

Semifinal loss ends Mercy run, 1-0

■ Farmington Hills Mercy's softball season ended with a loss to Portage Northern in a state semifinal contest Friday in Battle Creek, 1-0.

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy dodged a lot of bullets, but it couldn't find one when it needed it.

Thus, Portage Northern remained unbeaten entering the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division I softball final following a 1-0 semifinal victory Friday over the Marlins.

"We were playing the No. 2 team in the state," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said, "and we lost, 1-0, with the tying run getting to second base."

"We had a good run and we definitely exceeded expectations. I'm extremely proud of our girls and the fact they competed. Hey, they got to Battle Creek!"

"They have nothing to be ashamed of."

Northern (40-0) was scheduled to

SOFTBALL

play top-ranked Waterford Kettering, a 2-0 winner over Monroe in the other semifinal, for the state championship Saturday.

In a game of opportunities Friday, the Huskies kept wasting them. And often times when that happens, you end up losing. It almost happened to Northern.

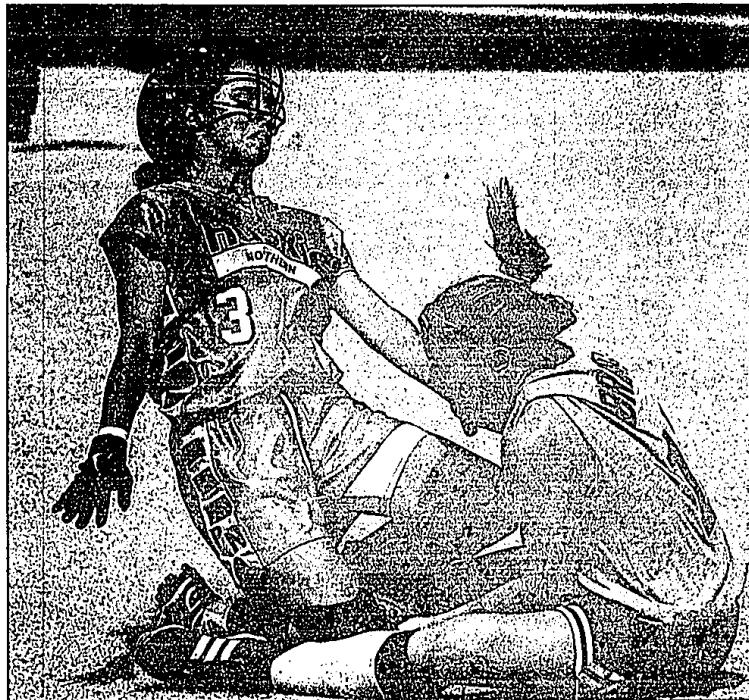
Losing pitcher Megan Feduk, only a sophomore, was masterful at keeping the ball down and hitting the corners while she and her Mercy teammates came up big in the clutch time after time.

Never did Northern go down 1-2-3. The Huskies had 11 baserunners and left nine of them on base.

In the meantime, Anna Ollgaard retired the first 17 batters she faced until pinch-hitting freshman Anna Schneider ripped a single to short with two out in the bottom of the sixth.

"Our bats were flat, for whatever reason," Falvo said. "But you have to give the pitcher credit."

Ollgaard was superb, owning the outside corner and coming in with a two-strike tight pitch that froze the



Semifinal action: Mercy's Carrie Brankiewicz blocks the bag at third base and makes the tag on Portage Northern's Krista Altom, who was out in the third inning. The Huskies won the game, 1-0.

Mercy hitters. She ended up with 11 strikeouts and a two-hitter.

The Huskies pushed across their run in the third.

With one out, Krista Altom singled to short. Kellah Williams grounded a single to center, but Altom was thrown out at third, Williams taking second on

the play. She scored when Katie Smith grounded a single up the middle.

Northern got a runner to second with one out in the fourth, and Altom tripled with one out in the fifth.

The Huskies had a runner on second with one out in the sixth and at first and second with one out in the seventh

— and failed to cash in on any of those opportunities.

"Megan did a great job," Falvo said. "I thought, starting off the game, she was a little nervous. She was having some trouble with the mound. But she

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Miller tribute Monday

Former players, opponents and longtime fans will gather Monday night as the University of Detroit-Mercy honors Redford's Bob Miller, who retired last month after 36 seasons as the "Titans" head baseball coach.

A tribute dinner for Miller, whose teams won 896 games, will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy.

WDIV-TV sportscaster Fred McLeod will serve as master of ceremonies.

Among the program's speakers will be Miller's former coaching rivals Dave Keilitz (Central Michigan), Ron Oestrike (Eastern Michigan) and Moby Benedict (Michigan).

Miller's ex-players will be represented by 2000 co-captain Mike Doguanno and former All-Midwestern Collegiate Conference pitcher Chris Czarnik, who has been appointed Miller's successor.

Tickets for the dinner and festivities are \$30 apiece, and remain available through the UDM Athletic Department at (313) 953-1700.

Soccer coach wanted

The Oakland Community College Athletic Department needs a coach for its club soccer team. Candidates should have coaching experience on the high school level at least.

