

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1994

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Heist earns scholarship

Farmington Hills Harrison now has two alumni playing volleyball on scholarship for Central Michigan University.

Julie Heist, who was a freshman walk-on last season, got a scholarship a year earlier than expected when senior Teri Willhoit decided not to return for a fifth year.

"I always try to show them I should be on scholarship," said Heist, an outside hitter and All-Observer player in 1993. "I always wanted to be like everybody else and be on scholarship."

"I would've had to wait another year. (Coach) Terri (Robbie) said there wouldn't be an opening until the third year. I'm happy but then I didn't want Teri to quit."

Heist, a 5-foot-9½ outside hitter and a '93 All-Observer player, will join former Harrison teammate Amanda Ault at CMU. Ault, an all-area setter, accepted a scholarship last fall.

"We always talked about playing at the same school but never thought it would happen," Heist said. "She knows which ones I like to hit, and we know each other so think that last season but made the travel team because of injuries to two other players. She hopes to see more court time next season since, of six outside hitters, one graduated, one quit and one moved to the right side."

"I want our team to win the Mid-American Conference this year, and I think we have a very good chance," Heist said. "I want to be able to play and have something to do with that."

Bandits are champions

The under-19 Farmington Bandits won the Superior Division of the Great Lakes Soccer League with a 9-0-1 record.

The Bandits outscored their opponents 52-5. Goalkeeper Brad Martin and backups Steve Scario and Henning Schmitt combined for six shutouts.

"This team is composed entirely of players and recent graduates from all three local high schools," Bandits coach Joe Miller said. "The success of this team is testimony to the teamwork by youths in the Farmington Soccer Club."

The Bandits' roster includes Dennis Bandemer, Michael Barton, Danny Blankenship, Jeff Blankenship, Darrin Bruckelner, David Gine, Matt Horn, Sen Jenio, Shawn Kahn, Dan Martinovaki, Mark Miller, Cory Moher, Dennis Rica, Derek Sorenson and Tetsuya Umemoto. The team manager is Vince Scario.

Vardar teams in nationals

The Vardar III Soccer Club is sending a pair of boys teams to the U.S. Youth Soccer Association 1994 Snickers Cup, a national tournament, July 27-31 in Blaine, Minn.

Led by tournament MVP Tony Jones of Kalamazoo, Vardar III's under-19 team grabbed the USYSA Region II title last week in Rockford, Ill.

They posted a 1-0 semifinal win over the Illinois Sockers and a 5-1 championship victory over Kansas.

Rounding out the under-19 squad, which also took the sportsmanship award, are Kal Kaleswaki, Scott Lamphier and Jeff Thomas, all of Livonia; Tom Baker, Owen Crosby and John Truskowski, Plymouth; Mike Widenak, Canton; Mike Giese, Farmington; Tino Schkane, Rockford; Tim Blackwell, Southfield; Adam Hunter, Bloomfield Hills; Caleb Porter, Gull Lake; Scott Rooney, Clarkston; Jim Van Huyen, Kalamazoo; and Andy VanOver, Romeo.

Paced by MVP Steve Williford of Livonia, Vardar III's under-16 team also emerged victorious with a 1-0 triumph last week over Club Dynamo of Columbus, Ohio.

Jason Dorrer tallied the lone goal for Vardar III. Other members of Vardar's under-16 team, coached by the University of Detroit Mercy men's coach Morris Luponec, include Scott Seren and Todd Smith, Livonia; Jon Schack, Farmington; Jeremy Shilling, Canton; Ben Upward, Birmingham; Chris Charbonneau, Troy; Tim Lickfeldt, Marco Jovanovic, Chris Piazza, Nick Stoddy, Ryan Wells, Tim Castillo, and Larry Mercier.

College athletic plans

Five female graduates of North Farmington will continue their athletic careers next fall at the college level.

