

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1994

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Pruitt gets scholarship

Calvin Pruitt won the prize coveted by every high school athlete last week when he accepted a basketball scholarship from Northwood Institute in Midland.

"When they offered it, I had to sit back and smile, because I never thought I was an outstanding player," said the Farmington Hills Harrison senior.

"Everyone told me I could play college basketball, but I didn't believe it until it happened. The days of working hard in the Harrison gym all paid off for me."

Pruitt made the All-Observer team after averaging 12½ points and 13½ rebounds last season. He also had 1½ blocks per game and just under two assists.

He played a power forward position for the Hawks and expects to have a similar role with the Division II Northern of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"Northwood coach Dean Lockwood told me I'd probably be one of the guys who plays inside and outside," Pruitt said. "I'll be versatile at whichever position he puts me."

"If I work hard in the summer, I expect to get some playing time. I don't think it will be a place where I ride the bench for two years. I think I'll be able to contribute."

The 6-foot-5, 185-pound Pruitt worked out against some of the Northwood players last week and realized he needs to "put on a few pounds and get a little stronger. With a little off-season and preseason work, I should be ready by the time the season rolls around."

"What really sold me is that it's a business school, and I really want to go into the business field. I figured that was the best place for me."

Golden Gloves champion

Dennis Turner of Farmington Hills won the metro area Golden Gloves boxing championship in the 139-pound division April 9 in Detroit.

He won a three-round decision over Ernest McReynolds of Detroit in the final and defeated Joe Haynes of Detroit in the semifinals April 6, also by decision.

The 20-year-old novice and 1991 graduate of Harrison High School, began boxing two years ago and has had three fights, losing his first in the Diamond Gloves Tournament a year ago.

"I want to hone my skills and try for some state-wide and national titles," said the Eastern Michigan University junior and finance major. "I hope to turn pro. If I don't, I have school to fall back on. I just want to live out my dream."

"I always wanted to be a professional athlete. This is basically my last crack at it, and I want to see what I can do."

Tribute to Holowicki

It's roast-and-toast time as longtime Redford Catholic Central basketball coach Bernie Holowicki, who won over 600 games, will be honored and coach Bob Shoemaker roared at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at Holy Cross Council Knights of Columbus Hall, 4981 Larkin (west of Livonia and south of Michigan Avenue), Detroit.

Refreshments, dinner and program is \$50 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan.

Scheduled to appear are University of Detroit Mercy coach Perry Watson, former Catholic League director Walt Bayliewicz and Detroit Pistons public relations director Matt Dobek.

For ticket information, call Sylvia (682-1885) or Gary (637-8323).

World Cup kickoff

Legacy Tour '94, a soccer skills competition held in conjunction with the World Cup, will be Saturday, May 14, at Founders Park in Farmington Hills; Saturday, May 28, at Heritage Park in Canton; and Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The skills competition is a free family fun for beginners and pros of all ages.

On Saturday, June 11, at the Southfield Civic Center, Legacy Tour '94 will stage a soccer celebration featuring music, food, educational activities, games, prizes, visual and performing arts.

For information call 610-332-9715.

OCC softball honors

The Oakland Community College softball team continues to make hits as several players captured state and regional honors.

Sophomore Michelle Collins and Heather Oren were named to the all-state, all-region and all-conference teams.

Collins had an impressive 13-3 league pitching record as the Raiders went into the regional playoffs last weekend. Oren (Waterford) is one of the leading hitters with a .486 average.

Freshman third baseman Devin Shaffer and sophomore catcher Kaehla Wilson also were named all-conference, giving the Lady Raiders four of the 12 available spots.

OCC finished league play with a 19-5 record and was 29-18 overall going into regional play.

Rocks reign in Observerland



Plymouth Salem made it two Observerland Boys Track Relays championships in the last four years with Saturday's performance at Livonia Churchill. The Rocks dethroned two-time defending champ Redford Catholic Central.

