

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1994

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Gaul sets hurdles record

Ferris State University junior Shelli Gaul won the women's 55-meter hurdles Saturday in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference indoor championships at Saginaw Valley State University.

The former Farmington High athletic standout set a school and GLIAC record with her 8.23 time, edging Saginaw Valley's Kim Aubert (8.29) for first place. The old record of 8.0 was set four years ago by Ferris State's Myrtis Hymon.

With that time, Gaul becomes a provisional qualifier for the NCAA II meet March 11-12 at North Dakota State. Her time will be reviewed later for consideration.

Gaul also placed fifth in the triple jump (33 feet, 9 inches) and sixth in the 55-meter dash (7.47 seconds) at the conference championships.

Ferris State won the five-team meet with 78 points followed by Hillsdale (68), Saginaw Valley (58), Grand Valley State University (35) and Northwood Institute (0).

Area golfers win pro-am

Two Farmington Hills golfers were part of the team that won the Net Division of the Blanton's World Pro-Am last week (Feb. 22-24) in Pebble Beach, Calif.

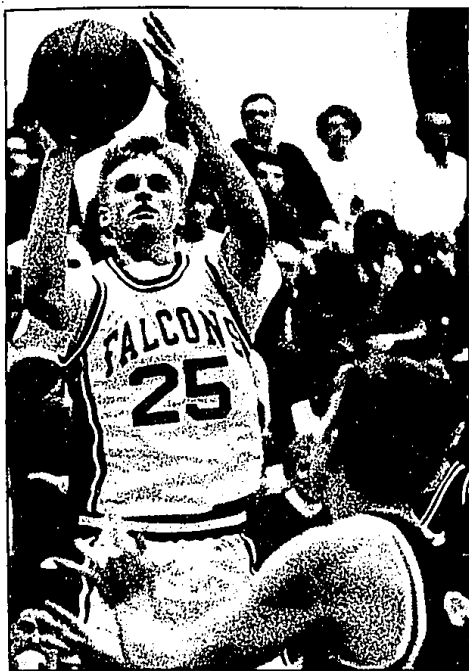
The foursome, representing Walnut Creek Country Club, consisted of Steve Young (Farmington Hills), Glen Young (Troy), Alan Wiane (Farmington Hills) and local pro Ed Muir (Commerce Township).

They shot a 29-under-par 187 to finish first among 31 teams in the four-man, best-ball tournament. They came from seven strokes back on the final day with a 14-under 58 and won by two strokes.

Participants in the event must have an established USGA handicap with a maximum allotment of 18, and one team member must be a PGA member pro.

Alan Menzies (Farmington Hills) was on the winning gross division team along with Kevin Muir, the Dearborn County Club pro, Doug Menzies and Mike Dunville. They shot a 13-under 203 for 54 holes.

Farmington to play for WLAA title



Playoff fever Farmington senior Kevin Aflerbaugh squares up to the basket Tuesday in the semifinal game won by the Falcons, 61-53.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High had a plan to offset Northville's height advantage on the basketball court Tuesday, and the Falcons could not have been more pleased with the results.

In the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs for the first time, Farmington advanced to the final with a 61-53 victory over the visiting Mustangs.

The Falcons will play Plymouth Canton for the championship 7:30 p.m. Friday at Northville. Both teams are 13-6.

"This is probably the biggest win since we've been here," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "It's a great win and the kids are all excited about (being in the final)."

Canton defeated the Falcons 88-67 earlier in the season and Plymouth Salem 68-52 in the other semifinal Tuesday.

"I think we're quick, but Canton might be the quickest team in the conference," Mikel said. "We'll have to play our best game of the season to beat them, although I like the way we're playing now."

Farmington, the smaller, quicker team, forced the Mustangs out of their zone defense and were able to get inside against their taller opponents for good shots.

That often resulted in the Falcons going to the free throw line where they actually won the game. Farmington sank 20 of 26, the Mustangs four of 10.

"We wanted to get them to match up and play man-to-man," Mikel said. "If we could do that, we thought

our quickness would really kick in and we would have an advantage.

"If they played man, we would have to rely on our outside shooting. I didn't want to sit outside and shoot three all day. We wanted to attack the basket. Even if they stayed in their zone, it would spread it out and we'd be able to attack the lanes."

The Falcons used a delay game at midcourt, passing and dribbling until the Northville defenders came out to challenge them. That usually left the middle open for Stan Lewis or Scott Menser to drive to the basket.

Menser scored 17 points to lead Farmington, and Lewis got most of his 14 at the free throw line where he made 10 of 13.

Mike Tokar had 11 points (all in the second half) to go with 10 rebounds. Steve Juncal gave the Falcons a jump-start with eight of his 10 points (two threes) in the first quarter, and Kevin Aflerbaugh added seven points.

"Stan is the middle man on our press breaker and our zone offense," Mikel said. "We tell him to face up and attack the basket or kick it outside to the wing for a shot. He's kind of our sparkplug."

Six-foot-10 center Josh Williams had 17 points for Northville (12-7), but no one else reached double figures. John Farrar had seven, Chuck Apiligan and John Buser six apiece.