Kasey Jones will compete in tennis for Vassar College. Kase Mackie, softball, Wittenburg College. Allison Stein, basketball and softball, Olivet College. Mandy Terrell, diving, Oakland University; and Kaseen Koofer, cross country and track, Kalamazoo College.

To submit items for the Observer Sports Scene, write to Dan O'Meara, 38381 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150, or send via fax to (313) 561-7370. Please include the phone number for a person who can provide additional information.

Swinehart chosen for North job



North Farmington has a new head coach for its boys varsity basketball team. Brian Swinehart, a middle school teacher in the district, fills the position created by the resignation of Tom Negoshian.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Brian Swinehart will be coaching against his former mentor and players next season when North Farmington faces Farmington in boys basketball.

Swinehart, who coached the Farmington JV's the last three years, has been named to replace Tom Negoshian, who resigned last month, as the North varsity coach.

That means Swinehart, 23, will be on the bench opposite Denny Mikel, who traveled a similar path, leaving his post as North JV coach to take over the Farmington varsity in 1991.

"I was fortunate to work with Denny for three years," Swinehart said. "Some of the things I do are the same things I learned from him."

"It's going to be a new experience, and I'm going to be learning as I go a little bit. But I definitely feel I'm ready."

He said his style of coaching won't

differ that much from what the Raiders did under Negoshian, playing the game at a controlled pace.

"I like to play man, some zone and run a few different presses to keep people guessing," Swinehart said. "Offensively, I like to get up and down the floor but not be a team that looks to push the ball all the time. We'll be a disciplined team, able to set up and run a good half-court offense."

"Tom has been successful playing that style, and it's the style I'm used to. Some of the offensive sets are the same things North does, so the kids know what I'm talking about. There will be changes but nothing drastic."

One thing apt to change involves game attire. Negoshian's included trademark towel draped over the left shoulder, but Swinehart will probably forego that.

"I'm more of a kinda man. I don't think the towel is me," he said.

Swinehart does plan to maintain

the integrity he believes Negoshian and assistant Greg Ceppling brought to the North program.

"The biggest influence has been Denny," he said, "but Tom and Greg played a big part in my development as a coach in terms of X's and O's and also communicating with kids, doing things the right way and running a class program."

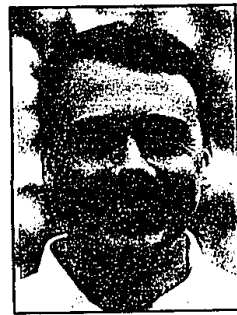
"The biggest part of taking over at North is that it's a program that's been run the right way. It has discipline and character, and I want to make sure that stays there."

Swinehart, who teaches at East Middle School, also coached the Farmington girls varsity in 1991 and '92 and the Farmington freshman boys one year. His JV teams posted records of 7-13, 9-11 and 12-5.

He gave up the girls position for family reasons since he and his wife had a newborn child at the time and he was working on his master's degree in athletic administration.

North lost six seniors to graduation and will be short on varsity expertise since next season but the Raiders do return seniors Derek Sorenson, Ben Sommers, Jason Pawlowaki and Mike Feld and juniors Rich Beal, Tim Doka and John Kelley.

"They're good kids and they work



Brian Swinehart:
North varsity coach

hard," Swinehart said. "From the experience we've had so far (in the summer league), they're very coachable and very intelligent players."

"It's just a matter making them better players and being ready when it's time to play. The kids are competitive and they get after it."

NFWB baseball victory



Double play: North Farmington-West Bloomfield second baseman Pat Curran turns a double play Thursday in a 3-0 win over Novi. See story on Page 2C.

DeMattia to receive award from Mercy

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Robert DeMattia will be the guest of honor at the Fourth Annual Meg Mallon Golf Outing and Tribute Dinner to benefit Mercy High School on Monday, July 25.

DeMattia, president of R.A. DeMattia Company and developer of commercial property, will receive the Mercy Achievement Award from Mallon at Edgewood Country Club in Union Lake.

