

Sports highlights were many

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Christie Duthie exhorts her North Farmington teammates during the dual-meet swim season. The Raiders were league champions and finished eighth in the state.

the week ahead

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 28
Amvion (Osh) Howler at Redford CC, 7 p.m.
(Palace of Auburn Hills Shootout)
Bishop Borgosa vs. Saginaw, 6:45 p.m.
Country Day vs. Del. Pershing, 8:45 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Dec. 29
Redford CC vs. Windsor (Ont.) Riverside at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 29
(Albion College Holiday Classic)
Spring Arbor vs. Wittenberg (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Madonna College vs. Albion, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29
Albion Holiday Classic, 10A

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 28
(Kellogg CC Holiday Tournament)
Fair Jordan vs. Henry Ford CC, noon
Schoolcraft CC vs. Kellogg CC, 2:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29
S'craft at Kellogg Tournament, noon and 2:30 p.m.
(Richland Lk. St. Mary's Optimal Tournament)
Fanshawe, Ont. vs. West Va. Wesleyan, 6 p.m.
St. Mary's vs. Monaca Valley (W.V.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 29



SHARON LEKHEUX/staff photographer
Kori Davidson repeated as WAAA champion and later added a state title.

As evidence of how talented a team Farmington had, five players made the All-Observer squad: Amy Trunk, Carrie Misior, Jennifer Misior, Sue Gibson and Margaret Martin. Looking ahead to 1990, Misior is the only senior in the group.

TRUNK, MAIER, Misior and Gibson helped the Michigan Hawks, an under-19 girls soccer team, win a national championship in August.

The Hawks, the first Region II team to win the U.S. Youth Soccer Association's Athena Cup, defeated Kenney, R.J., 1-0 in the final in Uniondale, N.Y.

"No one was expecting us to be anywhere near this good," Trunk said. "They thought we'd be real bad because the Midwest usually isn't very good."

Trunk scored the only goal in the regional final, enabling the Hawks to beat Minnesota in early July and advance to the national level.

FORMER HARRISON football star Jim Miller was with the Detroit Lions as a free agent in early May after an outstanding collegiate career at Michigan State.

The former All-Big 10 defensive back was placed on the developmental squad at the conclusion of training camp and was activated to the regular roster midway in the 1989 season.

Miller got to the big team in time to help the Lions finish with five straight victories — the team's longest winning streak since 1970 — and a 7-9 record. He played mostly on special teams and occasionally in the secondary.

KORI DAVIDSON, a junior Harrison athlete, won the Class B championship at No. 1 singles in October. After being the runner-up two straight years, Davidson defeated Katie Schlackebier of Mattawan 7-5, 6-1 in the final.

Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein said he thought Davidson was the best high school player in the state regardless of class.

"I'd put her in a match with anybody," he said. "She hits, hits, and beats (opponents) on a job. You can't hit against her, because the ball comes back so fast and hard. You can play with her for a couple of games, but she wears you out because she hits so much harder."

Davidson also helped Harrison capture its first regional championship and finish fifth in the state.

CRAIG MURRAY had some kind of baseball season pitching for Harrison. He set school records for single-season strikeouts (117), winning percentage with a 9-1 record, innings pitched (77.1) and single-game strikeouts (16) in a district tournament game with Oak Park.

Two of Murray's finest outings occurred in games with traditional Western Division rival Plymouth Canton.

He struck out 11 in the first meeting, and later threw a three-hit shutout (6-0), which included eight strikeouts, as Harrison clinched a share of the division crown.

MURRAY'S PITCHING was a major factor in the Hawks doing so well as a team.

Coach John Herrington was concerned about lack of hitting at the start of the season, but the Hawks hit the ball better than expected, had the great pitching and eventually shared the WAAA title with Plymouth Salem.

Harrison might have won the Class B baseball title, too, if not for an injury to Murray in the regional.

The Hawks were beating perennial power Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher 2-0 in the first game when Murray got hit in the leg with a line drive. The Lancers used his absence to rally for a 4-7 lead and eventual 7-4 victory, though Murray later returned and held them in check.

Gallagher won the state championship the next week.

RICK KARCHER, a former North Farmington baseball player, was signed by the Atlanta Braves to a free-agent contract in August.

The professional offer came after Karcher distinguished himself in the All-American Amateur Baseball Federation tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

While playing for Detroit Adray Appliance, the 1987 graduate of North hit 328, led the team with 35 RBI and smashed a pair of impressive home runs.

The 6-foot-5, 210-pound Karcher, who began a collegiate career at Indiana and played at North Central Community College last spring, was assigned to the Hoosier Appalachian League team at Pulaski, Va.

FARMINGTON HIGH fired Rick Miller as its varsity football coach at the end of the 1989 season.

He had coached the Falcons for two seasons, compiling a 1-17 record, but the former Farmington and NSU player wasn't judged on that basis, according to administrators.

Principal Gerald Potter, Athletic Director Ron Holland and Assistant Principal Norm Dickson cited a desire for a change in the direction the program was headed.

