cialo and Williams had big games off the bench."

Harrison trailed much of the first half, but took a 27-26 lead into the dressing room on a basket by Aaron Weiss with six seconds left.

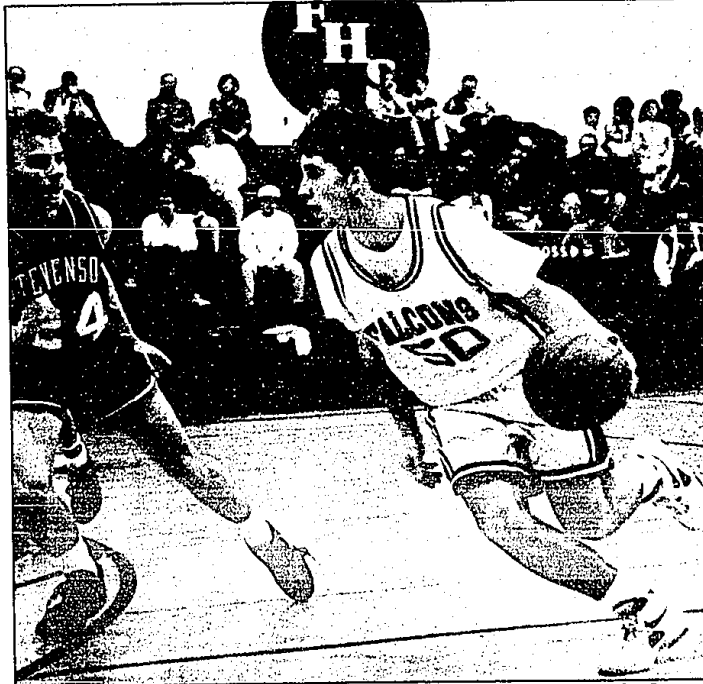
The Hawks then turned it up a notch in the third quarter, breaking away from a 35-41 deadlock by running off eight unanswered points on goals by Williams and another hoop by Keys Smith.

Harrison then outscored Glenn 21-17 in the decisive fourth quarter to sew things up.

"We did not play with great intensity in the first half, but we picked things up in the second half," said Teachman, whose team shot 61 percent from the field (28 of 44).

Tony Goins, a 6-4 junior forward, led the Rockets with 16 points, while 6-9 sophomore Guy Rucker and senior forward John Miller each added 10.

"When you're not playing for the championship it's usually hard to get up," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said. "Wayne Memorial (tonight's district opponent) may have been on the back of our minds."



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Hoop finale:** Brian Farr scored 26 points and teammate Scott Menser (above) 22 as Farmington closed the regular season Friday with a 38-point win over Livonia Stevenson.

"We missed some wide-open layups and some easy put-backs. In a number of our games that's been the story. It's been the difference in three or four of our losses."

Glenn finished the year regular season at 12-8.

**WESTERN 59, NORTH 50:** A 24-6 run in the opening quarter carried Walled Lake Western (8-12) to the victory Saturday over North Farmington (8-12) for the seventh place in the WLAA.

Four Western players scored in double figures including Brent Mackowiak (16), Ryan Bolton (12), Matt Engott (11) and Vince Alexander (11).

North's top scorer was John Pennala, who tallied nine.

**FARMING. 90, STEV. 52:** You just

never know with these Falcons. On Tuesday night they managed just 38 points against Churchill. On Friday they threaten to reach 100.

Senior Brian Farr scored a career high 26 points and pulled down nine rebounds. Juniors Scott Menser (22) and Stan Lewis (14) contributed 36 points. Farmington (7-13) hit 17 of 28 from the foul line.

For Livonia Stevenson (6-15), Adam Roy scored 13 and John Brown added 10.

**CC 58, OSBORN 45:** Redford Catholic Central used a 22-12 run in the third quarter to knock off Osborn of the PSL. CC is now 1-1 against the PSL, losing to Northern on Tuesday.

The Shamrocks (11-9) will host another PSL team tonight, Henry Ford, in a district opener.

Jeff Gutt paved the way scoring a game-high 19 points and grabbing seven rebounds. Brian Paluk scored 14 points and snared 11 rebounds. Damien Bakerville contributed 11 points.

For Osborn (7-11), Donnell Foster scored 16 points and Karl Smith 11.

**HANT. 65, C'VILLE 63:** Damon Williams scored 13 of his game-high 25 points in the final quarter to help host Hamtramck (10-10) erase an 11-point deficit in this Metro Conference crossover game.