Previous award winners include Mallon, a Mercy graduate and professional golfer; Mel Farr, former Detroit Lion and Ford dealership owner and Diane Dietz, vice president of Continental Cablevision and a Mercy grad, too.

DeMattia, who sent three sports-active daughters — Amy (1985), Margaret (1987) and Elizabeth (1990) — to Mercy, is being honored for his role in promoting the school and its sports programs.

Specifically, he was instrumental in raising funds to construct a sports complex on the Mercy grounds, consisting of a softball diamond, soccer field and all-weather track.

DeMattia has served as chairman of the Eastern Michigan University board of regents and on the board of directors for the Wayne County Economic Development Commission, the Plymouth Township Economic Development Corporation, NTH Consultants, Michigan Biotechnology Institute and the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Office

and Industrial Parks.

He also is a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit, the Northville Chamber of Commerce and Focus: HOPE.

Mallon, who has achieved wealth and fame as a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, will participate in the outing as she has the past three years to help raise funds for the educational programs at Mercy.

Mercy also celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and Mallon will also announce the start of a capital campaign to raise \$1 million for her alma mater July 25.

Neal Shine, publisher of the Detroit Free Press, will serve as honorary chairman for the event and sportscaster Steve Garagiola as emcee.

The cost per individual for the whole day is \$225, which includes continental breakfast at 7 a.m., shotgun scramble start at 8 a.m., buffet lunch at 11 a.m., cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$75 for dinner only.

Any person or company wanting to sponsor a tee can do so for \$1,500 and receive four tickets or \$750 with two tickets.

For more information, call the Mercy Development Office at (810) 478-8922.

Gold medal means Findlay still tops field

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Steve Findlay has let the competition know he is still the best men's roller skater in this country if not the world.

In winning his second straight title at the Olympic Sports Festival in St. Louis July 3, Findlay kicked off his campaign to repeat as world champion later this year.

"I skated very well and was fortunate enough to end up winning the gold medal," the 23-year-old Farmington resident said.

"I approached it as just another chance to do, and you hope to compete at your level and up to your ability."

There were only six competitors in world-class field, according to Findlay. It included the top four finishers from the previous national championships and top two from the last junior nationals.

Californians Richard Seneo and Tom Carney were second and third

and Justin Bates, formerly of Flint and now North Carolina, was fourth. Seneo and Bates also were members of the U.S. world team that went to France last fall.

"I was fortunate to jump ahead and win every single thing by every judge," Findlay said. "Even though there weren't a lot of competitors, the competition was very good, very close and intense."

"There should be a point when you can sum up the competition and roughly know who you should be concerned about. There were only six guys and I was concerned with half of them."

While the international aspect was missing, Findlay compared the Sports Fest to the Olympics in terms of its scale and various sporting venues.

"All the athletes stayed at Washington University, so there was a sense of an Olympic village," he said. "They had elaborate opening ceremonies and I hate to think what it cost them. There was a closing ceremony,

too, and we went through the whole thing again. Having been to two others, St. Louis was an incredible site."

"It's a very prestigious thing to get a gold medal at the Olympic Fest, because there were people who have been to the Olympics and you have equal billing with them."

Findlay will try to defend his U.S. title and make the U.S. world team again later this month in Lincoln, Neb. The worlds will take place in Italy in October.

"It'll be training and working as hard as I need to be as prepared as I can be to perform up to my ability," he said. "Most athletes are successful if they think of that and strive for a goal. Like any other competitor, you hope you're ready and what happens happens."

Findlay isn't sure if this will be his last year in competitive skating, but he's not even thinking that far ahead right now.

"Early in the year you're shooting for a goal and looking down the road, so you don't expect to be done at the



Steve Findlay:
champion roller skater
end of the year when you have long-term goals," he said.

"I'll take a big break after the worlds and get a clear head. I can honestly say I haven't given it a moment's thought. I always wait and evaluate at the end of the year."