

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1995

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Lions sign Coleman

Mill Coleman, former Farmington Hills High School quarterback and Michigan State University wide receiver, signed a free-agent contract Monday with the Detroit Lions.

The 5-foot-9, 175-pound Coleman was not selected in the NFL draft last weekend, but Millard Coleman Sr. said he thinks the prospects of his son making the Lions roster are good.

"All indications are he has an excellent chance," Millard Sr. said Tuesday. "Of all the opportunities available, we feel this is the best as far as giving him the potential to stick with a team and have a career in the NFL."

"The Lions came across as very sincere and honest as far as what Mill's potential with them could be."

NFL rules prohibit college players from joining their new teams before May to discourage them from failing to complete the current semester.

Millard Sr. said they hope to have that rule waived in Coleman's case since he has his undergraduate degree and is working toward a master's.

Flyers place at state

The Oakland County Flyers 14- and 15-year-old AAU girls basketball teams placed seventh in the state tournaments in Flint on April 7-9.

The 14-year-old players are Kerstin Andziewski, Amy Jenkins and Amy Robb of Harrison High School; Meredith Austin and Courtney Brechin, Howell; Meryl Denton, Ladywood; Wendy Jacobs, South Lyon; and Lori Moore, Brighton.

The 15-year-old players are Monique Anderson, Cicely Dowdell, Kristine Knutson and Ami Patel of Harrison High School; Mary Duggan and Jena Kluska, Mercy; Lindy Barth, Stephanie Harris and Jennifer Nelson, Brighton; Adrienne Mallory, Southfield; Aimee McCullen and Jessica Taylor, South Lyon.

Rochelle Reilly and Pete Mantyla coach the 14-year-old team, Ron Shanks and Gary Fett the 15s. Robb was named to the All-Michigan 14 team.

(Call Observer staff member Dan O'Neara with Farmington sports information at (313) 953-2141. The fax (313) 953-2141 is a great way to submit news, also. If you feel like writing, the address is 36231 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150.)

Stopen finds WB race to his liking



Top runner: Keith Stopen of Farmington Hills was the overall winner Sunday with a time of 1:10.55 in the half marathon.



Keith Stopen of Farmington Hills and Ann Boyd of Ann Arbor were the top male and female finishers, respectively, in Sunday's West Bloomfield Half-Marathon.

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Rescheduling the West Bloomfield Half-Marathon was a blessing in disguise for eventual winners Keith Stopen and Ann Boyd.

Following the cancellation of the original race on April 9, due to a "frank snow storm and icy road conditions", the 1995 race was run Sunday in its entirety.

Under ideal running conditions — 62 degrees, partly cloudy skies and a mild breeze — Stopen and Boyd raced to the male and female division championships, respectively.

Stopen, 28, of Farmington Hills, was the overall winner in 1:10:55 (6:25 pace per mile). Running his first half-marathon, Stopen completed the rolling, hilly course just 3:23 off the record time of 1:07:32, set by Northville's Doug Kurtis in 1989.

Stopen was planning to run in the West Bloomfield race on its original date, but said he was glad it was rescheduled.

"Actually, I'm kind of grateful (it was rescheduled). I wasn't feeling well that day," Stopen said. "As of yesterday, I was going to run the Race for the Cure (Saturday at the Detroit Zoo), and just run today for the distance. But I got caught in a Port-a-John yesterday and missed the start (of the Race for the Cure). Fortunately, after missing yesterday, this one fit back into my schedule."

Stopen and runner-up Jeff Martin, of Northville, staged an individual battle in the early part of the race before Stopen took over for good.

"I was just off (Martin's) shoulder at about five or six miles," Stopen said. "I made a little surge and took the lead at about the six- or seven-mile mark and held on for the

second half of the race."

Boyd won the female division in 1:17:10 (6:54 per mile). The 31-year-old Ann Arbor resident was just 1:10 off the record time of 1:15:57, set by Dexter's Cheryl Sly in 1989.

Boyd, who placed third in the Race for the Cure on Saturday, was also pleased the half-marathon had been rescheduled.

"I couldn't run it two weeks ago," explained Boyd. "I coach the boys track team at Dexter High School and we had a meet that day. When I found out last week that this race had been rescheduled for today I said, 'Boy, that would be a good race for me.' Actually, I wish they would keep this date. It fits into my schedule quite well."

