

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1992

# SPORTS

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## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Lady Crusaders hailed

For the second-straight year, Madonna University volleyball player Dana Hicks has been named to the NAIA All-American team. But this year, she has company.

Teammate Elena Oparka, a senior outside hitter who played two years at Schoolcraft College before transferring to Madonna, was named to the third team.

Also honored was senior outside hitter Melissa Mars (Redford Bishop Burgess), chosen to the NAIA National All-American Scholar-Athlete first team. Mars, who was also a second team all-NAIA District 23 selection, carries a 3.6 cumulative grade-point average, with a major in education. It was the second-straight year she was chosen.

Hicks, Madonna's leading middle hitter, was named the district's player of the year for the second time, sharing the honor this season with Northwood University's Michelle Williams. A junior, Hicks collected 673 kills (4.5 a game) with a .326 kill average. She also had 1.6 solo blocks and five digs a game.

Oparka was nearly as effective, collecting 653 kills (4.3 a game) while hitting .327. She averaged three digs a game.

Two others were all-district first team selections: senior Tonia Smith (Walled Lake Central), named for the fourth-straight year, had 447 kills (3.4 a game), hit .322 and led the team with 627 digs (five a game); and junior setter Marle Piliot (Burgess), who averaged 12.4 assists-to-kill and 3.2 digs per game, and hit .289.

Madonna set a school-record for match wins this year, going 43-11.

### UMass signs Murray

Jarvis Murray, Schoolcraft College's standout basketball player, has signed to attend the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in Boston next year.

Murray, a 6-foot-5 sophomore center, is averaging over 20 points and 10 rebounds a game for the Ocelots. He is expected to start next season at forward for UMass-Lowell, an NCAA Division II school.

Murray had been contacted by several NCAA Division I schools, but he opted for a three-year scholarship at UMass-Lowell where he'll have two years of eligibility remaining.

The Detroit Cody High product will accompany UMass-Lowell when it tours Spain for two weeks next summer.

### Ocelots cagers fall

The shooting slump continued for Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team — and so did the losing streak.

The Ocelots lost their fifth-straight game, 82-74 at St. Clair Community College in their Eastern Conference opener Wednesday. They are 3-7 overall. St. Clair improved to 5-2 overall, 1-1 in the conference.

"It was absolutely horrendous shooting," said SC coach Dave Bogatz. "The kids didn't have their rhythm. They played better than in their previous two ball games."

An extended scoreless streak midway through the first half doomed the Ocelots. They were leading by seven before going seven minutes without a point and falling behind by 13. "It probably should have been worse," said Bogatz.

Jarvis Murray turned in a solid performance, collecting 25 points and 13 rebounds. Courtney Williams finished with 16 points. The two combined for 19-of-25 shooting (76 percent).

Unfortunately, they were about all the offense SC could muster. The rest of the team was 13-of-49 from the field (27 percent) and 1-of-11 from three-point range. Making matters worse, the Ocelots managed to convert just 11-of-23 free throws (48 percent); St. Clair was 13-of-17 (76 percent).

The Skippers were paced by Brian Shafer's 16 points. Rashad Reeves had 13 and Matt Clark 11.

### Lady Ocelots tumble

St. Clair CC's size and first-half pressure put SC into a hole it could not climb out of Wednesday. The Lady Ocelots lost their Eastern Conference opener to the NUCA's 18th-ranked team, 68-54 at SC.

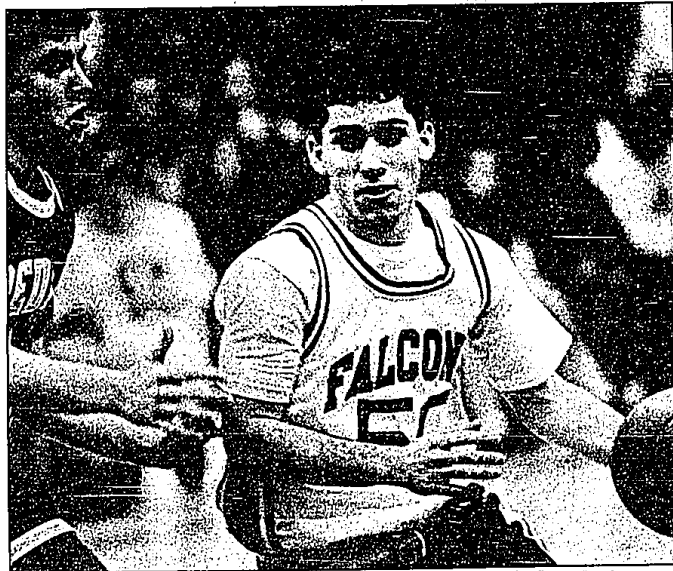
The Lady Skippers used a pair of 6-foot-1 post players and some good pressure defense to build a 30-20 lead by halftime. Lisa Kollomgren led the assault, scoring 10 points. But SC put on a press of its own to start the second half, scoring the first six points to pull to within four.

