

**FARMINGTON —  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE**
**Herrington top coach**

Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington was named National Coach of the Year by Student Sports Magazine.

Herrington guided the Hawks to a 14-0 record and a fourth consecutive state championship, including a record 11th overall, last year.

Herrington, a graduate of Waterford High School (1958) and Central Michigan University (1962), has a career record of 285-68-1 as the only football head coach in Harrison history, dating back to the fall of 1970.

Herrington, who also has coached the Harrison varsity baseball team since 1974, was elected to the National High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame last year.

Student Sports ranked the Hawks, the Division 3 state champs, No. 1 in Michigan for the 2000 season, No. 3 in the Midwest and No. 13 nationally. Orchard Lake St. Mary's was No. 2 in the state, Birmingham Brother Rice No. 3 and Grand Ledge No. 4. Columbus (Ohio) Upper Arlington was first and Joliet (Ill.) Catholic second in the Midwest.

**Schools need coaches**

Farmington Harrison needs a boys varsity tennis coach. Applicants should call Harrison building athletic director Dennis Noe at (248) 489-3499.

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a girls junior varsity golf coach for the upcoming season. Call athletic director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2323.

Livonia Clarenceville needs an assistant varsity baseball coach. Call Clarenceville varsity coach Steve Gentilia at (248) 478-8926.

**Rockers split games**

The Detroit Rockers came up with perhaps their biggest win of the season Feb. 24, but they couldn't sustain it on Feb. 25.

The Rockers visited the division-leading Milwaukee Wave with newly-acquired forward Domenic Mobilio, who was obtained in a trade with the Philadelphia Kixx for forward Shawn Boney.

Mobilio scored a two-point goal and a one-point shootout goal in the first period, then assisted on two-point goal by Martin Nash as the Rockers stormed out to a 5-0 lead.

That was the end of the offense, but the Rockers' defense, led by goalie Paul Shepherd, took over after that. Detroit blanked the Wave in the first half, only the second time this season that's happened to them, then held on for a 5-3 win.

The outcome wasn't as good for Detroit the next day. The Toronto Thunder Hawks built a 10-0 halftime lead en route to a 19-10 win. The split left Detroit with a 6-21 record.

**Pistons Youth Clinic**

A limited number of spots are available for the Second Annual Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic on Saturday, March 24, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, located at 4000 Six Mile Road, just west of Haggerty in Northville.

Boys and girls in grades 3-5 will meet from 2:30-3:45 p.m. followed by grades 6-8 from 4-5:15 p.m.

Coach Steve Moreland and Pistons mascot Hooper will be in attendance. The cost is \$15 per child.

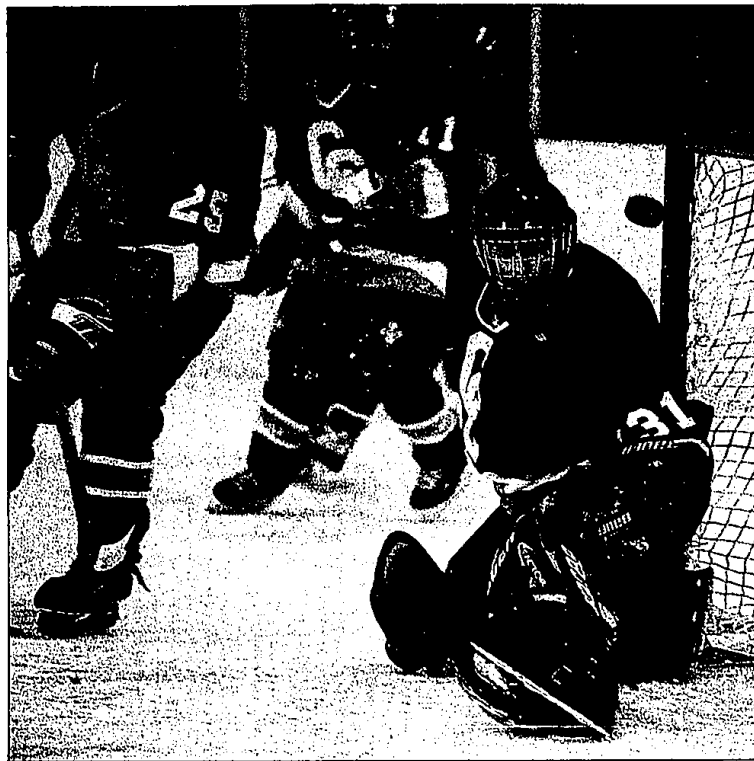
For more information, call Ward Church at (248) 374-5937 or e-mail shelley.martin@wardpc.org.

**PAL Junior Shootout**

The Milford Police Athletic League will host its 3-on-3 Junior Shootout for boys and girls in grades 3-12 on March 16-19. There will be a special three-point shootout in each division.

The entry fee is \$60 per team (four players). For more information, call Rick Sharpe at (248) 684-1322.

