

Hawks stay undefeated in division

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Farmington Harrison won its second baseball tournament Saturday and remained unbeaten Monday in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Hawks, who are 4-0 in the WLLA Western Division, trounced visiting Livonia Franklin in six innings by invoking the mercy rule, 11-1.

Rob Whipple continued to provide Harrison with excellent pitching, striking out 13 and allowing four hits while going the distance.

Drew Stanton had three hits, two stolen bases and two RBI, and he scored two runs. Greg Hocking hit a two-run double, and Bill Richeson had two RBI with a pair of singles.

The Hawks (13-1) won three games and the championship of the Clarkston Pops Warner Tournament Saturday.

Harrison whipped Flushing, 18-7, and Fraser, 14-4, in the first two and defeated Clarkston in the final, 8-2. Stanton was the winning pitcher in the championship game, working four innings of hitless relief but giving up one run. He fanned eight of 12 batters he faced.

The Hawks had a total of 42 hits in the three games.

Houchins lifts Falcons
 Bob Houchins smacked a

BASEBALL

thruo-run homer in the fifth inning Monday to give host Farmington a 7-8 win over Walled Lake Central.

Chris Chesney singled and Andy Brown reached base on an infield error. With two outs, Houchins gave the Falcons a 7-4 lead.

The Vikings scored twice in the top of the seventh, and they had a runner at first base when the game ended with a 1-6-3 double play.

Freston Picard was the winning pitcher in relief, working 6.2 innings, allowing four hits, striking out two and walking three — one intentionally.

He entered with the bases loaded and one out in the second inning. He got out of the inning with a double play. Steve Babish was the starting and losing pitcher.

Farmington had six hits. Chesney was 2-for-3 and scored a run; Tony Luttmann doubled, had one RBI and scored two runs. Chesney and Brown had RBI singles.

"We were fortunate to get (the win)," Farmington coach Pote Finn said, adding the Falcons trailed 4-0 after one inning.

"The kids stayed tough. We didn't execute really well; we missed a suicide squeeze (that resulted in a double play), but we came back. The kids are pret-

ty resilient. I have to give it to them."

Farmington is 2-2 in the WLLA Lakes Division and 5-5 overall.

Raiders in contention

North Farmington won its last three games to move above .500 and remain just a half game behind Livonia Stevenson in the WLLA Lakes Division.

The Raiders, who defeated Walled Lake Central on Friday and Plymouth Salem once Saturday and again Monday, are 6-5 overall and 4-1 in the division. Stevenson is 4-0 in the Lakes.

"The kids are getting more confident as they play," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "We're getting key hits and key pitching. Finally, we're playing some defense. We have a long way to go but it's exciting."

In the second half a doubleheader that was postponed due to rain Saturday, the Raiders scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth to break a 7-7 tie and defeat the Rocks, 10-7.

Jason Berthiaume had an RBI single and Rich Hegstrom an RBI sacrifice fly. The other run scored on a throwing error.

Bryan Smith scored from third when the Rocks tried a pickoff play at second.

Justin Prinstein was the winning pitcher in relief. He pitched 4.2 scoreless innings, allowing two hits and a walk.

North had 10 hits. Berthiaume was 3-for-4, had two RBI and scored two runs. Prinstein knocked in three runs with a single and a sacrifice fly, and Chris Clark was 2-for-3 with a double.

At Oldsmobile Stadium in Lansing, Mike Hand pitched a complete game Saturday as North beat Salem in six innings, 12-6. The game was stopped because of rain. Hand walked four and fanned three.

The Raiders outhit the Rocks, who used four pitchers, 11-8. Hegstrom was 4-for-5 with two RBI and Matt Clark 2-for-4 with two RBI.

Chris Clark, Mike Rosenberg and Smith had one hit and two RBI apiece.

On Friday, Prinstein was the winning pitcher in relief again, throwing the last three innings of shutout ball.

He entered with his team trailing, 6-0, but North rallied to beat Central, 6-5. Prinstein allowed just one hit and didn't issue a walk.

The Raiders, who had just three hits, scored twice in the sixth inning on a combination of walks and errors.

Smith belted a three-run homer to tie the score in the seventh. In the eighth, Prinstein scored the winning run on a base hit by Tom Rossana. The Vikings went down 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

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move. And soccer continues to grow in popularity, nurturing that growth in part of the Duggans' long-range plan to bring a Major League Soccer franchise to Detroit.

"We want to be part of the MLS," said Jim Duggan, who serves as team president. "The way the Bucks can help is to prove people will come to games. If we can fill up Canton and Seaholm a few times, it will go a long way toward getting a (MLS) franchise."

Already there seems to be a swelling of anticipation surrounding the Bucks' arrival. "We've sold way more tickets already," said Jim Duggan. With the World Cup Tournament about to get under way, that excitement should snowball.

Ticket sales have been helped by their presence in Finnerty's facility. Finnerty serves as the director of coaching for the 157 teams in the Canton Soccer Club; when he officially opened High Velocity last December, his studies had indicated there were 21,000 youth soccer players (ages 5-19) within a 20-mile radius of his center.

"The response we are receiving from local soccer clubs has been tremendous," said Dan Duggan. "And this should be the most exciting team that we've ever fielded."

That team includes a new coach: Dario Brose, a former midfielder for the San Jose (Calif.) Earthquakes of the MLS who missed last season with a litany of ailments that included two knee

injuries, a hip flexor and two stress fractures in his foot.

"The Duggans heard about him — 'We were trying to get him to play,' Jim Duggan said — through his brother, Dennis, who played several years of indoor soccer with the Detroit Rockers. Although the 32-year-old Dario has not coached at this level previously, he has a wealth of international soccer experience.

Other players the Bucks will sign for the season (many are college players and are restricted by NCAA rules that forbid a player from signing with a club prior to May 1) are Ryan Mack (from Seaholm) and Pat Noonan, both from Indiana University; Paul Snaith, an Oakland University graduate and the Bucks' all-time leading scorer; keeper Eric Pogue (Troy Athens), a Western Michigan grad, and Joe Zawacki (Livonia Stevenson), from the University of Michigan; Tino Scieluna (from Redford/Detroit County Day), the team's captain the past two years; Mike White (Stevenson), from U-M; Benji Djuekung and Boyzz Khumalo, who play for NALA power house Lindsey Wilson College; Brian Williams of OU; Justin Deter (White Lake) from Notre Dame; and Kallen Kalso (Oxford) from Michigan State.

"We've got to get this together quickly," noted Jim Duggan. "Some teams have been there (practicing) for a month and a half."



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