

# SPORTS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1995

## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Academic all-staters

Farmington High School's girls cross country team placed second in Class A and earned academic all-state honors with a combined grade-point average of 3.824.

Eligible teams had to have qualified for the state team race and have a minimum 3.6 GPA. The individual and team GPAs were based on the second semester of the 1994-95 school year.

Troy Athens, the team state champion, also was the top academic team with a 3.913 GPA.

The Falcons also had three individual academic all-staters in Kate Adams, Theresa Derwinski and Ellen Adams. All three had 3.916 averages.

Farmington's team of seven runners who competed in the state race includes Natalia Dawson, Anne Grimaldi, Aimee Cameron and Megan Sanford.

"I'm real proud of the girls, because they work hard in school and at their sport," Farmington coach Liz Zynda said.

"This was one of our top goals, because we had three freshmen on the team last year and didn't qualify."

The Falcons competed in the state team race in 1994, but only four girls (instead of the required five) had high school GPAs from the previous academic year.

"I always tell the girls their priorities should be family, school and then running," Zynda said. Farmington Hills Harrison senior Scott Oswald is an academic all-stater, too. He was seventh among Class A boys with a 4.0 average.

### Regional qualifiers

A trio of Farmington High School cross country runners will compete in the United States Track and Field regional Saturday in Charleston, W. Va.

Senior Anne Grimaldi, junior Ben Scott and freshman Wes Barrett qualified Sunday in the USTF Michigan Championships at Hudson Mills Metropark near Dexter.

Grimaldi had the best finish, placing second and breaking 20 minutes for the first time (19:58) in the young women's (1977-78) 5,000-meter race.

"I knew Anne was always capable of breaking 20," coach Liz Zynda said. "That has been her goal all year."

"After the state meet, she was bugging me all week — 'coach, I want to run in that senior race.' She wanted one last chance to break 20. We went out there and she did."

Barrett was 14th (15:03) in the 4K youth 14- and-under race. He also is a member of the first-place Raptors team that qualified for the regional.

He had to run without his spikes, which were still in coach Chip Bridges' car when the race started a half-hour earlier than scheduled.

"Under the circumstances, he did a really good job," Bridges said. "I expect he'll do better Saturday, because he'll be fired up and ready to go."

Scott placed 29th (18:00) in the 16- and-under intermediate (1979-80) 5K race.

"Ben ran a real strong race," Bridges said. "Although his time is not that great, it was pretty good under the conditions."

The top 30 runners advance to the nationals Saturday, Dec. 9, in Baton Rouge, La.

### Fire posts 2 shutouts

The Farmington Hills Fire Mite hockey team (ages 8-9) posted consecutive shutout victories last weekend, defeating Redford 4-0 and Allen Park 10-0.

The wins improved the Fire's record to 6-2. Eric Lubanski of Farmington Hills led the attack with two goals and one assist in the Redford game. Mark Eberline and Blake Bratlin notched one goal each.

Charlie Hourigan scored a hat trick against Allen Park, and Brandon Harrell chipped in two goals. Seven players scored as Lubanski, Bratlin, Chad Setzer, Patrick Shaw and Eberline had one goal apiece.

Goaltender Chase Van Tien was in the nets for both victories, earning his second and third shutouts of the season.

The Fire plays its next home game 7:30 today at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena against Bowling Green, Ohio. Admission is free.

The teams also plays the Michigan Stars at home 2 p.m. Sunday and hits the road for a Thanksgiving weekend tournament in Orland Park, Ill.

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### Jones stars at Vassar

Kelly Jones of Farmington Hills was a semifinalist for the Vassar College women's tennis team in the New York State Collegiate Tennis Championships.

Jones had a 6-3 season record at No. 5 singles and, along with partner Cheri Ota of California, the best doubles record (9-2) on the team at No. 2 doubles.

The North Farmington graduate also is one of the Vassar tri-captains.

Vassar placed second out of 16 teams that qualified for the NYSTCCT. Its dual-meet record was 7-3.

The Brewer's spring season opens in March with a team trip to Hilton Head, S.C.

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## Farmington plays for district title



BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High achieved a preseason goal in girls basketball Wednesday, earning its 10th victory by defeating West Bloomfield in district tournament play, 37-22.

In doing so, the Falcons created a post-season goal and will try to increase that number Friday when they play for championship.

Farmington (10-12) faces district host Bloomfield Hills Lahser (20-2), which eliminated Farmington Hills

Mercy 49-34 Wednesday, in the tournament finale at 7 p.m.

"We'll give it our best shot," Farmington coach John Verdura said. "Just being in the championship game is a great accomplishment."

"We set a realistic goal to win 10 games. We blew a couple that we felt we couldn't win, but we were still able to achieve that goal."

West Bloomfield (4-17) couldn't stop Farmington junior Amanda Porter, who sparked the Falcons

early with 13 of her 18 points coming in the first half.

