

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

Farmington's Hibbs wins O&E title



Adam Hibbs of Farmington captured the Observer & Eccentric men's golf tournament championship Sunday with a one-stroke victory over perennial runner-up Alex McLuckie of Livonia.

By C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

It came down to the finish, quite literally.

The winner of the 1995 Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournament? Adam Hibbs of Farmington — with an assist from the weather.

Perhaps that isn't quite fair. After all, Hibbs — a 1991 Farmington High School graduate — hardly benefited from the extremely high winds that buffeted Livonia's par-70 Whispering Willows Golf Course Sunday.

Hibbs won this tournament in Saturday's first round with a 72, which tied him for first going into Sunday's final 18 holes with Razmig Boghikian of Southfield. Next best was Karl Nagy of Livonia at 74.

So on Sunday, all Hibbs needed to do was basically survive. And he did, barely, with a 76 that included a 40 on the back nine.

"I was getting nervous," Hibbs said. "The way I was hitting the ball, I'm not deserving of this. I mean, I had 32 putts each day. That's not good."

"But it was good enough, I guess." Hibbs posted his score Sunday early, then had to wait while the final foursome in the championship flight finished. Three members of that foursome — Alex McLuckie of Livonia, Ian Harris of West Bloomfield and Chris Zbanek of Farmington Hills — were within striking distance of Hibbs' clubhouse-leading total of 148.

"I was warming up on the putting green," Hibbs said. "I thought for sure I'd be in a playoff."

Had any one of the final three pured the last two holes, that's just what would have happened.

Harris had birdie opportunities at 15, 16 and 17, but missed all three. He three-putted at 18 to finish 77-73/160, tied for third with Zbanek (76-74/160), who missed the greens at 17 and 18 and bogged both.

Still, any veteran of the O&E Tournament would agree that the hard-luck title could easily be retired by McLuckie. He's finished second four times (including '94), twice by a single stroke.

On Sunday, a bad chip from just off the green at the 144-yard par-three

17th led to a bogey-four, which meant he had to birdie 18 to tie.

McLuckie nearly pulled it off. A strong drive and superb chip at the par-4, 394-yard finishing hole left him lying two, 11 feet from the cup. But his birdie putt skipped past, and McLuckie ended up with a 76-73/149 — and another runners-up plaque.

"It's always something," a discouraged McLuckie said. "I shot myself in the foot yesterday (with a first-round 70)."

It seemed almost unfair, the Livonia golfer unable to reach his surname while Hibbs won in his first-ever attempt. Hibbs remained in a state of disbelief even after the final results were posted.

"The scores should have been five strokes lower," he said, citing the wind and inconsistent greens as reasons they were not. "Honestly, that was the toughest wind I ever played in."

And Boghikian, the first-round co-leader? He shot a 78 Sunday to tie with Zbanek, Harris and Nagy (who carded a second-round 70) for third at 160.

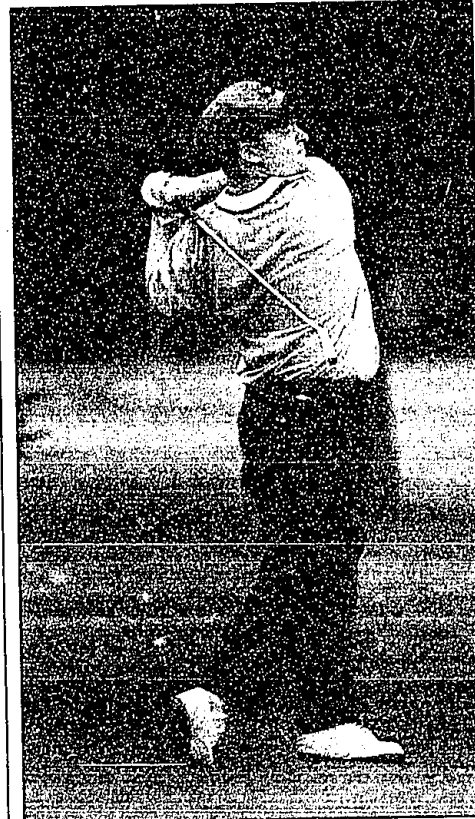
The tournament's best round belonged to David Higham, a Livonia Church Hill senior who fired a 71 Sunday. Unfortunately, Higham had an 81 Saturday; he finished tied for seventh overall with Kirk Osier of Livonia (77-76) at 162.

