

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Elsey top runner

Terry Elsey had the best overall time Sunday in the Run Through The Hills, completing the 10-kilometer course in 33:40. That time placed him atop the men's over-40 division. The other age-group winners were Debra Rader, women's over-40, 52:56; LeAnne Weislich, women's open, 48:11; Steve Duffy, men's 17-and-under, 55:40; and David Daly, men's open, 40:23. The 10K run, organized by the Farmington Hills Recreation Division, began and ended at Heritage Park and meandered through surrounding neighborhoods along the way. The 1.6K Fun Run winners were Brian Dot, 17-and-under, 10:03; Meghan Burkhardt, women, 16:52; and Kevin Sherwood, men, 7:47.

Rucker narrows choices

Guy Rucker, a 6-foot-10 1/2 senior center from Westland John Glenn, told the Observer late Wednesday night that he narrowed his choices down to three schools — University of Iowa, Purdue and the University of Michigan. Reports in Wednesday's Detroit Free Press said that Rucker had committed to Iowa. Rucker's mother Terri Mitchell and Glenn coach Mike Schutte also indicated Monday that he was leaning toward Iowa, but those plans have been put on hold.

"I'm not ready to make a decision yet," said Rucker. An All-Observer first-team pick, who averaged 16.5 points, 12 rebounds and seven blocks per game during his junior year. "Right now I'm going to wait until the middle of the season to make a decision, probably sometime in February. My mother is behind me 100 percent in whatever decision I make. Both my parents and my coach will be involved."

Last season, Rucker helped Glenn to a 20-5 record and a berth in the state Class A quarterfinals last year. He shot 67 percent from the field and 75 percent from the free throw line.

Rucker has emerged as one of the state's top big men, according to Schutte.

"I've seen big improvement since last year," said the Glenn coach. "Guy is going to be a lot more determined and aggressive."

Finals replay



Tight spot: North Farmington's Carrie May is caught between Canton defenders Krisi Fiorezi and Sarah Warnke. Canton won the game. See story on page 5C.

Hawks' win streak ends in 51-49 loss



By NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

Upby was the only way to describe Farmington Hills Harrison's performance in the first quarter of its game at Walled Lake Central Tuesday.

The Vikings jumped out to a 14-4 lead over the lethargic Hawks, who turned the ball over 11 times in the quarter. But this wasn't the same kind of Harrison team that would have folded in the past.

Instead, the Hawks clawed back and had several chances to keep their perfect season alive before two Jessica Regentin free throws with 13 seconds remaining gave Central a thrilling 51-49 victory.

The Vikings improved to 8-1 overall and are 4-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Hawks fell to 7-1 and 3-1.

"Losing for the first time was hard on them because that's the type of competitors they are," said Harrison coach Pete Mantyla. "Whenever you lose a game by two points, you feel like there was something as a player or a coach you could have done differently. We're going to take this game and become a better team."

Trailing 47-43 with 3:43 left, Harrison's Jenny Mylinski scored on an offensive rebound and was fouled. Her ensuing free throw made it a one-point game.

A driving layup by Central's Jessica Alsop increased the margin to three. Kelly LaCasse hit both ends of a one-and-one to close the gap to 49-48 with 2:17 remaining. LaCasse added another free throw 30 seconds later to tie the score.

Both teams traded turnovers until the Vikings put the ball with 47 seconds left. Central was waiting to take the last shot when Erika Greene was called for going over Regentin's back in a steal attempt.

Regentin's first free throw deflected off the side of the rim through the hoop.

"I was talking to the ball and telling it to please go in," Regentin said. "It hit the left side of the rim, and I was hoping it wouldn't fall to the left."

Central coach Ken Butler wasn't sure the ball was headed through the net from his view on the bench.

"It didn't look like the ball was going in," he said. "She's about a 60 percent shooter, but did a nice job on those two shots."

After a timeout, Regentin calmly switched her second attempt. The Hawks looked somewhat disorganized bringing the ball down court and settled for an off-balance shot off the backboard by Erin LaCasse as time expired.

"During the timeout, we talked about spacing the floor and having some penetration," Mantyla said. "But it's tough to run a set play off that type of defense."

