

**FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE**
Ghannam sparks U-M

Junior C.J. Ghannam of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) was instrumental in the University of Michigan baseball team's recent seven-game winning streak.

Ghannam, who started in center field, was 16-for-26 with three home runs and 11 RBI in his last seven games.

The Wolverines extended their streak Tuesday by beating Eastern Michigan, 6-3. Junior Kirk Taylor (North Farmington) was the winning pitcher.

Taylor started and went the first five innings, allowing two runs on six hits. It was Taylor's first win (1-0) of the season and fourth of his career.

Michigan had its winning streak stopped Wednesday in a 12-9 loss to Western Michigan in which Ghannam hit a three-run homer.

The Wolverines (18-13) rebounded Friday with a 6-3 win over host Minnesota in the first of a four-game series. U-M was 6-3 in the Big Ten.

OHL honors Whalers

The Ontario Hockey League has announced the winners in its Coaches Poll, and several Plymouth Whalers were named more than once.

The OHL Coaches Poll allows team coaches to recognize players within their own conference in several skill categories. The top three players in each category in each division are recognized. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players.

Sudbury Wolves defenseman Alexei Semenov led the OHL's Eastern Conference, being named the top player in four categories (hardest shot, best checker, best body checker and best defensive defenseman).

In the Western Conference, Raffi Torres of the Brampton Bulls earned recognition in four categories, including most dangerous in the goal area, best body checker, best shot and hardest shot.

The Whalers' Stephen Weiss was at the top in three areas: smartest player and (tied for first in) best playmaker and best stickhandler.

Other Whalers who were recognized were Kris Vermaas, second as both best checker and best defensive forward, and Jared Newman was listed third in the best defensive defenseman category.

Raiders 3rd in tourney

The Oakland Community College men's golf team finished third at the Henry Ford CC Invitational Wednesday at Northville Hills Country Club.

The Raiders shot 337 to finish behind Schoolcraft with a 326 and Mott with a 330.

OCC's Josh Bauer shot a 74 to win individual honors for the tournament. Casey Layman carded an 83. John Hill an 87 and Josh Kirchner 93 to round out the OCC scoring.

SC player All-America

Sam Hoskin (Redford Bishop Burgess), who helped lead Schoolcraft College to its best men's basketball season, was recently named first-team Division I All-America by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Hoskin averaged 24.1 points and 10 rebounds per game for the 32-4 Ocelots, who won the Eastern Conference, Michigan Community College Athletic Association state playoffs, Region 12 and District 12-13 titles while advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Hoskin, a 6-foot-8, 270-pound center, was a transfer from Eastern Kentucky University. He is headed to DePaul University. He also won the Allen Bradford Award (Region 12 MVP) and was named to the All-NJCAA Tournament team.

At the Schoolcraft awards banquet April 4 at the Waterman Center, guard Derrick Bird (Ypsilanti High) was named team MVP.

Raiders overcome loss of star player



When senior shortstop Samantha McComb was lost to an injury, it meant bad news for the North Farmington softball team. But the Raiders managed to win their first game with help from an unexpected source.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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A dark cloud cast a shadow over the future prospects of the North Farmington softball team last week, and it wasn't a rain cloud.

The Raiders got some bad news when they learned senior All-Observer shortstop Samantha McComb will miss the season with a knee injury.

McComb, who has a scholarship from Northwestern University to play basketball, suffered a torn anterior cruci-

ate ligament playing in an AAU hoop game last month.

But softball coach Dave Brubaker thinks he found a silver lining in a bad situation in the person of Emily Jaffe, a freshman who came up from the JV to replace McComb.

Jaffe, who plays No. 1 singles on the tennis team, promptly went 2-for-3 with a double, scored a run and had an RBI as North opened the season Wednesday with a 5-1 win over Farmington Harrison.

Brubaker, who said he has "a great

coach on the bench now" in McComb, told Jaffe she had big shoes to fill as she took McComb's spot in the lineup.

"It's hard to replace a Sam McComb at shortstop, but Jaffe came in and played like it was no big deal to step in and take Sam's place," Brubaker said.

After the game, he told Jaffe: "Those shoes don't look too big on you at all."

Brubaker sees the potential for Jaffe and the Raiders to make a positive from a negative.

"She's a good athlete, and she has a good team around her," he said of Jaffe. "To step in and get the experience this year could help her out down the road."

North pitcher Beth Danielewicz held the Hawks to four hits and two walks while striking out 10.

Senior catcher Jasmine King went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI. She

also threw out two runners trying to steal and ended the game with a pick-off at third base.

In her first varsity at-bat, North junior Stephanie Karros hit a solo home run. Junior Sarah Reading had a double and scored a run; senior Staci Russell walked twice, stole two bases and scored a run; Danielewicz had a hit and one RBI.

Brubaker said the Raiders were a little anxious early in the game, perhaps pressing to make up for McComb's absence.

"Once we got into the game, they started to be a little more aggressive, putting the ball in play and making things happen," he said.

"We started the game with a great defensive play and ended the game on

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

Shamrocks give Salter 500th win

Even if Catholic Central hadn't won on Wednesday, the Shamrocks were still going to celebrate.

But fortunately for CC and their coach, John Salter, the Shamrocks were finally able to earn his 500th win as a high school coach by sweeping a doubleheader with Harper Woods Notre Dame, winning the opener, 6-1, and the nightcap, 8-4.

"What's more satisfying is we've been playing good ball lately," Salter said. "We played well against Fraser on Monday, and the first game against Notre Dame was solid. Except for the final inning, the second game was, too."

Originally, the CC staff thought Salter needed to win both games last weekend against Fraser and Rice for Salter to hit the magic number, and assistant coach Al Moran bought a sheet cake to celebrate. After the Warriors won the second game of the twin-bill, the cake went back into a freezer.

