

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/953-2139 night line: 953-2104

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(F18)

# Falcon fever

## Gridders seek continued success

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington won its last two football games a year ago and is hoping — more so, expecting — that success to have a carry-over effect in 1991.

Beginning their second year under coach Bernie Call, the Falcons, who defeated Livonia Churchill and Redford Union to finish 2-7, believe they will be a much-improved team.

"Last year we were a decent Class A team; this year we are a Class A team," Call said. "That's not a slight on the kids. It's just a matter of being another year in the program, knowing what they're doing and having the confidence to do it."

Even if Farmington has a way to go before matching the perennial powers in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, the Falcons say they're ready to take a step forward.

After opening at West Bloomfield on Friday, they play the Walpole Lake schools and Livonia Stevenson before meeting Plymouth Salem in early October.

WALLED LAKE Central and Stevenson also are trying to upgrade their teams and didn't exactly dominate the Falcons last year, winning 14-13 and 12-6, respectively.

"If there is a time we can win, this is the year,"

Call said. "We're going to be very competitive. Whether it will be enough to win or not remains to be seen."

"We have five games at home, and our goal is to win all five. If we can pick up one or two others, it's going to be great."

Farmington has enough veteran talent on its 32-man roster to make the prospects for the coming campaign appear positive.

One of the top players is senior Matt Sikosky (6-9, 220), who begins his fourth season as a starting linebacker.

—He also will double as an offensive tackle and serve as co-captain with senior Rob Cavagnoli (5-10, 170), another two-way player at guard and defensive end.

"THOSE TWO are the heart of the offensive line," Call said. "They're definitely our best blockers, and they're very good leaders."

A veteran backfield that consists of three returning starters is getting good reviews from Call, also.

Senior Dave Link (5-8, 155) is back at quarterback, senior Ryan Adams (5-11, 175) at fullback and senior Chris Marting (5-10, 170) at tailback. Either junior Corby Leaverty (6-1, 155) or senior Pat Greeley (5-10, 172) will be the wingback.

Marting was the leading rusher last year with more than 800 yards. Link is one of the most im-

proved players, and Adams played very well in the two victories, Call said.

"When you see these kids play, you'll wonder if they were ever a part of last year's team," he said. "We have a lot of versatility in our backs. Any one of the four backs can break it."

"We're going to be very balanced. They're not going to be able to key on one back. I know they'll want to key on Marting, but I don't think they'll be able to."

THE DIFFERENCE between their play this year, as opposed to last year is the reduced number of turnovers, something that has plagued the Falcons in the past.

"We're hoping that has been taken care of," Call said. "We ran 35 offensive plays (in a preseason scrimmage) without a bobble, never threw one interception. We're not fumbling in practice; we're hanging on to the ball. We're a lot more consistent, and that has to do with confidence."

The Falcons also have improved their team speed.

"When you have speed things happen," Call said. "You don't have to, puke them happen. On defense, it helps because people can't just run away from you."

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer  
Dave Monge, a 165-pound senior, is an experienced wide receiver on the Farmington football team.

# Hogan's hero

## Buha lauded for national golf win

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Jason Buha is no longer one of the best young golfers in just Michigan.

The Farmington High School junior broadened his horizons this summer and became one of the rising talents on the national scene, too.

Buha earned much acclaim, by winning the Ben Hogan Boys Junior Championship Aug. 5-9 in Texas. Following his victory in the prestigious invitational, he was the subject of stories in Golf Week and Golf World magazines as well as USA Today.

"It was by far my biggest accomplishment," he said. Buha won the tournament by the impressive margin of seven strokes over his nearest competitor, shooting an age-group tournament record of one-under-par 280.

"TO WIN something like that, you've got to shoot some lights-out scores," Buha said. "I played well all week and that's what pulled me through."

"I hit a hot streak. The whole summer I was having a consistency problem. I'd do one thing well and

*'To win something like that, you've got to shoot some lights-out scores. I played well all week and that's what pulled me through.'*

— Jason Buha  
Ben Hogan golf champion

another not so well. It was just a matter of getting everything to click at the same time."

Buha was left for fourth following the first of four rounds, shooting an even-par 71 at Cottonwood Valley Country Club.

The tournament continued the next three days at the par-70 TPC course at Los Colinos, and Buha shot 68-69-72 to move into a tie for second and then a five-stroke lead heading into the final round.

