

BOYS TENNIS REGIONALS

Wait is worth it for 1st-place CC

Redford Catholic Central waited, waited and waited to begin its Division I tennis regional Saturday at Flat Rock-Woodhaven. Rain forced the Shamrocks to wait until Saturday to begin play, but it proved worth the wait as CC swept all seven flights and captured the regional with a perfect 28-point total. Trenton placed second in the regional with 17 points and Woodhaven was third with 14. The guys were anxious to play because we'd already had a day, CC coach Phillip Eagleston said. "They each all had to wait because everyone of our guys drew a bye. "Once it got under way, we

Warriors take aim at 3rd title in row

Rain proved to be the main challenge for the area's top-ranked tennis teams at last weekend's various state regional tournaments. At most sites, competitors were forced to play Friday at indoor facilities or on wet outdoor courts. The tournaments were completed with no major surprises under drier weather conditions Saturday. The big three — Birmingham Brother Rice (Division I), Bloomfield Hills Lakewood (Division II) and Detroit Country Day (Division III) — easily won their respective regionals. All three are ranked among the state's top four. Super Teams and are expected to battle for state championships June 2-5. DIVISION I: Birmingham Brother Rice is the two-time defending state champion and proved to win a third straight title. The Warriors showed their power by capturing all seven

Farmington edges North in 8 innings

BASEBALL

Farmington scored a run in the bottom of the eighth inning Monday to win a baseball game from visiting North Farmington, 7-6. The Falcons loaded the bases with no outs. After two failed suicide-squeeze attempts, they scored the winning run on a wild pitch. Tony Lutman, Brad Barenio and Mike Brown hit solo home runs for Farmington. Lutman was 2-for-2; he also walked twice and scored three runs. Barenio had two RBI. Brian Lafer, Rob Kammer and Mike Liveriole produced two hits apiece for the Raiders, who outdid the Falcons, 12-6. James Clarahan was the winning pitcher in relief of starter Ian Pardonnnet. Clarahan pitched the last three of an inning. Mike Rosenberg worked the last two innings for North and pitched in the bottom of the eighth. He started and went the first six innings. The Falcons were 5-4 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 15-8 overall prior to a Tuesday game with Walled Lake Central.

BALEMI 4-6, FARMINGTON 2-1: The Falcons dropped a makeup Lakes Division doubleheader Saturday at Farmington. In the first game, Ian Winter hit a three-run homer in the first inning for Plymouth Salem. Jason Furr was 3-for-3 with a solo homer in the second, which gave the Rocks a 4-0 lead. Steve Gordon (4-3) went the distance on the mound for Salem. John Waisanen worked two innings and took the loss. Farmington's Tony Lutman was 2-for-4 and Brett Brown had a double. The Falcons took a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the nightcap, but the Rocks rallied with two runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. James Clarahan, Preston Picard and Chris Chesney had two hits apiece for Farmington. Chris Hardy (3-1) pitched a complete game for Salem; Bob Houshew went 4 2/3 innings and got the loss. CHURCHILL 8, HARRISON 4: Five straight complete games and counting. That was the story Monday as host Lincoln Churchill upset the state's No. 1-ranked baseball team in Division 2 for the second time this season. "Pitcher John (Bennett) did a nice job and prevented them from getting the

big inning." Churchill coach Herb Osterland said. Churchill, fresh off its first-place finish Saturday in the Livonia City Tournament, is 14-11 overall and 4-4 in the WLLA Western Division. The Chargers jumped on Harrison pitcher Brent Pomala and Robert Whipple for seven runs in the first two innings. Churchill's Rick Strain and Rob Wilson went 3-for-4. Strain scored three runs and tripled; Wilson doubled twice and had two RBI. Josh Odum and Rory Casars added two hits each. Odum had three RBI, including a two-run homer in the first inning. Kevin McVey led Harrison with three hits; Marcus Mancotti added two. CLARENCEVILLE 9, ZOE 4: Tim Riedi and Ray Gutierrez went 3-for-4 to lead a 17-hit attack Tuesday as Livonia Clarenceville (5-12) downed Warren Zoe Christian in a non-leaguer. Other hitting stars for Clarenceville were winning pitcher Joe Keough, Scott Carr, Dan Tondreau, Rob Simpson and Josh Young — all with two hits apiece. Both of Carr's hits were doubles. Though went five innings, fanning five and allowing just one run before giving way to Simpson. HARPER WOODS 10, C'VILLE 0: Winning pitcher Mike Whitley tossed a four-hitter Saturday as the host Pioneers ousted Clarenceville in the Metro Con-

