

# SPORTS

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1995

## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### 12 enough for Rockets

**A**fter losing its first four games, the Farmington Rockets varsity football team finished the season with four straight victories.

But the second-half turnaround was not the most impressive thing. That the Rockets did it with only 12 players was.

At the team's postseason banquet last week, each player received a T-shirt with the words "The 12 toughest kids in Farmington." The most valuable player award was shared by all 12.

The honored dozen: quarterback/safety Louie Hadley, receiver/linebacker Tony Miller, guard/tackle Sean Fisher, receiver/safety Brian Nelson, guard/linebacker Ryan Crittenden, fullback/linebacker Lemar Walton, slotback/defensive end Steve Guerrero, tailback/linebacker Mark Ostach, tackle/tackle Eric Donahue, tackle/defensive end David Buttigieg, guard/defensive end Mike Griffin and center/linebacker Brandon Nelson.

The Rockets defeated the Ann Arbor Eagles (28-0), the Redford Rangers (23-6), the Garden City Chargers (17-0) and the Belleville Cougars (12-8).

One of the Farmington losses was a forfeit when injuries depleted the roster below the required number of players.

The Rockets are coached by John and Mike Spiaz, Steve Hill, Scott Ratons and Jason Gloetzer.

### College soccer report

**K**evin Sanchez of Farmington Hills was named to the All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association men's soccer team.

Sanchez is a senior forward for Alma College who played at Birmingham Brother Rice High School.

MIAA honorable mentions included Albion freshmen Tim Crawford of Lake Orion (Brother Rice) and Dan Kogut of Canton (Redford Catholic Central).

■ Sue Gibson and Kim Owczarzak, both of whom played at Farmington High School, were among eight Michigan State University seniors who concluded their college soccer careers.

Gibson, a midfielder who scored a career-high 14 points this year with six goals and two assists, was named to the All-Big Ten second team. She also had two game-winning goals.

Owczarzak was the starting goalkeeper in nine of 19 games and logged the most minutes (1035). She made 69 saves, had a 1.66 goals against average and a 3-4-2 record with 1½ shutouts.

The Spartans were 1-3-3 in the Big Ten and 8-8-3 overall.

■ Junior forward Mike Giese of Farmington scored two goals to help the University of Detroit men defeat Cleveland State 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the Midwest Collegiate Conference tournament.

The next two games went to overtime with the Titans short-handed. U-D managed to beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee 2-1 but lost the championship match 5-2 to Butler.

The Titans won the MCC regular-season title.

### Flames win soccer title

**T**he Farmington Flames under-10 girls select soccer team finished its first season as champion of the Great Lakes Superior Division.

The Flames had a record of 9-0-1 against teams from Dearborn, Canton and Redford. They scored 69 goals while allowing only eight.

High scorers for the team were Courtney McCracken and Michaela Pawlicki.

Erin Deroo was a key player at midfield, and sweeper Erica Rose and goalie Alex Cicci were instrumental in the team's six shutouts.

Other team members are Mary Attalla, Danielle Bryant, Laura Cole, Elizabeth Pullerton, Jessica Kalgren, Megan Perry, Michelle Phillips, Diana Platt, Arianna Sundick and Christine Taylor.

The Flames are coached by Phil Perry and assistants Charlie Deroo and Jim Cicci.

### Stingray swim tryouts

**T**he Michigan Stingrays will have open tryouts for swimmers between the ages of 5 and 18 according to the following schedule.

Ages 12 and under: 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Farmington High School and Thursday, Nov. 16, at Harrison High School.

Ages 13-18: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Farmington High and Thursday, Nov. 16, at Harrison High.

For information call Sharon Randa at (810) 478-6868.

### Whalers hockey tickets

**T**ickets to see Whalers hockey games at The Palace of Auburn Hills are available to interested groups.

And at no charge. Available are tickets for the 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Day game against the Peterborough Petes.

