

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1996

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Faro named club president

Tom Faro has been named president of the Farmington Soccer Club and will replace Gale Sarkella as president of the Western Suburban Soccer League in January.

The 26-year-old Faro is a 1990 graduate of Farmington High School and has served in a variety of capacities with the Farmington Soccer Club for the past seven years.

Faro, who was elected by the board of directors to serve in the top post for a one-year term, has been a coach, referee, recreational coordinator, activities and publicity director, coach and player director, premier coordinator and scheduler/manager.

Faro has been the boys varsity coach at Walled Lake Western since 1995 and the Farmington club's Fury '79 premier coach since 1994.

His experience includes coaching the Farmington JV soccer team and the Detroit Catholic Central freshman squad.

"I'm grateful for the support I've received from the board, the parks and recreation department and our coaches," Faro said.

"We know the future is sure to bring more growth to the club in our recreation, select, premier and adult programs. While we grow, we'll need to continue to focus the club around the kids."

"We have a great group of people associated with the club. I am confident they will continue to be patient and understanding as we adapt to the growth we'll experience."

Sarkella stepped down after three years in charge of the WSSL, which has nearly 300 teams and is the third largest youth soccer league in Michigan.

Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Northville, Livonia, South Lyon, Canton, Plymouth and Brighton have teams in the WSSL.

Flames are co-champions

The Farmington Flames under-11 girls team earned a share of the championship in the Western Suburban Soccer League's Select Division by beating the previously undefeated Michigan Hawks in the final game of the season, 3-1.

Farmington's only loss was to the Hawks earlier in the season. Both teams finished with 7-1 division records.

Alex Ciceri was exceptional in goal for the Flames all season, according to head coach Phil Perry.

In the final game, Ciceri and sweeper Erica Rosen held the usually high scoring Hawks to one goal from an indirect kick in the second half.

Striker Kyle LaPorte and midfielder Michaela Pawlewicz scored one goal each in the first half against the Hawks.

Pawlewicz added a second goal on a penalty kick in the second half. LaPorte was high scorer for the overall season.

Perry also had praise for all of his players following the championship game, especially the high level of play by "rookie" players Megan Malina, Kelly Goris and Kaitlin Risk.

The Flames completed a 13-2-4 season, outscoring the opposition 58-23.

Other veteran members of the team are Danielle Bryant, Erin Deroo, Ashley Lynch, Courtney McCracken, Ashley Perrin, Megan Perry, Dianna Platt and Christine Taylor.

The assistant coaches are Charlie Deroo, Rick Perrin and Jim Ciceri.

LaCrosse spark K'zoo wins

Kelly LaCrosse of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) led the Kalamazoo College women's basketball team to victories in their first two games of the 1996-97 season.

She averaged 24 points, seven rebounds and three assists as the Hornets defeated Elmhurst College 66-47 on Nov. 22 and St. Mary's College 79-67 on Nov. 23.

The 5-foot-8 sophomore guard was named the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's player of the week after her two performances.

LaCrosse was 10-of-17 from the floor against Elmhurst and made 15 of 17 free throws in the St. Mary's game. She sank 13 of 26 field goals, 18 of 20 free throws and four of nine three-point shots in the two games combined.

Kalamazoo lost its next two to Cornerstone (61-59) and the University of Chicago (62-37).

LaCrosse ranks second in MIAA scoring (19.3), ninth in three-point shooting (6-of-17), ninth in overall field goals (23-of-48), fifth in free throws (26-of-30) and seventh in steals (2.0).

AAU basketball tryouts

The Oakland County Flyers AAU girls basketball team will have tryouts Saturday, Dec. 14, at East Middle School in Farmington Hills.

Tryouts for each team are as follows: 9-11 a.m. for ages 11 and 12; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 15 and 16-17; 1-3 p.m. for ages 13 and 14.

The tryout fee is \$20. The coaches will be high school girls from Harrison, North Farmington, Brighton and Walled Lake Western.

For information call Don Robb at (810) 853-1288 during the day or (810) 601-1678.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High plans to rebound from a pair losing seasons in boys basketball. Coach Denny Mikel believes the Falcons have the right mix of players and talent to produce a good record in 1996-97.

If his team's performance matches coach Denny Mikel's optimism, Farmington High will be successful in the 1996-97 boys basketball season.

Mikel can't predict how successful, but he is certain of this much: The Falcons will be improved over recent years.

Farmington had a 4-17 record last season (3-8 in the Western Lakes Activities Association) following a 2-19 finish the previous year.

A combination of returning players and new talent has Mikel com-

paring his team to the 1993-94 squad that finished second in the WLLA and won a district championship.

"Obviously, we had a couple down seasons, and this one I think is going to turn it around for us," Mikel said. "I see a lot of similarities between this team and the '94 group that just wouldn't quit. I see a lot of the same intensity and desire that group had."

The veteran players are seniors Nick Sertic, Todd Afferbaugh and Adam Weber, and juniors Ron Freeman and Trevor Gaines finished last season on the varsity.

Senior Tony Juneja and junior David Viano are newcomers who are expected to have an immediate impact. The roster includes juniors Matt Orr, Ryan Gargol, Bryant Bronner and freshman Justin Milos.

"I'm excited about my team," Mikel said. "We have a great attitude and a good starting five. I don't feel we have any weaknesses."

Sertic (6-5, 170) is the top returning scorer, averaging eight points and 2½ rebounds last season. He will play on the wing primarily but has expanded his overall game.