Despite shooting two-over par on the last day, Buha still added two strokes to his eventual margin of victory.

"When I look back at it, my total

score was four better than the record, so I shouldn't have been so surprised that I won by seven," he said.

Buha's FIVE-stroke lead after three rounds actually made him a little uneasy and caused a pleasant dilemma.

"In any tournament that's a big, big lead," he said. "I kept wondering how I could lose a five-stroke lead. I wasn't sleeping so great the last night."

"But when I started the last round it was the same as the first three days. I kept playing well. I calmed myself down after the first hole and played my game."

It was only the second American Junior Golf Association event Buha had participated in, but his victory assured him of an invitation to another, the Rolex Junior Classic in November at Tucson, Ariz.

Unfortunately for Buha, the day after he won the Ben Hogan tournament he had to be in Ann Arbor for the Insurance Youth Golf Classic national event Aug. 10-13.

Buha, the IYGC state champion,

arrived home at 12:30 p.m. and was on the tee at Radrick Farms Golf Course less than 12 hours later. He made the two-day cut but struggled throughout the tournament and finished lower than expected.

"COMING BACK after playing the Ben Hogan, it was a matter of fatigue," he said. "My game wasn't there. Going into the Big 1, I had played non-stop golf for eight days, and it was getting a little tiring."

"It was hard to come off a win like that and play competitive golf the next day. When I play competitively, I'm real serious about it, but it seemed like I was there to whack around the golf ball like I do on the weekend with my dad and brother."

"You need time to realize what you've done and to get ready to play again. If I had a few days in between, I think I could have been right there again. But there was nothing I could do; I had to play and make the best of it."

Since the start of the high school season, Buha has finished first (West Bloomfield), second (Farmington) and fourth (Brighton) in three invitations.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer  
Jason Buha of Farmington was the age-group (15-16) and overall winner in the Ben Hogan Boys Junior Championship.

# Marlins remain unbeaten; Falcons, Hawks rebound

Farmington Hills Mercy made a clean sweep in girls basketball last week, winning its first two games and capping the fine start with a 57-41 trouncing of visiting Saginaw Nouvel on Thursday.

Farmington and Farmington Hills Harrison rebounded from opening-game defeats to win Thursday, too.

The Falcons won the consolation game of the Troy Athletics tournament with a 33-29 win over Clawson, and the Hawks whipped host Bloomfield Hills Andover 43-23.

MERCY 67, NOUVEL 41: The Marlins raced to claim a 20-4 lead in the first quarter and coasted after that. Mercy led 31-19 at halftime and 51-28 after three periods.

"The third quarter was really pretty; we shot extremely well," Mercy coach Larry Baker said, adding six players scored for the Marlins in that period.

Senior center Laure DeMattia led the Marlins with 20 points, including 6-0 free throw shooting, and eight rebounds.

Senior forward Mary Bielewicz scored 18 points, and senior guard Kathleen Berrigan had 10 points, nine assists and eight steals. Stacy Cormier led the Cougars (6-1) in the Marlin's play Thursday at South Lyon and Saturday at Plymouth Salem.

FARMINGTON 33, CLAWSON 29: Junior forward Tammy Allen of Farmington made the all-tournament making six steals Thursday.

Senior Monica Rennie and freshman Andrea Salzer added six points apiece for the Falcons (1-1). Theresa Russell had 10 to lead Clawson (0-2).

Farmington had a six-point lead late in the fourth quarter, but the Trojans closed to within two and had possession with 20 seconds left. But Nicole Bingham

stole the ball and scored a layup to clinch the victory. The Falcons, who held quarter leads of 10-5, 16-15 and 26-23, play Tuesday at Royal Oak Kimball and Thursday at Oxford.

"We did play well defensively," Farmington coach Brian Swinehart said, "but we had problems putting the ball in the hole. We only shot 30 percent and will have to shoot better than that."

HARRISON 43, ANDOVER 23: Amanda Ault sank three three-point baskets in the third quarter and enabled the Hawks to take a substantial lead. Ault scored nine of her game-high 13 points in the third quarter as Harrison outscored the Barons 18-5 and expanded a 17-10 halftime lead to 35-15.

"They were packing it in tight with a zone and basically giving us the outside shot all night," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "They were collapsing inside and we had any shot we wanted from 13 feet and out."