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Salem boys track team has no pole vaulters but the Rocks will give it everything they have in the rest of the events.

"That's our motto: 'Kick, scratch and fight for every point we can get,'" Salem coach Geoff Baker said.

Salem, which has no pole vault pit or a pole for that matter, overcame an expected slow start in the field events Saturday and vaulted past the rest of the field to win the 24th annual Observerland Relays at Livonia Churchill.

Salem, which won the 1991 Observerland Relays and took third last year, scored 77 points in the relay and field events, followed by Farmington Hills Harrison (64) in second place and two-time defending champion Redford Catholic Central (56) in third.

"We just keep climbing all the time," said senior sprinter and middle distance runner Adam Bakowski, sounding like a pole vaulter. "We just went out and did it."

The Rocks were way behind the leaders with only three points in the field events before dominating the running events with four first place finishes, one second and three thirds.

Scott Pengelly, Jared Binecki, Josh Stickey and Andy McDonald started the Rocks' rise with first place in the 6,400-meter relay in a time of 18 minutes, 44.2 seconds. Russ Polcyn, Dave Karmann, McDonald and Stickey followed with first place in the 3,200 relay (8:19.0) and Dirk Schmiedel, Don Miller, Yu Kobayashi and Brian Herc took first in the shuttle hurdle relay (1:04.4).

The Rocks had first place wrapped up before the last event, the 1,600 relay. But the Rocks didn't relax then, either, taking first behind the running of Polcyn, Cory Kingpin, Jason Haybicki and Bakowski in a time of 3:50.1.

The Rocks, led by a strong senior cast, have a busy week with Tuesday's Mangan Meet (against Plymouth Canton) and Thursday against Farmington.

"This feels good but it's no celebration by any means," Baker said.

"This is just the start of a work week. We've got city pride Tuesday, followed by Farmington Thursday. You can't go through the season without this type of leadership. All of them put forth an effort today."

Harrison's chances of winning its first-ever Observerland Relays took a severe blow when the Hawks missed out on a possible 10 points by failing to place in the shuttle hurdle relay. The Hawks weren't able to place because three of the four runners tripped over the hurdles, maybe because of the slippery surface.

Kevin Bryant, Steve Catherman and Jason Hyman each took a spill after leadoff man Tom Sokol had gotten the Hawks off to a good start. Hyman wasn't able to finish the race after his fall.

"We had a good practice week, a good night's sleep but it was just bad luck," Sokol said. "We had high hopes."

Harrison gained a first place in the sprint medley relay (2:31.5) behind the running of Bryant, Gil Chavez, Jason Granger and Matt Zimmerer. The Hawks also got first from Eshan Allos, Chavez, Bryant and Granger in the 800 relay (1:31.7).

The Hawks took second place in the long jump relay (56-51) and second in the 400 relay (44.5). Granger, who was edged out at the tape by Northville's Brian Dugonski in the 400 relay, also gave Harrison eight points with second in the 100 meter dash (10.0).

"Whether we win or lose, we had some real gutsy performances," Harrison coach John Reed said. "On the shuttle hurdle relay, it looked like the track was slick. I thought we could win that. Personally, I'm just glad that no one got hurt. It was actually more frustrating for the runners than pain."

CC led the meet with 61 points after 10 events but scored only a total of five points in the last six events. The Shamrocks took second in the discus with a combined throw of 384-2 and first in the shot put (Nick Kallus, Doug Brzezinski and Jeff Monnette) with a combined toss of 141-11½. Joe Leo had the other CC first in the



JOE JAGIELSKI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Heave Ho: Mitch Trager is poised to hurl the shot put for North Farmington during the Observerland Relays Saturday. North place in a 12th-place tie.

1,600 run (4:37.7). "We had no sprints left," CC coach Tony Magni said. "Salem is tough. They have sprints, distance. That's

all you need in track."