"I think their stalling tactic was the biggest factor," Northville coach Larry Taylor said. "I don't think their quickness hurt us as much as their holding the ball and waiting for us to

See FALCONS, 2B

Falcons headed to state

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The wrestling season will continue two more weeks for Farmington High senior Mike Prough and sophomore Matt Michalski.

They earned the opportunity to compete in the state finals March 11-12 by qualifying Saturday in the Class A regional tournament at South Lyon.

Prough (34-6) recorded three straight decisions to win the 140-pound championship, and Michalski (33-7) was the 103 runner-up after losing a controversial match in the finals.

Prough, who hopes to become the first Farmington state champion since Mark Churella in 1976, surprised himself by adding the regional title to list of successes.

"I didn't expect to win it, but things fell into place," he said, adding he didn't wrestle to the best of his ability.

"It was one of the tougher regionals, and I didn't think I could win it with the kid from Bedford who won the other district. I wanted to qualify and make it to state, and the next thing I know I was in the final."

Prough injured his right shoulder in the district, but he said it didn't bother him Saturday and wasn't a factor in his performance even though he hadn't practiced all week.

"After the first minute I was on

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the mat, I realized it wasn't a problem," he said. "I never went to the doctor. I didn't want him saying I couldn't wrestle."

Prough defeated Dearborn's Nolan Wells 5-1 and Southgate's Ryan Michaels 9-4 in his first two matches, and he beat Scott Goldman of Livonia Stevenson for the third consecutive Saturday in the finals, 10-5.

"He's been tough every time I've wrestled him, because that's probably his goal — to beat me," Prough said.

"In the first two, once I got ahead, I stalled more. I wasn't as intense. Something wasn't there. Usually, I'm the aggressor."

That will definitely change by the end of next week when the finals are contested in Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, said Prough, who thanked his coaches, parents and practice partner Scott Lucas for their support.

Farmington hasn't had a wrestler place in the state meet since Dan Parillo (198) was fourth in 1986, and Ed Hazen (197) was the last one to reach the finals in '85. "I just look at it this way: I haven't lost in five weeks, and I don't plan on losing the last one," Prough said. "I feel I have as much of a shot as anybody else."

"I'm going to the state meet with a good attitude. In the district and regional, I thought 'If I make it, I make it; if not, oh, well. But this is my last meet. If it's going to happen, it has to happen this time.'"

Prough believes he has something to prove at the state meet since the coaches association still hasn't included him in its rankings.

"I feel I should be (one of the favorites), but the Detroit News doesn't feel I should because I'm not in the top five. I would think, after winning one of the toughest districts and regionals around, I would be ranked in the top five."

Michalski, the first Farmington sophomore to qualify for state since John Murphy did it in 1978, lost a 7-5 overtime decision to Craig Trierweiler in the finals. He had beaten the Howell freshman 9-1 in the district final.

Trierweiler scored a takedown in overtime to win, but some neutral observers thought it was a questionable call. Furthermore, a pair of earlier stalling points enabled Trierweiler to tie the 5-5 and force overtime.

"He tried to throw me, but I got an arm out," Michalski said. "He was circling around. I went to a knee and grabbed at his leg. From there, it was like a dogfight."

See WRESTLERS, 3B

Gable tops in Region III, 6th in state

Niki Gable was the Juniors II (ages 15-16) champion last weekend in the Central U.S. Ski Association Region III meet at Sugar Loaf Resort in Cedar.

The Farmington Hills Mercy Junior from Livonia was second in the slalom Saturday behind Traverse City's Ellen Quirk and first in the giant slalom Sunday. Quirk was farther back in the latter, making Gable the bracket winner.

Gable was fourth in the overall standings, which included Juniors I and III skiers. She went 50.78 in the GS and 57.12 in the slalom.

She also placed sixth in slalom competition Monday in the high school state championships at Crystal Mountain.

Potosky's Libby Kutepal

SKIING

(50.29) and Jennifer Crockett (50.74) were first and second, defending champion Kelly Stampfer of Ironwood third (51.39), Quirk fourth (52.83), West Iron County's Christy Salomon fifth (53.66) and Gable (53.77).

"She was in fourth after the first run but dropped a little on the second run," Mercy coach Tom Gable said. "She's a little disappointed but sixth in the state out of 81 girls is still quite impressive."

Gable defeated Kutepal in the Region III giant slalom Sunday, "but every race is different," Tom

Gable said. "Like football, any good team can beat another good team on any Sunday."

"Niki was upset about her results for the three days. I thought she skied well against some very good competition. She's motivated and a real go-getter. She's looking forward to her senior year, but she has a lot of skiing to go yet (this season)."

Potosky won the girls team title and Traverse City its seventh consecutive boys championship.

The top four in the Region III slalom were Crockett (I), 55.90; Kutepal (I), 56.24; Quirk (II) 56.98 and Gable (II) 57.12. In the GS it was Michelle Buron (I), who skied at the University of Alaska, 49.22; Crockett (49.62), Tammy Boyer (III) 50.66 and Gable 50.78.

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