The Whalers play in the Ontario Hockey League, which features 16- to 20-year-olds. Any groups interested in these free tickets may call Dr. McCormack at 458-4458. He has up to 250 tickets available to also Whalers games.

## Alcala lifts Shamrocks, 21-14

Redford Catholic Central advanced in the Class AA football playoffs with a 21-14 comeback victory over defending champion Troy in the regional final.

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central used the wind and Greg Alcala to its advantage Saturday afternoon in the Class AA football regional final at Pontiac Warner Stadium.

The Shamrocks scored two touchdowns, including one by their forgotten junior tailback Alcala, with the wind at their backs in the fourth quarter to rally for a 21-14 victory over Troy.

Alcala, who started the season as CC's No. 1 tailback, played only limited time as Kevin Quay's backup the last several games.

He gave the Shamrocks a 7-0 lead with an 80-yard run for a TD with 2:37 left in the first quarter. His 63-yard run in the fourth quarter tied the score 14-14 and the Shamrocks went ahead to stay with John Spolsky's seven-yard run with 3:40 remaining.

Rain and snow, a strong wind and cold temperatures made conditions miserable, but not for Alcala.

"I always seem to have big games in the mud," Alcala said. "I kind of had a feeling all week I'd get some action."

The 11-0 Shamrocks advance to the state semifinal to meet Sterling Heights Stevenson, a 4G-0 winner over Detroit Martin Luther King. Kickoff is 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Clemens Chippewa Valley High School.

Alcala finished with 175 yards on 15 carries, meaning he had only 32 yards on 13 carries when he didn't cross the end zone.

"We didn't know anything about 20 (Alcala)," Troy coach Gary Griffith said. "You can't allow a team to score on 80-yard runs. I don't care who that team is. Especially, you can't give a team like CC plays like that and expect to win."

Defending champion Troy trailed 7-0 at halftime and elected to kick off to start the second half with the wind at its back. The Colts stopped the Shamrocks on three plays and took over at CC's 42 following a 16-yard punt by Eron Kosmowski.

Quarterback Kyle Rance picked up a first down with a 12-yard run and three plays later hit Drew Patrick with a 26-yard TD pass to make the score 7-7 with 7:03 left in the third quarter.

CC failed to pick up a first down in its next two possessions. Following a 19-yard punt, which was pretty good considering the conditions, by Kosmowski, the Colts took over at CC's 48 late in the third quarter. On the first play, senior tailback Torrance Adams took the handoff and went in untouched to give Troy a 14-7 lead with 1:04 remaining in the third quarter.

"We decided to let it all hang out in the third quarter," Griffith said.

CC had the wind in the fourth quarter and the Shamrocks capitalized with Alcala's 63-yard run on first down with 8:07 remaining cut the deficit to 14-13. Kosmowski made the



**Tough yardage:** Redford Catholic Central runner Steve "Goose" Mondry battles for yardage in Saturday's 21-14 come-from-behind win over Troy.

extra point following a good hold by Steve Mondry to tie the score.

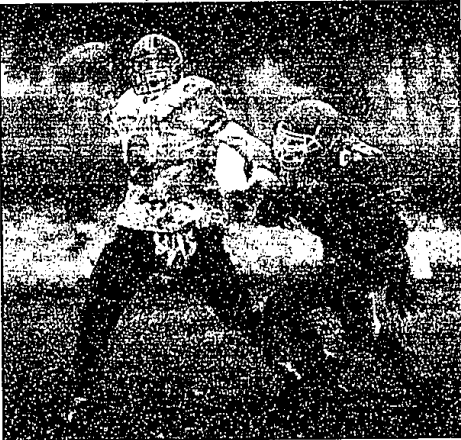
"Greg's really been running hard in practice the last few weeks," CC coach Tom Mach said. "We got out of a tight 'T' offense a bit and Greg's a good open field runner. He ran like a champ today. That's a great team we played."