Alsop paced Central with 74 points. Jaci Pilikiewicz and Becky Cummings added 13 and 10, respectively, for the Vikings who shot 59 percent from the floor (22 of 37).

The Hawks were led by Kelly LaCasse's 14 points. Erin LaCasse added nine for Harrison, which shot 30

See HAWKS, 5C

Falcons defeat Raiders 2-0 in soccer

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Whether he's kicking a ball under or over the crossbar, senior Sean Noble has become a consistent scorer for Farmington High football.

The two-sport athlete kicks for the 4-1 football team and is one of the leading scorers for the soccer team.

Noble accounted for both goals Wednesday and pushed his season total to nine (one less than Ryan Ramirez) in a 2-0 soccer victory over North Farmington. "I just try to get up for both sports; it's a little different for each one," said Noble, who has kicked two field goals and 10 extra points in football.

"I try to balance the time. Soccer comes first. It's easier (to do both) because I play soccer, but I practice in gym class and I go to football practice twice a week."

Noble isn't just a scoring machine. His soccer forte is actually defense where he starts at sweeper. "Their defense played tough,

and Noble did a great job back there; he's prime-time player," North coach Rocky Patel said.

There weren't many good scoring chances for either team, and the Falcons (5-5-2) settled into a safe lead after scoring a pair of early goals.

Noble scored the first one off a free kick, and he converted a penalty kick after Wojtek Radz was fouled in the box.

"We got two quick ones and the team took its time after that," Farmington coach Luke Juncal said. "We didn't seem to be in a hurry to score, but the defense was solid."

"Since we moved Sean back, our defense has been doing much better. We had him playing right field, but his bread-and-butter position is sweeper. He also scores up on set plays and corner kicks."

North (2-7-2) had its best scoring chance midway in the first half when Denis Rica was just wide of the net on a free kick from 25 yards.

"We didn't get in sync until

late in the game, and by then it was too late," Patel said. "Other than the first five minutes, it was a pretty even game, back and forth."

"In the last four games, we've played some of our best soccer and just haven't gotten the breaks. We could easily be 5-6-0."

The Raiders tied Bloomfield Hills LaSalle 1-1 Monday and West Bloomfield 3-3 Saturday. Chris Kemp's sixth goal with 11 minutes left tied LaSalle, and Cory Mosher, Fred Luma and Kemp scored a goal Saturday.

The Falcons also have been playing well and played top-ranked Livonia Stevenson to a scoreless tie for 60 minutes Monday before losing 3-0.

"That proved to the team we can stay with the No. 1 team in the state," Juncal said, adding Farmington had two goals called back and hit the post one other time.

Farmington can win the city championship with another victory Monday at Harrison.

Salem wins title; North places 3rd

By C.J. BIRAK
STAFF WRITER

From the start, it figured to be a tight race, probably between two teams: Livonia Churchill, the defending champion in Western Lakes Activities Association golf, and Plymouth Salem, the only team to beat the Chargers in a conference dual meet the last two seasons.

Even before the first stroke had been struck, those two were the odds-on favorites to take the WLAAs crown, with possible intervention from North Farmington and/or Northville.

And yet, no one could have anticipated this. Churchill concluded play Tuesday at Burn Bros Golf Course in Plymouth as the WLAAs champions, then added up its score: 305. Salem followed suit, putting together its five best 18-hole totals, and came up with 303.

Which left the sixth place at the deciding finish. Salem's final score had an 83. Churchill's

Mike Cotter shot 53.

Salem won by that single stroke. "That's why, with these kids, you keep telling them every day to keep their heads down and hit the ball," said Salem coach Rick Wilson.

He provided the perfect example. Warner, normally one of Salem's top players, then having an off day. On his final hole he put his approach shot over the back of a sand trap, thinking his score, probably wouldn't count anyway. Warner might have played it half-heartedly.

But he didn't. "He took a shot off, stepped into the water — and it was solid, about 50 degrees on the left — and almost 11," said Wilson.

The result: Warner salvaged a bogey. At the time, he didn't realize how important that was.

An vital 11. Wilson's other

See GOLF, 5C

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See-saw: Farmington's Erik King follows his shot in the WLAAs tournament.