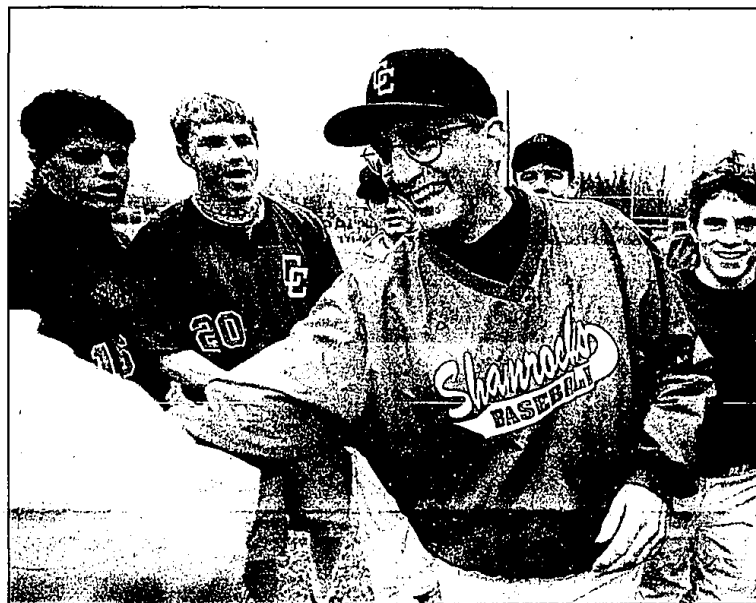
Then, after beating Fraser on Monday, the team was ready to celebrate until Salter informed them that it was actually win No. 499. Again, the cake went back into cold storage.

"Before this one, Al told (assistant Kevin Walters) that 'I don't care if we lose; we're finally eating the cake,'" said Salter, who is now 501-182 in 21 seasons. The Shamrocks are 7-2 this year with a 3-1 mark in the Catholic League Central Division. "They also signed a ball for me and handed it to me. It's a good thing, because if they'd have thrown it to me I'd have dropped it."

It would have been one of the few mistakes the Shamrocks made on the day. After giving up a run in the first inning of the opener allowing the lead-off hitter to reach on a single, CC pitcher Charlie Haeger went into autopilot the rest of the way. The senior didn't give up a hit after and allowed just two walks with 12 strikeouts to improve to 3-0.

"Charlie settled down after that and was really dominant after the third inning," said Salter. "He was clocked at 86 MPH on the radar gun and that's the best he's thrown this year."

Mike Wadowski led the hitting by



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Milestone victory: Redford Catholic Central baseball coach John Salter is congratulated by his players Wednesday after getting his 500th career win when CC swept Harper Woods Notre Dame.

going 3-for-4, while Kevin Entsminger had a two-run triple in the fifth inning to break the game open and Dave Tovey was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

In the second game, CC jumped on the Irish for two runs in each of the first two innings to win the five-inning game, called because of darkness. Entsminger (2-1) took the win, giving up just three hits with four walks and nine strikeouts. Haeger led the way at the plate with a pair of doubles and three RBI, while Wadowski had a bases-loaded double in the second inning, good for three runs.

"It's almost too bad we're on spring break now," said Salter. "We're playing well and I wouldn't mind keeping going. Of course, when you win, you always want to keep playing."

Hawks defeat Raiders

Farmington Harrison struck early for a five-run lead and then held off host North Farmington for an eventual, 5-3 baseball victory Wednesday.

The Hawks are 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Raiders are 0-2 on both counts.

Harrison scored three runs in the first inning and added single runs in the second and third.

Tim Doig was 2-for-3 to lead Harrison's nine-hit attack. Drew Stanton hit a two-run double, and Kevin

Zerbo had two RBI with a sacrifice fly and a single.

Brad Hocking also drove in a run with a sacrifice fly; Doig scored a pair of runs.

Harrison's Rob Whipple started and pitched into the fifth inning to get the win. He struck out six, walked two and allowed three hits. Stanton pitched the next two innings and Andy Wingert the finale.

Eric Odmark went five innings for

Please see **BASEBALL, B3**

North starts slowly, whips Western in 2nd half

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Coach Tim Russell expected a better first-half effort from his North Farmington girls soccer team Wednesday.

But he couldn't complain about the result, especially the final outcome, as the Raiders defeated host Walled Lake Western, 5-1.

After playing its best game of the season Monday in a 1-0 loss to Livonia Churchill, North had a let-down in the first half against Western, according to Russell.

Nonetheless, the Raiders managed to have the lead at halftime, 2-1.

"We should have been playing much better," Rus-

GIRLS SOCCER

sell said. "We weren't focused; we weren't executing plays; we were back on our heels on defense."

"But, to still be up, I couldn't be too upset about that."

The Warriors scored the first goal, but Lauren Hogan tied it with an assist from Kelly Hogan at 14:43.

Lauren Hogan gave North the lead, this time with a cross from Ashley Lynch, with 8:22 remaining.

"At halftime we regrouped and talked about what we wanted to accomplish," Russell said. "Part of the problem was we weren't creating offense, because we

were back on our heels on defense; so we had not foundation to build on."

"We started out strong in the second half; from that point on, we were OK."

In the first minute, Nicole Adena made it a 3-1 lead for the Raiders after taking a set-up pass from Lauren Hogan.

The Hogans reversed their earlier roles as Kelly scored the fourth goal from Lauren. With 2:34 remaining, Lauren Hogan scored her third goal off a pass from Lauren Young.

"It was a nice give-and-go play," Russell said. "Lauren gave it up to Young; she gave it right back, and Lauren planted a nice shot to the near post."

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

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