Porter scored eight straight points to break a 2-2 tie, Kim Washnock gave the Falcons a 12-2 lead at the end of one quarter and Farmington was in control after that.

"We expected them to play a box-and-one and make it difficult for (Porter) to get the ball," Verdura said. "The other girls did a good job of setting screens and sealing her

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SILVIA LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

March Madness in November: Kristine Knutson of Farmington Harrison (right) challenges Bloomfield Hills Lahser's Laurie Tack for the basketball Monday on the first night of girls district tournament play. Host Lahser rolled in the second half to beat Harrison 41-40. See story on Page 6C.

## Falcons celebrate win over Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

### BASKETBALL

The joyous reaction of the Farmington girls made it seem like the final game of the district basketball tournament instead of the first.

"The Falcons had reason to celebrate after shedding their underdog status and shocking rival North Farmington 33-29 Monday in a Class A contest at Bloomfield Hills Lahser."

The victory avenged a 53-29 defeat in the regular season and sent Farmington into the semifinals Wednesday against West Bloomfield.

"It was a nice win for our kids," Farmington coach John Verdura said. "It's not a state championship

or even a district championship, but after the way they beat us up the first time it's a good win. The kids deserve it; they've worked hard all year."

The Falcons improved their record to 9-12, and the Raiders ended their season at 12-9.

"One thing I always tell my girls is 'make no assumptions about your opponent,'" North coach Linda Perkins said. "It's a natural thought to think we could handle them, but we're all human and can get taken out of our game like we take others out of theirs."

Farmington used an aggressive half-court defense to keep the Raiders from raising three-point shots again.

North's Kellie Fournier had five triples and 17 points in the first meeting, but the Falcons limited her to one first-quarter try and three points.

As a team, the Raiders had only two three-point field goals Monday.

"We were better prepared, myself included, to defend their strength, which is the three-point shot," Verdura said. "That's what they really hurt us with last time, and our girls did a great job in this matchup defense."

"We wanted our perimeter players to match up with theirs, and we

asked the two girls inside to match up playing zone. Maybe we confused them a little bit, slowed them down so they weren't in a comfortable rhythm."

"It appeared to be a man-to-man, but was really a zone. The last time we tried to play straight-up man-to-man, and they beat us up bad."

The Falcons also employed an effective press-breaker offense to score points and strike quickly to gain the momentum.

Amanda Porter scored 14 points to lead Farmington. Sarah Rattai was next with six points, including a triple that gave the Falcons a 30-29 lead with 1:49 remaining.

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## Titans have size, strength and numbers

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

### FOOTBALL

There are advantages and disadvantages to a big football roster.

Depth, of course, is never a concern.

But wondering how such a player is sleeping the week of an important game is a different matter.

Stirling Heights Stevenson coach Rick Bye hopes his players — all 74 of them — follow a routine similar to his on Monday night in preparation for Saturday's Class AA state playoff semifinal game against No. 1 ranked Redford Catholic Central.

Kickoff for the game matching the two unbeaten is 1:30 p.m. at Chippewa Valley High School in Mount Clemens.

After a full day at school, practice and film, Bye was in bed by 9 p.m. Monday.

"My eyes were square from watching film. I did some paper work, said I can't take it anymore, went to my room, put on the Monday Night game and let it put me to sleep," Bye said. "This is the third

straight year we've played in the semifinals, and we want to temper the excitement. It's not a novelty anymore, not anything to lose sleep over. We're certainly not playing Tuesday or Wednesday. We want to let our emotions build."

Bye said he was back to his game plan at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, which is probably something he wouldn't advise his players to do.

The Titans have lost in the semifinal round the last two years to teams that went on to win the state championship.

Stevenson has a tradition of all-state linemen. Stevenson's 1987 team was led by Rob Doherty, who went on to be an All Big Ten player at the University of Michigan.

Current Notre Dame starting tight end Pete Chryplewicz was the No. 1 rated player in the state in 1991, while a more recent

graduate, Chris Llewinski, is a starter at Indiana University.

This year's all-state candidate is 6-5, 260-pound lineman Dave Sucura, who has committed to Michigan State University. Sucura is the only Titan who goes two ways full-time, playing guard on offense and defensive end.

Titans' senior Jerrad Jorgensen (6-3, 290), starts at offensive tackle and plays part-time on the defensive line.

Stevenson starting quarterback Mark Morris (5-11, 160) has thrown for 1,403 yards and has spidery capabilities. His top receiver is junior Tim Steele (6-1, 165), who has about 50 catches after catching 53 as a sophomore.

Sophomore Joe Ails (5-10, 165), limited to one series last week because of the flu, splits time at tailback with junior Andy Frank (6-11, 170).

CC senior fullback/nose guard John Spolsky was asked about Sucura.

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