

FARMINGTON
SPORTS
SCENE

Michalski wins again

Farmington High School senior Matt Michalski won his second straight wrestling championship Saturday at the Plymouth Salem Invitational.

Michalski, who was first at 106 last year, won the 112-pound title and improved his season record to 16-0 with four victories Saturday.

He earned his 100th career win in the first match of the day in which he pinned Ypsilanti's Dustin Obeldi (1:42).

Michalski pinned Dave Lathergo of North Farmington (1:31) in the second round and won consecutive decisions over Garden City's Greg McCahan (4:1) and Holt's Greg Perrotti (3:1).

"Matt looked real good at that weight class," Farmington coach Al Boyar said. "He was in control in all the matches. That weight class was one of the toughest ones at the tournament."

"The Garden City kid came down from 118; so we were a little concerned about him because of his size, but Matt handled him pretty well."

Farmington's Ryan Turville (160) placed fifth and Sevan Schiner (103) sixth. Heavyweight Adam Tanielian, Martin Spinka (119), Mike Lane (125) and Charlie Jaeger (130) were seventh.

"We voided two weight classes, so that meant we took 12 wrestlers — and seven placed," Boyar said. "Assistant coach Barry (Walsh) and I were real pleased, especially after the disappointing performance at Walled Lake Central. We need to continue it through the rest of the season."

Fire splits decisions

The Farmington Hills Mite AA Fire (ages 8-9) split a pair of league contests last week, losing to Livonia 2-1 and defeating Redford 3-2.

The Fire's overall record stands at 16-6-3. Eric Lubanski of Farmington Hills had the lone goal against Livonia while Charlie Hourigan scored all three in the Redford game.

Chase Van Tiem was in goal for both games. The Fire's final league game is 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Trenton. Its next home contests will be exhibition games against the Chicago Vikings, one of the top-rated teams in Illinois, on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-21.

Call the Farmington Hills Ice Arena at (810) 478-8800 for game times and arena site (A or B).

Falcons win swim dual

Farmington was one point better than Berkeley in boys swimming Tuesday at North Farmington, 93-92.

Dan Belanger won two events — the individual medley (2:10.42) and the 100 freestyle (51.57) — to lead the Falcons, 2-1 overall.

John Hawkins won the 200 freestyle (1:54.6) and started the winning 200 freestyle relay team that included Todd Benivenga, Pete Bosler and Ken Kopf. The time was 1:41.7.

The Falcons also had firsts from Jeff Thomas in diving with 240.95 points and Matt Beckelacre in the breaststroke (1:08.18).

"That's the best my kids have swam," Farmington coach Russ Bandy said. "It was a team effort all the way down the line. That's really great to see. Kids are starting to step up."

Bandy cited the fourth-place swims of Dave Hartman in the breaststroke and Alex Bukonich in the backstroke as examples of the latter.

Farmington Hills Harrison (0-2) won five events Tuesday in a 110-69 loss to Novi.

Justin Harringer won the 200 and 500 freestyle races with 1:59.49 and 5:19.31 times.

Chris Bailey was first in the backstroke (59.13) and Robin Trombley the breaststroke (1:07.3).

They also combined with Steve Schwedt and Matt Walker to win the medley relay (1:51.69).

Winterfest 4-mile run

The Downriver Runners will have their annual four-mile run at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Seitz Junior High in Riverview.

The course is certified, flat and fast, and split times will be provided each mile.

The \$14 entry fee (before Feb. 4) includes a pancake breakfast, long-sleeve shirt, raffle, awards and mailed race results.

Late registration (Feb. 5-10) is \$16 at Total Runner in Southgate. Race day registration is \$18.

For more information, call Total Runner at (313) 282-1101 or (810) 354-1177.

TigerFest at Joe Louis

The Detroit Tigers will host their Third Annual TigerFest 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Joe Louis Arena.

Among the players scheduled to appear are Chad Curtis, Tony Clark, Chris Gomez, Travis Fryman and Bobby Higginson.

Seminars and free autographs are slated with Tiger players, coaches and front office personnel. New general manager Randy Smith and manager Buddy Bell will be on hand.

The TigerFest will feature a baseball amusement area with a video batting cage, baseball video games and kids row games.

Tickets are \$5 per person and available at all TicketMaster locations or by calling (810) 646-6666. Tickets also are available at the JLA.

For more information call (313) 962-4000.

Raiders start '96 beating Hawks



North Farmington ended the long holiday recess Tuesday and looked especially sharp doing it as the Raiders defeated rival Harrison High 57-48 in boys basketball.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

As it turned out, North Farmington coach Brian Swinehart didn't have to worry about his basketball team being ready to play Tuesday.

Despite going 19 days without a game, the Raiders returned to competition with a 57-48 victory over visiting Farmington Hills Harrison.

North is 1-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and Harrison 0-1. Both teams are 2-4 overall.

"We were worried about that," Swinehart said. "They played Friday

and we hadn't played since Dec. 21.

"I wondered how we were going to execute the offense. Will we be sharp or not? We worked a lot on the offense over break."

It showed as the Raiders hit their first four shots, jumped to a 12-3 lead and took charge early. They ended the night 20-of-47 from the field, including eight three-point shots.

