

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Henry Ford baseball

Observant products played prominent roles this spring as the Henry Ford Community College baseball team finished 30-21 overall, including a runner-up finish in the NJCAA Division II-Region 12 Tournament (May 12-14 in Battle Creek).

Glen Oaks, taking advantage of six Henry Ford errors, took the title game, 6-3.

Under the direction of 12th-year coach Stu Rose (Farmington Hills), the Hawks won the MCCA Eastern Conference title.

Dearborn High product Ryan Wilkinson, a center fielder who batted .471, made first-team All-Region.

Among the other individual accomplishments from area players this season:

•Shortstop Dan Fairchild (Garden City) made second-team All-Region after hitting .360. He led the state with eight homers and had 48 RBI (second in the state).

•First baseman Tim Reeves, an NJCAA Division II All-America as a freshman, was named to the All-Region Tourney squad. He hit .343 this season with 33 RBI.

•Catcher Dave Viano (Farmington Hills), a Division I prospect, also had an outstanding year batting .364 with 16 extra base hits and 38 RBI.

•Closer Chris Barnier (Garden City) also stood out with a 6-3 record and 1.98 earned run average.

•Right-handed pitcher Charlie Avery (Farmington) and outfielder/pitcher Adam Stachurski (Orchard Lakes St. Mary's) both made the All-Tourney team in Battle Creek.

•Second baseman-left fielder Steve Anderson (Livonia Stevenson), who hit .283, broke into the starting lineup midway through the season and led the Hawks in walks.

•Infielder Andy Gutierrez (Farmington Harrison), who hit .263, proved to be a valuable player off the bench.

Adult hockey league

Suburban Hockey has scheduled the start of its Rise & Shine Adult Ice Hockey League for Thursday, July 6, at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The league will take place 7-8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and run through Aug. 29. It features an eight-game schedule with one game played per week.

The Rise & Shine League is a great program for adults, Suburban Training Center Assistant Manager Doug Garbarz said.

"Four-on-four hockey promises all involved will have fun. It gives players more room on the ice, more time to play, and is beneficial to their skill development."

For more information or to register call Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400 or Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1600.

Blues baseball tryout

The South Farmington Blues 18-and-under Little Caesars travel baseball team will have tryouts 1 p.m. Saturday, May 27, at Founders Park on Eight Mile Road.

The Blues are looking to finalize their roster with one or two players. If you would like to play for the Blues, call Garry McVay at (248) 615-1201.

Cops For Kids Run

Farmington Hills Police will conduct their Eleventh Annual Cops For Kids Run to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Saturday, June 10. The race starts at 9 a.m.

The police department invites all runners from beginners to masters to participate in the 10K event.

The unique and challenging course combines paved and dirt surfaces and runs through quiet subdivisions on winding and hilly roads.

The run will start and finish on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

There will be awards for the top three finishers in each individual age group and special team awards for the top low enforcement teams only. There is a non-competitive 5K run-walk that starts at 9 a.m.

All registered participants will receive a T-shirt. The race entry fee is \$16 before Tuesday, June 6, and \$20 on race day.

For more information and applications, call (248) 473-9815 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

(Sports fax number: 734-591-7279.)

Golfers rebound to win tourney

After a disappointing performance Monday in a regional meet, the Farmington United girls golf team came back to win the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament on Tuesday. Farmington was second overall to Northville.

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in its brief four-year history, the Farmington United girls golf team won the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament Tuesday at Hudson Mills.

Farmington finished with a score of 365, two points better than second-place finishers Livonia Churchill and Northville.

Northville, by virtue of its 9-0 record in league dual meets, was crowned the overall WLAA champion. The Mustangs earned one point for each dual meet win, and nine points for its second-place finish Tuesday.

Farmington, which was 6-3 in dual

meets, earned 10 points for its tournament victory and had a total of 18 points, good for overall runner-up.

The top five teams Tuesday included Livonia Stevenson, 368; Plymouth Salem, 393; Walled Lake Western, 393; and Walled Lake Central, 411.