The game remained tight until, with St. Clair ahead 44-40, the Lady Ocelots' Lori Murphy drove to the basket and scored. A foul was called, but it was against Murphy; the basket was disallowed. St. Clair bumped its lead back up to 10 and SC could not catch up.

Poor shooting by two of SC's top scorers hurt. Dana Hudson, averaging 19 points a game, scored just six on 2-of-19 shooting; she did have 10 rebounds. Angie Cerne, who has been scoring 10 points a game recently, managed just four on 2-of-9 shooting.

Allie Wechter and Becky Plotruchowski each netted 15 points for SC. Wechter also had 10 rebounds. Murphy finished with 11 points.

SC is 6-4 overall. St. Clair is 6-0 overall, 2-0 in the conference.



BILL BRISLEIGH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Off the dribble: Farmington's Scott Menser drives to the basket in Friday's non-league victory over visiting Redford Union. Menser scored 13 points in the 63-47 win.

## A win — and a loss

Farmington turns back RU, 63-47; Hawks lose squeaker

BY RAY SETLOCK  
STAFF WRITER

Poor free throw shooting led to a Redford Union downfall Friday in a non-league boys basketball game at Farmington.

The host Falcons used 17 points from senior forward Brian Farr to hand RU a 63-47 loss, its second of the season.

The Panthers missed 13 free throws in the first half and made just 15 of 46 for the game.

"That obviously hurt us," RU coach Tip Smathers said. "I mean that's obvious. We work on our free throw shooting in practice and we will continue to do so."

"We make our free throws in practice and then we come out here in the game and we can't hit anything. It's really something that I cannot explain."

RU controlled a sloppy first quarter, recording leads of 6-0, 8-4 and 9-6.

The Panthers extended their lead to 13-9 early in the second quarter,

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The Falcons tied the game at 16 on a pair of free throws by Scott Menser. They went ahead on a lay up by Stanley Lewis with 2:36 remaining in the half.

Farmington finished the half with a 9-2 run and led 27-18 at halftime.

"We wanted to put pressure on the ball, that's the type of game we play," Farmington coach Dennis Mikel said. "I think we did a good job of that tonight."

The Falcons built their lead to 36-22 midway through the third quarter. Farmington led 44-32 after three quarters.

RU attempted to put full-court pressure on the Falcons in the fourth quarter, but found the slick ballhandling of Farmington guards Menser and Lewis to be too much.

The Falcons outscored RU in the

final quarter en route to its first win of the season. They are 1-1.

"It's always nice to get that first win of the season, especially in the home opener in front of your own fans," Mikel said. "I really think we played a solid ballgame. Farr played real well for us."

Menser and Lewis added 13 points for the Falcons. Dar Collins paced RU with 15 points. Doug Goins added 14.

"I thought we executed well," Smathers said. "I guess it just wasn't enough."

**OAK PARK 64, HARRISON 51:** Farmington Hills Harrison suffered its second-straight close loss to a highly rated team Friday night at home.

Oak Park outscored Harrison 13-10 in the first quarter and that proved to be the difference since both teams had identical outputs in each of the last three quarters.

Harrison trailed 27-24 at halftime and 46-43 after three quarters.

Harrison made only 9-of-19 free throws while Oak Park was 8-18. Oak Park improved to 2-0 overall.

Senior guard Jeremy Teachman led the Hawks with 13 points and six assists. Senior

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Farmington coach

guard Don Bryant had 10 points and Rick Ruffini had eight points. Junior forward Calvin Pruitt led all rebounders with 13 and he also scored seven points.

The Hawks opened the season three days earlier with a 63-53 loss at West Bloomfield.

"We played two amazing teams in a row but just came up short," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

Junior guard Rodney Hampton led three Oak Park players in double figures with 15 points, including three shots from three-point range.

## Harrison hoping to 'Heist' division title

BY NEAL ZIPSER  
STAFF WRITER

If Farmington Hills Harrison steals the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division volleyball title away from perennial power Livonia Churchill, it will have something to do with a player named Heist.

How appropriate.

Senior Julie Heist, an all-division choice last season, leads a team that has led Harrison to three second-place Western Division finishes.

Heist, a leading candidate for all-conference honors, will anchor the front line.

"We have a lot of returning players and most of our team is still young," said Shortt, who in nine seasons has led Harrison to three second-place Western Division finishes.

