FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Fury goes on a tear

Coach Tom Faro's Farmington Fury '79 premier soccer team is off to an impressive start, winning its first four games.

Farmington leads the division with a 4-0 record after victories over Southfield, Novi, Northville and Harrison.

The Fury hasn't lost a game since last June 7. Since then, the Fury is 10-0-2.

Farmington has scored 35 goals and allowed 10 thus far in division play. It has four games remaining before the next session begins in January.

"I'm most impressed with how we have played as a team," Faro said. "I'm happy with our consistency and the fact our guys have really stepped it up this season."

Fire runner-up on ice

The Farmington Hills Fire Mite AA hockey team (ages 8-9) earned a second-place finish in the Wild Turkey Invitational last weekend at Orland Park, Ill.

The Fire had a 2-1-1 record in the round-robin tournament. The championship went to the host Orland Park Vikings, who defeated the Fire 6-3.

Earlier in the tournament, Farmington Hills handed the Vikings their only loss, 4-3.

The Fire returns to league action with games Friday at Livingston and Saturday at Allen Park. The Fire is 7-3 in the league and 10-5-2 overall.

CC harrier qualifies

Joe Leo of Redford Catholic Central, the state Class A boys individual champion, is headed to the Foot Locker National Cross Country Championships Saturday, Dec. 9, in San Diego.

Leo, who resides in Northville, finished third with a time of 15:35.59 last weekend in the Midwest Regional at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, Wis.

Steve Leuer of Maple Grove (Minn.) and Gabe Jennings of Madison (Wis.) took first and second with times of 15:27.03 and 15:35.13, respectively.

Youth soccer champs

The '83 Michigan Hawks premier under-13 girls soccer team, sponsored by the Livonia Family YMCA, captured its outdoor fall season title with a 2-0 victory over the Waterford Warriors at Jaycee Park in Livonia.

The Hawks finished 8-2, scoring 26 goals and giving up just six while winning the outdoor title for the third time for coach Len Biegler in the Little Caesars Premier Soccer League.

Goalkeeper for the '83 Hawks is Suzanne Morrison while defenders include Jessica Zwiesler, Missy Winn, Stefanie Stachura, Christina Lewis, Cheryl Fox and Katie Beaudoin. Emily Carbot, Natalie Shaheen, Leslie Knapp and Abby Shepherd are the midfielders while Lindsay Gusick, Carrie Kluska, Angela Maile and Sara Piepho are forwards.

Meteors end season

The Livonia Meteors, an under-15 girls team, finished first with a 7-2-1 record in Little Caesars Division II.

Members of the Meteors, coached by Mike McGrath, include Kristin Burd, Vanessa Byerle, Brook Cioma, Kersten Conklin, Michelle Dunaway, Kerrie LaPorte, Sara Lizbinski, Audrey McDonalds, Elizabeth Peterson, Natalie Pickelhaupt, Jill Richardson, Katie Shannon, Paula Shureb and Kelly Staslenko, all of Livonia; Emilie Villemonte, Farmington; Lori Carbott, Northville; Jennifer Bagdady and Julie DiPonio, Novi.

Derrick Steele is the assistant coach. Joe Lizbinski is the team manager.

GLI tickets on sale

Tickets to the 31st Annual Great Lakes Invitational on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 29-30, at Joe Louis Arena are on sale at the JLA box office and all Ticketmaster locations.

The University of Michigan, Northern Michigan, Michigan State and Michigan Tech hockey teams will play for the MacInnes Cup. Tickets are $16, $12 and $8 for each day of the two-day tournament.

U-M plays NMU at 4 p.m. Friday, followed by MSU against MTU at 7:30 p.m. The third-place game will be played at 4 p.m. Saturday and the championship at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be charged by phone by calling (810) 645-6666. Groups of 20 or more can contact the Group Services Department at (313) 965-3099 for discount tickets.

U-M coaches clinic

New University of Michigan baseball coach Geoff Zahn and members of his staff will host the 1995 University of Michigan Baseball Coaches Clinic from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Oosterbaan Fieldhouse.

The clinic features lessons on pitching, defense, hitting, indoor drills and conditioning.

There will be a workshop and question-and-answer session after each segment. Participation in the workshops is voluntary but recommended.

Participants should bring a glove, tennis shoes and wear sweats if they will be involved in drills.

The fee is $35. For information, call the baseball office at (313) 747-6550.

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior class: *Providing the leadership on the North Farmington boys basketball team this year are seniors (front row, from left) Eric Jones, Chris Kemp, Rich Beal, (back row) Bill Trzos and Tim Dolan.*

Raiders ready to meet challenge

The North Farmington boys basketball team hopes to put more numbers in the win column this season. The Raiders have a mix of veteran players and young talent to make the outlook encouraging.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Brian Swinehart believes his second year as North Farmington varsity boys basketball coach will find the Raiders being more competitive.

North has enough experience and the right mix of talent to improve a 2-9 record in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-17 overall finish, according to Swinehart.

The Raiders return five seniors and three underclassmen, who finished last season on the varsity and figure prominently in the 1996-96 plans.

"I think we should be able to win a few more games," Swinehart said, adding North has better team chemistry. "We should be somewhere around .500, which would be a good year for us.

"Looking at our league and schedule, I think we can play with anybody. I'm not saying we're going to tear it up, but I think we can be competitive with the good teams in the league."

