

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1996

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Myslinski on WMU team

Former Farmington Harrison standout Jenny Myslinski made the Western Michigan University women's softball roster as a walk-on player.

Myslinski, an academic sophomore with freshman eligibility, is expected to start for the Broncos in left field next spring.

The 1995 graduate of Harrison was an all-state first baseman and two-time team captain for the Hawks, who won 52 games during her junior and senior years.

Myslinski, an Exercise Science major, owns virtually every Harrison career batting record, including hits (122), doubles (17), triples (10), home runs (13) and RBI (85). Her career batting average was .404.

Four members of the 1994-95 Harrison teams are playing college softball.

Kelly LaCrosse is an outfielder at Kalamazoo College, Kathy Schneider is a catcher/first baseman at Oakland Community College and Erin LaCrosse is a pitcher at Alma College.

Flames are No. 1 team

The Farmington Flames remained a red-hot soccer team and captured the championship of the girls under-14 open division.

The Flames allowed an average of only 1.3 goals in 10 games while the offense provided enough punch to fuel the championship effort.

"Many games in this division were decided by a goal or less, which put a lot of pressure on coaches, players and parents to pull together as a team to win," Flames coach Craig Barton said.

The team members are Abby Adams, Nicole Adena, Stephanie Arnold, Carrie Barton, Sarah Bowles, Catherine Brouillette, Joyce Chung, (captain) Lauren Hogan, Kelly Hogan, Abbey Houser, Emily Houser, Molly Jud, (captain) Lauren Liebowitz, Kathryn Marchel, Anna Muir, Amanda Park, Jenna Street and Danielle Strickland.

The Flames also are coached by Greg Strickland and Craig Bowles.

OCC drops cage opener

Oakland Community College began its season Tuesday with a 76-42 loss to host Owens Tech of Toledo (Ohio) in women's basketball.

Freshman forward Carrie May, a former North Farmington standout, scored 10 points and had five rebounds for the Raiders.

Sophomore forward Kara West (Troy) paced OCC with 12 points. Joelyn Phillips of Walldorf-Lake (Central) added seven points, and 6-foot Keona Smith had nine rebounds.

Jolene Brooks and Dawn Spencer had 16 points each in the season opener for Owens Tech, which led 30-18 at halftime.

OCC committed 32 turnovers (as opposed to 21 for the opponent) and was outrebounded 50-42.

Raiders split in tourney

Men's basketball tournament host Waukesha (Ill.) defeated Oakland Community College in the first round last Friday, 109-101, but the Raiders departed on a positive note after downing Waldorf College, 71-64, Saturday.

Oakland was led by Derrick White, who netted 22 points in the first game.

Paul Kirkpatrick followed with 19 points (five assists) and Willy Davis 15 (five steals).

Julius Teal and Thomas Henry had seven rebounds apiece.

Waukesha was 30-of-50 at the free-throw line, OCC 17-of-28.

The Raiders (2-1) trailed winless Waldorf, 39-33, at halftime but rallied with a 38-22 advantage in the second half.

Henry and Kirkpatrick (six assists) had 15 points each, Davis 12, Isaiah Carter and White eight apiece.

Carter and Henry were the leading rebounders with seven each.

Guess commits to MSU

Michigan State University got a two-for-one deal Wednesday when Wayne Memorial's Lorenzo Guess announced he will play football and basketball for the Spartans.

The 6-foot-3, 185-pound Guess made a verbal commitment Wednesday morning before a gathering of teammates, fellow students, family and coaches at the school's auditorium.

The big surprise is that Guess, who has thrown for more than 4,000 yards as a quarterback and scored over 1,000 points as a point guard, will sign a national letter-of-intent in football in February.

The early signing period for basketball ended yesterday. Basketball letters-of-intent cannot be signed again until February.

Guess had MSU and Michigan caps planted on the podium before announcing his decision.

"I decided to commit now, so there wouldn't be as much pressure for the basketball season," said Guess, who led Wayne to a 23-3 record and a berth in the Class A state semifinals in East Lansing a year ago. "I feel good about going there. I just had a feeling."

"I called (basketball) coach (Tom) Izzo this morning, and I talked with (football) coach (Nick) Saban (the football coach) last night. I didn't get to sleep until around midnight."

Farmington Observer readers can fax sports information to Dan O'Meara at (313) 691-7279.

Harrison vs. Harris in football

■ Harrison will face one of the state's top running backs Saturday when it plays Grosse Pte. North in a Class A semifinal.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

If the Farmington Harrison football team wants to play in the Silverdome next week,

the Hawks will have to stop Leonard Harris this week.

Harrison knows what's coming Saturday when it plays Grosse Pointe North in a Class A semifinal game Saturday.

Kickoff is 1:30 p.m. at Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley High School. Both teams are 10-1.

Harris is going to rush the football for the Norsemen, and the Harrison defense will certainly see a lot of him.

