

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



(F)10

# Top tumblers

## WLAA champ has 3 on elite squad

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

THE GIRLS ON the All-Observer gymnastics team are always among the best in the state, and this year the best gymnast in the state is one of them.

Wendy Minch, a sophomore at Westland John Glenn, earned that honor by winning the all-around title at the state meet March 18. She scored 38.85 in that competition but had a season high of 37.65.

Glenn is one of three teams to place three gymnasts on the 1989 all-area team. Minch is joined by teammates Debby Williams and Christine Oates. Williams, Kristin Szutarski of North Farmington and Heather Murphy of Plymouth Canton are first-team repeaters.

Along with Szutarski, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion Raiders put Kym Heller and Heather Kahn on the honor roll. In addition to Murphy, Canton's Dawn Clifford and Johanna Anderson also made the team.

Rounding out the 12-member squad are Christine Oates of Farmington, Lisa Grandfield of Livonia Clarenceville and Autumn Bunch of Plymouth Salem.

Introducing this year's All-Observer gymnastics team:

## ALL-AREA TEAM

Wendy Minch, sophomore, Glenn: In the process of becoming the best high school gymnast in Michigan, she won state championships on the uneven bars and balance beam, too. Minch, who received an All-America rating, was the WLAA champ in every event and captured regional honors in everything but beam. She had season-high scores of 9.8 on vault, 9.55 on bars, 9.30 on beam and 9.25 on floor exercise. Her top all-around score was the second best in the country.

Debby Williams, senior, Glenn: Williams also is an All-American gymnast, having a season average of 35.05 as an all-arounder. Her average scores in other individual events included a 9.15 on vault, 8.95 on bars, 8.43 on beam and 8.95 on floor.

In the WLAA meet, Williams was among the top 10 in every event, finishing fourth in the all-around and on vault, fifth on bars, eighth on floor and 10th on beam.

In the regional, she was second on floor, third on vault, bars and all-around and eighth on beam. At the state meet, Williams placed 24th in the all-around, 30th on vault, 31st on beam and 37th on bars.

Heather Kahn, sophomore, N. Farmington: Kahn, a veteran club gymnast, was a welcome addition to the North team this year and helped the Raiders capture fifth place in the state meet.

Kahn was the seventh-place all-arounder at the state meet with 35.40 and tied for fifth on bars. She and teammate Heller were second only to Minch among WLAA all-arounders, and Kahn won that title in the annual city meet. At the regional, Kahn was first on bars and third in the all-around.

Her season-high scores were 9.65 on vault, 9.25 on bars, 9.35 on beam and 9.30 on floor.

"Heather was very consistent the whole year," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She never had a bad meet. She knew what she had to do and got it done."

Kym Heller, junior, N. Farmington: Heller made the All-Observer team two years ago as a freshman but attended Birmingham Country Day School last year. She had another solid season after becoming eligible at the start of the second semester.

Heller tied for third place on vault at the state meet and placed sixth on floor exercise. The Raiders were runners-up to Troy Athens in regional competition in which Heller was second on vault (9.30), bars (9.00) and all-around (38.10), third on beam (8.70) and fourth on floor (9.10).

In the league, Heller and Kahn tied for second in the all-around (35.00), and Heller was third on vault and floor, second on beam and fourth on bars.

"She ended the season with a strong finish," Dwyer said. "She got real consistent near the end and when we needed her most, and I think the team score (139.50) reflects that."

Kristin Szutarski, sophomore, N. Farmington: Szutarski was seventh in the all-around in the WLAA, fifth on vault, eighth on bars and 11th on beam and floor. She was fourth on bars at the regional.