"One of his goals is to be a better inside player, rebounder and everything," Mikel said. "He worked on his game a lot in the summer and is probably our best shooter."

"He also developed a game where he can take it to the basket now. Teams will have to play him a little more honestly, because they know

he was mainly an outside shooter last year.

"We're looking for good things from Nick, and he'd like the opportunity to play after high school; so he knows he has to have a pretty good season."

Weber (6-4, 200) missed the entire football season with mononucleosis but is fully recovered. He averaged 4½ points and will complement Gaines in the post.

"He's been very eager to get started with basketball," Mikel said. "He's been working very hard ever since he got the green light to go ahead and practice, and he wants to have a good senior year."

Gaines (6-5, 190) played in eight varsity games, averaging five points and 5½ rebounds, but could surprise a lot of opposing teams who didn't see him play or don't remember him.

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STAFF PHOTO BY KATHLEEN LEECH

Hawk seniors: Farmington Harrison has seven seniors among its 12 varsity basketball players. They are (front row, from left): Steve Smylie (spinning the ball), Justin Snow, Eddie Flournoy, Chris Berry, (back row) Kevin Bambenek, John Sennett and Aaron Iaconelli. The Hawks begin the season Tuesday with a home game against Inkster.

Hawks look more like contenders

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The future has arrived for the Farmington Harrison boys basketball team.

Coach Mike Teachman was planning ahead when he stocked his varsity squad with underclassmen two years ago.

Now he hopes to realize a return on the investment.

The Hawks were 6-5 in the rugged Western Lakes Activities Association and 9-12 overall. The goal is to take another step forward in 1996-97.

"We put a lot of time and effort into this group, working with them and trying to develop them, because we know that's where the talent was," Teachman said.

"Before, they were 170 pound

BASKETBALL

babes; now they're 185 pounds. So we have some strength; we're going to get more loose balls than we ever have. Experience, strength and interchangeable parts will be our forte."

The Hawks return 10 varsity players and have a team characterized by a balance of talent and good players with no individual stars.

"I think you'll see some games when we score 70 points, and no one has more than eight," Teachman said. "You won't get great stats out of us, because we are a team."

The individual scoring averages from last season support that claim.

Junior Matt Derocher averaged 11 points, senior Kevin Bambenek 10,

senior Justin Snow 7 1/2, juniors Brian Lewis and Jared Hopkins six and junior Kareem Smart five.

Harrison also returns seniors Aaron Iaconelli, Chris Berry, John Sennett and Eddie Flournoy. All are capable making significant scoring contributions on any given night.

The Hawks have added senior Steve Smylie and junior Jerrard Johnson to the roster this year.

Team balance also gives Teachman the option of playing virtually any combination of players. Berry is the only true post player everyone else is considered a wing and has to do a little of everything on the court.

Unlike other teams, Harrison got a late start again because of the football team's playoff run that ended Friday in the Class A champi-

onship game. That's nothing new, however; Teachman has had to work around that nine of the last 11 years. But he didn't have a full team at practice until Sunday — nine days before the first game.

"You can't do much with only seven guys," Teachman said. "You have to go against the JV, and the JV had four guys on the varsity football team."

"So our 5-on-5 is not right yet, and our conditioning is not good yet. But we have spent a lot of time with these guys (in the summer)."

Bambenek (6-2, 165) is the veteran of the group, having started at point guard since the first game of his freshman year. He also averaged four assists but will move to the No.

See HAWKS, C3

Marian's 'D' results in 'A' performance

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

Senior Mary Trupiano felt this season would again vault Birmingham Marian's girls basketball program to state championship status. And coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone believed talented guard Breean Valles would bring out of her recent scoring slump.

Both hunches proved true Saturday afternoon at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena as the third-ranked Mustangs defeated previously undefeated Howell 54-40 for their first Class A title since 1992 and third overall.

"I just can't say enough about this group of kids," said Lillie-Cicerone, whose team finished with 44 straight wins and a 25-3 record. "They deserved it. They absolutely deserved it with their hard work and their team play and their positiveness and it's been a joy coaching them."

Marian seems to win Class A titles the way the United States elects its presidents — every four

GIRLS STATE FINAL

years. The Mustangs stopped Flint Powers 71-49 in 1988 and Flint Northwestern 39-27 four seasons later in their only other trips to the Class A final.

"The state championship was our goal from day one," said Trupiano, whose three-point play into the third quarter helped spark a pivotal 11-0 run. "We knew Marian had won it in 1988 and in 1992 and there was that four-year thing working, so we obviously wanted to win it in 1996."

"We are a very superstitious team and it seemed like all the little things were falling into place all year. And looking back, maybe it was our year."

Walas led all scorers with 16 points, 10 in third quarter when Marian extended a 22-19 halftime lead to 41-29. The aforementioned chipper finished in seven assists, five of the Mustangs' 16 steals

and was the focal point of a pressing defense that forced 24 turnovers.

"Breean has played that way all season long until the last two games," Lillie-Cicerone said. "Her offense kind of went out the door there. But we told her play the defense and play with that intensity and run the offense like she's done all season and we'll still win."

"And we knew today this was going to be her game. I just had this feeling she was out of her drought and thank goodness she did."

The Highlanders, who concluded the most successful basketball season in Howell High School history at 26-1, trailed by just three points at intermission despite falling behind 11-1 and struggling with Marian's smothering diamond full-court press.

Walas opened the second half with a three-point play and two-point basket for a 27-19 advantage, but Howell responded with

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