

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Eastman makes team

Farmington resident Marcy Eastman is a member of the Cumberland College (Williamsburg, Ky.) women's tennis team, playing No. 3 doubles as a senior. The Lady Indians finished in first place in the Kentucky Women's Intercollegiate Conference Championship and had a second-place finish in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

Sunday health club

Schoolcraft College will have a Sunday Health Club Jan. 7 through March 31. Individual and family memberships are available. Members may use the swimming pool, handball, paddleball, racquetball, volleyball courts, two gyms for basketball, volleyball and jogging, weightlifting equipment and saunas.

Sixteen-week court reservations also are available throughout each week for handball, paddleball, racquetball and volleyball courts. Call (313) 462-4413 for specific dates and times.

There also is a sign-up for mini co-ed recreation volleyball leagues, held 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 11. Call (313) 462-4413.

Recreation sports

ATeen (ages 13-18) Ski Trip to Alpine Valley, sponsored by the Canton Parks and Recreation Services, will be held Friday, Jan. 19. There are no residency requirements.

Cost for teens with their own equipment is \$22. Cost for those needing rental equipment is \$29. Fees include bus transportation, all area lift tickets and rental equipment (if needed).

The bus leaves the Canton Township Administration Building parking lot at 5 p.m. and returns approximately at midnight.

Registration begins Monday, Jan. 8, and ends Thursday, Jan. 18. Register in person or by mail at Canton Parks and Recreation Services, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, Mich. 48188. Call (313) 397-5110 for more information.

Avery Baseball Clinic

Avery's All-Star Baseball Camp will be held five consecutive weekends beginning Jan. 6 at Madison Heights Bishop Foley High School. The camp director is Mark Avery.

There is a camp for catching (ages 11-18) and hitting (with wooden bats, ages 13-18). Cost for catcher's camp is \$200; cost for hitter's camp is \$140. Former Detroit Tigers bullpen catcher Dan Whitmer is on staff for the catcher's camp; James-town Tigers head coach Bruce Fields is one of the instructors for the hitter's camp.

Call (810) 268-0707 for more information.

Stars On Ice

Tickets are on sale for the Discover Card Stars On Ice 1995-96 Tenth Anniversary Tour, which comes to the Palace at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

Past Olympic and world champions Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Paul Wylie and Katarina Witt plan to perform. Reserved tickets for \$37.50 and \$25 are on sale at the Palace box office and all TicketMaster centers, including Hudson's, Harmony House and Blockbuster Music.

Special Superstar seating is also available. Children 12 and under and seniors 62 and over receive \$3 off all non-Superstar tickets.

Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Discover by calling (810) 645-6666. Groups of 15 or more can receive \$4 off all non-Superstar tickets by calling the Group Sales Office at (810) 377-0100.

Badger trio drafted

Three players from NCAA men's soccer champion University of Wisconsin were recently drafted by the National Professional Soccer League.

Forward Travis Roy (Livonia Stevenson) was taken by the Milwaukee Wave where ex-Badger Jeff Gold (Plymouth Salem) now plays.

The Tampa Bay Terror selected defender Scott Lamphreer (Livonia Churchill) and midfielder Mike Gentile (Churchill).

The Detroit Rockers, featuring former and standouts Larry Richman (Stevenson/Nick University) and Dennis Golechka (Redford Catholic Central/Oakland University), return to NPSL action. 7:30 tonight at Cobo Arena to face the Kansas City Attack. They will also meet the Wichita Wings, 7:05 p.m. Saturday at Cobo.

Saturday's game features the Rockers Four-Pack Deal — four reserved seats, four hot dogs, four Cokes, one game program for \$29.

Individual tickets are priced at \$16 reserved and \$9 general admission, and may be purchased at any TicketMaster location, by phone at (810) 645-6666, or at the Joe Louis or Cobo box offices on the day of the game.

Fans can also take advantage of discounted group rates (20 or more) at \$6 reserved and \$3 general admission by calling the Rockers office at (810) 394-7070.

1995: A year to remember

■ Observersland sports fans had much to celebrate in the last year, including state champions, team and individual, and even four national champions.

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Before we welcome the New Year — and, of course, the second semester (OK, some of you aren't looking as forward to that) — let's take a look back at the top sports stories for 1995.