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound senior tailback has averaged close to 30 carries per game while amassing 2,365 yards and scoring 31 touchdowns this year.

"He has excellent balance and real good power," Harrison coach John Harrison said, adding Harris reminds him of Livonia Stevenson's Gabe Clark.

"When you hit him, he kinda slides and keeps moving. We have to wrap him up and get more than one person on the ball."

"He's probably the leading rusher in the state. It's going to be a huge challenge."

Surprisingly, Harris had never played football, according to North coach Frank Sumner, until he transferred from Detroit Mumford at the start of his sophomore year.

"He wasn't even a tailback on JV," Sumner said. "He returned punts and kickoffs while he learned the game."

Apparently, he was a fast learner. Harris started on the varsity as a junior and rushed for 998 yards and eight touchdowns while playing in only 6½ games because of an injury.

His rushing total this year far surpasses the old single-season school record of 1,216 yards by Mike Miller in 1985.

"He's a good one," Sumner underlined, adding Mid-American Conference and now Big Ten schools are showing a lot of interest. "We can't make films fast enough."



Open field for Sarsfield: Senior Sean Sarsfield rushed for a game-high 77 yards and a touchdown Saturday to help Harrison defeat Trenton in a regional championship game. 35-21.

Harris' proficiency at running with the ball gives rise to the mistaken impression the Norsemen are a one-dimensional team, however.

Senior Steve Champine (6-1, 170) has been the starting quarterback since the seventh game of his freshman year and is a capable passer,

completing 53 of 104 attempts for 900 yards and six touchdowns.

"This year he's probably passed the least he ever has because of what Leonard has done," Sumner said, adding Champine also runs the

option well.

"When you have a kid averaging 8-9 yards a carry, you don't have to do anything else. He has turned us into a running team, but I've never

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Mercy extends championship tradition

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

If you looked only at who won what event in the Catholic League girls swimming and diving championships, you'd think Birmingham

Marian might have won the meet.

But you have to take a closer look at the results to realize Farmington Hills Mercy was unbeatable Saturday at Royal Oak Dondoro.

The Marlins relied on overwhelming depth to compile 623 team points and win their 30th league

SWIMMING

title in the last 31 years.

"I don't know if that means an awful lot," said Mercy coach Jim Downs, who continued the tradition in his first season with the Marlins.

"I look at this one as the most important and, if I'm around next year, that one will be the most important."

Marian was winning with 381 points despite winning two relays

and four individual events.

Freshman Erin Spiro won the 200-yard freestyle and the butterfly for the Mustangs, junior Lauren Najarian the 50 freestyle and freshman Brady Kosnik the 100 freestyle.

"If they took first, we were second, third and fourth down the line," Downs said. "That's what gave us the points."

"The thing that set us on the right path was coming out of the chute in the 200 freestyle with (senior) Kristie Cordts and (junior) Emily Thompson both qualifying.

Thompson was second in the 200, junior Betsy Lambert third, Cordts fourth and senior Melissa Seymour fifth for the Marlins, who had four of the top six swimmers in six events and three of six in two others.

"Najarian won the 50 freestyle, but we were right behind with (senior) Lyndsey Grondin, (junior) Danielle Clayton, (senior) Caroline Kenna and (sophomore) Jenni Chapp — bang, bang, bang!" Downs said.

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Pressure point: Mercy point guard Susie Roble applies defensive pressure to Lahser's Alexis Martin. See story Page C4.

Marlins face Hawks for tournament title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It will be an all-Farmington girls basketball final Friday in the Class A district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School.

Farmington Hills Mercy pulled off its second upset of the district Wednesday when it gave West Bloomfield its second loss, 64-61.

The Marlins (12-10) will play Farmington Harrison for the championship at 7 p.m. Friday. The Hawks (14-7) advanced with a 65-47 win over North Farmington.

The game will be a rematch of the 1994 final when Mercy defeated Harrison at Lahser, 53-48.

"One thing you can bank on is, whatever happens, Mercy won't quit," coach Larry Baker said after the Marlins rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

"There's no quit in this team now."

Senior MaryJane Valido scored a career-high 27 points to lead Mercy and offset sophomore point guard Deana Kanipe's 30-point performance for West Bloomfield (19-2).

BASKETBALL

Junior Jessie Brennan notched 18 points and senior Keisha Brooks 10.

The Marlins set their defense to stop 6-foot-1 sophomore center Kristi Kilpela and held her to nine points.

Kanipe, who didn't score until the second quarter, made six three-point baskets.

Mercy was outscored 25-12 in the second quarter and trailed at halftime, 35-29. The deficit grew to 55-45 after three periods and as many as 12 points in the fourth.

"We had our backs as far against the wall as I'd ever want them to be," Baker said. "I just begged the kids to reach down for something more to turn up the heat."

The Marlins, who have won six straight games, began to rally with four minutes remaining.

Valido tied the score at 61 with a minute left. Brennan grabbed a teammate's missed free throw and scored the go-ahead basket.

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