DAN O'MEARA, EDITOR
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Farmington Observer

INSIDE:

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1996

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS SCENE

Donahue's 1,000th win

If coaching keeps one young, then Glen Donahue is at least on his second time through the teen-age years.

Donahue has now coached 1,000 games — the equivalent of coaching a game every night for nearly 2.74 years — at the collegiate and high school levels.

The most recent came Saturday as the host Schoolcraft College men's basketball team surprised second-place St. Clair, 94-75.

Donahue also compiled a 113-81 high school record at Highland Park, St. Gabriel, Salesian and Bishop Borgess, plus a 401-205 mark at Highland Park Junior College, along with a 114-63 record at Orchard Lake St. Mary's College. That makes the total 1,000.

Madonna card show

Madonna University will stage a sports card show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Activities Building, located off the corner of Schoolcraft and Levan roads.

Over 75 tables will be on display. There is no charge for admission. For more information, call (313) 432-5609.

Crusader volleyball

Registration for Crusader Junior AAU volleyball, directed by Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham, will be Sunday, March 17 and 24, at the Activities Building.

The practice schedule is set for the following age groups: 12s and 14s, noon to 2 p.m.; 16s, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; 18s, 5-7 p.m.

The program begins in March (through the end of June). Practice days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Tournaments will be on Saturdays.

Program fees include $175 (12s), $200 (14s) and $275 (16s and 18s). There is an additional $275 expense for elite team players who will compete in the state AAU and nationals (Des Moines, Iowa).

For more information, call Brian McClain at (313) 525-0547 or (313) 432-5612.

Hawks stay alive by beating Salem

Farmington Hills Harrison kept alive its playoff hopes by defeating Plymouth Salem 70-67 in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball game Tuesday.

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Young teams are often good at one thing. If nothing else — aging basketball coaches in a hurry.

Farmington Hills Harrison shaded Plymouth Salem 70-67 Tuesday to keep its Western Lakes Activities Association playoff possibilities on the strong side of the quicksand.

Both teams are 7-9 overall but the Hawks are 5-5 in the WLAA to a 4-6 record for the Rocks.

"History has it that five (wins) gets you in (the playoffs)," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Six (does) for sure."

Harrison hosts Northville Friday night while Salem entertains North Farmington. The playoffs begin next week.

The Hawks and the Rocks are both laden with underclassmen. Harrison has two seniors, Salem four.

At times they look full of possibilities. And at other times, they look impossible.

Harrison came out with sophomore Matt Derocher bombing in two threes as his team took leads at 8-0 and 10-2. The Hawks hit eight treys in the first half.

"When we came out and our shots were dropping in the first half, we were like a kid with a new toy," Teachman said, "who shoved the old toy — defense — off in the corner."

"We did not play very well and there's no excuse for it," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "Our intensity level was just pathetic. Our decision making on the floor isn't very good.

"I told them they've got to quit playing like young players. They're not young players any more. They have a season under their belt."

Junior Andres Lopez scored 26 points for Salem, freshman Mike Korduba had 14 and sophomore Andy Power 11.

Derocher scored 23 for Harrison, including five triples, while junior Kevin Bambenek got 12.

"We did not have any answer for Lopez," Teachman said. "He's what I call a '60s basketball player; he'll work and work and work. The '90s player wants to wear the right pants, have the right number on his back."

"Some other players have got to step up, and nobody did," Brodie said. "We've been riding his (Lopez) shoulders all year."

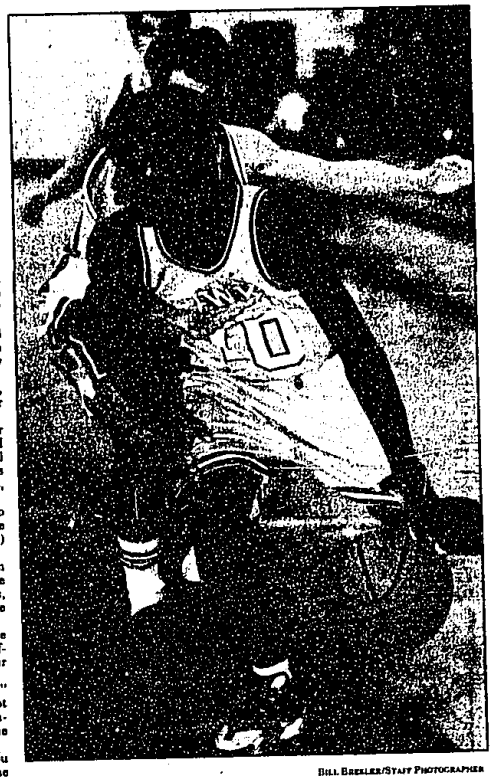
For a team with no height, Salem didn't box Harrison out well. The Hawks had the edge on the boards, particularly at crucial points in the game.

The score was tied at 21 after one period. Harrison held a 42-40 halftime lead and was up 56-53 after three.

"The game was always in doubt," Teachman said. "That period of not playing defense in the first half bothered me. They had 21 points in the paint.

"With a young team — when you don't know how you're going to come out shooting — you've got to rely on

See HAWKS, 4C



BILL BEEKLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharp turn: *Kareem Smartt makes his move around a Salem defender in Harrison's timely 70-67 victory Tuesday.*

Event, arena get high marks

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

SKATING

The only thing lacking was a first-place finish by the local skaters.

Otherwise, the Tri-State Precision Skating Competition was a big success Saturday at the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Between 1,500 paid admissions, 1,200 skaters, coaches and workers, it was standing room only during the day-long event, according to Carl Modetz of the Plymouth Skating Club.

Sixty-two teams from several Midwest states and Canada competed in 12 divisions based on age and skill level.

"Farmington truly benefited by all the ice we bought, and the exposure for the arena is tough to place a dollar value on," said Modetz, who assisted the Farmington Hills club in organizing the competition. "I can't say enough about the Farmington people. It worked out real well.

"We got rave reviews about the facility, the esthetics of it, the layout. The skaters loved the ice. The workers, the people who ran the Zamboni, gave us quick ice makes and made quality ice."

The best area skaters could do was a second place in Team Introductory by the Birmingham Blazing Blades. The Plymouth Sparklers were third in two categories, the Oxford Ice Crystals and Blades one apiece.

The Crystallettes of the Dearborn-based Great Lakes Skating Club and Team Elan of the Detroit Skating Club dominated the competition with four and three first places, respectively.

"We were hoping for a little bit better," Modetz said. "The preliminary team was a real pleasant surprise, but we were really hoping the juvenile team would get a medal.

"Of all the teams, we thought they probably had the best chance. It has more girls who have skated together, and more of them have skated precision than the other teams."

The second-place team in the Senior Free Skate division was from Miami (Ohio) University where precision skating is a varsity sport.

Thought it's not strictly a female sport, Modetz said he foresees it becoming a varsity sport at more schools as the gender-equity issue unfolds.

"Here's a chance to offer 30 scholarships to women. That helps offset the 100 or so they give to football players," he said.

See SKATING, 8C

TOM HAWLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Precision skating: *Pizzaz of the North Suburban Figure Skating Club performs its routine during the Masters competition Saturday at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.*

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