Please turn to Page 2

## all-area gymnastics

## 1988-89 ALL-AREA GYMNASTICS TEAM

## FIRST TEAM

Wendy Minch	John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenn
Debby Williams	N. Farmington	John Glenn	John Glenn
Heather Kahn	N. Farmington	John Glenn	John Glenn
Kristin Szutarski	N. Farmington	John Glenn	John Glenn
Dawn Clifford	Canton	John Glenn	John Glenn
Heather Murphy	Canton	John Glenn	John Glenn
Johanna Anderson	Canton	John Glenn	John Glenn
Christine Oates	Farmington	John Glenn	John Glenn
Lisa Grandfield	Clarenceville	John Glenn	John Glenn
Christine Prough	John Glenn	John Glenn	John Glenn
Autumn Bunch	Salem	John Glenn	John Glenn

## SECOND TEAM

Colleen Wood	Clarenceville
Rita Dunn	N. Farmington
Debbie Ford	N. Farmington
Shannon Riedel	Wayne
Dina Hicks	Salem
Julie Lawton	Farmington

## HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Kelly Forster, Lisa Kaufman, Anna Yoon, Sandi Sherwin, Shannon Connell, Robert, Lisa Westad, Anna Wong, Jenny Szykalski, Sue Farmer, Robert Bredt, John Glenn: Michelle Combs, Buffy Schuch, Clarenceville: Jennifer Knapik, Farmington: Amber Aronowicz, Jennifer Reed, Nicole Goralowski, Harrison, Jenny Rick, Michelle Dopke, Amy Solomon, N. Farmington: Jennifer Carter, Eden Wesselman, Wayne: Kelly Kobay, Cheri Newton
---



Kym Heller  
N. Farmington

Heather Kahn  
N. Farmington

Kristin Szutarski  
N. Farmington



Christine Oates  
Farmington

Wendy Minch  
John Glenn

Debby Williams  
John Glenn



Dawn Clifford  
Canton

Johanna Anderson  
Canton

Heather Murphy  
Canton

# Hawks need time to settle on lineup

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Bernie Goldstein begins his 16th year as boys tennis coach at Farmington Hills Harrison — a season that gets under way Friday with a non-conference match at Novi.

Harrison finished last season with a 10-5 dual-meet record, tying for sixth at the Western Lakes Activities Association league meet.

Goldstein is looking forward to Friday's season opener, but said he won't know the kind of team he has until later this month when the WLAA regular season is in full tilt.

"The Western Lakes doesn't get enough publicity," Goldstein said. "For tennis, it's one of the better leagues in the area. It's in the top three or four leagues, but we never get credit for it."

Goldstein probably wishes the league wasn't so strong this spring.

GONE FROM last year's unit are No. 1 and No. 2 singles performers, David Jaffe and Brian Frederick, respectively. Also lost because of graduation was half of the No. 1 doubles tandem, Rick Bruckhaus, and the No. 3 doubles team of Phil Rider and Scott Farabee.

Brad Small and Jamie Ryke, No. 3 and 4 singles players, respectively, a

## tennis

year ago, will get a chance to win the No. 1 job this spring. Goldstein said competition this week between Small, Ryke, Sean Haines and Todd Herremans will determine what order the four will lineup in singles.

Last year, Haines was Bruckhaus' partner at No. 1 doubles, while Herremans was a No. 2 doubles performer.

"Herremans worked hard all winter and really improved," Goldstein said.

Goldstein added the key to Harrison's success this year will be the play of his No. 1 and 2 singles players, whoever they may be. Goldstein doesn't think there will be much difference in the talent level between his No. 1 and 4 singles players.

That means the No. 3 and 4 players might flourish this spring, while the No. 1 singles player might struggle.

"WHICHEVER TWO plays three and four should be very tough and shouldn't lose more than one or two matches the whole year," Goldstein said.

Please turn to Page 2



Dave Wilson started as catcher last year and is one of eight returning regulars on the Farmington High School baseball team.

# Falcons boast veteran squad

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington knows it has a good baseball team. But a half dozen other teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association are just as confident.

Thus, Falcons coach Kevin Kananman hopes his players aren't content with the assumption of being good but able and willing to prove it in the next two months.

"How hard we work will determine how well we do," the fourth-year skipper said. "The fourth-year skipper said, 'I've been at Farmington. They know it, but because of the league we're in nothing is a guarantee.'"

There's enough evidence, however, to believe the Falcons could be among the Lakes Division contenders in the WLAA. Nine lettermen, including eight starters, return from a 9-11 ballclub. Farmington was 4-6 in the division and tied with Livonia Stevenson for third place.

"My optimism goes as each day goes," Kananman said. "If we work hard that day in practice, I'm feeling good."

"WITH HOW good the league is, you can't put a cap on it and say this team is that or this team is that," he added.



