

Warriors force tie with Hawks



Walled Lake Western's 5-2 baseball win Friday over visiting Farmington Harrison created a tie for first place in the Western Division standings. Both teams are 5-1. Walled Lake's Kevin Thomas pitched a four-hitter Friday.

There was no late-inning rally for Farmington Harrison this time, though the Hawks surely could have used another Friday.

Instead, Walled Lake Western stood its ground and assumed the role of frontrunner in the race for the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division baseball title.

A three-run homer by sophomore leadoff batter Rob Pisha — his first of the year — lifted the host Warriors to a 5-2 victory over the defending WLLAA champion Hawks.

If they remain tied, Western (12-2) will win the tiebreaker in determining which one advances to the WLLAA championship game since the Warriors won the second meeting.

"I think our league is among the top 10 in the state for baseball," Western coach Ken Connor said, adding his job will be to keep his team focused.

"None of our division games is a breeze. When other teams see in the paper we defeated Harrison, they'll be coming after us."

Senior left-hander Kevin Thomas went the distance for Western, allowing only four hits and coasting through the final six innings after spotting Har-

risson a 2-0 lead in the first.

"Except for the one pitch to (Zack) Cornwell that went in the woods, I thought I threw well," Thomas said. "My location was pretty good, and I was keeping the ball down."

"I didn't have as much pop on the ball today. I threw 125 pitches Monday. That's why I was trying to hit the corners with the changeup, and my curveball was actually curving today."

Thomas (3-0) had eight strikeouts — the same as in the first meeting April 3 — but he walked only three this time as opposed to nine and hit one batter.

In the first game, Thomas went 6 1/3 innings but didn't figure in the decision as Harrison rallied with five runs in the seventh to win, 8-7.

"It's early in the year for him, and he's still getting his arm," Connor said. "We have a good defensive team. We know, if he could keep people off base, we could stay in the game. He gave up the home run and after that settled

right down."

Tom Judd singled with out in the Harrison first, and Cornwell followed with a two-run homer over the left-field fence.

But it was too soon for Harrison coach John Herrington to think the Hawks (10-3) would chase Thomas from the mound again.

"No, I didn't because he struck out Bobby Austin on three pitches (to start the game), and I thought he looked very good," Herrington said.

"Zack is one of the best hitters in the state. He's going to get his hits, but I didn't know if the rest would. It certainly didn't make me overconfident."

Doubles by Pisha and Ryan Waslewsky made the score 2-1 in the bottom of the first.

In the second, Harrison starter Matt Derocher walked Mike Cooperstahm in the leadoff spot but retired the next

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Legwand named MVP

Plymouth Whalers rookie David Legwand was named the Ontario Hockey League's Player of the Year Thursday.

Legwand, who lives in Grosse Pointe, had already been named the league's Rookie of the Year. He also selected a first-team OHL all-star.

Legwand led all rookies in scoring this season with 54 goals and 51 assists for 105 points.

He is expected to be among the National Hockey League's top picks in its amateur draft this June.

Golfers notch victories

Farmington finished last week by winning two of three girls golf matches to improve its season record to 4-2.

Coach Ann Marie Sopha's team posted its lowest score of the season Friday while defeating Novi at Glen Oaks Golf Course, 182-221. Farmington topped Plymouth Canton Thursday at Hilltop Golf Course, 213-224, and lost to Livonia Stevenson Wednesday at Glen Oaks, 187-201.

Farmington's Cassie Jemison and Laura Cunniffe shot 43 apiece Friday, Katie Perry 45 and Carrie May 50. Novi's Katie Miller was the match medalist with a 41.

Novi had to count a 69 as its fourth score when another player was disqualified for signing an incorrect score card. The latter signed for a 47 when she actually shot 48.

On Thursday, Jemison shot 49, Cunniffe 52, Perry 53 and Stephanie Unger 69. Canton's scorers were Sandra Pavlo (54), Julie Dziak (55), Christina Sulpek (56) and Lindsey Miller (59).

Stevenson's Mara Mazzoni was the medalist Wednesday with a round of 44. Carri Jarvis carded a 45, Jessica Makowski 49 and Carli Hoppper 49 for the Spartans.

Jemison led Farmington again with a 46. Perry shot 49, May and Cunniffe 53 each.

Lawson stars for WSU

Aaron Lawson of Farmington Hills (Harrison) is the starting catcher for the Wayne State University baseball team as a true freshman.

He leads the Tartars in times hit by a pitch (nine) and is third in doubles (eight) and home runs (six); he's also fourth in RBI (33) and hits (42). Lawson has a .389 fielding percentage.

Wayne State was 12-6-1 in the Great Lakes Conference and 23-12-2 overall heading into weekend action. The Tartars play a doubleheader Tuesday at the University of Detroit-Mercy starting at noon.

Time to 'Play ball'

Opening Day for the 1998 South Farmington Baseball Incorporated season is Saturday, May 9. The parade will start at Farmington City Hall at 10 a.m.

The mayors of Farmington and Farmington Hills and Miss Farmington will be the guests of SEBF for the Opening Day festivities, which last until about 11 a.m. at Farmington City Park.