1. Four former Observersland soccer stars from Livonia are NCAA national champions: Maybe Livonia, long a hotbed of soccer in the state of Michigan, will now be known nationwide for its prowess in the sport.

Livonians Travis Roy (Stevenson), Mike Gentile (Churchill) and Scott Lamphreer (Churchill) started for the University of Wisconsin's NCAA Division I national champion men's soccer team. Ragna Coyne (Stevenson) contributed to Notre Dame's national crown on the women's side.

Gentile assisted on the lone goal in a 1-0 semifinal win over the University of Portland. The Badgers went on to defeat Duke, 2-0, in the final.

Lamphreer anchored a defense that didn't allow a goal in five NCAA playoff games and drew an assist on one of the goals against Duke.

Coyne had one goal and eight assists this season for the Irish, who completed a 21-2-2 record and their championship run with a 1-0 win over the University of Portland in the final.

2. Livonia Stevenson junior swimmer Anne Aristote, double state champion, Olympic hopeful: What a year she had, even before the girls high school season started in the fall.

Aristote's outstanding summer qualified her already for the Olympic Time Trials, to be held in March. She qualified by finishing seventh in the 200 meter butterfly, one place behind 1992 Olympic medalist Summer Sanders, and 11th in the 400 IM at the nationals last summer.

As for her season at Stevenson? All she did was win two events at the state meet for a second consecutive year, leading the Spartans to a fourth-place finish in the team standings.

Despite a sore shoulder, Aristote won the 200-yard individual medley relay with a time of 2:05.01, 56 better than her winning time in '94, and the 500 freestyle in 4:59.26, more than seven seconds slower than her winning time the year before.

3. Ken Johnson goes out a winner at Plymouth Salem: The Plymouth Salem boys soccer team gave Ken Johnson the best retirement present he could ask for: a state championship.

Johnson, who announced plans to retire before the boys season started, finished his farewell tour with a 22-3 record. The Rocks beat Portage Northern 1-0 in the championship game. A brawl took place after the game, but Northern players weren't thrilled about getting caught in the middle of Salem's celebration.

Two previous Salem boys teams reached the state final without winning the title.

Johnson also retired as coach of the Salem girls team, which gave him his only other state title in 1987. The



Final letdown: Redford Bishop Borgess seniors Maxann Reese and Adriane Bryant (No. 24) console each other following the Spartans' surprising loss in the Class C final against Lansing Catholic Central.

1995 Salem girls also provided Johnson with fond memories, advancing to the state final before losing to favored Birmingham Seaholm, 4-2.

"It was a fairly tale ending, like I wrote my own script," Johnson said. "I didn't realize we could do it until halfway through the season when the team started jelling."

4. Redford Bishop Borgess upset in its bid to win a third-straight Class C girls basketball championship: It seemed improbable that anyone would stop Redford Bishop Borgess' quest for a third-straight Class C state championship in girls basketball, but Lansing Catholic Central managed just that.

The Spartans, who had won six previous state tournament games by an average margin of 37 points, lost to CC, 61-46, in the championship game at Biele Creek's Kellogg Arena.

It was the 70th career win for CC's Paul Cook, who won 635 as a boys coach. CC held Borgess' Miss Basketball winner Maxann Reese to nine points, and the Spartans missed their first 11 attempts at the free-throw line.

"These girls are so special, I can't even begin to describe the feeling," said Cook, 68. "This ranks right up there with the '80 state championship (as coach of Lansing Eastern), the '87 upset of East Lansing and Art Brandstadter. Games you are never supposed to win."

5. Craig Martin wins his second-straight Class A state individual wrestling championship: The Livonia Stevenson senior won his final 83 consecutive high school matches and

closed his career with his second-straight state championship, this time at 215 pounds.

He was the 189-pound champion in 1994. Martin's prowess helped the Spartans advance to the Final Four for the first time as a team, finishing fourth overall.

"At first, it's just every kid's goal," Martin said after his 4-3 win over Brighton's Scott Niles in the final. "To win it a second time, it's just an unbelievable feeling. When I first started wrestling, it was kind of a far-fetched dream. I had some great coaches and it just worked out."

6. Redford Catholic Central senior cross country runner Joe Leo leaves 'em behind: Leo capped an already wondrous high school cross country career by placing fifth at the Foot Locker National Championships in late November. Leo was invited to the national tournament after a second-place showing at a Midwest qualifier.

