

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Raiders roll in opener

North Farmington romped to a 73-40 victory over visiting West Bloomfield in its varsity girls basketball debut Tuesday.

Senior Aliha Gordon scored 22 points, sinking 14 of 16 free throws, and junior Carrie May 14. Kathy Collins and Liz Weber added nine apiece. May also led the Raiders with 12 steals and seven rebounds. Gordon hauled in six caroms.

North led 29-20 at halftime but outscored the Lakers 23-8 in the third quarter and 44-20 in the second half.

"We were impatient with our offense and defense in the first half," North coach Lance Davis said. "We committed a lot of fouls by being over aggressive. We were rushing too much, trying to put them away early instead of wearing them down."

"Just making that extra pass helped us tremendously (on offense) in the second half, and we were trapping more instead of reaching to steal the ball."

Michelle Frankford had 13 points and Jenny Olaszewski 10 for the Lakers.

"It was the first time in our gym (because of floor damage)," Davis said. "I'm sure we were a little tight and came out slow. All in all, we hustled and executed well. For the first game, I was pretty pleased with what we did."

Mercy game site moved

Farmington Hills Mercy's season opener in girls basketball tonight has been moved to Walled Lake Central because of repairs being made to the Mercy gym floor.

Water damage off to the side of the Mercy playing court caused a concern over player safety, according to coach Larry Baker. The school is expected to have the floor repaired for the next home game.

The JV game starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game at approximately 7.

Farmington sports information can be faxed to Dan O'Meara at 591-7279, reported to 953-2141 or sent to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

Marlins in race for 4th league title



All-Area standout: Harrison senior Allison Noe is ready for a big finale in her prep cross country career.



Some of the top runners in girls cross country compete for Farmington schools. Two of the best are Mercy's Eileen O'Connell and Harrison's Allison Noe.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy's first objective entering the 1994 girls cross country season is to win its fourth consecutive Catholic League championship.

The Marlins should be solid contenders, if not favorites, with two all-area runners returning in senior Eileen O'Connell and sophomore Betsy Gignac.

O'Connell, who spent part of the summer training in Australia, was the No. 1 runner last year and the most valuable runner in cross country and track.

She is the defending league individual champion. O'Connell placed third in the regional and ninth in the Class A team race (13th overall) when she ran her best time of 19:08.

"If she can stay healthy and focused, she can easily finish in the top five," said coach Gary Servais. "She seems to be a lot more serious, and she did more running over the summer than any other year."

Mercy led a third all-area runner in Amy Freund, but Gignac should help ease the graduation loss.

Gignac was third in the league, 19th at the regional, and 33rd in the state. She also ran her best time (19:49) in the state finals.

The Marlins also return seniors Brandy Johnson, Amy Dingas and Nancy Lowry. Dingas was the sixth or seventh runner and should move up a couple of spots this year.

Sophomore Emily Rottinghaus had a good year in track and has been competitive with Gignac.

Junior Lisa Nobles is an experienced varsity runner, and Servais is hoping for bigger things from her. She

was second behind O'Connell in the 800-meter run in league track.

Juniors Melissa Tulczek, Julie Roble and Nora Obringer, sophomore Somia Ahmad, and freshman Amanda Phelps are first-year runners who could help.

The Marlins were eighth in the state last year, but qualifying in a tough regional could be difficult.

"The league title is an attainable goal," Servais said. "It should be something well within our reach, but getting to the state is going to be tough."

"I know some individuals will be going, but hopefully we can get enough to get the team out. We have to close the gap between our first and fifth runners quite a bit."

Farmington Harrison

The Hawks have another of Observerland's outstanding runners in senior Allison Noe, who was 13th in the regional and 16th in the state individual race.

Noe set a school record of 19:38 at the Class A finals, and she placed sixth in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

"At this point, she's way ahead of where she was the last two years," coach Mark Babcock said. "I think she's really ready. She's been to camp and worked hard all summer."

"If all things go well and she stays healthy, she should have a terrific year. The ones who see her every day have noticed she's taken it to the next level."

The Hawks, who were eighth in the WLAA and 4-5 in duals, return eight runners.

See PREVIEW, 2B

Harrison golfers balanced, scores reflect improvement



Veteran player: Senior Sean Frith returns to lead the Harrison team.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Longtime golf coach Bill Spencer is hopeful his Farmington Hills Harrison boys team will be better with six of its top eight players returning.

The Hawks were 10th in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 1-10 in dual meets, but Spencer said the improvement is already apparent.

All of his golfers shot in the 80s or below in the recent city tournament and Farmington Invitational. The Hawks have their first dual meet Friday.

Senior Sean Frith is the top player at present and a stabilizing influence, having been on the team four years. He knows what it takes to play well and will average in the high 70s to low 80s, Spencer said.

Junior Kris Jovan and senior Brian Atkinson are third-year players who shot in the mid 80s. Senior Jason Baldwin, junior Jeff Moscow and sophomore Dave Bosak also return and carry about the same average.

"That's the heart of our team — middle 80s players," said Spencer, who begins his 22nd year of coaching the Hawks. "You don't win matches at 1 or 2; it's the fifth and sixth guys who win it for you."

"You need players like that,

role players who shoot well, to win. A lot of times we'll have five guys fighting it out for three spots. There's constant competition."

Junior Kevin Horton is a first-year player who has impressed Spencer. He shot 84 Monday at Tam O'Shanter in West Bloomfield and is holding the No. 2 spot.

When you've been at this long enough, you can tell by watching about three swings," Spencer said. "You have a perception of what a player's potential is."

Freshman Jeff Boxman is another newcomer who has done well and should get better.

"We're pretty balanced," Spencer said. "Sean obviously stands out, but we're going to have some depth. We go down six, seven, eight players, and we'll be able to draw from that, which we haven't been able to do in past years."

"We'll win our share. I think we'll surprise some people."

Farmington High

The Falcons are led by senior and fourth-year player Derek Nelson, whose strength is his short game.

Nelson shot 75 in an early-season tournament and matched for mer state champion Jason Bula's 25

See GOLF, 2B

Raiders start season with win

North Farmington gave new coach Rocky Patel a victory in his debut as boys varsity soccer coach Monday, defeating Detroit Union 4-1.

Following a scoreless first half, the Raiders scored four unanswered goals.

Senior Fred Lamez sandwiched a pair of goals around ones by junior Chris Klump and senior Cory Henson. Daniel Riten assisted on two goals, and the others were unassisted.

The RU score was an own-goal that deflected off a North defender. Joey Beger was in goal for the Raiders, the other way, making

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six saves. North had 15 shots.

Junior Duane Wilder played sweeper for the first time and was a standout on defense, according to Patel.

"The kids were nervous and quite tentative in the first half," Patel said. "It was the first game I told them at halftime to play the game they know they can — about passing and counter attack — and we came back strong in the second half. We kept pursuing and pursuing and were able to

pull out a win."

SENIOR CO-5, DEARBORN D. The Shamrocks also did all their scoring in the second half Monday, christening their new field on the school campus with a victory.

Jeff Beckley scored in the 6th minute, Chris Kennedy in the 6th and Brian Collier in the 70th. Assisting on the CG goals were Dan McDevitt, John Zepi and Tony Morenci.

Jeremy Fiedoruk was in goal for the Shamrocks and made three saves. CG attempted about 10 shots. "Once we settled in a little bit in the second half, we played a little better," CG coach Phil Loney said. "Dearborn forced us into 12 outside situations in the first half. They played it tight in the first half, but once we got one goal things opened up."

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