Schools need coaches

Farmington Hills Mercy is seeking volleyball coaches. Anyone interested in coaching should call Mercy Athletic Director Nancy Malinowski at (248) 476-8020.

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools has need for three coaches. Contact Athletic Director David Yarbrough by phone at (248) 960-8373.

Walled Lake Central needs an assistant football coach (defensive coordinator) and boys cross country coach. Teaching positions also are available in math, English and U.S. history. Walled Lake Western needs an assistant cheerleading coach for football and basketball seasons.

Sozop earns 20th win

Kalamazoo College sophomore Kari Sozop (Farmington Hills/Farmington Hills) has doubled her 1987 singles victory total in women's tennis.

Sozop's 6-0, 6-4 win over Albion's Holly Mann on April 25 was her 20th singles win of the season. She has won nine of her last 11 matches.

Sozop is 18-5 as No. 4 singles and 2-0 at No. 3. She's also 1-1 at No. 1 doubles for an overall record of 21-6.



Diamond dust-up: Mercy's Dana Falvo slides into third base but is tagged out by Wendy Boase. The Marlins were dominant Thursday, winning a suspended game and sweeping a doubleheader.

Marlins record 3 victories in 1 day

It's hard enough to sweep a doubleheader, to say nothing of a tripleheader, but Farmington Hills Mercy managed to do just that Thursday.

The Marlins (14-4) walked away from Livonia Ladywood's softball diamond with three victories over their Catholic League rivals to improve their record to 5-3 in the Central Division.

In the conclusion of a game that was suspended after three innings on April 3 due to darkness, Mercy began the afternoon with an 8-1 win. The Marlins proceeded to sweep the regularly-scheduled twinbill, 14-12 and 9-0.

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Mercy was ahead 6-1 when the earlier game was stopped. Terri Schroeder resumed her pitching duties Thursday and finished with a three-hitter. She struck out six and walked none in a complete game.

The Marlins supported her with 11 hits, including three apiece by Shayla O'Mara and Lauren Monterey. O'Mara had a pair of triples and scored two runs. Dana Falvo was 3-for-3 with two RBI; Monterey also drove in a run.

The first half of the regular doubleheader was a slugfest as Mercy outhit Ladywood, 17-13.

Erin Carson, Beth Ann Nowak and Falvo went 3-for-5 to lead the Marlins. Kelly Moug and Paige Ewen added two hits apiece. Carson and Ewen also had two RBI each, the others one apiece.

Mercy started with a seven-run first inning. Ladywood got four back in the bottom half and pulled within 12-10

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High-flying Hawks

Division co-leaders keep finding ways to win games

Farmington Harrison had rough start Friday in its softball game with visiting Walled Lake Western, but then junior pitcher Ari Ault took over.

She struck out nine while walking one in leading the Hawks to a 6-3 victory.

The win keeps Harrison in a tie for the Western Division lead with a 5-1 mark. The Hawks are 7-2 against all Western Lakes Activities Association opponents and 9-3 overall.

Ault also paced Harrison at the plate, going 2-for-3, stealing two bases and scoring two runs.

The Warriors (2-4, 8-10) took a 1-0 lead in the first inning and threatened to extend it in the second with runners on first and second and nobody out.

After a single up the middle, center fielder Amy Roble gunned down the Western player at the plate to stop the threat.

Ault (5-3) settled down after that, allowing just one of the six Western hits after the second inning.

The Hawks took a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning after Ari Ault tripled and scored on a Lindsey Emmett groundout.

The Warriors scored twice in the fifth inning for a

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3-2 lead, but the Hawks countered with three runs in their half.

Ari Ault and Jamie Swartz singled, pulled off a double steal and scored on a Katina Vitanis grounder that was booted by the Western shortstop. Vitanis later scored on a ground ball.

The Hawks added an insurance run in the sixth inning when Emmett struck out but was safe on a head-first slide after the ball got by the catcher. She later scored on a sacrifice fly by Megan Willard.

The Hawks were aided by five Western errors.

Hawks stage late rally to edge Raiders

A three-run sixth inning propelled Harrison to a WLLAA crossover victory over host North Farmington Wednesday, 4-3.

A single and two fielder's choices left Amy Roble at first base with two outs. Becky Vosler hit a shot down the third-base line to put runners at the corners.

Ari Ault's two-run double gave the Hawks a 3-2

lead. Lindsey Emmett got a pass to first base, and Harrison executed a delayed double steal.

Brittany Maxey followed with a single up the middle that scored Ault, and the Raiders made a putout on Emmett at the plate to end the half-inning.

North scored twice in the second for a 2-1 lead and again in the bottom of the sixth.

In the Harrison first inning, Katina Vitanis reached base on an error, stole two bases and scored on Vosler's grounder to third, beating the throw to the plate.

North's Lynn Livernois and Ault had two hits each. Both of Ault's hits were doubles. Chrissy King and Diann Gustky had RBI for the Raiders.

Harrison's Ari Ault and North's Mickey Spiz pitched complete games. The Raiders outbit the Hawks, 9-8. Ault had six strikeouts and three walks, Spiz one and none, respectively.

The turning point for the Hawks occurred in the fifth inning with the Raiders at bat, according to Harrison coach Mike Teachman.

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