If interested in the job, call OCC Athletic Director Bernie Little at (248) 942-3179 or Athletic Coordinator Leonard Cole at (248) 622-3568. The season starts in August.

N. Farmington camps

There will be a middle school football skills camp 8 a.m. to noon June 21-22 at North Farmington High School. The cost is \$30 per player.

The camp is open to any football player entering the sixth, seventh or eighth grades.

There will be a five-day-a-week strength and conditioning camp 8-10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays at North Farmington. The cost is \$70 per participant.

Power-lifting workouts and sprint training will be the main focus of the camp. To register for either camp contact North Farmington football coach Rich Burrell at (248) 428-2612 or (248) 360-3767.

■ North Farmington has the following football coaching positions available: JV head coach, JV assistant and possibly varsity assistant. Contact Burrell at one of the above numbers to apply immediately.

Harrison boasts most All-Observer athletes

BY OBSERVER STAFF

Prior to the season, Plymouth Canton boys track coach Bob Richardson indicated the goals for his team hadn't really changed all that much:

Make progress, aim for the Western Lakes Activities Association championship and . . .

The third goal had been to finish in the top half of the WLAA. That changed; as Richardson indicated, this team was too good to settle for that.

He then guided the Chiefs to their best season since 1993, when they won the WLAA. Canton came within a whisker — actually, three points — of winning the Division I regional, then was beaten by Farmington Harrison and Walled Lake Central at the WLAA meet.

Their third-place finish at league meet could not diminish an otherwise superb season. Canton won the Observerland Relays, rallying from 21 points down to beat Redford Catholic Central in the last six events.

They also served as WLAA Western Division champs. All of which is why Bob Richardson was selected as Observerland's coach of the year.

With six first-team selections, Harrison has the most of any school in the area. The Hawks have three individuals (Derek Laskowski, Nick Hall and Agim Shabaz) and three relays.

Canton is second with three; North Farmington (Anthony Beal and Charlie Stamboulis), Redford Catholic Central, Livonia Churchill have two each and Redford Bishop Burgess one.

TRACK & FIELD

FIELD EVENTS

Mike Gaura, shot put, Churchill: The senior finished undefeated in dual meets and was a Division I regional champion at Redford Union. His best throw of the season came at the regional with a toss of 53 feet, 6 1/2 inches.

The state qualifier was also a team captain. "Michael dedicated himself to his senior season staying focused on several of his goals," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "His increase in strength and quickness across the circle provided great results."

"He has decided to throw collegiately next fall at Ferris State University."

Mike Morris, discus, Catholic Central: Morris won shot put and discus at the Catholic League Championship and was Division I Region V champion in discus with a distance of 149-4.

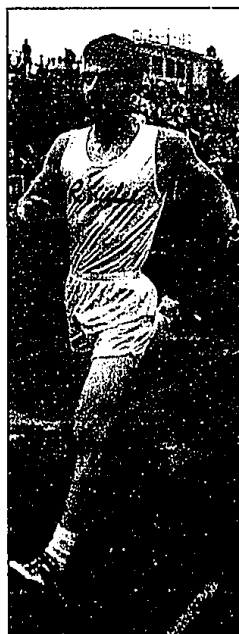
For the second consecutive year, Morris was a state qualifier in both the shot and discus. He led the Shamrocks discus relay team to a school and meet record at both the Elks Relays and the Observerland Relays.

Morris had an area best 53-11 in the shot and 151-8 in the discus. Unopposed in the shot in dual meets, Morris was shot put champion at the Jackson Invitational.

Morris earned the Whelan Award at CC for being a "scholar, athlete and gentleman." "Mike owned every 'it' all," CC coach Tony Magni said. "Besides being one of the top throwers in the state in both events, Mike is a good student, and an outstanding gentleman. He has left an incredible mark on Catholic Central."

Eric Scott, long jump, Churchill: The junior won the Division I regional at RU with an area best jump of 21-3.

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, B2



All-Area: North Farmington senior Charlie Stamboulis is No. 1 in the 1,600-meter run.

Shamrocks rally, reach final round

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Live-wire Kevin Entsminger put a charge into Catholic Central's offense, shocked Hartland's high-powered attack Friday and jump-started the Shamrocks into the Division I baseball finals for the second straight year with a 12-11 victory over the Eagles.

BASEBALL

CC met Catholic League rival Warren DeLaSalle in the state final Saturday at Bailey Park in Battle Creek, a curiosity in that neither school qualified for the Catholic League title game at Comerica Park, let alone the DCL playoffs.

Entsminger acts like he's seen too many Mark Fidrych films; he's so hyper on the field. He's animated, energetic — and just what CC needed when it looked as though the Shamrocks were going to go comatose.

The junior right-hander was summoned to the mound in the bottom of the fifth after Mike Wudowski, the third of four pitchers coach John Salter called upon to stem the tide of Hartland hit, had walked a batter to put runners on first and third with two out. Hartland had scored earlier in the

Please see CC, B4

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domeara@oe.hometown.net

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