The first flight title went to Andy Kurnec of Livonia, with a 77-84/161. Dan Hammerschmidt of Westland was second (80-82/162), with Dickron Bohikian of West Bloomfield (80-84), Greg Sale of West Bloomfield (79-85), Bob Viviano of Plymouth (81-83) and Larry Anderson of Farmington Hills (84-80) tied for third at 164.

In second flight, the championship was captured by Canton's Craig Nehaill (80-88/168), who was a single stroke better than Livonia's Howard White (87-82/169). Livonia's Ken Plozel was third (90-83/173).

In third flight, Ron Retzlaff of Southfield won (98-104/202). Maz-shall Brenner of Farmington Hills took second (101-105/206), with Michael McComb of Redford third (109-102/211).

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Jim Lagowski/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

O&E champion: Adam Hibbs of Farmington shot a two-day total of 148 at Whispering Willows to finish in first place.

Meyer's goals lift Falcon

Senior Chris Meyer scored three goals and assisted on another Monday to lead Farmington to a 7-2 victory over host Walled Lake Western in boys soccer.

Simon Juncal and Tim Rais had two goals and one assist apiece, and Handy Sage also recorded an assist. The Falcons led 3-1 at halftime.

Farmington is 5-4 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 6-7 overall. The Falcons had a 16-7 advantage in shots attempted.

"We had a lot of scoring chances, especially on breakaways," Farmington coach Luke Juncal said. "Western tried to run an offside trap on us, which we expected and were ready for it."

"In the first half, we didn't capitalize much, but we did a lot better in the second half."

Meyer played his best game of the year in the midfield, according to Juncal. Sweeper Matt Trunk, goalie Paul Mitchell and forwards Rais and Juncal also performed well.

"We played a great game today," Juncal said. "We haven't done that well in our last three games, but we played three real good teams. We needed a win and we're glad to get one."

Northville tops North

It was a game players and coaches had anticipated, and bragging rights went to Northville when the Mustangs defeated host North Farmington, 3-1, in boys soccer Monday.

Both coaches have ties to both schools.

North coach Ron Meteyer teaches at Northville and once coached the Northville boys and girls.

Northville coach Henry Kilmes is a North Farmington graduate and former North coach.

The Mustangs led 1-0 at halftime on a goal by Dave Tersekidis. Goals from Rory Dunabeck and Ryan Winn (penalty kick) made it 3-0 in the second half.

North freshman Justin Street scored his first high school goal with a 1:48 left in the game after taking a baseline pass from Chris Kemp.

The Mustangs had a 10-0 edge in shots on goal.

"It was an even game as far as shots," Meteyer said. "They just made better use of theirs."

The Raiders are 3-6-1 overall.

Fury scores big win

The Farmington Fury '82 boys soccer team asked a lot of its defense Saturday and got what it needed to defeat the Kalamazoo Gazetteles, 1-0.

The Fury was outshut by a 3-to-1 ratio, but it refused to give defensively.

Farmington used the same defenders — Eric Kelley, Kyle Meteyer, Brian Guzowski and Jarret Kruse — the whole game, and Brian Buell was in goal for the shutout.

"We got in their face and prevented them from getting any good shots," Fury coach Ron Meteyer said, adding Farmington had the ball in the Kalamazoo end only three of the 40 minutes.

Aaron Scheldes scored the Fury goal on a direct kick. His shot hit the crossbar and bounced into the net.

Farmington is 2-2-2 in the Little Caesars Premier League.

FHHA Skats For A Cure

Members of the Farmington Hills Hockey Association will be going door-to-door seeking pledges for a fundraising skate-athon on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14-15.