Besides running the show at point guard, North's Julian Cochran scored 10 of his 13 points in the first half.

Scott Gold came off the bench to make four triples — three in the

fourth quarter to help the Raiders cement the victory — and finished with 12 points.

"Scott is a big, athletic kid, and we talked last summer about needing him to play in the post," Swinehart said, adding Gold was the top three-point shooter on the JV last year at over 40 percent. "He wants to get out on the perimeter, and after tonight he'll want to be out there more."

Swinehart marveled most at the fact that Cochran had only one turnover for the entire game.

"That's outstanding, as much as he handles the ball," Swinehart said, adding Cochran had his best overall performance. "He jump-started our offense in the first half and, though he wasn't scoring, created shots for other people in the second half."

Harrison had a good game from sophomore Matt Derocher, who

scored a game-high 18 points (two threes), but coach Mike Teachman was wondering about the game which Harrison team will show up.

The Hawks played well Friday while winning a physical contest with Novi but fell short of matching that effort, according to Teachman.

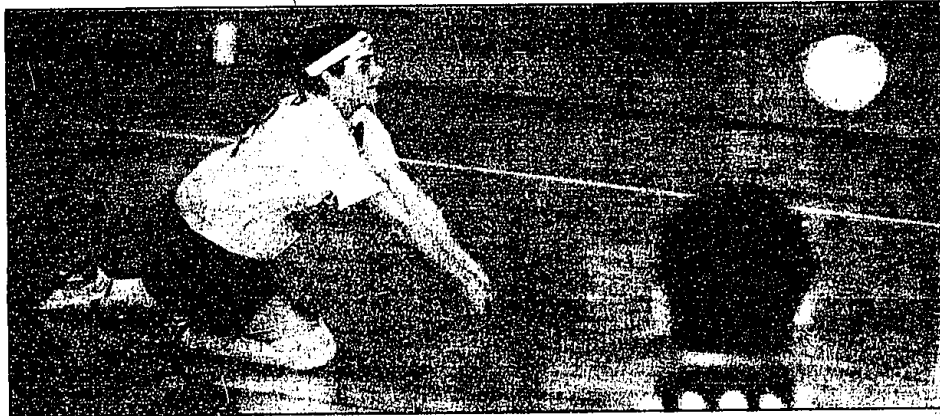
While allowing North to have its way on offense and the boards, Harrison was too often willing to settle for a jump shot, he said.

"No way did we deserve to win that game, to play like that after playing great against Novi," Teachman said. "We let people do what they're good at."

"To win, you have to want to win. Tonight, I think we just showed up to play a basketball game."

The only thing North did the

See RAIDERS, 3C



SHAWN LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defensive effort: Farmington senior Kim Washnock dives on the floor to dig up a North Farmington spike Monday. The home-court Raiders won the marathon Western Lakes match in five games.

Raiders outlast Falcons

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The North Farmington volleyball players were committed to doing whatever it took to win Monday, according to coach Donna Konjarevich.

It was a good thing the host Raiders had that kind of staying power, because it took a lot in terms of time and effort to overcome Farmington.

The match went the maximum five games and took 2 1/2 hours to complete before North prevailed with an 11-15, 16-4, 16-10, 14-16, 15-7 victory.

"After the weekend (tournament), the girls and I were not very pleased with our performance," Konjarevich said. "We came in today with the attitude we were going to win, no matter what it took — and it did take five games!"

The Raiders were 2-2 and suffered their first losses Saturday at the West Bloomfield tournament. North is 1-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 10-2-1 overall.

See VOLLEYBALL, 4C



Raiders hold court: North Farmington's Lee Nelson keeps the ball in play as teammate Emily Oppermann provides backup Monday.

Spiewak assumes leadership role for Mercy

Farmington Hills Mercy senior Dani Spiewak led the Marlins to a second-place showing in the Southeastern Michigan Ski Association Slalom Race Tuesday at Mount Brighton.

Spiewak finished in fifth place in a time of 45.96 seconds. The Marlins took second in the team standings with 48 points, 12 behind Birmingham Seaholm.

Spiewak was the Marlins' second-best performer last year behind her cousin, Niki Gable, who graduated and is now skiing for Seattle University. Spiewak has shown from the start she is the leader of this year's team.

Spiewak also had a strong showing on the opening day of the season last Thursday, taking fourth place in a time of 38.19 in the giant slalom race. Because of several disqualifications, the Marlins took fourth place in that race with 71 points.

"Skiing behind Nicole helped Dani tremendously," Mercy coach Tom Gable said. "You can talk

PREP SKIING

and hopefully we'll be knocking on the door next year."

In Thursday's race, Armistead took 12th (38.69) and Kalous 15th (39.24). The rest of the flight was disqualified for missing gates and other infractions.

Brighton won the race with 38 points.

Catholic Central

The Redford Catholic Central ski team has a couple of meets under its belt, with a third-place finish Tuesday its best to date.

The Shamrocks took third behind first-place Okemos and Brighton in the Southeastern Michigan Ski Association Slalom Race at Mount Brighton.

Okemos finished with 27 points, followed by Brighton (58) and CC (61).

See SKIERS, 4C