Farmington was led by medalist Cassie Jemison, who shot a 79 and earned all-conference honors. Her performance was two strokes better than second-place finisher Katie Carlson of Churchill.

Other all-conference performers were Northville's Pam Mouradian (86), Stevenson's Kristen Polanski (87) and Canton's Ashley Johnson and Kelley Parzuchowski, both of whom shot 88.

Farmington coach Ann Marie Sopha said the tournament victory and Lakes Division crown should bolster the young program.

"So many girls had to step up. All along they've had the potential, and this was the day they put it all together," Sopha said.

After a disappointing fifth-place finish Monday at the Division I regional at the Carrington Golf Club in Monroe, Tuesday's performance was like salve on a wound.

The team had big expectations for the regional, which was originally scheduled for Friday, but it was postponed because of rain.

"The team was so ready to play Friday," Sopha said. "The girls knew rain was predicted, so they practiced in the rain on Thursday."

"They were really disappointed when it was called off. With the three-day layover, everybody went kind of cold and lost their preparation. Monday just

wasn't a good day."

Jemison, who has accepted a full-ride scholarship to play for Southern University, was particularly upset about her regional performance, according to Sopha.

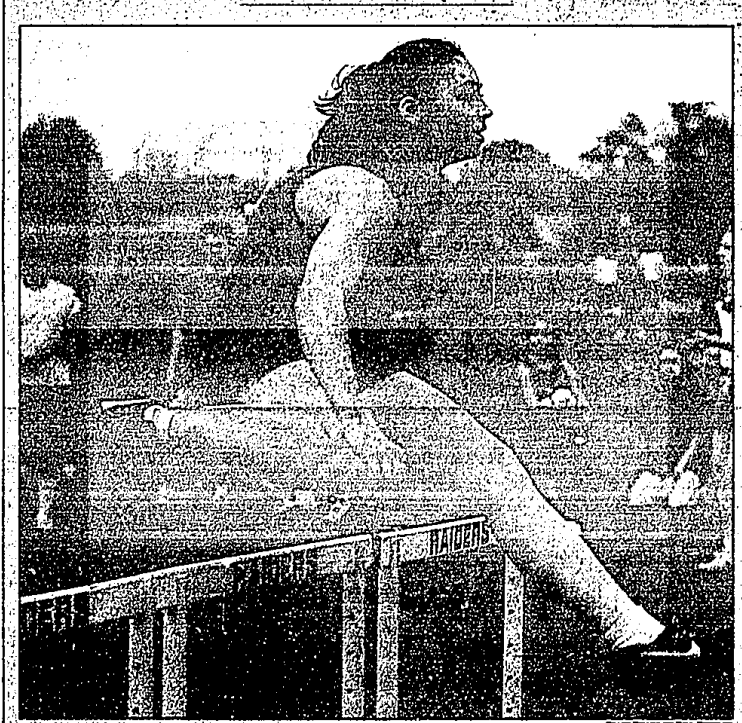
She shot 88, which was good for sixth place, three strokes behind the fifth-place finisher. Only the top five qualified for the state tournament. It was the first time in three years Jemison failed to qualify.

"Cassie was just devastated by her performance Monday," Sopha said, adding an 88 is well below Jemison's ability. "She really pulled herself together and played well on Tuesday."

In addition to Jemison's performance Tuesday, Farmington also had big outings from Katie Perry (92) and Sarah Laird (93), both of whom earned all-division honors.

"The girls knew they should have played better on Monday, which is why this win feels so good," Sopha said.

Track & field state qualifier



Regional results: Farmington High School's Kristel Stricker finished second in the 100- and 300-meter hurdle races Saturday in the Division 1 track-and-field regional meet at West Bloomfield. In doing so, Stricker qualified in both events for the state meet June 3 in Rockford. See Page C5 for a story on the meet and complete regional results.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DODD

Hawks dominate regional; state title appears realistic

BY DAN O'MEARA
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With 11 athletes in nine events qualified to compete, Farmington Harrison is positioned to make a run at winning a state championship in boys track and field.

The Hawks won eight events and scored in six others Friday to dominate the Division 2 regional meet at St. Clair Shores Lakeview.

