

# SPORTS

C

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1994

## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### All-academic athletes

Senior Margaret Martin and junior Sue Gibson were named to the Big Ten Conference all-academic women's soccer team. Both are former Farmington High School standouts and defenders on the Michigan State University team.

Martin carries a 3.10 grade-point average in social science and international relations, Gibson a 3.02 in hotel and restaurant management.

Gibson started in 15 of 17 games, recording two goals and one assist. Martin played in 10 games, starting three.

The Spartans were 6-1-1 in the Big Ten, finishing first in the regular season, and 12-5-2 overall.

### Memorial tournament

The Cal Kerwin Memorial Tennis Tournament will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27, at the Farmington Tennis Club. The event begins at 8 a.m. and will benefit the American Cancer Society.

The tournament is named for Clara (Cal) Ann Kerwin, a club member for 10 years who died of cancer last spring.

Her husband, Jim Kerwin, retired last year as the Mercy High School tennis coach and is the former director of tennis for the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department.

A round-robin format will be used in the all-day doubles tournament, open to both men and women. The entry fee is \$25, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The Farmington Tennis Club is located at 22777 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information call (610) 476-3246.

### S'field grid coach quits

Cal Fletcher, the longest-serving head football coach at Southfield High School, has resigned.

Fletcher said he "just wanted to go out quietly. It's time to move on and let a younger man take over," he said.

"I had hoped to stay on for a couple more seasons, but I decided about halfway through this season to call it quits. I talked it over with my wife and my assistant coaches."

"There was no drama. I'm leaving with good feelings about the program and about the kids."

Fletcher, the fourth head coach in Southfield football history, compiled a 65-46 record in 12 years. The Blue Jays posted seven winning seasons under Fletcher, including three Southeastern Michigan Association championships and one perfect regular season (9-0 in 1990).

Fletcher's Blue Jays qualified for the state playoff tournament twice — 1985 and 1990.

### Lady Crusaders lose

It stayed close for most of the first half, anyway. But the Madonna University women's basketball team couldn't sustain its effort any longer Wednesday at Oakland University, a perennial powerhouse in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Lady Crusaders (4-1) scored the first 10 points of the second half and posted a 53-63 non-league win over Madonna (3-7).

The Lady Crusaders led by as many as nine in the first half and were up 20-12 with 10:32 left, but OU rallied, outscoring them 25-9 to take a 37-29 lead into the intermission.

Francine Williams and Stephanie Criley led the Crusaders with 13 points apiece. Williams, who scored 11 of her points in the first half, also had five rebounds and three steals.

OU got 20 points from Heather Bateman and 16 from Cyndi Platter (Plymouth Salem).

### Madonna men routed

After close losses in the first two games of its Missouri road trip, the Madonna University men's basketball team got thumped Wednesday by Missouri Baptist 112-59.

It was never close as Madonna fell to 1-6. Poor shooting plagued the Crusaders; they trailed 58-19 at the half, making just nine of 36 floor shots. For the game they hit 24 of 84; Baptist made 45 of 86.

Jay Dimes was the only bright spot for the Crusaders, netting 25 points and six rebounds. Brandon Slove (Plymouth Salem) was next highest scorer with eight.

### S'craft on short end

Really, the biggest surprise was the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team stayed so close for so long.

Poor free throw shooting compounded by worse rebounding should have doomed the Osleto to another lopsided loss Wednesday against visiting Alpena. But while they didn't lose by a bunch, they still lost for the seventh time in eight games, 57-74.

It was also their league opener, so they are 0-1 in the Eastern Conference. Alpena is 3-4 overall, 1-0 in the conference.

Schoolcraft trailed 37-36 at the half, but couldn't keep pace with the Lumberjacks. The Osleto made just 13 of 30 free throws and were outscored 43-24.

The Osleto were led by Tony Maciejewski's 21 points and eight boards.

## Groves edges past Farmington



Farmington High came up short in another boys basketball game Friday, losing at home to Birmingham Groves, 51-46. The Falcons could have won their first two games and will build on the positive, coach Denny Mikel said.

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

The experience of winning a close game early in the season can have a positive effect on the maturity of a young varsity basketball team.

In that respect, Birmingham Groves reaped the bigger benefit Friday when it held off host Farmington in the fourth quarter for a 51-46 boys victory.

"It's going to take time and being in games like this, making the plays and learning how to win," Groves coach Gary Sharpe said. "You can practice it, but you can't simulate the game."

