

SPORTS

B

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1992

GREAT OUTDOORS



BILL WALKER

Rookie hunter gets feet wet

The sun had not yet reached the horizon on this chilly fall morning when Bill Walker asked if I "wanted to ride, or get my feet wet right away." We had found a fresh set of bear tracks and it was time to turn a couple bear hounds loose to see if they could jump the brain. I had the option of following Walker and the hounds into a remote section of forest at the south end of the Keweenaw Peninsula, or riding around in a pick-up truck keeping track of the chase on a citizens band radio. "Hey, I'm here to hunt," I said. "Let's go."

Being a rookie in bear camp, I thought Walker was speaking figuratively. Five minutes later I realized he was serious about getting my feet wet as I found myself waist-deep in icy water as we followed the hounds through a nearby swamp.

Houndmen — those rugged souls who run bears with dogs — are not feeble individuals. They laugh and joke in the face of a cold, rainy day and find thrill in racing miles on foot through some of Michigan's most rugged terrain in pursuit of the state's largest predator.

A different pace

Walker, of Bloomfield Hills, had invited me to join members of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association on a weeklong hunt earlier this month in Houghton County. Knowing I would rack up many foot miles during the course of the week, I began running on a regular basis early in the summer.

See BEAR HUNT, 3B



District tourney:
Jason Bresler of North Farmington and Novi's Chris Young pursue a free ball in a district soccer game Monday. Novi won 2-0. See Page 2B for details and story on the Farmington-Catholic Central game.

Falcons' Buha saves best for last



By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Jason Buha has achieved many successes during his budding golf career, but perhaps none were more coveted than the title he won Saturday at the Class A finals in East Lansing. The Farmington High senior added a state championship by winning the two-day tournament at Forest Akers Golf Course with a three-over-par 146.

"There's no better way to end my high school career," said Buha, who had a disappointing finals as a sophomore and was runner-up last year. "This was my last shot, and I'm glad I did it before I left high school. You only get four shots at it, and I capitalized on at least one opportunity. It's nice to put that on my resume."

Buha was able to savor his triumph before the final round was completed.

With three holes remaining, he enjoyed a six-stroke lead over his closest challenger, Will Stonestreet of team champion Rochester who finished at 152.

"I realized I had won it on the 15th hole of the final round," Buha said. "The next three holes were the most enjoyable golf I ever played."

"When I got off the 18th green, when it was official, it wore off quick. I had so many people come up to congratulate me, and every time it made me remember how great the last three holes were."

Buha said many of those people asked if winning the state championship was any more important to him than his victory last year in the prestigious Ben Hogan tournament.

"It's two different things," he said. "My school peers and classmates can relate to it and understand what it means to be a state champion."

Buha began the tournament Friday shooting three under through 11 holes. He was six over on the next five and finished with a three-over 74 on the East Course.

Nonetheless, it was an excellent score considering the poor weather conditions: strong winds, rain and cold temperatures.

"I wouldn't go outside in that weather let alone play golf," Buha said. "For the first nine holes, I played amazing golf. As I look back, I'm amazed just how horrible the

See BUHA, 2B

Mercy, North tennis teams advance to Class A tourney

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy and North Farmington are preparing for return visits to the Class A finals in girls tennis, having qualified again Saturday in separate regions.

Mercy overcame host Southfield-Lathrup and longtime nemesis Birmingham Marian to win its fourth title, and North was runner-up to Bloomfield Hills Lahser at Waterford Mott.

Farmington was fourth among 10 teams at the Lathrup regional. Harrison tied for third out of 14 schools in the Mott tournament.

The Marlines, who won the Catholic League title, qualified for the sixth time in nine years under coach Jim Kerwin.

"I felt we had a good chance to qualify based on having played (and beaten) Marian — the perennially strong team in the region," he said. "We haven't had this good a year since 1986."

Mercy and North will be among 24 teams competing in the state finals Friday and Saturday in Midland. Kerwin would like to see the Marlines finish among the top 50 percent at least.

"If we get a half-way decent draw and our kids play well, there's no reason we can't finish there," he said. "I'd be happy if we were somewhere from 12th to 14th."

"Our team goal will be the same as in the Catholic League and regional: to win that first match. The ones who went to the (regional) finals have a good chance to survive two or three rounds and reach the quarters."

The Marlines won three of four semifinal matches from Farmington to move in front of the Falcons. In the finals, Mercy faced Lathrup players at every singles flight and won three.

With only the No. 1 singles line left to be played, the Marlines led 20-19 over Lathrup. Mercy's Kristen Kluska defeated Wendy Lewis 6-2, 7-5 to clinch the win and prevent the Chargers from sharing the title.

"She didn't know it until the match was over," Kerwin said. "I told her we were assured of going to state; so relax, have fun and play good tennis."

"She didn't know what she had done until it was over. It wouldn't have been right to put that kind

of pressure on her."

Mercy's Jackie Rajkovich and Peggy Mueller were regional champs at Nos. 3 and 4 singles. The No. 2 doubles team of Anjali Thakur and Dawn Green also was first.

Amy Modica was second at No. 2 singles, as was the Farmington duo of Lauren Tucker and Korin Szpoo at third doubles.

With the other teams conceding first place to Bloomfield Hills Lahser, the Raiders won the battle for second and the other state-finals berth at Mott.

The Western Lakes Activities Association champions were one point better than Harrison and West Bloomfield. Walled Lake Central was fifth (12) and Novi sixth (8).

A key match was the third doubles final in which North's Jennifer Kosutic and Jennifer Irani defeated Harrison's Jodie Barringer and Caroline Chubbis. The Raiders earned the point necessary to edge the Hawks and Lakers.

"This is probably one of the most gratifying years I've had,"

See TENNIS, 6B

Buchzeiger headlines fight card



By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Scott Buchzeiger of Farmington Hills hopes it will be the start of something big when he makes his boxing debut Saturday night.

He will have his first amateur fight on a 15-bout card beginning at 8 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 14 Mile and Drake in West Bloomfield.

"I hope it takes me to a world championship one day and a lot of money," said Buchzeiger, 21. "My biggest role model is James (Tony), and I want to be just like him."

Toney, the IBF middleweight champion, got Buchzeiger started in the sport and serves as his mentor. Both train at the Galaxy Boxing Gym in Redford.

Buchzeiger, a 1989 graduate of

North Farmington High School, started as a kick-boxer three years ago, but an encounter with Toney caused him to switch sports.

"The boxers used to tease me," he said, "telling me kick boxing was for sissies, to come down here and train with us." So that's what I did, and I have for the last year."

One of those boxers was Toney, who has taken Buchzeiger under his wing.

"He's the biggest inspiration anybody could have," Buchzeiger said. "If I don't go to the gym, he'll come here and get me. When I started training, we just hit it off; we have a real good chemistry."

See BOXING, 6B

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