# SPORTS

# FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### Half-marathon race

he West Bloomfield Half-Marathon is leas than two weeks away and time is running out for early registration.

Early registration ends at 5 p.m. Priday. Late entries will be accepted on race day at a slightly higher registration fee.

The 18th running of the West Bloomfield Half-Marathon begins at 12:45 p.m. Sunday, April 17, at West Bloomfield High School. A 5K walk and a 5K run begin at 10:30 a.m. at the south driveway, and the Kids Run starts at 10:30 a.m. on the high school track.

and the Kida Run stars at 10:30 a.m. on the high school track.

The helf-marsthon, sponsored by the Henry Ford Medical Center of West Bloomfield and hosted by West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, attracts over 700 runners annually from across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Ontario, Canada. The 13.1-mile TAC-certified course takes runners through the hilly, scenic residential streets of West Bloomfield.

For registration forms and more information call West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at 334-5660.

#### **Tennis tournament**

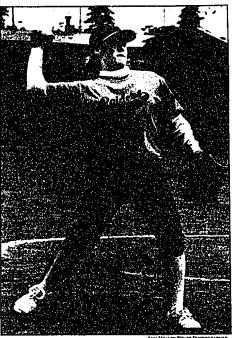
any of the area's top professional and junious professional and junious at the Novi Auto Mail \$10,000 Professional Tennis Challenge April 14-17 at the Sports Club of West Bloomfield.

The tour contingent is led by Jimmy Arias, formerly the No. 5-ranked player in the world. He'll be joined by local prose &I Nagle of West Bloomfield, Steve Herdolas, Scott Smith and Brian Veillette of Bloomfield Hills, Mark Pinchoff of Farmington Hills and Brett Beattle of Beverly Hills. Junior players Brook Blain (West Bloomfield Hills) also will be competing.

There will also be a "fast serve" contest which is open to the public.

The tournament runs from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday and Fridgy, April 14-16; noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Fridgy, April 14-16; noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and Fridgy, April 16; and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 17. For more information call the Sports Club of West Bloomfield at 626-8890.

# Raiders look like contenders



Veteran hurler: Senior Melonie Cheney is one of two experienced pitchers on the North Farmington teams



North Farmington enters the 1994 softball season with a veteran, senior-dominated team and figures to be a contender for the division and league champion-

#### BY DAN O'MEARA

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BY being so close in recent attempts, 1994 could be the year North
Farmington finally gets to play for the
Western Lakes Activities Association
softhabil championahip.
The Raiders, who have tied for the
Lakes Division title and finished no
lower than third in the last four years,
have the talent to make another run
at the top and possibly win it all.
North returns all but one starter
(first baseman Jenny Holtzman) from
a team that finished 12-16 overall and
was 6-4 in the division.
"This group came in in the second
year of the summer program, and you
can definitely tell they've been playing fast-pitch softball," North coach
Dave Brubaker said. "Their skills are
more advanced than the girls I first
had six or seven years ago."
The leading returnee is senior AllWIAA shortstop Allison Stein. She
hit 354 and struck out just two times,
stole 25 bases, drew 16 walks, scored
30 runs and had an 492 fielding percentage.
"Allison is an outstanding othlete;

ntage. "Allison is an outstanding athlete; "Allison is an outstanding athlete; she's very aggressive and competitive," Brubaker said. "If Allison does what she did last year, we'll be in fine shape at the leadoff position and shortstop. She came into her own and really matured last year."

The Raiders have another solid player in senior catcher Kate Mackie, a cleanup hitter who made the ail-division team. She batted 3.36 with 31 hits, five doubles, four triples, three home runs and 31 RBI.

Because of an elbow injury to Mackie last year, North is three deep at catcher. She and senior outfielder

Amy Kelman switched positions when Mackle had difficulty throwing, and junior Renee Dolak also can play catcher.

when Mackle had difficulty throwing, and junior Renee Dolak also can play catcher.

"This year her arm is healthy, so I think we'll see her behind the plate again and catching," said Brubaker of Mackle. "I expect her to hit the ball like she did last year."

The Raiders are blessed with two experienced pitchers: seniors Melonic Chency and Becky Thursam.

Chency did most of the varsity pitching, and Thursam showed what she could on in the summer. Both were 8-0 while pitching the Farmington Hills Diamonds to the incredible Girls Fast-Pitch League title.

Chency was 11-13 for his 155 innungs and 18-18 in 155 innungs and 18-18 in 155 innungs are well as the senior of the last one of the senior of the last one had a senior of the last one, having posted a 344 average and 16-RBI.

"Every year we've developed at least one, but this is the first year going into play we've had two pretty decent." pitchers," Bruhaker said. "Becky pitched well in the summer and will see a lot of playing time."

Thursam will have regular duty at

Thursam will have regular duty at third base again, and the Raiders also return senior Jennifer Cassidy at second. Thursam hit. 228 and had some key hits to go with 13 RBI, and Cassidy batted 250 with three doubles, 16 stolen bases and 18 RBI.

Dolak will play first base since the Raiders are set at catcher and split time with senior Courtney Carlson. Sophomore Amy Finkel is a backup infielder.