"By the middle of January, we have a chance to be kinda decent. We tell the kids 'We're coaching you up this year, and you have to play better, too.'"

Groves is 1-1, but Farmington has

lost its first two games by close margins.

"We're struggling to get hitting on all cylinders," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "It will take us time, but we feel good about this group and they're staying positive."

Junior post Josh Odetto-Grenadier scored 13 points to lead Groves. Senior guard Brian Alexander and junior guard Rudy Elliott had 12 apiece and senior forward Jeff Sheppard nine.

Junior Jake Skakovsky paced the host Falcons with 12 points. Junior Simon Juncaj finished with 10 and junior Tim Streit nine.

"I think Simon Juncaj is an awful good player, so we did a good defense job on him and overall," Sharpe said.

The game was tied at 45 midway in the fourth quarter, but Groves was ahead to stay after Grenadier scored

on a rebound. Alexander's layup made it a four-point gap with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

Farmington missed its last four shot attempts, three of which were launched from three-point range. Grenadier and Sheppard made a free throw each to clinch the win.

Farmington led 33-30 going into the finale but made only five of 16 shots over the last eight minutes. Groves was 7-of-13; Elliott sank two threes in the fourth quarter and senior Eric Flaher one.

"We told the kids these were two pretty evenly matched teams, and obviously Groves shot the ball better tonight," Mikel said. "The big three didn't put the game out of reach but gave them a nice cushion."

Groves led 16-9 after one quarter, scoring most of its points on put-backs. But Farmington turned it around in the second and led 21-18 at halftime.

Farmington kept Groves off the offensive boards, and Groves went 0-for-10 while committing seven turnovers in the second period. Nick Letra gave Farmington its first lead, 20-

18, since the opening basket with two minutes left in the half.

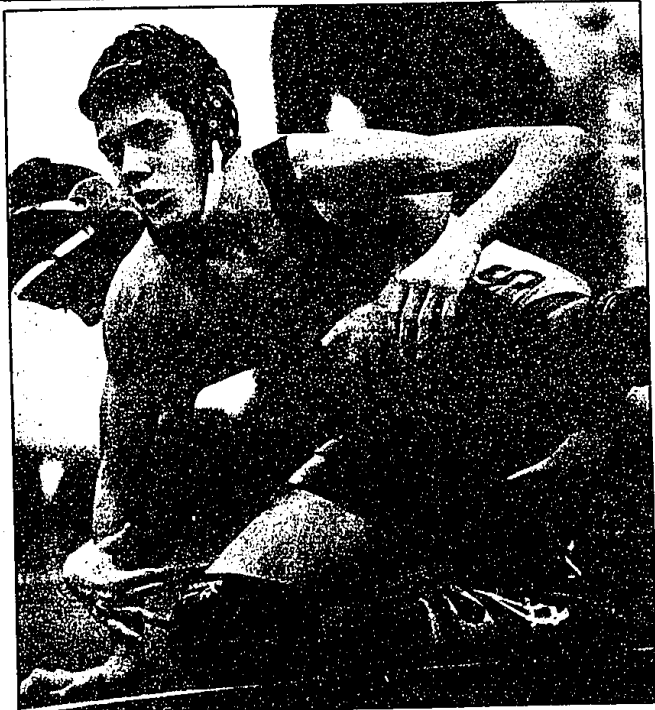
"We got away from the things we were doing well," Sharpe said. "We put things up from the perimeter that we just shouldn't have put up. We took some bad shots."

"During one of our timeouts, we really emphasized better rebounding and not giving them so many second-shot opportunities," Mikel said. "We gave them a little pressure, and it seemed to bother them."

Groves scored the first eight points of the second half to regain the lead, 26-21. But Farmington had a 12-4 run to finish the third quarter. Juncaj, Jason Jager and Dave Dilworth scored the last three baskets to put the Falcons on top 33-30.

"We got down early, the same as we did against (Waterford) Kettering," Mikel said. "The kids made a nice run and got back in the game. In the fourth quarter, things didn't seem to go our way."

■ W. BLOOMFIELD 67, HARRISON 67; No more moral victories. It's time for the Hawks to see HOOPS, 3C



JOHN STORZLAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mat winner: Chris Neville of Farmington, shown here in tournament action last season, was a winner in his first match of the 1994-95 season Thursday.

## Falcons outpoint Hawks

Farmington High started a new wrestling season Thursday with a 60-12 victory over cross-town opponent Farmington Hills Harrison.

The Falcons were winners at all but two weights and recorded four pins.

