

Sports

PREPS • RECREATION • OUTDOORS

Concussion

New techniques help schools identify student head injuries.
Health, C6

Sidelines

Martin picks JCSU

Henry S. Martin III, a senior at Farmington High School, has signed a national letter of intent to play football at Johnson C. Smith University, a NCAA Division II school in Charlotte, N.C.



Martin was a four-year running back for the Falcons, averaging more than 8 yards per carry. Martin selected JCSU, a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, because of its small size, academic reputation and the chance to play as a freshman.

"This is an exciting opportunity," he said. "I'm really looking forward to becoming a part of the tradition at Smith."

JCSU is one of the nation's oldest, private, historically-black colleges and universities and the only one to be an IBM ThinkPad University.

As a ThinkPad University, all students receive laptop computers and have access to JCSU's campus-wide network and internet services.

Mercy golfers win

Senior Christina Cibrario shot a one-over-par 36 at Glen Oaks Golf Course and led Farmington Hills Mercy to a win over Harper Woods Regina Wednesday, 185-224. Caitlin Kelly and Angela Leo reported a pair of 49s, and Pam Rozas was two strokes back at 51 to complete the Mercy team score.

The Marlins are 2-0 in the Catholic League and 2-0 overall. Josie Atymovitch shot 42 to lead the Saddletrees (3-1).

Mercy is idle until April 28 when it plays Livonia Ladywood. Mercy's JV team defeated Farmington United Wednesday, 209-241.

Farmington Unified finished fourth in the 10-team Harland Invitational Thursday.

Northville had a team score of 249, Ann Arbor Pioneer 260, Dexter 253, Farmington 272 and Harland 277.

In the two-person, best-ball tournament, Farmington's Andrea Mazanka and Brittany Huccitelli were 10th (85), and Emily Laird and Halahie Pappalardo tied for 14th (93).

New driving range

A new driving range at the Farmington Hills Golf Club, a public course, is open for business seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The driving range, located on 11 Mile Road west of Hatfield, features 34 stations with multiple target greens. Lessons are available for golfers age 9 and up.

The range is part of an expansion of the former San Marino Golf Course from nine to 18 holes. The new nine and clubhouse are scheduled to open in July or August. For more information about the club, call (248) 473-1800.

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, C2



Farmington's Kristen Pietila (right) battles a Birmingham Groves opponent for possession of the ball in an OAA soccer game Thursday. The game ended in a 2-2 tie.

Farmington, Groves play to 2-2 draw

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Try as it did, Farmington was unable to subdue host Birmingham Groves and secure a victory in girls soccer Thursday.

Groves proved resilient, rallying twice from one-goal deficits, and turned the final outcome into a stalemate, 2-2.

All the scoring occurred in the first half. Farmington is 3-2-1 in the Oakland Activities Association Division II and the same overall.

Farmington's Erica Rose scored the first goal off a cross from Kristen Pietila at 26:59.

A Groves player later sent a free kick from 35 yards sailing toward the Farmington net - a play that led to the tying goal.

Farmington goalie Kate Kelly tipped the ball, which hit the post and caromed back on the field in a straight line instead of a diagonal angle.

Ciara O'Leary was on the scene to send the rebound into the net with 18 minutes left in the half.

Joyce Rose gave Farmington the lead again eight minutes later. Erica Rose won the ball in the midfield, dribbled a short ways and passed to Joyce, who fired a shot from 15 yards.

But the lead was short-lived as Elias Jacobs knotted the score for Groves with four minutes remaining in the half.

Before the halftime break, Joyce Rose hit the post and teammate Lindsay Evans just missed on another shot, according to Farmington coach Steve Montgomery.

"(Groves) had three chances and scored two goals," he said, adding his team had six or seven good chances.

"We were carrying the play to them. We had most of the possessions. We were passing the ball and doing everything we should.

"I was not unhappy with what the girls were doing. I told them to keep it up and be patient."

