

Sports

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Grid picks

Staff sports writers pick
their prep football winners.
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Dan O'Meara, editor
(734) 953-2141
Fax: (734) 591-7279
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

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Sidelines

Whalers tie Spits

Third-period goals by Taylor Raszka and Brent Mahon enabled the Plymouth Whalers to overcome a 3-1 deficit and force a 3-3 draw with the Windsor Spitfires in both teams' first pre-season game of the season Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Windsor opened its two-goal lead on scores by Justin Hodgins and Rob Hennigar. A goal by Jonas Fiedler on a nice setup by Ryan Ramsay with 2:29 left in the second narrowed Plymouth's gap to 2-1, but by the end of two periods it was a two-goal margin once again.

Raszka, the Whalers' No. 1 draft choice this year, buried a breakaway to make it a 3-2 game midway through the final period. Mahon scored on a rebound with 4:38 left to salvage the tie.

Paul Drew was in goal for the Whalers. Matt Anthony was in the net for the Spits.

The Whalers host Saginaw at 7:30 p.m. tonight in more pre-season action. Tickets are \$5 apiece.

Tennis stalemate

Oakland Activities Association combatants Rochester and Farmington settled very little on the tennis courts Tuesday afternoon. Instead, they settled for a 4-4 draw.

The host Rochester Falcons salvaged three wins in doubles play and one in singles, while the Farmington Falcons dominated singles play with three victories and gained one doubles triumph.

Farmington's singles wins came from Reeni Surma (No. 1), Brittany Nuccitelli (No. 2) and Kristie Beskey (No. 3). The Rochester win was posted by Ashley Balto.

In doubles action, the Rochester duo of Meha Sachdev and Amy Ring scored a decisive 6-0, 6-3 victory at No. 2, and the No. 3 tandem of Leigh Hilbert and Jeannie Xu were 7-6, 6-2 winners. Amy Baker and Theresa Tran notched a 6-2, 6-2 triumph at No. 4.

Farmington's doubles win came at No. 1 where Allison Lyon and Morgan Walter stopped Rochester's team in straight sets.

Intramural hoops

Registration for the 2002 St. Fabian intramural basketball program will take place 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, in the school lobby. All St. Fabian boys and girls in grades five through eight are encouraged to sign up. The program is intended for kids of all skill levels.

Volunteer coaches, referees and scorekeepers are needed and may sign up during registration. The five-week season begins Saturday, Sept. 14, and ends Saturday, Oct. 19. For more information call Bob Cipriano at 248-478-3070.

Trojans tumble

Sophomore center Marissa Martin's game-high 21 points wasn't enough Tuesday as Livonia Clarenceville (0-1) dropped its season opener in girls basketball at Taylor Baptist Park (1-0), 37-34. Latina Jones paced the Wildcats with 18 points and seven steals.

Rice halts Harrison's 36-game streak

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It's not often Farmington Harrison loses a football game in the Pontiac Silverdome. But when it does, Birmingham Brother Rice is usually responsible.

The Warriors earned their third straight victory over the Hawks at that venue Saturday in the 22nd Annual Prep Kickoff Classic, 34-20.

Rice, which also defeated Harrison in the 1994 and '95 season openers, has won the last four meetings and holds a 4-1 lead in the series.

The Hawks, who have won 12 state titles at the Dome, had their 36-game winning streak snapped, and Harrison coach John Herrington was denied his

300th career victory.

"It's a great win to open with, and the boys played a marvelous game," Rice coach Al Fracassa said. "The offense did a great job, and the defense hung in there. That was a great team we beat. I'm glad we don't play them again. It was a heckuva team victory."

Rice was led by senior quarterback Doug Pickens, who picked apart the Harrison secondary for 194 yards and four touchdowns while completing 10 (not counting two laterals) of his 16 pass attempts. Pickens, a West Bloomfield resident, was a poised and cool operator, beginning his second year as the starting quarterback.

He gave "all the credit" to the Rice offensive line of Andy Burkhardt, Cody Nolen, Ryan Sullivan, Bob McMucken

and Mike Decker for giving him the time to set up and throw.

"Last year it was like everything was moving a million miles an hour," Pickens said. "The line gave us time to make plays. It was like everything had slowed down."

He added the Warriors thought the pass might be available to them, "but I didn't think we'd be able to pass on (Harrison) like we did."

Pickens, who scored Rice's only rushing touchdown on a 1-yard sneak, had his pick of receivers, too. His TD tosses went to four different players.

He passed 16 yards to Anthony Jackson, 7 yards to Al Gioutsos and 74 yards to Brian Mahler and 3 yards to Jason Horton for Rice touchdowns.

"(The Warriors) deserved to win,"