"Julie is one of the keys to our offense," Shortt said. "She is very strong at the net and is a good all-around player."

Also returning is junior setter Amanda Ault, who was the reason Shortt inserted a new, two-setter offense last year.

"She's a great hitter and we want to take advantage of that," Shortt said. "I'll change the system so we can take advantage of what our players can and cannot do."

Senior Kelly West, a strong blocker, will start at the outside hitter position, while junior Maggie Chavez will be the second starting setter.

The remainder of the starting lineup consists of two sophomores, Lori Hubble will play as an outside hitter while Krista Snow, middle-hitter, will replace Jodie Whitehead — the only starter gone from last year's team.

"Lori played last year as a freshman and was voted the team's most improved player by the end of the season," Shortt said. "She's a good setter and never afraid to hit the ball."

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Senior Jill Barringer, outside hitter, is a newcomer on the varsity and has impressed Shortt with her jumping ability. Junior Julie Ligenza will use her speed and quick reaction as a back row specialist.

Also expected to see playing time is Maureen McQuiston. No one on the team has yet to hit it by the sophomore, Shortt said.

Rounding out the Hawks roster are sophomores Jenny Mysinski and Jodie Barringer and freshman Kristen Kostian.

"What I'm seeing now is kids wanting to work together," Shortt said. "It is always a tough conference, but I think we have a good chance of anyone. We are definitely on the upswing."

### N. FARMINGTON

North Farmington coach Sandra Lubieniecki has a team of the future that could be a threat to scare some teams right away.

"I'm pleased with the group I have," Lubieniecki said. "It's an inexperienced team but I have talent, depth of talent that I haven't had lately."

The Raiders, who were 14-16 overall and 4-7 in the WLAA last year, lost four letterwinners to graduation.

Foremost of the losses were all-conference outside hitter Sarah Lungren, who walked-on at Western Michigan, setter Karen Seremet and outside hitter Karen Miller.

But Lubieniecki has a pair of returning seniors, joined by several juniors and sophomores and even a pair

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of freshmen, to boost her hopes.

"I see so many girls that are 'true' volleyball players," Lubieniecki said. "They're working hard. I'm real excited. We're young but we'll be competitive."

The seniors are 5-10 middle hitter Stefanie White and 5-7 outside hitter Jenny Reff, both two-year letterwinners. White played primarily in the front row last year and Reff was mostly a back row specialist. Reff served at 88 percent, which was tops on the team.

Lubieniecki's most powerful threat at the net is junior Carey Perkins, a 5-8 middle hitter, who was third in hitting at 80 percent last year for the Raiders.

"Carey is an outstanding all-around player," Lubieniecki said. "She's going to be our premier hitter."

Other holdovers in the junior class include setter Mandy Terrell, the quickest girl on the floor according to Lubieniecki, and back row and serving specialist Becky Thurman.

Sophomore All Lord played with the varsity last year but knee surgery means she won't return to the lineup until January, Lubieniecki said.

Junior Keegan Keefover figures to be the starting setter after being called up from junior varsity for last year's Class A district. The team's top server, according to Lubieniecki, is another newcomer, junior Amy Kelman.

Other new faces are junior outside hitter Carrie Rege, who will play in the back row, and freshman Cooker Perkins and Emily Apfornmann. Lubieniecki said Perkins and Apfornmann are the first freshmen to make her varsity team in 15 years as coach.

### FARMINGTON

Before you learn to walk, you have to know how to crawl, has been the philosophy the last two years with the Farmington volleyball program.

Two years ago, Julie Ingalls took over the Falcons' program. Ingalls hopes the third year is the one Farmington gets in the running mode.

"Last year was a definite improvement (from the previous season)," Ingalls said. "I'm happy with where the program is at. We've improved every year, not only in the win-loss record, but in our attitude."

"The players have learned to pick each other up and let each other know when they are doing something good. They reinforce the positive."

One thing Ingalls has learned is how quickly the make-up of a team can change. Lost from last season's 15-15 team (7-4 in the WLAA) are three starters and two substitutes who saw a lot of action.

Starting all-around players Rebekah King and Sue Gibson (now playing soccer at Michigan State University), along with setter Amy Sosnowski graduated. Back row specialist Ayako Hiratsuka moved back to Japan and front row player Jenny Allen opted not to play her senior year.

Senior Debbie Schroeder, however, does return. The all-Lakes Division performer and third-team Observerland selection led nearly every statistical category for the Falcons last season.

Schroeder, who plays all around, had a hitting percentage of .85 (411 for 483), 177 kills and was in the 90 percent.

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