ference playoffs at Grosse Pointe University-Liggett. Gutierrez was the losing pitcher. Clarenceville won its Metro playoff opener, 7-0, against Hamtramck as Joe Keough tossed a four-hitter and helped his own cause with a pair of doubles. Gutierrez and Tim Riedi had two hits each. CHURCHILL 13-8, W.L. WESTERN 3-7: On Tuesday, Walled Lake Western snapped Livonia Churchill's eight-game winning streak in the nightcap as winning pitcher Rob Pisha had three hits, including a grand slam homer in the second inning. Churchill (15-12, 5-5) was led by Rick Strain's two hits and two RBI; Matt Humany was the losing pitcher. The Chargers won the opener, 11-1, in five innings (mercy rule) as Paul Muebler struck out three and scattered eight hits. Brad Bescoe went 3-for-3 for Churchill with a pair of doubles. Josh Odum had two hits and four RBI, including a two-run homer in the third inning. Rob Wilson contributed two hits and three RBI. Pisha, Ryan Smith and Chad Hotton had two hits apiece for Western. NORTHVILLE 11, STEVENSON 8: In a WLLA crossover Tuesday, the host Mustangs (11-10) smacked three homers to beat Livonia Stevenson (12-12). Andy Doren went 3-for-3, including a grand slam. Winning pitcher Tim Edick and Brian Boyes also hit solo homers.

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shot in the fourth secured Harrison's 10-run mercy win. Which made the second game pivotal, for both squads. Each went with their ace, Johnson starting for Canton and Kay for Harrison. Unfortunately for the Chiefs, the Hawks started off where they left off in the first game. Hadley led off their first game with a double and moved to third on a shot by Matt Leo back to Johnson. An error by Wisniewski on a grounder to third allowed the run to score and opened the floodgates. Back-to-back singles by McVay and Brian Nelson scored a second run, and Kent Taylor's double delivered a third. Johnson then buckled down, striking out Jake Channam and getting Mancotti on a fly out. Canton could not break through against Kay, however — until the third. Brad Smigielski opened the inning for the Chiefs with a walk and, after two were out, Oliver Wolcott singled,

bringing up Wisniewski. The sophomore lined a 2-1 pitch over the left-center field fence and the game was tied at 3-3. Johnson, meanwhile, was cruising for Canton. After surrendering a lead-off walk in the second, he did not allow another baserunner until the fifth, retiring 11-straight batters. Then with two out in the fifth, Doig smacked a triple off the fence in right-center field. Still, it appeared the Chiefs would escape trouble when McVay led off a fly to center field. But Smigielski dropped the ball and Doig scored, making it 4-3. The result was still very much in doubt, however. In the bottom of the seventh, a lead-off walk was followed by a sacrifice bunt

by Smigielski and an infield single by Bryan Kay, putting runners at first and third with one out. But Jim Kay zeroed in, striking out pinch-hitter Russ Caid and Wolcott — both on called third strikes — to end the game. "We had our chances," said Dickey, obviously disappointed with the result. "We had guys on first and third with one out and couldn't get the hit. The way we were hitting the ball, I felt it was going to be our game. When we got those runners on in the last inning, I thought the game was over." It wasn't the only wasted opportunity in the game for the Chiefs. Kay led off the game with a single and moved to second

on a Jim Reddy sacrifice bunt, but was stranded there. In the fifth, Canton got one out singles from Reddy and Wolcott, bringing Wisniewski to the plate. He hit a hard grounder to Channam at third, and Channam turned it into an inning-ending double play. "I thought the biggest play of the game was that double-play to third base," said Herrington. "It turned the momentum back to us a bit." Indeed, the decisive run of the game — and in the division race — was scored in the bottom half of that frame in a contest in which defense (Canton had four errors in the two games; Harrison did not have any) proved imperative.

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