He was a two-time regional champion and this year won the Class A state team race in a time of 15 minutes, 42 seconds.

7. Redford Catholic Central finishes an undefeated football season and wins a Class AA state title: The Shamrocks beat Holt, 24-0, at the Pontiac Silverdome to cap a 13-0 season and win their third Class AA state championship in the last six years.

CC, which beat Sterling Heights Stevenson, 29-13, in the semifinal round, enjoyed a 313-49 edge in total yardage. Senior fullback John Spolky led CC with 109 yards on 22 car-

ries and one touchdown. The Shamrocks were ranked 10th in the final USA Today national poll that came out this week.

"I kept telling myself before the game, don't think of fancy plays, just give it to John," CC coach Tom Mach said. "He was the man we rallied around. We needed to give it to him."

Did Mach, the master of conservative play calling, really tell himself that?

The Shamrocks had to overcome some anxious moments the first two rounds of the playoffs.

In a 14-6 first-round win over Livonia Stevenson, the Shamrocks made a goal-line stand and drove 92 yards for a late touchdown in the fourth quarter to hold off the gallant Spartans.

A week later, in the regional final played in rain and freezing temperatures on a muddy field at Pontiac Winder Stadium, CC's decision to insert junior tailback Greg Alsaka into the starting lineup after several weeks on the bench paid off.

The Shamrocks scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including a long run by Alsaka, to rally for a 21-14 win over defending champion Troy, the state's preseason No. 1 team.

8. Borgess' Maxann Reese named Miss Basketball for 1995: Reese became the first player from Observersland to win Miss Basketball since 1987, when Plymouth Salem's Dena Head earned the honor. Reese won in a landslide, collecting 629 votes to 395 from her nearest competitor.

See TOP STORIES, 20

McDonald scores 23 in CC's win over OLSM

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central boys basketball coach Rick Coratti received one of the things he wanted from Bente — a perfect 5-0 start for his team.

The Shamrocks won their fifth straight game Friday with an impressive 55-49 victory at Orion-Lake St. Mary's in a Catholic League cross-over game.

"One of our goals was to be 5-0 at Christmas," Coratti said. "We're a veteran team with seven or eight players coming back who played a lot last year. I thought we'd be a good team."

The Eagles, who dropped to 2-1, posed CC's biggest challenge of the young season. But the Shamrocks shut down highly-touted Kyo Jones. The sophomore guard scored 19 points, but only five in the first three quarters.

Jones was coming off a 31-point performance in a win over Birmingham Brother Rice.

Much of the credit for shutting down Jones went to senior guard Justin Hovener, according to senior guard Chris Mielish.

BASKETBALL

"You can't stop a player like Kyo but you can contain him and Justin did a great job on him," Mielish said.

The key point of the game was the third quarter which CC dominated. The Shamrocks, who held a slim 24-23 advantage at halftime, outscored St. Mary's 17-8 in the third quarter.

"I thought our transition defense was very poor in the third quarter," St. Mary's coach Dennis Butcher said. "We talked about it at halftime but to Catholic Central's credit, they got the ball down court quickly."

CC opened the third quarter with a 10-2 run, sparked by consecutive baskets by senior center Michael Jordan.

The Shamrocks extended their lead to 41-31 at the end of the third quarter on a three-pointer by junior guard Marc McDonald.

St. Mary's put on a late charge but never came closer than six points. A triple by CC senior forward Richard Turk (seven points) with 5:55 re-

maining stopped a 6-0 St. Mary's run and gave the Shamrocks the cushion they needed.

McDonald led all scorers with 23 points — 10 coming in the first quarter. Jordan added 13.

"Marc is a good shooter and we're always trying to get him the ball," Mielish said. "Everybody has been scoring for us and we've been getting good balance. If Marc isn't hitting, someone else usually is."

In addition to Jones' 19, Juan Piques, Brian Caddeth and Sterling Minter chipped in with eight each for the Eagles. Piques also grabbed 18 rebounds.

After leading 16-15 after one quarter, St. Mary's offense sputtered in the second and third quarters as the Eagles scored only 15 points while shooting 26 percent from the floor (six-of-23).

The Shamrocks tightened their man defense, led by Mielish who collected five first-half steals.

"They put us in a half-court game offensively, which we don't want to be in," Butcher said. "We want to push the ball but they forced us to play half-court. They did a good job controlling the tempo."