The proceeds from the Skats For A Cure will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the FHHA.

Nearly 1,000 youth hockey players will skate from 7 a.m. Saturday to 9 p.m. Sunday, with FHHA teams taking turns on the ice.

The FHHA hopes to raise \$100,000 and also seeks corporate sponsorships and prize donations.

Anyone wishing to make a pledge can call Glen Gardner at (810) 474-1325.

MIAA player of week

Alma College senior Kevin Sanchez (Farmington Hills) was named the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association player of the week in men's soccer.

Sanchez, who played at Birmingham Brother Rice, scored three goals in two MIAA games last week.

His performance gives Sanchez the lead in MIAA scoring (total points) with four goals and two assists.

It was the second time Sanchez has been the MIAA player of the week this season.

Mustangs edge Hawks

Northville was one stroke better than Farmington Hills Harrison in boys golf Monday, 220-221.

Jeremy Bove shot 41 at Tanglewood Golf Course for the Mustangs, K.J. Zakhia and E.K. Rankin 44 each, James Danico 46 and Brian Clock 48.

Harrison's Jeff Moscow finished with 41, Jeff Bowman 44, Kevin Horton and Adam Tandoon-05 apiece and Muhamet Solejman 46.

The Hawks are 3-2 in the Western Division and 5-3 overall.

Slow-starting Hawks overtake Falcons

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

Offense can be fleeting but good defense is always reliable.

That was how Farmington Hills Harrison coach Pete Mantyla summarized his team's play Monday in a 33-25 girls basketball victory over host Farmington.

The Hawks struggled on offense early but kept the Falcons within sight and eventually passed them when the points started to register.

"When you're having that bad a run on offense, you don't want to have a bad run on defense — and we didn't," Mantyla said.

"You never know when you can count on your offense, but three things we like to stress are team defense, rebounding and taking care of the ball."

Harrison improved to 4-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 7-3 overall, and the Hawks also claimed the unofficial title of public school city champions. Farmington is 3-1 and 6-4.

Coach John Verdura of Farmington would agree with Mantyla's thoughts regarding offense.

"The Falcons had a chance early in the game to capitalize on Harrison's offensive inefficiencies, but they were having their own scoring difficulties."

Farmington had a favorable 8-to-1 ratio in shots attempted early, but its lead was only 4-2 after one quarter.

Amanda Porter had 10 of her game-high 13 points in the first half, as the Falcons extended the lead to 10-2 two

minutes into the second period.

"Defensively, we've hustled and scrapped the whole year, but at the same time offense has been a problem for us," Verdura said.

"To keep a team to two points (for nearly 1 1/2 quarters), you should be able to open up a lead. It's not like we weren't trying; we just can't get the ball to go in the basket."

Harrison started to find its offense and got within 12-10 at halftime.

The game took a decisive turn when Farmington center Kim Washnock left early in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

Harrison center Erika Greene, who had battled Washnock for position at both ends of the floor, scored nine of her 11 points in the third quarter.

Greene was responsible for Harrison's first nine points — six straight

after Washnock went out at 6:40 — and the Hawks quickly had a 19-14 lead.

"I don't necessarily think it was the determining factor in the game," said Verdura of Washnock's absence. "I'd hate to think that's the reason we lost, but it is when Greene scored most of her points."

"Even prior to her injury, you could see the momentum changing. They were getting four shots to every one of ours at the time. Sooner or later, that's going to catch up with you."

The Hawks held Porter scoreless until the final minute of the second half and were on top 23-17 after the third period. The lead grew to 31-17 early in the fourth with three-point

See HOOP, 6C

Mercy sinks rival Marian

Farmington Hills Mercy Soccer Club defeated host Marian, 3-0, in a girls soccer game Monday.

Maryanne Smith scored the first goal in the 10th minute, and the game was over by the 15th minute.

Marian coach Bob Smith said, "The girls did a great job of staying focused and playing hard throughout the game."

Mercy is 4-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 7-3 overall.



Bob Smith/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy's 3-0 victory over Marian Monday.