Farmington falls came from Chris Neville (119) in 1:33 over Pat Pat-Pat, Cory Perry (134) in 2:12 over Will Franklin, Mark Mason (151) in 1:31 over Shawn Mayberry and Drew Cunningham (172) in 1:02 over Joe Parrelly.

### WRESTLING

Sevan Sahner of Farmington started the meet with a 14-11 decision over Adam Noe at 100 pounds.

The Falcons also had victories from Mike Lane (126) by technical fall, 19-2, over Ron Pelletier and Ryan Terwilliger (160) over Todd Haney, 6-0.

Harrison voided four weights, giving uncontested victories to Farmington's Matt Michalski (106), Martin Splinks (112), Rob Gieringer (185) and heavyweight Adam Tanelian.

Both Harrison victories were pins. Dave Eaton (142) stopped Dean Gotszky in 47 seconds, and Chris Gagey (215) pinned Pete Hutchinson in 1:50.

It was the first dual meet for the Hawks, also.

## Shamrocks ready for '95 challenge

By STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

### WRESTLING

The Redford Catholic Central wrestling team might not be at state championship form, but the Shamrocks are inching their way back to that status.

The Shamrocks, who last won a Class A championship in 1989 and have won seven state titles in coach Mike Rodriguez' 27 seasons, return five wrestlers who were state qualifiers in 1994.

Of the five, four are juniors, so the future looks promising.

CO took second place in the Catholic League meet last season. It was only the third time in the last 17 the Shamrocks failed to win the league.

The Shamrocks, who opened the season Saturday at the Jackson Invitational, were 18-11 in dual meets.

"The highlight was not winning the Catholic League, then placing as many people as we did in the state meet," Rodriguez said. "We've got some good talent, but not as demonstrated. But we're waiting for this team to come along."

The '95 team had two state cham-

pions and four others who placed in the top six at the state meet.

The Shamrocks should benefit from a new weight-class system, but that doesn't mean Rodriguez is in favor of it. The National Coaches Association made variations in several weight classes, most significantly by dropping the 189-pound division in favor of one for 215-pounds.

The Shamrocks should benefit because last year's 189-pounder, Andy Short, is more comfortable wrestling at 215 — which was about his playing weight in football.

But Rodriguez believes too many changes were made. Gone are the 103, 125, 150, 140, 145, 152, 171 and 189 weight classes.

The new lineup looks like this: 100, 105, 112, 119, 126, 134, 142, 161, 160, 172, 185, 215 and heavyweight.

"They showed it down our throat again and we have to live with it," Rodriguez said. "The national norm for high school kids is 145 pounds and they changed that to 142. They added a 215, which only ben-

efits football players. They're not thinking about the kids. All the coaches I talk to say they're hurting at 215."

The top returnee is senior Dan Krueger, who took second place at the state meet in the 189-pound class. Krueger, whose brothers Lee and Jason were outstanding CC wrestlers, will wrestle at the newly-formed 185-pound class.

"It's just a matter of time for Danny," Rodriguez said. "No one really gave him a chance and thought he'd do anything. He's ready to blossom. It's difficult for a young man to come behind brothers who are superstars before him."

The other state qualifying returnees include juniors John Spolaky, a heavyweight who took seventh last season, Kevin Griffin (140), Dave Gardner (136) and Dario Ahn (160).

Senior Bill Lamb, who finished seventh in the state meet two years ago but failed to qualify in '94, also returns at 112.

Rodriguez believes Gardner, who defeated Redford Thurston's Class B state champion Luley Haddad at the Oberlin Invitational, and Griff-

in are two "sleepers."

Gardner went 1-4 and Griffin was 21-11 last season, but neither won a major invitational.

"They haven't won any outstanding tournaments, but they are two fine fighters," Rodriguez said.

The rest of the CC lineup includes sophomore Dave O'Hare (103), sophomore Mike Zelenock (119), sophomore Louis Anderson and freshman Andy Landrum, who will battle at 126, junior Dave Garcia (151), senior Scott Menoch (160) and freshman Aaron Rock (172).

Zelenock won only two matches at the end of last season, but has made a complete turn-around, according to Rodriguez.

"He spent three weeks at Iowa's camp and came back very determined," Rodriguez said.

The Shamrocks placed second last season to Livonia Stevenson in the Oberlin meet and Rodriguez would like to unseat the Spartans, but he's not banking on it.

"It's nice to win in your own backyard, but I'm trying to gear them up more for the state meet," Rodriguez said.