

Sports

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 breakthrough to regen-
 erate a teen's heart. C5



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Sidelines

OAA hoop honors

North Farmington's Tom Negoshian and Farmington High's Steve Norgrove received Coach of the Year honors from their basketball peers in the Oakland Activities Association.

Negroshian won the award in Division III after leading the Raiders to the division championship with a 12-2 record in their first year in the league.

Norgrove shared the Division IV honor with coach Jeff Evans of Madison, the division champion. Farmington was in title contention until the final game and finished second.

North Farmington senior Marcus McComb, junior Gary Kennedy and sophomore Sean Mackler made the all-Division III team, along with Harrison junior Brandon Giles.

Farmington is represented on the all-Division IV team by juniors Marcus Holman and Georgio Holt.

National title

Farmington's Lynday Howard has been a starting middle for two years on the undefeated and No. 1-ranked Grand Valley State University club volleyball team.

The 6-foot-2 Howard, a 2000 graduate of Farmington High School,

helped the team win tournaments at Michigan, Central Michigan, Northwestern and GVSU.

The team will compete for a national title April 10-12 in Columbus, Ohio.

Hockey tryouts

The unified Farmington junior varsity hockey team will have spring tryouts 5:30-7 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Suburban Peps; 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, March 17, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena and 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The tryouts are open to all students who attend Farmington public high schools. Middle school students who will attend high school in the fall are eligible to be considered for the team, too.

Call coach Tim McMurry at (248) 626-3631.

Spring Training

Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills will host Suburban Hockey Spring Training, an eight-week program for hockey players of all ages and skill levels.

The program, which begins April 1, has once-a-week classes for novice children (ages 4-6), mini-mites (5-6), mites (7-8), squirts (9-10), pee wees (11-12) and adults. Skating, puck skills and positional play will be taught by Suburban Hockey instructors.

For more information on the spring program, call Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.



The Whalers' Chad LaRose (17), who set the club record with his 61st goal of the year in Friday's 6-2 win, looks to make the pass.



The Whalers' Chris Thorburn (19) scores his third goal of the game, shooting the puck into an open net.

LaRose scores 61st as Whalers whip G'hounds

BY C.J. RISAK
 STAFF WRITER

Chris Thorburn got a hat trick. John Mitchell scored twice. Those aren't the goals Plymouth Whalers' fans will remember from Friday's 6-2 win over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds Friday at Compuware Arena, however.

It's the other one. The goal that gave the Whalers the lead for good, the gamewinner, the one that just beat the horn ending the second period.

That memorable play was started by the Plymouth goalie, Paul Drew, who until then had been his team's only true star. He got the puck to Thorburn, who passed it to an open Winaler on the right wing.

The Whaler skated near the top of the circle in the Greyhounds' end, took aim and sent a shot whistling towards the lower-left corner of the Sault Ste. Marie net. Goalie Joey Binsucci couldn't stop it; the puck caught the corner, giving Plymouth a 2-1 lead with just 1.9 seconds left in the period.

And also giving the puck-shooter, Chad LaRose, his 61st goal of the season — which happens to be a team record, breaking the mark of 60 set by Sean Haggerty in 1998-99.

At that point the sellout crowd of 3,815 erupted. They didn't need to be told the goal was a record-setter.

"It was nice to see the fans give him a standing ovation like that," said Whalers' coach Mike Vellucci afterwards. "No one deserves it more than Chad."

It proved to be an important goal in other ways, too. Until then, Plymouth's overall performance had been lackluster. Thorburn scored the game's first goal with 4:59 left in the opening period, skating down the left to field a pass from LaRose, who drew the goalie toward him on the right side.

But after that, play by both teams bogged down. With 5:38 remaining in the second period, the Greyhounds got the equalizer from Mike Amodeo, who knocked in a rebound that slipped away from Drew. Matt Henneson and Jeff Doyle assisted.

That set the stage for LaRose's goal, scored on

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, C2

Lakers claim regional title over Falcons

BY TIM SMITH
 STAFF WRITER

Grit and determination came out ahead of star power Wednesday night.

