

## Sports

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(F10)

## baseball

## Legion squad gets fast start

Don't look for the Farmington American Legion baseball team to be involved in too many pitcher's duels this season.

Farmington opened the season Saturday with a double-header sweep of Waterford Chief Pontiac, 9-5 and 11-7. Those are likely to be typical scores, according to coach Randy Meier.

"This squad is definitely lacking pitching," Meier said. "We are going to have to score a lot of runs to win."

Five players rapped two hits in game one. Denny Atwell, Steve Cody, Paul Newitt, Dave Bartone and Paul Sprattitis led the way. Newitt knocked in four runs.

In game two, Farmington's Joe Bob Wenson and Cody each knocked out four hits. Cody was 6-for-9 with four RBI on the day.

Newitt, a Northville High junior, stroked a three-run triple giving him seven RBI in the twin bill.

ATWELL, A Watled Lake Western product, had two more hits in game two.

Keith Motyka and Brent Daniels, both of Novi, were the winning pitchers.

"We are going to be a good hitting team," said Meier, whose team was third in the league last year. "We're hitting after two games. But Waterford isn't one of the better teams in the league."

The Farmington team draws its players from the Farmington, Watled Lake, Novi and Northville area. The Farmington players on the roster are Wenson, Art Eastman, Chris Alexander and Tom Giroux. Both Alexander and Giroux will be playing in the state Class A semifinals with Brother Rice this weekend.

Farmington's next opponent will be defending league and district champion Ferndale, 6:30 p.m. Friday at Ferndale.



DAVE DEAN/staff photographer

"Lean on me" says Mercy's Michelle Smith (right) and Terri Ford obliges. Both are members of Mercy's powerful All-Area 400 relay team.

## Area track engine powered by Ford

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

**B**OB KIRKLAND has coached many outstanding individual track and field performers at Farmington Hills Mercy over the years, but it's doubtful he has coached any better than Terri Ford.

Ford has been the premier sprinter in Observeland the past two years and was among the state's elite this year.

"Time after time in the last two years, she has brought the sprint relay team from incredible deficits to first-place finishes in dramatic fashion," Kirkland said. "Terri's true track talents have just begun to mature and if she pursues a running career, the results will be overwhelming."

Ford is a two-time regional champion in the 200-meter dash and a three-time Catholic League champ. She was runner-up in the state meet this year, missing out by .01. She is also a two-time regional and Catholic League champ in the 100 and this is her third All-Area selection.

Terri Ford, without question, is the 1988 Observeland Track Woman of the Year. She headlines the 1988 All-Area Girls Track and Field Team as selected recently by area coaches.

## FIELD EVENTS

Sue Naster, Bishop Borgess, shot put; This senior, a two-time All-Area choice, had the area's top tosses in both the shot put (37-34) and the discus (121-10). She was a regional and Observeland champion in both events. She qualified for state three straight years. And she maintained a

## all-area girls track

3.46 grade point average.

Karen Mareniak, Plymouth Salem, discus: Her loss of 117-11 this year established a Salem record and was the second best toss in Observeland. She was a Western Lakes champ both last year and this year. She never lost in a dual meet and was a state finalist this year.

Cheryl Johnson, Bishop Borgess, high jump: A junior, Johnson was the Class A state champion in this event with a 5-8 leap. She has been a state finalist for three straight years. She won individual titles this year at the Observeland, Spartan and West Bloomfield relays. She maintains a 3.5 in the classroom.

Stacey Gambin, Redford Thurston, long jump: Her leap of 17-1 1/4 was easily the area's best this season. It also won her a Class B regional title. She was a Northwest Suburban League champion and a four-event standout for the Eagles.

## TRACK EVENTS

Lisa Dominato, Livonia Franklin, 100-meter hurdles: "She is a true example that champions are made and not born. She made hurdling a 365-day commitment," says her coach Steve Dolloway. Her 15.6 time ties her for the area's best. She was a Western Lakes champ in both the high hurdles and long jump. And in

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Terri Ford  
MercyKaren Opp  
John GlennJoan Arndt  
Ladywood1988 ALL-AREA  
GIRLS TRACK TEAM

## FIELD EVENTS

Shot put: 1. Sue Naster (Borgess); 2. Nancy Coltran (N. Farmington); 3. Stacy Graham (John Glenn).

Discus: 1. Karen Mareniak (Salem); 2. Patti Brandon (Franklin); 3. Patti Matthews (Farmington).

High jump: 1. Cheryl Johnson (Borgess); 2. Angie Miller (Canton); 3. Janet Armstrong (Canton).

Long jump: 1. Stacey Gambin (Thurston); 2. Kathy Long (Livonia); 3. Sherry Figueroa (Canton).

## TRACK EVENTS

110-meter hurdles: 1. Lisa Dominato (Franklin); 2. Kristen Hosiaynski (Salem); 3. Amy Johnson (Salem).

300 hurdles: 1. Missy Ward (Garden City); 2. Karen Miller (Livonia); 3. Lori Gotschall (Farmington).

100 dash: 1. Dana Buckhalter (Wayne); 2. Dana Head (Salem); 3. Amy Holman (Livonia).

500 dash: 1. Terri Ford (Mercy); 2. Terry Spangler (N. Farmington); 3. Debbie Babo (Garden City).

400 dash: 1. Karen Opp (John Glenn); 2. Nikki Stubbs (Garden City); 3. Tricia Carney (Canton).

800 run: 1. Joan Arndt (Ladywood); 2. Suzanne Moore (Livonia); 3. Anna Quenneville (Farmington).