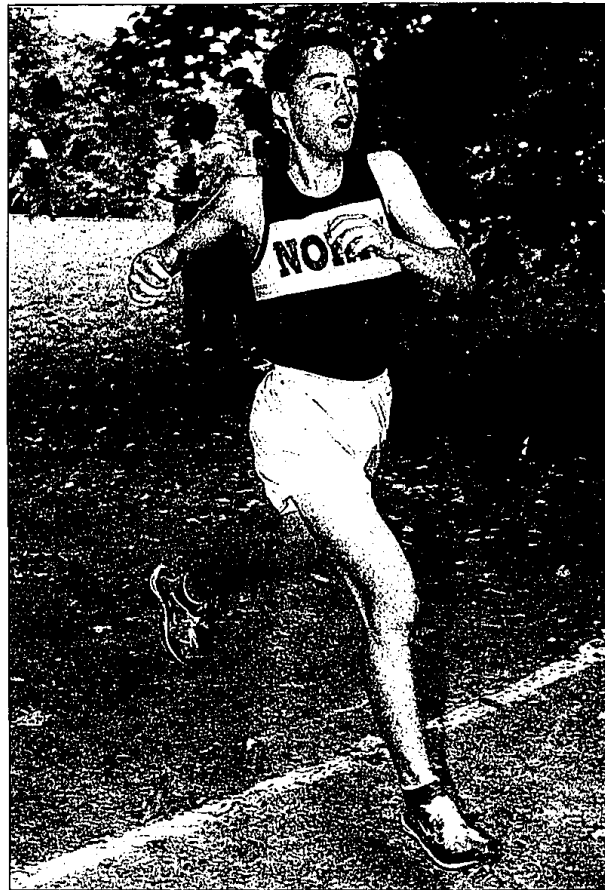
Herrington said. "Our pass defense was very poor. We'd get into position and let their receivers catch the ball. I don't think we ever gave up that many TD passes."

"We were not as aggressive as we needed to be. The players in the secondary weren't coming up and hitting, either."

The Hawks, who were led by senior tailback Marcus Woods (122 yards on 21 carries), had the lead twice in the first half.

After a missed field goal by Rice to start the game, Harrison drove 80 yards in 18 plays, helped by a pass interference penalty, to take a 7-0 lead on Kevin Zerbo's 1-yard plunge and Jake Ghannam's PAT.

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, D2



DAL BRESLER/OBSERVER

Senior Ben Gannon was a Division I state qualifier last year and returns to lead the North Farmington cross country team in 2002.

Hawks have veteran cross country team

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison has a veteran group of runners in boys cross country led by senior Brian Coats, last year's individual city champion.

Senior Nick Israel, Matt Drew, Wayne Wright, Eric Lachowski and Andrew Singer have several years of experience and helped Harrison capture the 2002 city title.

"I think we'll be every bit as good if not better than last year," coach John Reed said. "Last year we had a good senior group. This year we have another. They're focused and working hard."

The Hawks, who were just five points better (34-39) than North Farmington last year, attempted to repeat as Farmington's best Wednesday at Oakland.

PLEASE SEE BOYS, D3



DAL BRESLER/OBSERVER

A healthy Ryan Kiblawi hopes to rebound from an injury-filled junior year to lead Farmington.

North boasts elite runner in Barrows

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington went to the state meet in girls cross country for the first time last year, but the Raiders lost five of their top eight runners to graduation.

However, the team's top runner, Susan Barrows, returns for her senior season.

She was the obvious favorite to win the city meet Wednesday at Oakland Community College, and she could be one of the best runners in all of Division I.



Barrows

Barrows missed half of last season because of a stress fracture. The only race she ran in October was the regional, and her performance was crucial to North qualifying for state.

At the state meet, Barrows was the team's top runner but finished way back in the pack due to her injury. Otherwise, she would have been in the top 30, according to coach Bill Pinnell.

An All-Observer choice in cross country and track, Barrows rebounded from the injury to have a fine track season last spring.

"She's doing very well; she's healthy and running strong," Pinnell said. "We're looking for big things from her this year."

The graduation losses included Nicole Moundros, Kelly Kuo, and Nicole Moundros.

PLEASE SEE GIRLS, D3

Clock controversy affects North-Lahser outcome

Brandon Horvath's goal with six seconds remaining in the second half Tuesday enabled host Bloomfield Hills Lahser to tie North Farmington in boys soccer, 1-1.

As time was about to expire, a Lahser player was fouled, but time ran out before the Knights could execute a direct kick. However, the referee added 12 seconds to the clock, giving Lahser the opportunity to score. Horvath's shot deflected off a teammate into the goal.

"It's not like World Cup or FIFA rules where the official clock is on the referee's wrist," North coach Ron Meteyer said. "In high school, the stadium clock is the official clock."

Meteyer said the referee told him he was

adding time, because he didn't stop the clock when the Raiders scored earlier.

"You don't add time now," Meteyer said. "That's against the rules, too. We clearly got robbed on that one. We should've beaten them, 1-0."

The Raiders scored with 9.5 minutes remaining in the game when Scott Moscow lobbed the ball over the head of the Lahser goalie. North had nine shots and Lahser three. The Raiders had seven corner kicks to one for the Knights (2-0-2).

"We outplayed them in every facet of the game," Meteyer said, "but the referee, in his infinite wisdom, stepped in and decided the official clock was not to be the official time. The rules clearly say the stadium clock is

supposed to be the official one.

"Lahser is not to blame for what happened. It was the referee deciding to intercede and be the deciding factor in the game."

The Raiders were 1-0-1 in Division II of the Oakland Activities Association and overall going into a Wednesday game with Birmingham Groves.

FARMINGTON FALLS ON ROAD

Senior forward Ryan Dick's second-half goal enabled host Rochester to post an Oakland Activities Association Division I victory Tuesday night over Farmington, 2-1. Dick took a pass from Adam Brent (two

assists) just outside the six-yard line and ripped it inside the far post, Rochester coach Todd Heugh said.

Brent also set up senior midfielder Evan Daick to give the host Falcons a 1-0 lead early in the second half.

Farmington, playing its first match in the OAA Division I, evened matters when senior forward Matt Konopinski converted a corner kick by Matt Okopy.

Goalkeeping duties for Rochester were divided between senior Gabe Winberry and junior Aaron Miller.

"They're going to be a great addition to the OAA Division I," Heugh said of the Falcons, who moved over this season from the Western Lakes Activities Association.

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