It means the West Bloomfield varsity boys basketball team continues its season while Birmingham Groves — with stars Vova Severovas and Giordan Watson — is done for the year.

A defensive blanket thrown over Severovas (12 points) and Watson

keyed the Lakers' 70-59 triumph in the Class A regional final at West Bloomfield High School. It was the third time this season the Lakers defeated the Falcons.

West Bloomfield (21-4) will play a state quarterfinal game 8 p.m. Tuesday at Ferndale against either Detroit Southeastern or Warren DeLaSalle.

"It's the third time we played them, so we were pretty familiar with the type of system they run," West Bloomfield coach Larry Moore said.

"We were working on (defense) the last few days. (Six-foot-7 senior) Kevin Lamb is real strong, a big body, and he was able to keep a body on Vova and just keep him busy. He didn't let him get any easy catches."

Guards Kyle Planchbaum (seven points) and David Merritt (11 points), likewise kept the defensive pressure on Falcons backcourt quarterback Watson, holding him to 21 points.

When other Groves players were unable to compensate — the team

PLEASE SEE LAKERS, C3

Farmington JV records 19-win season

BY DAN O'NEARE
 STAFF WRITER

Midway in the 2002-03 basketball season, the Farmington High School junior varsity boys team had its mettle tested during a game at Hazel Park.

The Falcons trailed on the scoreboard by 10 points at halftime, but they regrouped and rallied to win the game.

"At that point, we knew we had a special season, and the kids didn't let any team

BASKETBALL

get in the way of what they wanted to accomplish," coach Ryan Baker said. "It's a credit to the kids, to be able to step up every night."

Farmington went on to win its last nine games and finish with a 16-game winning streak.

The team's final record was an impressive 19-1, which included a 14-0 record in

the Oakland Activities Association Division IV.

The Falcons, who defeated crosstown rivals Harrison and North Farmington in non-division games, played 12 of their 20 games on the road. Their only loss was to host Holly in a Christmas tournament, 49-46.

"Teams were gunning for us, because they knew we were at the top of the divi-

PLEASE SEE JUNIOR VARSITY, C2

Sorrows' girls extend win streak to 87

BY DAN O'NEARE
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows' sixth- and fifth-grade girls basketball team has done it again.

The Saints have achieved another undefeated season — their fourth in a row.

Sorrows finished the 2002-03 campaign with a 19-0 record, giving the team a total of 77 wins without a loss since the start of the 1999-2000 season.

But the Saints' winning streak is actually longer than that. They also won their final 10 games of 1998-99, making the current tally 87 consecutive victories.

"It's just a remarkable achievement," Sorrows coach Paul Mueller said. "It's something that's really hard to envision."

"It's been an amazing four or five years. We've had great kids come through Sorrows, talented players. A lot have gone on to play middle school and even high school basketball."

Mueller had been an assistant to former coach James Risk the past two seasons and took over as head coach this season.

Risk, who coaches the Sorrows seventh- and eighth-grade girls, is now Mueller's assistant, and Mueller assists Risk with the older team.

"We thought we would have a really strong team this year," Mueller said. "We had seven or eight players come back



The members of the undefeated Sorrows girls basketball team are (front row, left to right) Marissa Martz and Kelsey Risk; (middle row) Briéget Hickey, Gwen Oster, Claire Dezelski, Rachel Charles, Jordan Mueller, Marilana Angulano and Chelsea Hunter; (back row) Courtney LaValley, Andrea Conover, assistant coach James Risk, Julie Kenney, Kelly Cebula, Marie Bergeron, head coach Paul Mueller and Danyelle Kauble.

who were fifth graders last year. That made for a pretty experienced team, and we figured we'd be pretty strong."

The Sorrows team consists of sixth graders Marissa Martz, Kelsey Risk, Bridget Hickey, Gwen Oster, Jordan Mueller, Marilana Angulano, Chelsea Hunter, Courtney LaValley, Andrea

Conover, Julia Kenney, Kelly Cebula, Marie Bergeron and Danyelle Kauble and fifth graders Claire Dezelski and Rachel Charles.

There is no Catholic Youth Organization post-season tournament for

PLEASE SEE SORROWS, C3

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