1,600 run: 1. Jenny Anderson (Hampton); 2. Karen Kantor (Churchill); 3. Bonnie Becker (Farmington).

3,200 run: 1. Michelle Economou (Livonia); 2. Rachel Mann (Canton); 3. Donna Chubb (N. Farmington).

## RELAYS

400 meter: 1. Mercy (Terri Ford, Michelle Smith, Adrienne Clark, Adrienne Arnesen); 2. Wayne (Dana Buckhalter, Marlene Kozlosky, Cheryl Hood, Ralf Delger); 3. North Farmington (Tammy Spangler, Joanne Wallace, Joanne Wallace).

800 meter: 1. Garden City (Debbie Babo, Joanne Wallace, Missy Ward, Heidi Stubbs); 2. Mercy (Tanya Martin, Terri Ford, Adrienne Clark, Adrienne Arnesen); 3. North Farmington (Wendy Love, Terry Spangler, Joanne Wallace, Tammy Spangler).

1,600 meter: 1. Garden City (Debbie Babo, Marlene Kozlosky, Adrienne Arnesen, Heidi Stubbs); 2. Ladywood (Joan Arndt, Monica Galt, Sarah Adina, Caroline McNamara); 3. Salem (Heidi Duprat, Dana Head, Amy Johnson, Kristin Hosiaynski).

3,200 meter: 1. Stevenson (Michelle Economou, Sheila Teorma, Amy Kasmurka, Suzanne Moore); 2. Canton (Rachel Mann, Marie Jarosz, Tricia Carney, Karen Botsch); 3. Churchill (Charlotte Curry, Stacy Woot, Karen Kantor, Carol Sacks).

Coach of the Year: Paul Holmberg, Livonia Stevenson.

Coach of the Year: Paul Holmberg, Livonia Stevenson.

## Can World Cup furor ignite apathetic U.S. soccer fans?

**P**EOPLE AROUND this globe of ours are riveted.

They are transfixed. They are hypnotized.

They are — well, you get the idea. The most stupendous of sports events has them hooked. It occurs only once every four years — mercifully so, since on more than one occasion fans of the losers have leapt from tall buildings with a single despair-filled bound because the humiliation of defeat was too great a burden to bear.

Everywhere, people will tune in to follow the exploits of their favorite team, absorbing every detail regarding their favorite performers.

Everywhere, that is, but in the greatest television-watching nation in the world — the U.S. of A.

IF YOU HAVEN'T guessed, the sport I speak of is soccer. And just south of our country's border is where the World Cup soccer tournament is being contested.

Any sports-loving American would never — never — dream of not tuning into the Super Bowl. Even if he did sleep through everything after the four-hour pre-game show, he'd leave the game blaring on his TV.

And yet, few of our countrymen will raise an eyebrow over such a worldwide sports spectacular as the World Cup. We boast that 100 million televisions tune in the Super Bowl, but as many as one billion people will watch the World Cup.

THERE'S A QUESTION here begging for an answer. How come?

How can soccer command such an audience everywhere else, and yet fail so miserably here?

I'd swallow all the standard reasons — no national team to cheer for, a long list of other sports diverting our attention, ever that soccer is

C.J.  
Risak

just plain boring — except that the evidence refutes them.

For instance: The most popular event at the 1984 Summer Olympics — the games held in Los Angeles — wasn't basketball or volleyball. It was soccer.

Here's another shocker for you. What's the No. 1 participatory sport among U.S. youth?

No, not bowling. It used to be baseball, but a couple of years ago soccer forged to the forefront.

Seems to me that would indicate an interest exists. And at the moment, the only major sport now playing at stadiums everywhere is baseball (although I know more than a few Detroiters who insist pro baseball left this town more than a month ago).

What we've got here is a paradox. Interest in the world's most popular game but no audience for the world's biggest sports attraction.

Tim Storch, the Troy Athens soccer coach, has some reasonable reasons for this dilemma. "They play a different brand of soccer," said Storch. "When they lose possession of the ball, they all come back and play a low-pressure style of defense. The problem with American fans is that they like to see an upbeat style. That's why indoor soccer does so well."

INDOOR SOCCER must seem like an abortion to purists of the game. Sit on a side, playing on a carpeted hockey rink? Other than the ball, it

isn't even remotely similar to the World Cup variety.

The conservative style of international soccer certainly bores U.S. fans, who like their action fast and furious.

There are good reasons for the sluggish tempo. International games are played on larger surfaces — 130 yards long, 80 yards wide — than in the U.S., where fields are roughly 120 x 65. Only one substitution is allowed per game, too, and when that player is substituted for he cannot return.

"If a star player gets hurt, a lot of teams will play shorthanded until he can return," Storch explained.

No team can afford to play a high-pressure, aggressive style for an entire game on such a large field without substituting players. That's why, as Storch said, "Until they got into the last 35 yards of the field, the (defensive team) will let them do whatever they want to do."

IT TAKES a great deal of patience, for player and fan alike. Teams mount endless attacks, searching and waiting for a defensive lapse, then pouncing.

Defenses have reigned thus far. There have been few games with more than two goals scored, total, by both teams.

Storch figures interest in the World Cup will zoom when the U.S. finally puts a team into the field of 24.

Maybe. But American sports fans are not a patient breed. If you want to cultivate an audience in this country, shrink the field, shuttle players in and out, stencil a two-goal line onto the field (like the NBA's three-point field-goal line), parade some scantily-clad cheerleaders down the sidelines.



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