INSIDE:



Marlins debut with win

armington Hills Mercy opened its softball season on a winning note Monday by defeating host Birmingham Marian 7-1 behind 13 strikeouts by junior pitcher Debble Debble. The Mustangs won the nightcap, 11-5. In the opener, the right-handed Driekan scattered three hits while going the distance. The Marlins jumped abead with a three-run first inning before extending their lead to 6-0 by the fifth.

the fifth.

Katie Heffernan led Mercy's offense with two
hits, two runs and two stolen bases. Heffernan,
Erin Wiehe and Jackie Rajkovich had two RBI

Mercy was its own worst enemy in the second game as it committed five errors. Each team had six hits.

Six hits.

Mindy Mrsan pitched the first three innings and took the loss. Dziekan relieved but gave up five hits — four for extra bases, Judy Stuart carned the win for Marian.

The Mustangs broke the game open with a four run fourth inning, keyed by a three-run double by Kim Rafalski.

Wiche ripped two hits and notched an RBI for Mercy, Mrsan knocked in two runs.

Golden Gloves bouts

aiden Gloves bouts

area semifinals, returns Wedneadey, April
14, to Burton Manor, located off School14, to Burton Manor, located off School14, to Burton Manor, located off School14, to Burton Manor, located off SchoolTop-notch Detroit, suburban and Ontario
boxers will compete in Open, Senior Novice and
Novice Division bouta at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$8 ringside
and \$10 reserved tables. Tickets are available at
the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreated
14 lie Brothers Uniforms, 20258 Middlebett Road,
Livonit, and the Livonia Boxing Club, 29200
Plymouth Road (northeast corner of Middlebett).
Representatives from the Livonia Boxing Club
include Garden City's Stee Bond, sporting a 6-1
record in the 185-pound Senior Novice Division.



North winner: Ben Sommers of North Farmington defeated Justin Green, but Birmingham Groves won the match Monday. See results on Page 4B.

Hawks put focus on pitching arms



The development of a young and largely inexperienced varsity pitching staff will be crucial for the Harrison High baseball team to be successful this year.

By Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

The need for quality pitching is especially important to the Farmington Hills Harrison baseball team, since the Hawks lack substantial experience at that key position.

Of the returning players, senior Jeff Claio spent the most time on the mound but also is the starting catcher. He pitched 16% innings.

Cielo, who will bat in the cleanup spot, is one of Harrison's best players and a team leader behind the plate. He hit .327 and had 13 RBI last season.

and a team leader behind the placeleader and had 13 RBI last season.

"He wants to play college baseball,
and I think he has the ability," coach
John Herrington said. "He should
have an outstanding year. The only
thing that might hurt him is he has to
pitch, too.

"He might be our best, so we'll be
going to him at least once a week.
That can be tough, pitching one game
and catching the next. We might have
to spot him, but we'll see how the others come through."

Mike Peacl and Dan Hight did
most of the pitching last year, but
both have graduated.

Senior Keye Smith, who pitched
seven inning, is the only other returning pitcher. Therefore, the staff
consists mainly of juniors with only
UV experience.

The other nitchers are juniors Joe.

consists mainly of juniors with only JV experience.
The other pitchers are juniors Joe Pesci, Ed Kennedy and Donn Sharpe and sophomores Mark Canter, Dave Hensel and Jake Lawson. The 6-foot-6 Sharpe is in his first year of base-bail. Lawson has probably the strong-

est arm on the team and will also

est arm on the team and will also catch.

"We have some pretty good arms off the JV, and it will be a matter of how they come along." Herrington said. "We have a lot of potential, but nobody has proved himself other than Cielo. It will be a wait-and-see situation and a matter of who can get the ball over the plate."

The Hawks return seven players from a team that finished 12-8 overall and 4-6 in the Western Division of the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. The other varsity veterans are seniors Chris Cardoni, Jack Doline, Brock Goff, Matt Woolf and Jason LaCroix.

Defense will be the strength of the Harrison team. Woolf returns at shortstop and Smith at third base. Cardoni is a converted outfielder who will play first, and Goff takes over at second.

Doline returns to his regular post

second.

Doline returns to his regular post
in left field. Hensel is a promising
young player who is slated to start in
center, and Pesci will be stationed in

center, and Pesci will be stationed in right.
"Defensively, we will be pretty strong." Herrington said. "Woolf had an excellent year at shortatop, so I think we will be strong up the middle with Cielo at catcher and Hensel in center field. Plus, Goff is a good-fielding second baseman."
"Offensively, we lack power and I'm not sure how consistently we'll hit. Alot of players have not been put in a position of batting 30 or 40 times

Raiders solid in distances; big turnout helps Falcons

By Dan O'Meara Stapp Writer

The heart of the North Farmington girls track team will be a talented group of distance runners led by senior Emily

tastance led by seriou.