Troy failed to pick up a first down on its next possession and the Shamrocks took over at the Colts' 35 following a short punt.

It took CC seven plays to score on Spolsky's seven yard run around right end for the go-ahead points with 3:40 remaining. Spolsky finished with 75 yards on 24 carries, sharing the limelight with Alcala, who goes by the nickname "Chewy" after the Star Wars character.

"We all understand our roles and we take turns, if it's not 'Chewy,' then it's Kevin," Spolsky said. "That's a well-disciplined team and the game went back and forth, but I kind of feel it's our destiny to go all the way."

The Shamrocks finished with eight first downs to Troy's six. CC had 261 of its 267 yards on the ground. Troy had 170 total yards, 125 rushing. Adams led Troy with 91 yards on 19 carries. Rance had 30 yards on 10 carries and was three of 18 through the air for 45 yards.



**In pursuit:** Redford Catholic Central senior defensive end Chuck O'Connor chases Troy quarterback Kyle Rance in the Colts' backfield.

## Hawks overcome Raiders in finale

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Coach Pete Mantyla called it "a dream ending" for the Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team.

But the Hawks also hope their 35-34 victory Friday over visiting North Farmington is a springboard to larger and better things. Both teams finished the regular season 12-8. The district tournament begins tonight with Harrison playing host Bloomfield Hills Lehigh and North taking on Farmington in the first round.

"A big goal was to finish the year on our home floor with a win and playing everybody," said Harrison's Mantyla, who had all 13 players.

"We want to be playing at our peak and, hopefully, this game is something we can build on."

The Hawks, who defeated the Raiders earlier in the season 21-22, trailed from early in the game until Kristine Knutson sank a three-point shot with 2½ minutes remaining.

That gave Harrison a 30-20 lead, and the Hawks held on with free throws as Amy Robie made four of six down the stretch and Ari Ault one of two.

"That was a huge three," Mantyla said. "Early in the year our emphasis was on getting (Knutson) to take that shot. We know she's capable of making it."

### BASKETBALL

That was her taking the next step."

North had six turnovers in the last quarter, including several in the final minutes as it tried to reclaim the lead.

Kellie Fournier's steal and layup off an in-bounds play made it 33-31, but Robie gave the Hawks a four-point lead with two free throws.

North's Michelle Sklar made a triple with :04 still to play, but the Raiders were out of timeouts and couldn't stop the clock.

"They were making a lot of lineup changes, and my kids had a hard time hearing our changes from the bench," North coach Linda Perkins said.

"That's why I had to use the timeouts earlier."

Fournier scored a game-high 13 points. Carrie May had eight, Melissa Gratz six and Sklar five for North.

Senior Erika Greene's eight made her high scorer for Harrison. Robie had seven and Knutson five.

"I thought it was a great workout to the district," Perkins said. "If both teams continue to play this aggressive and this hard, we'll be ready."

The low score was indicative of the good defense

that was played Friday, Perkins added.

"This was a hard-fought game; both sides played tremendous defense," she said. "If both play that hard, it does come down to the wire sometimes."

The Raiders led 18-15 at halftime and 25-19 in the third quarter before Harrison closed to within 25-23 at the end. Sklar's layup off a turnover broke a 27-27 tie midway in the last period.

"We've struggled offensively and worked hard to be a stronger, more physical defensive team," Mantyla said. "I think we're doing that, and I'm proud of the effort the girls are giving."

Amy Jenkins earned much of the credit for holding May to eight points, and Cecily Dowdell kept the pressure on North guards Fournier, Sklar and Kathie Collins.

"Defensively, we did a great job all game," Mantyla said. "We know it's difficult to stop Carrie May and Kellie Fournier. With Sklar and Collins, they're a hard team to defend."

"(Dowdell is) a budding on defense. She works hard, is on loose balls and takes pride in being a strong defensive player."

Ault, a freshman point guard, has given the Hawks a big lift. Mantyla added, as the replacement for injured Monique Anderson.