Livonia Churchill finished in seventh place with 36 points, scoring 30 in the field events.

24th annual
OBSERVERLAND BOYS TRACK RELAYS
Saturday at Livonia Churchill

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth Salem, 77 points; 2. Farmington Harrison, 64; 3. Redford Catholic Central, 56; 4. Northville, 54; 5. Westland John Glenn, 53; 6. Farmington, 38½; 7. Union Church, 36; 8. Livonia Stevenson, 30; 9. Plymouth Canton, 20; 10. Redford Union, 19; 11. Garden City, 18½; 12. (tie) North Farmington and Southfield Livad, 10 each; 14. Wayne Memorial, 8; 15. Livonia Franklin, 2; 16. Redford Bishop Borgese, 0.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Shot put: 1. Redford CC (Nick Kallus, Doug Brzezinski and Jeff Monnette), 141 feet, 11½ inches; 2. Church, 126-10; 3. John Glenn, 125-1; 4. Stevenson, 124-6; 5. Harrison, 122-0; 6. Salem, 115-8½.

Individual bests: Brockwell (CC), 50-2½; Stevens, 1. Church (John Glenn), Dave Danich and Rob Lovett, 390-8; 2. Redford CC, 384-2; 3. John Glenn, 381-2; 4. Harrison, 374-2; 5. N. Farmington, 353-8; 6. Stevenson, 330-6.

Individual bests: Church (Church), 144-0; High jumper: 1. Stevenson (Matt Stevenson, Chris McArthur and Steve Ingram), 16-10; 2. Northville, 15-8 (Steve Ingram); 3. John Glenn, 15-8; 4. Redford CC, 15-2; 5. Salem, 15-10; 6. Harrison, 15-8.

Long jumper: 1. Garden City (Dan Rando, Mike Postol and Alan McDougal), 56-51; 2. Harrison, 56-5; 3. Farmington, 55-9¼; 4. N. Farmington, 54-11½; 5. Church, 54-6; 6. John Glenn, 53-11½.

Individual bests: Freddie Taylor (CC), 20-7½; Pole vault: 1. Church (Chris Kowalski, Rick Fritz and Chris Mace), 33-0; 2. John Glenn, 31-4; 3. Northville, 30-8; 4. Redford CC, 30-2; 5. Farmington, 28-0; 6. Stevenson, 25-3.

Individual bests: Church (Church), 13-0; 6,400-meter: 1. Salem (Scott Pengelly, Jared Binecki, Josh Stickey and Andy McDonald), 18:44.2; 2. Redford CC, 18:07.7; 3. Canton, 18:10.2; 4. Farmington, 19:44.4; 5. Harrison, 20:11.0; 6. Stevenson, 20:13.6.

Individual 110 hurdles: 1. Todd Peterson (Glen), 15:2; 2. Ken Riley (Wayne), 15:2; 3. Dan Mike (Salem), 15:0; 4. Tom Sokol (Farmington), 15:7; 5. Mark McDougal (CC), 15:2; 6. Chris Wata (CC), 15:2.

3,200 relay: 1. Salem (Russ Polcyn, Dave Karmann, Andy McDonald and Josh Stickey), 8:19.0; 2. Northville, 8:20.5; 3. John Glenn, 8:23.0; 4. Canton, 8:33.0; 5. Redford CC, 8:52.0; 6. Redford Union, 9:05.1.

Individual 1,600: 1. Alan Jamal (Livad), 10:8; 2. Jason Granger (Harrison), 10:9; 3. Brian Dugonski (Northville), 11:2; 4. Jeremy Biddle (Farmington), 11:2; 5. Freddie Taylor (Redford CC), 11:5; 6. Rob Lemasters (Canton), 11:5.

Distance medley: 1. Redford Union (Tom Kessel, Don Bryant, Ryan Olson and Kurt Gars), 11:09.9; 2. Stevenson, 11:02.8; 3. Redford CC, 11:07.2; 4. Garden City, 11:16.7; 5. Salem, 11:19.6; 6. Harrison, 11:23.4.