Obviously, it will take some time to reach a decision regarding the '89 team, especially since the Falcons haven't been among the serious contenders in recent seasons.

But pitching is always a key factor, and Farmington appears to have a solid staff led by senior right-hander Norm Gellinske. He allowed only one earned run in 14 innings and was 2-0 last year.

Kananman's pitching corps goes six deep, and the other five are juniors. Chris Schmidt, the only left-hander, was a starter in '88. Brian Vicchio is new to the school district. Scott Lakatos and Eric Miller pitched for the JV team and Kevin Young is a varsity veteran whose primary assignment is third base.

"Out of a six-man pitching staff, which is a decent number, these guys are pitchers," Kananman said. "Some teams have trouble finding one."

"The only one who was converted to pitcher is Young. The others have been pitchers since Little League."

Please turn to Page 2

# Marlins return many top athletes

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy returns nine of its 10 leading scorers from a team that captured the school's second regional track and field championship last year.

With the exception of five athletes who graduated, the Marlins return the same talent-laden team intact.

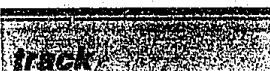
That should tell you what kind of year Mercy expects to have and what other teams can expect from the Marlins, who were third in the Catholic League.

Mercy should contend with Dearborn Divine Child and Redford Bishop's Bishops again in the league, but the Marlins reportedly have been reassigned to the difficult regional at Southfield. They competed at Bloomfield Hills Luther last year.

"If we stay healthy and keeping working hard, I think we have a shot at both this year," Mercy coach Gary Servais said.

THE STRENGTH of the '89 team appears to be in the field events and distance runs. The Marlins return All-Observer shot putter Charesse Sanders and their entire 3,200-meter relay team that captured a regional title and all-area honors.

Sanders also was a regional champion, throwing the shot a school record 37 feet, 5 inches. She set a goal of 40 feet for her senior year.



Charesse Sanders shot put champ

"She has the talent and capability," Servais said. "It's just a question of how hard she works at it."

The Marlins also have an excellent discus thrower in junior Jeanette Turner, who was the regional runner-up at 102 feet. She can throw the shot 32 feet, too.

Senior Yvonne Bostick and junior Katie Padilla provide depth in both events, and freshmen Laura DeMatilla and Kia Glass show promise, according to Servais.

In the high jump, sophomore Gail Morie is the top prospect, having jumped 8 feet indoors, and junior Lauren Hood will compete in that event, too.

THE MARLINS suffered big losses in terms of long jumpers when Caroline Remerjian graduated and Bernadette Raymond transferred to Lakeland, but they return seniors Jamie Prokopen and Tasha Woodley and sophomore Megan Lombardi. All are 14- to 15-foot jumpers.

Senior Noelle Gates and sophomores Heather Sullivan, Kathleen Grigik and Fannie Walton

combined to set a school record of 9:58.0 in the 3,200 relay and win the regional race.

"I'm hoping they will get under 9:50 this year," Servais said. "That's a conservative goal."

The sophomores burst onto the prep scene last year and, along with Gates, made Mercy a force in every event from 400 meters up in individual events. Walton was sixth at the recent Huron Relays with a time of 5:42.0 in the 3,200 run.

"We don't have just those four," Servais said. "We probably have 15 in the distance group. We have some others who would be good on other teams."

"Everybody is important, but looking at the whole team (the contingent of distance runners) is probably the biggest plus."

Junior Brigitte Dery will run the 1,600 and 3,200 races, too, and junior Darlene Dummer, sophomore Judy Rosowski and freshman Heather Noll are other distance runners Mercy will depend on. Dery was seventh in the 3,200 at the Huron Relays.

MERCY HAS no standout sprinters, which is contrary to its recent past when Terri Ford starred for the Marlins.

"That's kinda surprising, because when I coached against them (at Huron Woods) for three years that was all they ever had," Servais said. "I haven't seen one like (Ford) yet."

Please turn to Page 2



Charesse Sanders shot put champ



Carrie Walton distance runner



Noelle Gates distance runner



Heather Sullivan distance runner



Kathleen Grigik distance runner



Fannie Walton distance runner

# Mercy's All-Area athletes