Harrison had more than double the points of regional runner-up Detroit Renaissance, 161-70.

"We were very happy, because we knew Renaissance and Detroit Central would be very good," Harrison coach John Reed said. "The kids performed great. Everything they set out to do they did, and we had a lot of fun that night."

"We had been thinking about the regional all season, and everything came together right to where we needed it to be. We were well rested and the kids knew what they had to do.

TRACK & FIELD

"We weren't trying to win the meet. All we were trying to do was get kids into the state meet. That was our focus, and we got a lot of kids in."

The Hawks declined the opportunity to compete Saturday in the team state championship meet, which is sponsored by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association.

One reason is Harrison wants to focus on the annual Oakland County meet Friday at Clarkston.

The other is the Division 2 MITCA meet will take place at Corunna, and the Cavaliers figure to be among Harrison's chief competition in the MHSAA state finals June 3 in Grandville.

"I've been looking at scores and stuff, and it looks like we have a chance to do real well up there," Reed said.

"I think the competition at the MITCA meet will be really good, but the Oakland County meet will help us get ready for the state meet better.

That's where the best and fastest relay are."

Harrison has qualified for state in the most events; Corunna is entered in eight and Romulus six.

"We figure Corunna will be right in there, and we can wait another week before we run against them," Reed said.

"We'd rather not find out on Saturday who the better team is. We don't want to know too much about them too soon (or vice versa)."

Harrison's Nick Hall was a double regional winner in the hurdles, and the team of Agim Shabli, Chris Robertson, Marcus Woods and Kevin Woods won the 800- and 400-meter relays.

The Hawks will be the top-seeded team in each relay at the state finals based on their regional times.

"It would be pretty neat if we could win those," Reed said. "It was really a sprinters regional and it was fun to win."

Please see REGIONAL, C4

Harrison attempts to defend its crown

BY C.J. RISAK
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Maybe it was just meant to be.

Farmington Harrison fans can embrace that thought. For those from Plymouth Canton, however, it's devastating.

A first-game 10-0 rout, which took five days to finish, catapulted the Hawks into a tie for first place in the Western Division with Canton.

The second game, which was actually started and finished at Canton Tuesday, was of true championship caliber, and it was Harrison that emerged with a 4-3, title-winning triumph.

BASEBALL

The Hawks advance to the Western Lakes Activities Association title game 4 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Salem.

"It was really an outstanding game," said Harrison coach John Herrington of the second victory. "Jim Kay won both games, and he really only made one mistake, on that pitch to (James) Wisniewski."

"Kay just did a great job for us today."

Harrison will be gunning for its fourth WLAA championship in six years, a position that seemed somewhat unlikely a week ago. All Canton needed was a split in its twinbill with the Hawks, necessitated by a rainout of their scheduled May 1 meeting, to clinch first in the division.

But things worked out well for Harrison. A four-run first inning in the first game last Thursday at Harrison gave the Hawks a cushion, one that was carried over when the game was postponed due to lightning.

League rules apparently aren't clear on this situation, so the game was resumed Tuesday at the start of the second inning with a change in location (back to Canton). The decision to pick up at the top of the second with Harrison ahead 4-0 resulted in a protest filed by Canton coach Scott Dickey.

It certainly allowed Herrington to better utilize his pitching tandem of Kay and Tim Doig. Kay started the first game; after pitching one inning, he took a five-day respite, he tossed two more scoreless frames before giving way to Doig.

By that time, the game was out of reach for Canton. In last Thursday's first inning, the Hawks scored a run on an error, then on a bases-loaded, he tossed two more scoreless frames before giving way to Doig.

When the game resumed Tuesday, Greg Neino went to the mound for Canton, replacing starter Jon Johnson, whom Dickey opted to save for the second game. Neino, however, was ineffective; he walked the bases loaded to start the second inning, then surrendered a three-run double to Doig.

After Nelson walked to start the third, Matt Staley took over for Neino. A stolen base was followed by a run-scoring single by Marcus Mennotti. For another steal, Loui Hadley singled in Mennotti to make it 9-0. Doig's solo

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