But there were no more goals to be scored for either team. Montgomery had his team with a 13-7 advantage in overall shots on goal.

"Their keeper did a nice job; she kinda kept them in the game," Montgomery said, adding Groves seemed to

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, C4

Rangers rip into Whalers for easy win

BY BRAD MOWATSTERE
STAFF WRITER

It was not a very Good Friday for the Plymouth Whalers.

The team returned home for Game 2 of its OHL Western Conference Final against the Kitchener Rangers, and the Whalers found themselves on the wrong end of a 6-1 decision at Computware Arena in front of a standing-room-only crowd of 3,667.

The win by the Rangers - as decisive on the ice as the score would indicate - knota the series at a game apiece, with Game 3 scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at Kitchener.

After gutting out a seventh-game win over the London Knights in the previous round, the Whalers didn't miss a beat in taking Game 1 at Kitchener.

But the home-ice disadvantage proved to work the other way as well in this game, as the Rangers controlled the play at both ends of the ice for the one-sided win.

The teams played to a scoreless tie in the first period, but the Rangers started cashing in on their numerous chances in the second period, scoring three goals in a 5:06 span to take command of the contest.

Kitchener coach Peter DeBoer, the former Whalers head man, said the team did a better job of winning the battles along the boards, which led to the puck control and scoring-chances

Farmington senior Jessica Janowicz, who earned all-area, second-team honors, excelled in the front court but was an all-around player.

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, C2

Shamrocks sweep twinbill from Pilots

BASEBALL

Pitching and defense did the job for Redford-Detroit Catholic Central on Wednesday as the Shamrocks shut down Warren De La Salle in a baseball double-header, 2-0 and 4-1.

"Defense did the job," CC coach John Salter said as his team improved to 7-2 overall and 5-2 in the Central Division.

"We made some pretty good plays, especially in the infield. In the second game, we made some outstanding plays to keep them from scoring more."

In the opener, CC held the Pilots (4-3,

2-2 Central) to just one hit off winner Jeff Schulz - a one-out, fifth-inning single by Matt Lewis.

Schulz struck out seven but walked 10 as the Pilots stranded 10 runners. Alex Avila took the loss, giving up seven hits.

The winning run came in the first as Kyle Crepeau doubled, Ryan Gallagher singled and Mike Monterey drove in Crepeau. CC added a run in the sixth on

Drew Amble's RBI double. In the second game, CC jumped out to a 4-0 lead and held on for the win. Mike Monterey (3-0) earned the victory in relief of Amble and went 5 2/3 innings, giving up four hits and five strikeouts.

Gallagher went 3-for-3 with a double and an RBI; Amble singled, walked and had an RBI, as did Eric Vojtkovsky.

"They had their chances in this one, but we stopped them on defense," Salter said.

PLEASE SEE SHAMROCKS, C4

Area's top volleyball players earn kudos

BY DANIEL STICKBAUD
STAFF WRITER

The state championship has been elusive to schools in Oakland County when it comes to the sport of prep volleyball.

Although it's common for an area team to reach the quarterfinals or semifinals, no team has ever come home carrying state champion hardware.

This year several teams shined in the post-season, with Birmingham Marian and Auburn Hills Oakland Christian reaching the regional round.

Several other teams won league titles or finished in the runner-up slots in their respective conferences or districts.

Individually, several area stars garnered a host of post-



Karykandall

season accolades, including all-state, all-region, and all-conference. Several of those players have landed a spot on the Observer & Eccentric's girls volleyball team, as selected by a panel of area coaches.

Here is a brief profile of the individuals honored this season:

FIRST TEAM
Sarah Graham, Seaholm: A three-year starter for the Indians, Graham became quite a force at the net, leading Seaholm with 15 blocks, total attacks (253) and posted a 289 kill efficiency.

"Sarah got off to a slow start this year, but by the end of the season she had really stepped up," Seaholm coach Bruce Harmon said. "She's a very strong hitter and all-

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, C3



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