

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Hoop players test skills

Four basketball players from Farmington's public high schools will compete Saturday in the Oakland County three-point shooting and slam-dunk event at Troy High School.

Harrison senior Ryan Cahill, Farmington junior Scott Menser and North Farmington junior John Pennala are entered in the three-point shooting contest.

Harrison junior Calvin Pruitt will strut his stuff in the dunking competition. Every school in the county was eligible to enter one player in each event.

The third annual event begins at 2 p.m. Troy High is located on Long Lake Road between Crooks and Coolidge. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

Between contests the audience will hear from guest speaker and former Birmingham Brother Rice athlete Ed Lynch.

Payne loses fight

Livonia heavyweight Craig Payne dropped to 7-3-1 as a professional as Los Angeles native Lionel Butler scored a seventh-round TKO during the feature bout Friday at LaVal's Country Club in Reseda, Calif.

The 6-foot-2 Payne, who weighed in at a hefty 297 pounds, could not answer the bell for the eighth round.

The bout was stopped by Dr. Barry Schwartz after the 31-year-old Payne injured his eye late in the seventh round, apparently taking an elbow from Butler.

The 5-foot-11, 232-pound Butler, 25, ran his record to 16-10. It was the 10th straight victory, all by knockout.

Prevent sports injuries

Sports injury and prevention will be the subjects of a presentation by the McAuley Urgent Care Centers in commemoration of National Youth Sports Injury Prevention Month 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 6, at Plymouth Canton High School.

Marlins make pitch for '93 season



Veteran infielder: Ariana Poniatowski keeps the ball in front of her while fielding a ground ball at third base last season.

New varsity coach Beth Burgess has many veteran players on her Mercy softball team, but the Marlins need to develop pitching.

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Tigers aren't the only ones around here entering the spring season with question marks about pitching.

How successful the Farmington Hills Mercy softball team is will depend on the kind of pitching the Marlins get, according to first-year coach Beth Burgess. Burgess, who takes over for Suzanne Brown, believes the Marlins are solid on offense and defense.

"Defensively, we have a strong team and I know we have girls who can hit the ball," she said. "The key will be the pitching staff. My philosophy is not to walk anybody. If somebody is going to beat us, they'll have to outpitch us."

Much of the pressure will fall on the right shoulder of junior Debbie Dziekan. She rotated on the mound last season with Krista Miller, who opted not to return for her senior year of play.

The Marlins open their season (weather permitting) Friday against Livonia Ladywood. The clash with their Catholic League Central Division rival might bring back bad memories for the Marlins, who struggled late last season.

After taking control of the division race, Mercy needed to win only one of its final four games to win the title. But it was swept in consecutive doubleheaders by Ladywood and Harper Woods Regins.

The Marlins were then beaten in a pre-district qualifier by Redford Union and finished the season 19-14.

"Last year's team didn't play up to its potential," Burgess said. "The final record wasn't indicative of how

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Mercy eyes 4th league title; Harrison girls are improved

BY NEAL ZIPSER
AND STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITERS

The Farmington Hills Mercy track team is aiming at a fourth-straight Catholic League championship.

Sixth-year coach Gary Servais lost some key runners to graduation, such as All-Area distance runner Heather Noll, but doesn't count out the possibility of completing the Grand Slam.

"If we can get new people to fill some of the holes we should be right in it," Servais said. "It's just a question of finding where their strengths are and where we need them."

Servais can count on points and a possible run at the state championship from his 3,200-meter relay team that returns Dawn DiPonio, Amy Freund and Nicole Pryor.

The trio helped set a new Mercy school record time of 9 minutes, 49 seconds. They won the Catholic League and took fourth at the Class A state meet. Sophomore Ellen O'Connell will anchor the relay this year.

"Two (DiPonio and Pryor) of the four are going on vacation (over Easter Break) and if they run while they're gone (to stay in shape) and everyone else stays healthy, who knows?" Servais said. "If they want to win it (at state) they have to go 9:35 or better."

Pryor owns the Mercy record for the individual 400 race (68.9). She won the Catholic League 400 and



Dawn DiPonio
800-meter standout

200 meter races a year ago and DiPonio also provides the Marlins with strong 400 times. Another senior, Charmila Prasad, returns in the 3,200 after being an all-state selection last fall in girls' cross country.

O'Connell runs the 400 and 200 and turned in an impressive time of 2:24 as a freshman in the 800. Servais expects to be competitive in the shot put and discus where juniors Renee Arcene (shot) and Teasa Loppur (discus) return. Junior high jumper Amanda Northcross returns after clearing 4-foot-8 and sophomore Julie Angell, a basketball player, is trying the high jump and distance events for the first time.

Sophomore Amy Dinges runs the 100 meters and hurdles and other hurdlers include Amy Buhl and Candice Turpin.

Harrison girls track

Mark Babcock hopes his 13th season at the helm of the Farmington Hills Harrison girls track program is a lucky one. He also hopes the sophomore jinx doesn't affect a couple of the Hawks' top performers.

Sophomores Krista Snow, the city champ in the long jump and a fifth-place finisher in the regionals as a hurdler, and Allison Noe, a state qualifier last fall in cross country, will try to help Harrison improve on last year's 3-3 mark.

"Last year's team had a lot of character and talent, but this year's team is more versatile and has more depth," Babcock said.

Sprinter Donyelle Moore, a sophomore transfer from Detroit Cass Tech, and sophomore sprinter Lori Hubble also hope to have impressive second years. Hubble is coming off an injury-hampered season in which she had a severe thigh strain.

The Hawks have to make up for the loss of three graduating runners. Heather Conley was the top sprinter, Colleen Heinzman holds the school record in the hurdles and middle-distance runner Julie Ritter was one of the team leaders.

Three seniors will supply this year's leadership: Susan Glowacki, a four-year sprinter, Jessica Johnson, a four-year hurdler and sprinter and distance

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMPANY. A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAR.

CC might have best-ever track team

BY BRAD ENOMS
STAFF WRITER

If you think Redford Catholic Central had good cross country, basketball, football, wrestling and hockey teams this season, wait until you see the Shamrocks' track squad.

Coach Tony Magni, now in his 15th season, appears to have all the components for what could be CC's finest season ever in track.

Catholic Central returns several key performers off last year's squad, which captured the Oberlin Relays, Catholic League and Operation-Friendship titles.

"Individually we have good people," Magni said. "But we're weak in a few events. We have nobody back in the high jump and we're not part of the Catholic League in pole vaulting."

"Overall what helps us is depth."

With more than 130 athletes to choose from, Magni also coaches the largest squad in the area.

Among the casualties to graduation is Steve Witak, who led the area with best times of 1:57.8 in the 800-meter run and 4:28.4 in the 1,600. He was also a member

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