See RAIDERS, 4B

### Veteran staff key for Falcons

BY DAN O'MEARA

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With the return of 11 varsity players, including most valuable player Rom Salomonson, the Farmington baseball team anticipates improvement this year.
Coach Kevin Kansman hopes an added year of maturity and experience will give a veteran pitching staff the edge needed to help the Falcons better a 9-22 record.
Seniors Dave Schall, Salomonson and Mike Williams, the lone lefty, and sophomore Nick Latra were varsity hurlers last year.
Schall pitched the most innings (62), but the work was pretty evenly divided.
It won't be a surprise to Kans-

It won't be a surprise to Kansman if Latra (2-3), who had a 2-to-1 ratio of strikeouts (44) to walks (24) in 36 innings and a Leam-best 3.63 earned run average, becomes the workhorse this year.

age, becomes the workhorse this year.
Williams (1-5) pitched well in a 2-1-loss to Class A semifinalist Westland John Glenn in which he struck out 13. Schall had a 4-7 eccord and Salomonson 2-6.
"The pitching staff is obviously a veteran staff," Kaneman said. "Hopefully, we can throw strikes. I think we'll do well as a pitching staff."

#### BASEBALL

Veteran catcher Aaron Cagnon was a two-year starter but transferred to Wayne Memorial; however, the Palcons have junior Dale Domas to take his place. Domas, who hit 280 with five doubles, who hit 280 with five doubles, played second base but also has experience behind the plate.

"I don't think we'll be but at all (by the loss of Cagnon)." Kansama said. "I'm not worried about that position, Dale is one of our best athletes."

Williams (223) and Salomonson will be requiars at other positions when they're not pitching. Williams will start at first base and Salomonson, who led the team in average (239), hitting chances (97), hits (30), doubles (five) and RBI (17), shortstop. Either aophomore Dam McLauphilin, who lettered but spent most of last year on the JV, or Latra, who will be the backup shortstop, will play second base. Junior Curt Katals (2250) is a varaity weteran who is alated to play full time at third.

"I think we're strong (on the infield)," Kansaman said. "We have some good players at key positions; we have some talent there. Veteran catcher Aaron Cagnon

"We hope to be defensively sound. We have to get the ball over the plate, so the defense can be stronger."

Kansman went with a prep version of the youth movement let least season, finishing the year with three sophomores and four freshmen on the variety.

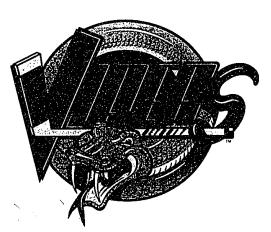
That is most evident in the outfield where sophomores Tom Mondoux and Jake Siskosky were starters in left and center, respectively. Senior Jeff Drummond also returns in right, and senior Mike Pringle, the most-improved player in 1930, can play any of the positions.

The other players are juniors Adam Smith (outfield), Soul Strown (catched), Phill Carson (first base) and John Huhn (second base). All were on the JV. Senior infielder John Kayayan-made the varsity for the first time but suffered a season-ending kneinly in early practices.

"I think we're going to have some fun and we're going to dwell," Kansman said. "We're a relatively young team, but most everybody has varsity experience. I expect a lot out of these guy."

Farmington begins the season Sturdey, playing host to Howell

Farmington begins the season Saturday, playing host to Howell in a 2 p.m. doubleheader.



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## CC gets new home diamond

Fast Warras
Redford Catholic Central's
baseball team will enjoy something new this season — a homefield advantage.
The Shamrocks will move out
of Capitol Park and into the
friendly confines directly across
the street from the school on
Breakfast Drive.
CC'a home conerer will be Sat-

the street from the school on Breakfast Drive.

CC's home opener will be Saturday, April 16, against the University of Detroit-Jesuit. The Shamrocks open the season Friday as one of four teams in the Journament of Champions at Meanwaits of the area's top on-base percent-Tournament of Champions at Meanwaits.

CC plays Birmingham Brother.

CC plays Birmingham Brother.

CC, which finished 27-10 oversial spid won the Catholic League Central Division and a Class A

district championahip, lost five players to the college ranks including first-team All-Area pitcher Brian Paluk (Baginaw Valley State) and second-team pick Jeff Gutt (Madonna).

Also graduated are Brian Hicks (Eastern Michipan), Aaron Babics (Hilladale) and Eric Justice (Siena Higham). Becond-team All-Area catcher Juan Sanches, who hit .221 a year ago, is a dandy behind the plate. Meanwhile, senior second baseman Mike Brusseau (J13) is one of the area's top on-these percentage threats. He drew 25 walks last 1977.

slty. Right-handers Andy Kummer

(4-2, 2-33) and Justin Stankewicz (transfer from Gabriel Richard) may hold the key, however, to CC's success in 1924. And Slankster, a senior, will inherit Justice's abortstop job, while senior J. Rozum will play third base and senior Dave Kapla is pencified in for center fluid. Among the new faces are junior third baseman/outfielder-deff Gajewalt and Junior designated fluiter-Ken Marzec.

The Shamrocks play in one of the state's toughest divisions.
Last year, Warven DeLaSalicama eawy with both the Catholic League and state tournament titles.

"Notre Dame (Harper Woods), has two senior pitchers like us," Salter said. "DeLaSalie is young, but you can't count them out.

"And (Dearborn) Divine Child looks atrong in the other bracket."