Andover concentrated its defensive effort on stopping center Heather Hopkins and held her to eight points. She also had seven rebounds and five blocks, however.

"We ran her out for a while and she made a few baseline shots," Mantyla said, "but she needs to get some points from offensive rebounds, too."

Lisa Derocher added eight points for the Hawks, and Krista Snow hauled down 10 rebounds. Katie McAshkin also played well, especially in the transition to defense.

Mantyla said.

Sophomore Denise Bept had 11 points to lead the Barons.

"They were real inexperienced, so the score might be a little misleading," Mantyla said. "We played under control and were better organized on offense, but we still have a lot of work to do to get ready for the (Western) Lakes (Activities Association) games."

Harrison plays at Redford Union on Thursday.

# Mercy's goal to reclaim Catholic League crown

By Neal Zipser  
and Dan O'Meara  
staff writers

After finishing first or second in the Catholic League three years in a row, the Farmington Hills Mercy cross country team slipped to third last season.

Due to the graduation of several veteran runners and the loss of a couple more to injuries, the Marlins finished with only eight runners on their roster and a 3-4 record.

Even though only two runners return, coach Gary Servais has high expectations for the Marlins, who begin this season with 12 runners.

"I'm very excited about our prospects for an exciting year," the fifth-year coach said. "The team has worked hard and shown a lot of enthusiasm, and I'm eager to see how well we can put it together by the end of the season."

Servais' optimism stems from the addition of several runners from the track team and the losses suffered by Mercy's competitors.

Dearborn Divine Child, which has won the Catholic League the past three seasons, lost five of its top seven runners, according to Servais. Harper Woods Regis, which edged the Marlins by one point last year, also has lost veteran runners.

Mercy lost three key runners itself. Megan Lombardi and Heather Sullivan graduated, and all-league performer Kathy Cook opted to work this fall instead of run.

Mercy's two returning runners don't lack experience. Junior Shamilla Prasad finished 40th in the state last season and racked up all-league and all-area honors. Senior Cara McDonagh, a two-time all-league performer, will join Prasad as the

# girls cross country

team's co-captains.

Senior Heather Noll, a three-time state qualifier in the two-mile run, joined the team this year, mainly due to the addition of her younger sister, Hillary.

Sophomore Hillary Noll missed qualifying for the two-mile run last season by just a 10th of a second. After Hillary decided to run cross country, Heather decided to test her running experience in the fall season as well.

"We have three experienced people that will have to show leadership and, along with myself, will have to teach the younger runners as the season progresses," Servais said.

Sophomores Amy Freund and Ann Seymour also joined the Marlins. Junior Stephanie Johnson, another spring track distance runner, and freshman Ellen O'Connell will also play important roles if the Marlins are to recapture the league crown, which they last won in 1987.

The Marlins open the season Saturday at the West Bloomfield Invitational and begin league play Tuesday, Sept. 10, against Livonia Ladywood.

FARMINGTON

The Falcons don't reclaim the Western Lakes Activities Association title they won two years ago, but they should remain one of the WLA's more competitive teams.

Farmington was 6-3 in dual meets, but

the defeats were the first in the five-year history of the program. The Falcons are 46-3 overall.

A near-perennial winner of the WLA's Lakes Division title, Farmington dropped to sixth place in the league meet and failed for the first time to qualify for the state finals.

"I don't think we were that much worse, but the competition was a lot tougher," Farmington coach John Barrett said. "We were certainly better than 500 and took trophies at some invitations."

The Falcons graduated three fine runners in Cheryl Casaroli, Gretchen Clappison and Jenny Derwinski, but their best runner returns in senior Allison Davis. She was 13th in the WLA and the only Farmington runner to qualify for state.

Farmington also returns seniors Jodi Van Ort, Sherri Vitale and Carrie Walter — all of whom ran well at the end of last season, according to Barrett.

They are supported by sophomores Alice Crawford, Maggie Frump, Sara Ludwig and Sara Urevis and junior Joan Muller. The Falcons will be helped by the addition of freshman runners Dana Goba and Pam Dubs.

"We have some good experience and two excellent freshmen," Barrett said. "I think we could be a contender, but we also lost a lot of seniors. Some other teams didn't lose proportionally what we lost."

Livonia Stevenson, Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem, the top three teams, respectively, in the WLA last year, are expected to have strong teams again.

"We could be a good team and not be

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