"If it sounds like I'm bitter, it's because I am," the 20-year-old Miller said. "To pour my heart and soul into the program for two years and have the knife stuck in my back — yeah, I'm bitter."

TIFFANY TYRA, a student at Mercy High School, became a national champion roller skater last summer.

At the competition in Fort Worth, Texas, she and partner Philip Beuck won the junior world class dance title, and the 15-year-old Tyra solved to win the figures crown.

Tyra and Beuck must step up to world class competition and have been invited to the Olympic Sports Festival in Minneapolis next summer.

THE COMPANINE Junior A hockey team pulled off a coup in August when it signed its top draft pick, highly touted Eric Lindros of Toronto.

The 16-year-old phenom, expected to be a future star in the National Hockey League, attends Farmington High and hopes to enter the University of Michigan when he graduates in January.

In the meantime, Lindros was as good as everyone expected him to be on the ice, leading Compunine in scoring and helping to make it a dominant team in the North American Junior Hockey League.

CROSS COUNTRY stars Lisa Rives of North Farmington and Jennifer Kiel of Farmington dual often last fall.

Rives won the state individual meet and had the second-best girls time in the state at 18:45.31. Kiel was the leader on an outstanding Farmington team, finishing third in the team race and helping the Falcons to their highest state-meet finish (fifth).

Kiel and Ben Guba, the ace of the Farmington boys team, were Oakland County champions and won the West Bloomfield, Schoolcraft and regional races, also.

Kiel won the WAAA competition, too, as the Falcons unseated two-time defending champ Plymouth Canton and won the league meet in late October.

MERCY'S SWIM team had an outstanding year, winning its 22nd consecutive Caribbe League crown and finishing third in the Class A girls meet.

The Marlins also edged North Farmington by one point to win the Oakland County championship in early October.

Mercy's 200-yard medley relay team of Katie Westhoff, Katie Knipper, Liz DeMatteis and Karen Neyer won the state championship with a 1:49.49 time, dropping more than four seconds off their previous best time.

DeMatteis and Knipper also finished third in individual events and Neyer fifth. Out of 29 swimmers at the state meet, 12 individual and eight on relays — the Marlins had 18 lifetime bests.

NORTH FARMINGTON accomplished the rare feat of undefeated dual-meet seasons in boys and girls swimming in the same year. The boys were 11-0 last winter, which included a victory over Plymouth Salem, and the girls were 3-0 last fall.

The girls won the WAAA Relays in September and followed that by winning the WAAA championship in November, their second in three years.

Kerry Doran won two events and anchored the winning freestyle relay team in the WAAA. In the state meet, Doran was second in the individual medley and fifth in the butterfly.

IN OTHER swimming news, the Michigan Stingrays captured the state short-course championship in March.

With the girls' and boys' sevens combined for the first time, the Stingrays trailed Birmingham-Bloomfield Atlanta by 200 points after the first day but made up the deficit in the older age-group competition and won by 300.

"We have some really hard-working,

enthusiastic kids who have a lot of pride in the program, and I think it showed this season," coach Peter Leonhardt said.

In July, former members of the U.S. Olympic team, Mary T. Slaughter and David Berkoff, visited the metro area and conducted clinics at many of the clubs that comprise the Northwest Suburban Swim League.

THE NORTH gymnastics team also had an unbeaten dual-meet season and won its 13th consecutive league championship in March.

The Raiders, who have won the past five WAAA titles, were led by all-arounders Heather Kahn, Kym Heller and Kristin Sutarski.

North subsequently finished second in the regional at Grosse Pointe South and fifth in the state meet. Kahn was seventh in the all-around state. Heller eighth.

CHAD HURGENS of Harrison said he was done running track in mid April due to a lingering injury known as knee fatigue.

In his last meet, he won the 800- and 400-meter runs and anchored winning relay teams in the 3:20 and 1:60 as the Hawks won the city championship a third straight year.

After some rest and further examination of the knee, Hurgens returned in early May and won the 400 and anchored the winning 3:20 relay in a successful dual meet.

Burgess, who started in football and basketball, was named Male Athlete of the Year, and Debbie Weintraub, who played basketball, volleyball and softball at North Farmington, received the same honor for females.

FARMINGTON WAS declared the WAAA girls track and field champion but only after some debate.

The Falcons were leading with two events remaining when the meet was stopped because of dangerous weather conditions. The coaches voted that night (Wednesday) to let the results stand but runner-up Livonia Stevenson asked for further discussion.

The athletic directors met the following Monday and voted to make the results official minus the last two events.

"People say it's a tainted championship," coach Bruce Brown said, "but 10 years from now the girls will come down to the trophy case, and it will be there. I certainly don't feel ashamed to have won it, that's for sure."

Jennifer Reed, Julie Lawton and Stelli Gaud were individual winners for Farmington, and Marko Usola, Heidi, Nicole Trezza, Angie Forge and Gaud combined to win two relays.

FARMINGTON AND Mercy won district championships in girls basketball in November. It was the first for Farmington and another in a long-standing tradition for Mercy. Both teams bowed out in the first round of the regional, however.

North Farmington also enjoyed its finest season in some time, tying Plymouth Salem for the Lakes Division title.

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