Southfield's David Chomet, 26, was the top Eccentric-area finisher, placing third overall in 1:31:47 (6:29 per mile).

This was the first time Chomet ran the West Bloomfield Half-Marathon and he was impressed with the course.

"I liked it. I liked running through the neighborhoods," said Chomet. "It's a nice course... nice and hilly."

Jeff Parker, 34, of Rochester Hills, placed seventh overall in 1:45:42 (6:47 per mile). He was the only other area runner to place in the top 30.

Troy's Elizabeth Storch, who won the half-marathon in the early 80's, returned to the race this year and placed fourth in the female division in 1:28:09 (6:44 per mile). Sunday's race was an endurance test for the 33-year-old Storch, who is returning to road racing after undergoing knee surgery last year.

"I was looking for a top four or five finish," Storch said.

Marlins stay undefeated; big challenge lies ahead

Farmington Hills Mercy won its third straight softball double-header Monday, but the unbeaten Marlins face their biggest test later this week.

Dana Dziekan improved her pitching record to 4-0 as host Mercy defeated Madison Heights Bishop Foley 6-1 in the first game, and Jessica Knight had four RBI to help the Marlins win the second game 9-4.

First-year coach Jack Falvo is obviously pleased with his team's 6-0 start, but a major challenge awaits Friday when Mercy plays host to Harper Woods Regina.

The Marlins are 4-0 in the Central Division and the Saddlelites 3-1.

"The players are working very hard and the team is coming along nicely," Falvo said, "but we really haven't done anything yet."

"We'll know more once we play Regina since they've historically been the class of the league. I'm hoping we can give them a game and hang tough with them."

Falvo also credits the work of

SOFTBALL

his assistant coaches — Jim Palazetti (infield), Don Wiehe (outfield) and Amy Edward (pitchers) — for Mercy's early success.

Dziekan allowed only three hits, struck out seven and walked four against Foley, a non-league opponent as the Ventures are not members of the Central Division.

Mashanta Todd hit a two-run triple, and Rachel Geiger had two hits to push her team-leading average close to .500.

Piper Metts and Jessica Knight contributed one RBI each with a fielder's choice and a sacrifice bunt.

Foley led 2-0 after a half inning in the second game, but Mercy scored five runs in the bottom of the second to lead 6-2.

Four errors were costly for the Ventures, who outbit the Marlins 9-8 in the nightcap.

Mercy's Heather Jones pitched a complete game, striking out

nine and issuing four walks.

Knight and Jones were 2-for-2 at bat. Knight had a bases-loaded double and a sacrifice bunt, and Jones drove in a run with a single.

Todd also had an RBI single and Jennifer Lis an RBI sacrifice bunt.

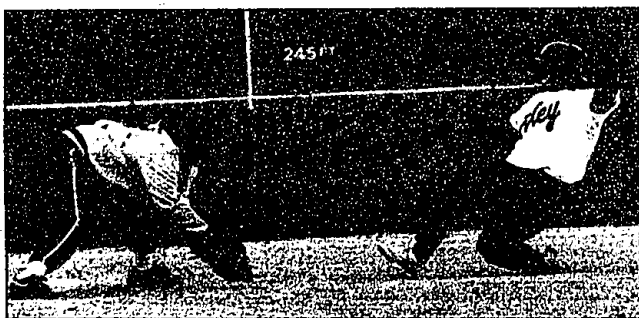
Stephanie Clement made a nice catch along the left-field line, according to Falvo, with runners on base in the sixth inning, and Wahl turned a double play. Geiger made a running catch in center field in the first game.

NORTH 11, JOHN GLENN 8: Katie Devereux gave North Farmington the start it needed, and the Raiders stayed the course for a victory Monday.

The freshman catcher hit a three-run homer in the first inning and helped North defeat host Westland John Glenn.

Kelly Brannack and Lynette Zelazek were 2-for-2 and scored two runs each for North, 1-2 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and overall.

See SOFTBALL, 4C



Out at third: Mercy third baseman Mashanta Todd is ready to put the tag on Foley's Christina Cadili in the Tuesday double-header.

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