# Bottom line is what matters for CC



**Minding the net:** Catholic Central goalie Andrew McCoy managed to make a save on this play and lead the Shamrocks to a victory over Livonia Churchill in a regional tournament game Thursday.

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
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When you're the No. 1 team in the state, it doesn't matter if you win lucky or win because you're good — as long as you win.

Catholic Central used a little bit luck and talent Thursday, as the Shamrocks upended third-ranked Livonia Churchill, 3-1, in a Division 1 regional semifinal at Redford Ice Arena.

"Sometimes, it's the fluky goals that get you going," said CC coach Gordie St. John. "I've always said I love to be lucky. We had some guys who made plays that weren't pretty, but they got the job done."

The win sent CC into Saturday night's regional final against fourth-ranked Livonia Stevenson. The winner of that contest advances to Wednesday's quarterfinal at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, for a 7 p.m. game.

**HOCKEY**

Talent carried both teams into a scoreless third period, as CC dominated the play in the first two periods, but Churchill stayed even thanks to the outstanding play of goalie Ryan McBroom, who had 20 saves for the game.

"He was making some great saves," said CC forward Jared Ross. "The first shot at a goalie is the hardest to stop and we were trying to make the most of opportunities on our first shots. But he stopped us."

The Shamrocks (24-0-2) finally broke through early in the third period as Jim Spiewak got the pass from Ross in the slot and wound up to fire the puck. As he released, he broke his stick on the play. Instead of a hard slapper, the puck softly slid on the ice. McBroom — who anticipated the hard shot — seemed frozen by the change of pace, and CC had cracked through the shell.

"The stick broke and it just slid softly toward the net," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni. "It was a difficult shot. But the one that broke our backs was the second goal."

Ross was the backbreaker as he got

Please see HOCKEY, B3

## Vikings crush Mustangs in title game

BY CHRIS MAYER  
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Walled Lake Central stood as a group at center court and proudly displayed the trophy for winning the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

The celebration also confirmed what the Vikings already knew: They were the best boys basketball team in the WLAA this season.

Central simply dismantled Northville in Wednesday's conference tournament final. The top-seeded Vikings (19-1) scored 14 of the game's first 16 points and cruised to a 61-30 victory at Livonia Franklin.

"We were expecting a game, and we knew we had to have a big game to shut them down," said all-conference senior guard Steve Horn, who led three

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Vikings in double figures with a game-high 17 points. "Our game plan was to get them off the boards and we did that."

Seventh-seeded Northville, which defeated No. 2 Farmington and No. 3 Walled Lake Western in the opening two rounds, appeared to be developing into the quality team that many expected it would be. But the Mustangs (10-10) were never in Wednesday's game.

Central jumped to a 14-2 lead with 2:27 left in the first quarter with the help of a zone press. All-conference senior center Mark Bortz drained three medium-range jumpers over Northville's 7-foot Thomas Knapp, while Horn and Jon Auer scored four points apiece after getting loose inside.

The Vikings took a 34-14 advantage into halftime and then pulled away with a 21-6 edge in the fourth quarter.

"Northville is a very talented team; I'll tell you that right up front," Central head coach Bob Shoemaker said. "(The Mustangs) are a very talented team, but they've never got their chemistry going, and chemistry is so important. I'm proud of what we did tonight, because we beat a very good team."

"Before we played Northville the first time (on Jan. 30), we lost Brandon Obenauer, who was starting at small forward and was doing everything well for us."

"It's been a long time trying to get the chemistry back in place since he went out, and it's started to happen toward the end of the year. We've finally got the chemistry I was looking for."

Please see BASKETBALL, B2



**Special recognition:** Former softball players Kelly LaCasse (center) and Erin LaCasse spoke at halftime of a basketball game this year when Mike Teachman was honored for his years of service as Harrison's varsity basketball and softball coach.

## Veteran Harrison coach leaves softball post, too

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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One of Observerland's longest-serving coaches has decided it's time for him to leave the field, at least as an official representative.

Mike Teachman, who retired from coaching boys basketball at Farmington Harrison at the end of last season, won't be making lineups for the girls softball team later this spring, either.

He had coached the boys varsity basketball team for 22 years, and he now ends a 20-year stint as the Harrison varsity softball coach.

"There was a time, when I started coaching, somebody had to step aside to give me a chance," Teachman said, adding he coached basketball for 34

years overall and softball for 25. "That's a big chunk out of each year."

"I was very fortunate with the kind of people I was privileged to work with in both basketball and softball."

Teachman stepped down as the varsity basketball coach in December of 1999, switching places with JV coach Dave Turnquist for one season.

He was out of basketball entirely as a coach this season, but he remained close to the program, attending some home games and scouting for Turnquist.

"Oh, yeah, I miss it. I miss basketball," Teachman said, adding his free time allowed him to travel and see other games such as Battle Creek Central against Detroit Country Day.

Please see TEACHMAN, B4

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