

SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS SCENE

All-American wins debut

A pair of perennial powers in the Livonia Men's Modified Fast-Pitch Softball League began a new season with wins Monday at Ford Field.

Defending three-time champion Portland Building (formerly AJ's Lounge) blanked Top Shelf Sports 12-0, and All-American Sports Center of Farmington Hills whipped Beskon Electric 10-1.

Rick Dinamore hit a three-run homer and Jeff Kovack a two-run shot for Portland Building.

Todd Kenyon had three hits, former Harrison High School star Jason Lichtman and Dinamore two each. Pete Lind was the winning pitcher.

Doug Kirkpatrick, Sean Maloney and Curt White had two hits and one RBI apiece to lead All-American. Rich Roy and Johnny Longridge added one hit and one RBI each.

Veteran pitcher Al White worked four innings for the win, and Curt White pitched the final inning of a game ended after five by the time limit.

All-American has added Greg Haeger, former Catholic Central and University of Michigan baseball standout, to its roster.

Other players are Mike Kresan, Kevin O'Connor, Rodney Schellenberger, Mike Culver, Brian Tiller, Pat Greener, Sal DeMilio, Mike Greener and Dave Brubaker. Bill Rowley is the manager.

All-American will travel to Atlanta for BP's Invitational next month and Boston for the nine-man major national tournament in late summer.

Marlins stay unbeaten

Farmington Hills Mercy improved to 6-0 in golf dual meets Monday by defeating Dearborn 212-251 at Dearborn Country Club.

Amy Schulkins shot 48 to lead the Marlins. Tina Madej 51, Sumner Woods 54 and Karen Porter 59.

Mercy placed 13th out of 20 teams Saturday in the East Lansing Invitational at Forest Akers Golf Course.

Top-ranked Kalamazoo Central won the tournament with 356 strokes, and Traverse City was second at 363.

The Marlins posted an unusually high score of 419. Schulkins paced Mercy again with a 97. Woods shot 99, Madej 11 and Sara Horgan 112.

Duthie concludes fine swim career



Christie Duthie of Farmington Hills didn't know if she was cut out to be a college swimmer at first. With her career complete, there's no doubt she was. Duthie was one of the best in the history of the Ferris State University women's program.

By DAN O'MEARA
HEAD WRITER

When she started at Ferris State University four years ago, Christie Duthie wasn't sure if she wanted to continue swimming.

But she gave it a try, stayed with it and got better. So much so her efforts evolved into an outstanding career that places her among the all-time best.

"The certainty of that is reflected by Duthie's many achievements and accolades, which include winning the most valuable swimmer award for a third consecutive year.

"That was like icing on the cake," said Duthie, who takes pride in having met personal goals. "I never wanted to be the MVP. I worked for myself and the team and my accomplishments in the sport. It's a great honor, but my goal was to swim my best times and do the best I could."

Duthie, who swam at North Farmington High School, didn't know if she had the desire or ability to succeed at the collegiate level.

A disappointing state meet as a high school senior had discouraged her and shaken her confidence. But she took up the challenge at Ferris State and realized not only steady improvement but increasing success.

"That goes a long way to explain why Duthie, after being the most valuable swimmer twice, was given the unusual distinction of being named most improved this year, too."

"Between my first and fourth years, I think the coaches saw not only improvement in my times but attitude and work ethic," Duthie said. "I think they took all that into consideration."

"It wasn't that I had a bad atti-

tude, but I wasn't sure of myself. I was so disappointed with the state meet I had I didn't want to face anymore disappointments.

"When I first got here, I gave it an almost 100% sure attitude. I cared, but I didn't try as much as I could have. I grew up and realized I could do more than I gave myself credit for."

Duthie, who specializes in the freestyle and butterfly strokes, holds Ferris State records in five events, and her times are among the all-time best in eight.

She achieved her greatest aspiration by qualifying for the NCAA Division II championships as a junior and placed sixth in the 200-meter butterfly. She returned to the finals in March and scored in four events.

"It's just an exciting feeling to know I've accomplished everything I set out to accomplish," she said. "It was a lifetime goal to make it to nationals. Just being there was like a dream come true."

"I always wanted to do well. As the years went on, my mindset got more positive because I kept doing better and better. When I came up here, my attitude was 'I'll try it; I've got nothing to lose. If I do, I'll never go through life regretting that I should have tried.'"

"I got real serious about the sport. This year I can't say I could've worked any harder than I did. I think I reached my potential. All my times improved and dropped quite drastically, and I'm really proud of that."

When she was discouraged or tired late in the season, Duthie had only to turn to her father, Pat, who coached

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College star: Christie Duthie of Farmington Hills will leave the Ferris State University swimming team with her name on five records, not bad considering she almost quit the sport after high school.

Hawks win pair of trophies

After a fine, all-around demonstration of running, jumping and throwing Saturday, Farmington Hills Harrison walked away with both championship trophies at the Novi Relays.

The Harrison girls won the title for the second year in a row and also won their second such meet in as many weekends.

The Hawks scored 80 points in the eight-team girls competition to finish ahead of Northville (67), Dexter (61) and Novi (50).

"The same thing happened last year," Harrison girls coach Mark Babcock said. "We only won one event, but we took lots and lots of second and thirds."

"We had some injuries and didn't go in with a full complement, but a lot of kids who hadn't run at the varsity level did a pretty good job."

The Hawks had a healthy Allison Noe, however, and she made a difference as did usual standouts such as Krista Snow and Devron Kennedy.

Harrison took its only victory in the shuttle hurdle relay. Nichelle Howard, Patti Dizon, who re-

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placed injured Erika Greene, Sarah Hone and Snow posted a 1:10.6 time.

Snow, Gretchen Dunham and Rachel Buckley also got second for the Hawks in the long jump (43-4/4), and the trio of Laura Concepcion, Mandi Berg and Dizon was second in the discus (251-4) and shot put (85-2).

Kennedy led the second-place 400 and 1,600 relay teams, connecting with Cicely Dowell, Angie Peans and Snow in the 400 (53.4) and Nikki Herman, Jenny Lapinski and Lisa Sokol in the 1,600 (4:20.6).

Noe helped the Hawks take third in three relays. Melanie Renkola, Noe and Margo Ward combined efforts in the high jump (12-6); Noe, Erin Schwartz, Jenny Hannawa and Marie Tripp ran the 6,400 relay in 24:47.4 and the sprint medley team of Sokol, Snow, Kennedy and Noe finished in 4:36.1.

Tripp, Amy Talarczyk, Jenny Somerville and Sarah Rauch

were third in the 3,200 (11:10); Tripp, Ward, Schwartz and Noe fourth in the distance medley (14:33); Kennedy, Angie Peans, Beckie Peans and Sokol fifth in the 800 (1:53.1).

"I was a little apprehensive because we weren't real healthy and I didn't know how the kids would respond," Babcock said. "I'm really proud of them."

"We stayed close in every event and that was the difference. Northville won four or five events but was weak in some other areas. To win the meet and only win one event says a lot about the balance on our team."

Boys regain crown

The Harrison boys won the Novi Relays for the second time in three years on Saturday.

Harrison, the 1992 champion, took first place with 109 points. Northville placed second with 89, and Harrison coach John Reed predicts a close score when the two teams gather for a dual meet on Thursday, May 12, at Harrison.

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Action at the hot corner



Making the play: Mercy third baseman Heidi Wahl gets the ball in time to make a putout on Riverdale Richard's Janae Cottrell. See story on Page 2E.

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