Sprint medley: 1. Harrison (Kevin Bryant, Gil Chavez, Jason Granger and Matt Zimmerer), 2:31.5; 2. Salem, 2:33.4; 3. Canton, 2:36.5; 4. Church, 2:37.2; 5. (tie) Farmington and Garden City, 2:38.3; 6. Union, 2:40.1.

800s: 1. Harrison (Eshan Allos, Gil Chavez, Kevin Bryant and Jason Granger), 1:31.7; 2. Northville, 1:33.8; 3. Salem, 1:34.7; 4. Farmington, 1:36.7; 5. Church, 1:37.3; 6. John Glenn, 1:37.5.

Battle hurdles: 1. Salem (Dirk Schmiedel, Don Miller, Yu Kobayashi and Brian Herc), 1:04.4; 2. (tie) Farmington and John Glenn, 1:08.4; 4. Redford Union, 1:10.1; 5. Franklin, 1:10.8; 6. Redford CC, 1:11.8.

Individual 1,600: 1. Joe Leo (Redford CC), 4:37.7; 2. Scott Lloyd (Northville), 4:39.2; 3. Scott Pengelly (Salem), 4:43.5; 4. Tom Stamboulis (N. Farmington), 4:44.4; 5. Steve Warner (Stevenson), 4:47.9; 6. Casey Macdonald (Canton), 4:50.0.

400s: 1. Northville (Chris Gonsky, Eric Moore, Bob Oler and Brian Dugonski), 44.4; 2. Harrison, 44.5; 3. Salem, 45.2; 4. Farmington, 45.2; 5. Canton, 45.8; 6. Stevenson, 45.4.

1,800s: 1. Salem (Russ Polcyn, Cory Kingpin, David Binkley and Adam Bakowski), 3:20.1; 2. John Glenn, 3:32.4; 3. Farmington, 3:33.7; 4. Redford Union, 3:35.0; 5. Stevenson, 3:37.4; 6. Garden City, 3:37.8.

Farmington's Baker wins national title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It's pretty safe to say Justin Baker of Farmington will be ranked higher on the amateur tennis circuits next year.

His first-place finish at the Columbus Indoor Junior National Tournament a week ago virtually assures the 14-year-old player of that.

"It's a good feeling because it's the first real big tournament I've won," Baker said. "I've been playing pretty well this year. I was in the finals of a couple tournaments and lost, so it felt good to get one under my belt."

"It's also good because it helps my sectional and national rankings."

Baker was unseeded in the tournament, largely because he was rated only the 35th best player at his age in the Western Section; however, he beat the odds and a pair of seeded players to win five matches and the title.

He faced No. 2 Michael Carducci in the final but surprisingly breezed to a straight-set victory in the match, conceding only one point to his opponent.

"Given how most of the seeds did in the tournament — only four of the

TENNIS

eight made it to the quarterfinals — I had figured out the seeding didn't make a lot of difference," Baker said.

"I was kinda nervous going into that match, but I also wanted to win pretty bad. It's difficult to seed players early in the year, and he probably wasn't as strong as some players I played earlier."

Baker, one of 32 entries, had one of his toughest matches in the first round and defeated No. 5 Dustin Friedman. Baker dominated the first and third sets but lost the second.

He then eliminated Chris Slays, a practice partner at the Sports Club of West Bloomfield, in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals.

In his next two matches, Baker lost the first set but rallied to win the next two against Georgia's Jackie Jenkins and Ben Cos of Spring Lake, who also is Baker's doubles partner.

"As the (quarterfinal) match went along I learned some things about (Jenkins) and made adjustments," Baker said. "He had a good serve and

See BAKER, 3C



DAVID LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

National champ: Justin Baker of Farmington won his big-group title in the Columbus Indoor Junior National Tennis Tournament.