

## HAWKS

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had good base-running and we took advantage of some of their mistakes," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

"Their pitcher (Denny Graham) is one of the fastest we've faced. We were able to move the ball enough and take advantage of some base-running to get a couple runs early."

Meanwhile, Andy Wingert had a masterful pitching performance for the Hawks, throwing a two-hitter and striking out seven. He didn't give up a walk, and Harrison didn't make an error.

Wingert retired the first 10 batters in a row until Brian Burton ended the no-hit bid with a one-out single in the fourth.

The only other Garden City base-runner was Bryan Dutton, who hit a two-out double in the sixth inning.

"We couldn't hit him," Herman said of Wingert. "But he didn't have one wild pitch to aid us. We couldn't hit him; we couldn't match him."

"He threw extremely well. His control was so good, and he wasn't giving us any chances to get anything started."

Ghannam began the third inning with a single and later scored on a wild pitch for a 3-0 lead.

The Hawks scored twice in the fifth. Nick Vitanis reached on an error and scored on a passed ball. On the same play, Carino, pinch-running for Wingert again, went to third and raced home on an over-



Harrison Hawks pitcher Andy Wingert (center) is congratulated by his teammates after throwing a two-hitter in the region-ofinal.

throw at that base.

Harrison added three runs in the sixth for the 8-0 final. Dan Williams singled and scored on an infield error;

Vitanis and Kyle Taylor had back-to-back RBI sacrifice flies. All the runs were charged to Ghannam, who pitched five innings and to three batters in the sixth. He also struck out seven, walked four and hit one batter. Dutton worked one official inning of relief in the sixth.

Herman said the draw favored Harrison, which mer-

ited Detroit Cody in its first game Saturday, 15-0 in three innings, and was able to save Wingert for the final. Garden City defeated Lincoln Park in the other semifinal, 5-1.

"That was a benefit for them," Herman said. "It might have been different if they had to throw their No. 2. They got to throw their No. 1."

"I'll be honest; it definitely was (an advantage)," Herrington said. "We didn't have to throw our ace in the first game."

"You don't want to take a chance, usually, but I thought we could beat Cody (12-5)."

Harrison was a Division II quarterfinalist last year, losing to the eventual state champion, Monroe Jefferson, 1-0 in eight innings.

"Moving up to DI and losing players like (Rob) Whipple and (Drew) Stanton - and being in the same district with Redford Union, Farmington and CC - it didn't look too good," Herrington said.

"(The Oakland Activities Association Division I) is an extremely good baseball league, and we faced good pitchers in every game, so it did prepare us well for the tournament."

HARRISON IS COZY: The Hawks needed just three innings to mercy their Detroit Public School League opponent in the first game of the regional tournament Saturday at Allen Park.

Mike Sacha pitched a no-hitter; he walked two and struck out six. Greg Hocking had two hits and three RBI, and Kevin Zerbo knocked in two runs with a base hit and also scored two runs.

Chris Sutton, Kyle Taylor, Sacha, Jake Ghannam and Dan Williams had RBI singles.

Sacha and Andy Wingert scored two runs each.

Eric Zalkin and Aaron Peacock had bases-loaded walks and one RBI apiece.

## MARLINS

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Schneider and Carly Tracey have played on all four Mercy teams that went to the state semis. Tracey started at shortstop as a freshman, and Schneider broke up a no-hitter in a 2000 semifinial loss to Portage Northern.

"The goal for the seniors was to get back to Battle Creek for a fourth time," Falvo said. "The seniors have done a superb job of leading this team. It's a joy to coach this team. They're the nicest players around."

Regina (25-14) had three hits off Mercy sophomore pitcher Dana Frantz, who struck out just three batters but walked only one and got the Saddlelites' first hit 13 groundball outs. Regina had two hits in the first inning, and Frantz didn't give up another after a third-inning single by Nemitz (two hits), retiring the last 12 batters in a row.

"Dana was not on top of her game but, in the seventh with a

one-run lead, she bore down and did a phenomenal job to close it out," Falvo said.

Nemitz allowed six hits (two by Caitlin Tracey), struck out five and walked three.

Mercy had three hits in the fifth inning - all infield singles - to load the bases with no outs. The Saddlelites made two putouts at the plate and got out of the inning unscathed when center fielder Kim Petrucci made a running, diving catch with the web of her glove on a flyball hit by Carly Tracey.

"When we got the bases loaded, I thought that's when we would blow the game open," Falvo said. "(Regina) did an exceptional job of choking off the rally."

"It was frustrating, because we weren't able to get things going. In the sixth, when (Regina) went out on only four or five pitches, I told the girls the game had turned. I said, 'Get me one baserunner to third and we're going to win.'"

It was the 12th game Regina lost by a run - three to Mercy, which won four of five from the Saddlelites this year.

## HARRISON

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single by Hacias made it 6-4 in the sixth. Butler walked and Jensen lined his single to left to produce the 6-5 score and the great putout at the plate by Harrison.

"He was tired," Herrington said of Wingert. "He said after the sixth he was done. So I had to make a move. But we started walking people."

Lead-off hitter Nick Andrew walked to start the seventh and Jarro, after failing twice on sacrifice attempts, lined a one-two pitch into right center to put runners on first and second.

Herrington changed pitchers again, but Abraham walked on a 3-2 pitch to load the bases, bringing up cleanup hitter Mackinnon, who hadn't looked like a powerhouse grounding out twice and striking out in three previous at-bats.

"I sat on one of his curves," said Mackinnon, who pulled a one-two pitch over the right-field fence near the foul line. "I was waiting for anything I could hit. I just wanted to put it in the out-knew I had to get it in the out-

field. "We've been having trouble with curveballs all year, but I saw that one jumping there."

The Blue Devils scored in the first on a two-base throwing error plus a passed ball and a ground-out to short by Abraham.

"It's amazing," South coach Dan Griesbaum said, recalling his team had five comeback wins in taking the state title two years ago. "They don't ever give up. They deserve this."

Mike Sacha singled to start the second, stopping at second on a single by Greg Hocking. They were sacrificed up and scored in turn on singles by Williams and Jason McKenzie. Ghannam's RBI single gave Harrison a 3-1 lead.

Singles by Nick Vitanis, Zerbo and Sacha produced a run in the fourth. Hocking's sacrifice fly made it 5-1, and Dan Doig's RBI single made it 6-1. But vital walks in runs ended the Hawks, who were unable to score in the third despite three walks and a single, and they were foiled again in the sixth despite two walks.

It was a tough loss for Harrison, which lost in the Division II quarterfinals last year to eventual state champion Monroe Jefferson in eight innings, 1-0.

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Detroit Symphony Orchestra 8:00 p.m. steps of City Hall.

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Official race start time 12:30 p.m. Displays of Competitor's  
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