

SPORTS

B

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Book wins bicycle title

Richard Book of Farmington Hills is just 5 years old but already an accomplished competitor in bicycle speed racing. Book won his age-group (4-5) championship in state competition and qualified for the nationals Dec. 26-28 in Columbus.

He began BMX speed racing this summer at Waterford Oaks, accumulating points in six sanctioned races on the quarter-mile, dirt track. In the state finals at Wyoming, Book was first in all three of his races and then won a playoff to capture the title.

At the nationals, Book and other Michigan youths will compete as a

team against other states on the first day. The next two days will involve individual competition. Book is the son of Catherine Herren of Farmington Hills and grandson of Cortland and Denise Book of Farmington Hills.

North runner 2nd at invite

North Farmington's Keegan Keefe was second with a 21:28 time in the junior-senior race Saturday in the Walled Lake Western Invitational at Willis Park.

Teammate Elaine Wolff was 13th in the same race at 23:35. The Raiders didn't have enough runners to compete as a team because of the Yom Kippur holiday.

North had a full complement in the freshman-sophomore race and finished second in team competition with 70 points behind Novi (31).

Jaime Brenner was third (21:40), Amanda Hough fifth (22:12) and Becky Neglik eighth (22:56). All three received medals.

Ava Lala was 25th (24:47) and ran her best time, Katie Atto was 29th (25:09) and Monica Balash was 39th (26:31).

"I think all the girls found out how tough a course Walled Lake has, because there's one hill they had to go up and down three times," North coach Bill Pinnell said.



The weather turned overnight, and so did the results, at last weekend's Observer & Eccentric/Whispering Willows golf tournament in Livonia. Joe Borkowski of Troy waded through the sloppy conditions Sunday to post the day's best score.

By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Joe Borkowski was certain. Sure, he had managed a creditable round Sunday, posting a 76 in extremely trying conditions. But he was convinced it wouldn't be good enough.

Borkowski was so sure his two-day total of 151 would come up short, he didn't even bother hanging around the 18th green to see the leaders finish. Instead he took his "leader in the clubhouse" designation into the clubhouse to await the final results.

Fifteen minutes later, it was over — and Borkowski was the winner. When informed of this, the 50-year-old Troy resident was truly surprised. "Really?" he said. "Well, miracles do happen."

It wasn't a miracle that won it for Borkowski, it was consistency. No one adjusted better to the soggy conditions, the result of an all-night rainstorm, than he. Indeed, he seemed to thrive in it: On the front nine Sunday, he shot 38; on the back nine, he shot 37. His 75 was one stroke better than his Saturday score.

The win was Borkowski's first at the O&E in, by his estimate, six tries. "I finish in the top 10 usually," he said, then noted a total on Karl Nagy's scoreline. "Whoever had an eight on No. 12 — I've done that before."

Nagy, from Livonia, was the leader after Saturday's opening round with a 73. But that night was part of a 44 on the back nine Sunday; combined with his 40 on the front nine Nagy dropped out of contention with an 84.

The only one to challenge Borkowski was Alex McLuckie, also of Livonia. McLuckie trailed Nagy by a

stroke after Saturday's round, shooting a 74 — two shots better than Borkowski. He had a chance to win it Sunday, but he bogeyed the last three holes to finish with a 78 for a 152 total.

"I thought it would take 148, 149 to win," said Borkowski. He acknowledged his consistency was his greatest ally: "I hit a lot of fairways. If your irons are on, you can make some nice putts here."

The title topped an impressive year for Borkowski, who usually plays at Sylvan Glen in Troy and competed for the Atlas Cup on the Publix Tour. "I've had a consistent year," he said. "I've been shooting 75s."

"This caps a good year for me." Borkowski's victory earned him \$275 in first-place prize money. McLuckie's second-place 152 was worth \$190. Alan Menzies of Farmington Hills, Kirk Oster of Livonia and Paul Rye of Redford tied for third at 154. Roger Springsteen of Livonia collected low-net honors with a 139.

In first flight, Jeff Truax of Livonia was the champion with a 164 (worth \$225), followed by Bob Dates of Canton at 168. Vincent Albany of Westland earned the low-net award with a 136.

In second flight, the winner was Thom Gillis of Livonia with a 169 (\$160). Paul Simpson of West Bloomfield was second at 172. Michael Zammit of Livonia took low-net with a 142.

Third flight was captured by Albert Callies of Livonia with a 190 (\$90). Robert Curtis of Farmington Hills was second at 196. Ron Retzlaff of Southfield had best low-net, 145.



ART EMANUEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Good start: Karl Nagy of Livonia carded the best score of the O&E/Whispering Willows Tournament last weekend, firing a 73 Saturday.

Marlins gaining respect despite division setbacks

By NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

After a 10-day layoff, Livonia Ladywood released some of its bottled up energy Tuesday while running past girls basketball rival Farmington Hills Mercy, 61-53.

The visiting Blazers improved to 5-1 overall and 1-0 in the Catholic League Central Division, while handing the Marlins another frustrating defeat.

It was Mercy's fourth straight loss and fifth in the last six games. The Marlins are 3-6 overall and 0-2 in the division.

"We've played two real tough

Central Division teams (Ladywood and Birmingham Marlin) and have given them all they want for the better part of a half, but we have to become a 32-minute team," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "We have a young group and there are some real positives. But we have to learn no one in the division is going to give us anything."

Ladywood controlled the first half in front of a capacity crowd that forced Mercy to close its entrances just prior to the game.

The Marlins rallied and tied the score at 28 after scoring the

first four points of the second half. But the Blazers gained some breathing room by going on a 17-0 run.

The Marlins had trouble stopping junior forward Tara Overalls, who scored a game-high 27 points and accounted for 17 of the Blazers' 28 first-half points. Overall, scored most of her points on wide-open driving baseline jumpers.

"We didn't have the greatest awareness of where Tara

See MERCY, 2B



SHARON LEBLUE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoop action: Holly Taylor reaches to secure a rebound as teammate Julie Angell gives way Tuesday against Ladywood.

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