Shively, an all-stater in cross country, had a fine dual-meet debut Tuesdey, gainst Walled Lake Western.

She defeated Jennifer Ray in the 3,200-meter run and was a feetlon of a second behind her in the 3,200-meter run and was a fraction of a second behind her in the 1,600. Shively was the 3,200 runner-up in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet last

year.
Juniors Keegan Keefover and
Alicia Crossland complement
Shively in those events and will
compete in the distance relays.
Keefover also runs the 800 in
which ahe placed fourth in the
urr. AA.

which she placed fourth in the WLAA.

"With Emily and Keegan there, we can't go wrong." North coach Bill Plundl said. "They're going be preity said performers throughout the season."

Sophomore Darcie Lehmann and freshman Kerrie Simpson bring depth to the distance events.

GIRLS TRACK

The Raiders, who were 1-5 in duels and fifth in the WLAA, are

duals and fifth in the WI.AA, are most improved in the sprints.

Sophomore Annie Jud, who was seventh in the 200, is the top returning sprinter, but her symmastics season was been limited by a chronic back injury.

"She has a hamstring pull right now, but I don't think the back will be a problem," Pinnell said. "If Annie is healthy, that would help us a lot."

The addition of five freshmen.

The addition of five freshmen has made a weak area stronger. The Raiders will count on Heath-er Burcar, Emily Opfermann, Car-rie May and twins Laura and Lee Nelson.

Nelson.
Sophomore Alisha Gordon was the top hurdler last year. North also returns senior Leah Berenholz and will look to freshman Heather Cornwell and sophomore Jennifer Kosutic for help.

"We're hoping (Gordon and Berenholz) will be more competi-tive," Pinnell said. "Plus, we have some young people who are going to push them. Overall, I think the

hurdle area should get some Improvement."

In the field events, Keefover is the top discus thrower, and freshmen Devonie Pinril shows promise in the weight events. Opermann and Laura Nelson should be respectable in the high jump, Pinnell said, and Burcar has shown to be the best long jumper.

has shown to be the best long jumper.
Shively, Keefover and Cross-and are telnites in the 3,200 relay, with either Simpson or Lehmann rounding out the toam.
May, Keefover, Lee Nelson, Burcar and Jud can run the 1,600. The spirit relay possibilities include Burcar, senior Michelle Beaver, Optermann, juntor Dantelle Laborde and sophomore Allison Branton.

ielle Laborde and sopnomore Alli-son Branton.

"We're looking to pick up a couple of wins this year," Planell said. "We have some top quality people and, with their help, we can have a top-six finish in the

Farmington girls track

Coach Bruce Brown had a record-number 62 girls turn out See GIRLS TRACK, 2B

North boys strong in field events

By NEAL ZIPSER

BY NEAL ZUPSER
STATE WATER
The North Farmington boys
track team might field a small
team this season, but it still
hopes to escape last place in the
Lakes Division of the Western
Lakes Division of the Western
Lakes Activities Association.
Despite having only 30 on the
roater and starting the season
without new coach Michael
Frampus, who is on his honeymoon, the Raiders might surprise
their opponents with their
strength in the field events.
"We only have 30 kids and
about a third of them are freshman," said interim coach Greg
Gredrick! Wes are always in this
position because of the numbers,
and that makes it tough to compete against teams like Plymouth
Salem and Westland John Glenn.
All of our kids are good kids, but
we lack any depth."

After losing Brad Pawlowski, a state qualifier in the shotput, to graduation, North returns Mike Polssant. The junior throws the shot approximately 140 feet and hurls the clucus 40 feet. Joining Poissant is senior Jeson Kong, another consistent 40-foot discus thrower. This will be Kong's first year on the track team.

team.
The Raiders also hope to score in the pole vault with senior, Keith Yanachek and with freshman Chris Kemp in the long

man Chris Kemp in the long jump.

Kemp is also North's to sprinter. The Raiders struggled in the sprint events Tuesday in their 57.45 loas to Walled Lake Western. Another weak spot for the Raiders is burdles, where freshman Brian Kristall will try to develop into the team's top prospect.

The Raiders also lost Tony Catchings, a strong high jumper and half-miler, to graduation. Making up for Catchings' loss in the middle distances is senior Ryan Deutel.

The top distance runner is sophomore Tom Stamboulian, he wan the 3.200-meter run.

sophomore Tom Stamboulian, who won the 3,200-meter run against Western and finished second in the 1,600.

Grodzicki said the Raiders have lot of work to do on their relays.

"The relay teams aren't gell-ing," he said. "That's because of the younger runners and because the weather hasn't allowed us to work outside with each other a

work outside w.m.
"We've had to work in hallways
and perking lots. We're going to
have to beef up the relays, the
sprints and hurdles but with time
we will get better."