Clarenceville didn't help itself, making just five of 11 free throws in the final quarter.

John Kalaj scored 21 to lead the Trojans (12-9). Mark Kalaj and Mark Skreila each scored 18.

## Vikings capture 2nd straight hoop crown

BY DAN O'MSARA  
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Central's basketball team has captured its common with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls as of Saturday night back-to-back league championships.

The No. 9-ranked Vikings maintained their grip on the Western Lakes Activities Association title by defeating host Plymouth Salem in the final for the second straight year, 73-68 in overtime.

Central also completed an unbeaten regular season with a 20-0 record. The Rocks are 17-3.

"People told me not to keep 12 seniors, because you can't control 12 seniors," said coach Steve Emert said. "With this group, I said, 'Yes, I can,' because their goal is to be the best team they can be."

"I can't say enough about these kids. We might not have a star of the team, but all of them are real good players and they believe in themselves."

Eric Leaf scored 17 of his game-high 23 points, Ron Thompson 14 of 22, in the second half to lead the Vikings. Mike Gluski added 10 and Christian Emert seven.

Salem got 19 points from James Head, who played an all-around good game despite being in foul trouble. Mike Slone finished with 13, Harold Shanks 10, Brian Jensen, Brandon Slone and Todd Forbes added eight apiece.

"It's everyone on that team," Salem coach Bob Brodie said of Central. "If it's not Thompson and Leaf, it's (Chris) McFarlane and Emert, or

Thompson and Gluski.

"That's the team thing. All have the ability to hurt you. That's the mark of a good team. We had to have an exceptional game to beat a team like that and we didn't."

Salem led 34-28 at halftime and threatened to blow the game open in the third quarter, taking a 47-36 lead, but the Vikings made a quick comeback while Head was sitting with three fouls.

Central scored the next 10 points, Thompson getting six as he converted a three-shot foul and then a three-point play. He was 6-of-6 at the line in that quarter and had eight points, the last two to tie at the end, 50-50.

"I was disappointed with the way we kinda disappeared in the third quarter," Brodie said. "Our game plan was to shoot inside and we

stopped. We took some erratic shots. They forced us to rush and we lost our concentration. We played into their hands at that point."

Head's dunk following a Central turnover gave Salem a 60-59 lead with 1:16 left in regulation time. After Leaf put the Vikings on top by a point, each team missed a one-and-one and the Rocks two shots before, Mike Slone sank the second of two free throws with 14 seconds left to force overtime.

With the score tied at 65, Leaf made a free throw, Thompson two free throws and Emert a layup after Gluski blocked a Salem three-point attempt. That put Central ahead 70-65 with only seconds remaining. Head made a triple with :06 left, but the Vikings went to the line for three more points.

## Shamrocks thump Warriors in hockey final

BY MARTY BUDNER  
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't exactly the state championship trophy, but for the Shamrocks, a Catholic Central victory over Brother Rice — no matter what sport — is always a reason to celebrate.

Led by senior goaltender Jamie Ronayne, the Shamrock hockey team jubilantly skated around the Oak Park Computer Ice Arena Saturday afternoon proudly displaying the regional championship trophy they captured after defeating Rice, 6-1.

Catholic Central (26-5-4) now advances to the state quarterfinals slated for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Flint IMA Arena against either Port Huron or Flint Kearsley.

Catholic Central's veteran coach, John Gumbleton, couldn't remember his team's last regional championship. But that hardly mattered Saturday as the Shamrocks savored their big victory.

"You know, whenever Brother Rice plays us it's always a big game," said Gumbleton, whose team did not lose to Rice this year in three outings (two wins and a tie). "They motivate themselves against Rice. It's real happy for the kids."

CC had a 2-0 lead after the first period despite being outshot by a 13-5 margin. Jon Heady and Jason Bellinger scored for the Shamrocks, but it was goalie Ronayne who starred in that opening period with a number of key saves, including two big stops on Rice forward Dale Rominski.

Each team scored a goal in the second period — Josh Fryer for Brother Rice and Frank Novocck for CC. Rice trailed 3-1 after two periods, but the Warriors had a chance to get back into the game with a two-man advantage for the first 56 seconds of the third period.

Rice, however, never got a shot on goal during that advantage. CC responded a short while later with goals from Chris Gonzalez and Justin Ronayne to ice the game.

"We had our chances, but Ronayne played an excellent game against us," said Rice coach Mike Brown, whose team finished with a 16-7-1 overall record. "Losing is never easy, but I think CC just had our number this year."