The seniors are forward Rich Beal, swingman Tim Dolan, center Bill Trzos, and guards Eric Jones and Chris Kemp.

In addition, junior Julian Cochran was on the varsity for the last 10 games and will likely start at point guard.

Junior guard Brad Rivers and sophomore center Jeff Trzos showed great promise in three tournament games last year.

Dolan (6-2) and Beal (6-1) are the most experienced players and will have the most court time.

While averaging almost eight points, Beal led the Raiders in rebounds (6.8), steals and deflections.

"He'll be a key defender for us, rebound well and run the floor," Swinehart said. "Since the first whistle blew and we started, he's been getting after it in practice. He's a senior who really wants to have a productive year."

Dolan is the top returning scorer, averaging 10½ points. He also made the most three-pointers (38) while taking 155 attempts. Dolan averaged four rebounds, too.

"He has worked on his game and is really being a leader," Swinehart said, adding Dolan was elected team captain.

"The biggest area he has improved is putting the ball on the floor. He's stronger, taking the ball to the hole, and is going to finish a little better."

Dolan might not average as many points but make a bigger overall contribution because North has more balance, according to Swinehart.

But the Raiders will continue to shoot the three, ranking second in Oakland County (125-of-456). The JV team made 151 triples.

"The key for us is how well we can defend," Swinehart said. "When you shoot from outside like we do, some nights it's not going to be there.

"We're working on controlling the middle of the floor, not giving up uncontested shots and rebounding well."

Rivers, who has grown five inches to 6-3, averaged nine points in three varsity games and was 7-of-16 shooting the three. On the JV, he made 44 threes.

"He can still shoot the ball well, and his ranged has improved," Swinehart said. "He gives us another threat on the perimeter.

"(With his added height) he's in heaven because he can go down there with the big guys and is rebounding well. He's a good position defender and is doing a good job defensively, too."

Swinehart believes the point post-

See RAIDERS, 6C

Vikes survive scare from Mustangs

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

Walled Lake Central's Becky Cummings wasn't listed on the roster that was handed out at the Class A girls basketball state quarterfinal game Tuesday at Ferndale.

Central's opponent, Birmingham Marian, probably wishes Cummings was absent on the court instead of just on paper. The 6-foot-1 junior center certainly made her presence known.

Cummings took control of a close game in the fourth quarter and led the Vikings to a thrilling, 60-57 come-from-behind victory over the relentless Mustangs.

She scored nine of her game-high 27 points, swatted away three of her game-high eight blocks, and grabbed four of her game-high 10 rebounds all in the fourth as Central outscored Marian 21-13 in the final eight minutes to pull out the victory.

The win vaults the Vikings into the Final Four in Battle Creek. Central, 25-6 and ranked No. 2 in the state, meets unranked Harper Woods Regina (16-8) at 1 today in the state semifinals at Kellogg Arena. The Class A championship game will be played Saturday at 1 p.m.

"Cummings came alive in the second half," said Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone, whose team finishes the season at 16-9. "We kept taking it to her, but she kept blocking the shots. We wanted to go right at her and get her in foul trouble, but we couldn't do it."

The unheralded Mustangs put a scare into the undefeated Vikings and actually led throughout most of the game.

Marian took a 16-15 lead on a triple by senior guard Sabrina Kassab (13 points) with 1:16 left in the first quarter and didn't relinquish it until Cummings hit back-to-back baskets from down low to give Central a 45-44 advantage with 6:16 left in the fourth.

The Mustangs regained the lead at 55-53 with 2:04 to play when Kassab stole an inbounds pass under the Marian basket and went in for an uncontested basket.

But Central nailed eight of nine free throw attempts in the final 1:34 to secure the win.

Junior guard Jenny Keelor (six points) tied the game at 55 with a pair of free throws, and Cummings gave Central the lead for good when she buried two free throws to make it 57-55.

Senior guard Jessica Alsup hit two more free throws and Cummings split a pair and grabbed two huge rebounds off missed free throws by Marian in the final 30 seconds of play.

"Deep down we thought it was going to be easier, but that's what we thought last year and we lost it," admitted Alsup, who was a member of the team that lost to underdog Plymouth Canton in the quarterfinals. "I think that loss made us want it more this year. We didn't want to go out in the same round again."

Cummings, who has scored 1,022 points in her three-year career, was the hero, but she had a wealth of support from her teammates.

Alsup finished with 15 points and two steals, and senior forward Jaclyn Pilkiewicz scored nine points, grabbed three rebounds, dished off three assists and came up with three steals.

Junior guard Katie Horton came off the bench to play sterling defense on Marian's senior leader Brandi Bentley, who finished with 10 points but was held scoreless in the critical fourth quarter.

"We knew we had to shut them down in the second half," Horton said. "At this time of year, everyone has to step it up, and I knew it was my turn.

See TOURNEY, 5C

Borgess' Reese wins top honor

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't even close.

Redford Bishop Borgess senior guard Maxann Reese is the state's Miss Basketball for 1995, easily outdistancing the rest of the vote-getters.

Reese, who has signed with Michigan State, collected 629 votes in voting by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Stacey Thomas of Flint Southwestern Academy was second with 395 and Muskegon Mona Shores' Jamie Ahlgren was third with 282.

Reese was averaging 14.6 points, six rebounds and 4.5 rebounds per game for the Spartans, who are headed to Battle Creek to try for their third-straight Class C state championship.