

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1997

# SPORTS

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## Hawks hold off Falcons, 52-45

### FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### Fire wins Big Dog title

The Farmington Hills Fire Squirt AA hockey team (ages 10 and 11) stormed past four opponents en route to the championship of the Big Dog Invitational in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Fire defeated three straight New York teams — Binghamton (7-3), Batavia (4-2) and Whitestown (1-0) — before turning back Royal Oak in the final, 5-2.

The goaltending tandem of Greg Hocking (Farmington Hills) and Vince Falahee (New Hudson) was superb throughout the tournament. Hocking earned the shutout in the semifinal versus Whitestown.

Offensively, the Fire attack was well balanced with seven players scoring at least one goal.

"We've now won six games in a row and lost only once in our last 11 games," Fire assistant coach Paul Lubanski said. "We're hoping to ride that positive emotional wave into our district playoffs that begin Saturday."

In addition to the goalies, the Fire roster includes Jacob Gardner, Eric Lubanski, Vince McKeon, Kyle Miller and Marc Rauth, all of Farmington Hills; Brandon Getchen, Jeff Kraemer, Joe McGrail and Andy Sienkiewicz, all of Livonia; Nicholas Guero, Northville; Glenn Horton, Westland; Scott Jowett and Ryan Jones, both of Plymouth.

The Fire head coach is Mark Jewett. The assistants are John Kraemer, Glenn Gardner, Gary Sienkiewicz and Mike Falahee.

#### Flyers finish in 2nd place

The Metro Flyers girls travel hockey team ended its regular season in second place.

The team members are Adrienne Shaw, Catherine Shaw and Alana Pfeiffer, Farmington; Kyle LaPorte, Livonia; Sarah Dawley, Royal Oak; Jennifer Fine and Caitlin Smith, West Bloomfield; Liz Gullmet, Birmingham; Megan Young, Clawson; Megan Ruchinger, Fenton; Lisa Keller, Sterling Heights; Tami Janssens, Commerce; Ellen McNamara, Macomb; Allison Proodan, Canton; Katie Temple, Rochester; Jenna Kelch, Clinton Township; and Danielle Korres, Berkley.

The Flyers qualified to play in the state tournament in March.

#### Baseball registration

The Kensington Valley Amateur Baseball League is still accepting teams for the 1997 season in the 11-, 12- and 13-year-old divisions.

There will be an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at the Howell Recreation Department.

For information call Mike Katlin at (517) 546-1399 or Paul Bushong at (517) 546-1789.

North Farmington-West Bloomfield will hold baseball/softball registration for the 1997 season from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 1, at North Farmington High School and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, at Orchard Lake Middle School.

Boys age 5-18 (as of July 31, 1997) and girls 5-18 (as of Aug. 31, 1997) are eligible to participate. The fee is \$75 per child, \$95 after Feb. 2.

The above dates are also tryout dates for children age 9 and older. Children under 9 do not have to try out. For specific times call 788-4110.

#### Silverdome golf show

The Second Annual Great Michigan Golf Show, sponsored by Bavarian Village Ski & Golf, opens Friday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

More than 250 exhibitors ranging from equipment to course and tournament information will be showing their wares on the concourse or at field level through Sunday, Feb. 2.

"The 1997 Great Michigan Golf Show promises to be even bigger than last year, which was a giant hit," said Richard Held, vice president of marketing for Bavarian Village. "The state's golfers want very much to see what the newest technology will be for the coming season. We're also going to have a lot of interactive attractions that will be great fun."

The "World's Longest Putt Competition" will also take place with a grand prize of a golf package for two to Marriott's Pan-tara Resort, Golf Club and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks.

Taylor Made will show off a new golf simulator and golfers will be able to test new equipment before they buy.

Tickets cost \$8 for adults (discounted \$1 Friday for those age 60 and older), \$3 for kids 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. The hours are 1-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

#### Half-marathon reminder

It's not too early to start thinking about the annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon. The Half-Marathon, 5K Run & Walk and Kids Fun Run celebrates its 21st anniversary Sunday, April 20, in West Bloomfield.

The half-marathon and 5K run will be held on USATF certified courses. Both start at West Bloomfield High School. The Kids Run takes place at the West Bloomfield High School track.

Entry forms can be picked up at the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Center, Town Hall or Library or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: 4640 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield 48323. Call (810) 738-2500 for more information.



BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High presented a strong challenge as expected Tuesday, but host Farmington Harrison raised the ante with a solid effort of its own.

The Hawks gained the advantage midway in the second and held on to beat the Falcons in boys basketball, 52-45.

Both teams went into the game tied at 3-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Harrison is 9-2 overall, Farmington 4-7 after seeing its two-game win streak end.

Farmington Harrison knew it was in a ballgame Tuesday when the Farmington Falcons came calling in boys basketball. The Hawks managed to win with the help of a 20-point effort by Matt Derocher.

"It was a good ballgame between two good teams; we were fortunate to win," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

"I thought (the Falcons) were the best team in our league at the moment. They have a great starting five and some good complementary players."

"It was good for the old guy here to see my guys took that message seriously. Our will to win showed up again tonight, and it hasn't always been there. Our will to win replaced our will to perform."

Despite the outcome, Farmington

continued to play well, holding the lead through most of the first half and staying ahead until late in the third quarter. The Falcons led at halftime, 28-27.

"I told the kids 'If someone had said Farmington would be up by a point at halftime, I'd have said 'Great, we'll take it,'" Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "We felt good going into the third quarter; we knew we could play with them."

"It's too bad games come down to a couple plays because, if you look at the whole game, it was pretty even."

"There were a couple situations we didn't execute, and they took advantage of it. In my opinion, that seemed to be the difference in the game."

Junior Matt Derocher scored a game-high 20 points, which included four three-point field goals, to lead the Hawks.

His triple late in the third quarter put Harrison ahead to stay, 34-33, and he connected again in the fourth after the Falcons had pulled within a point, 41-40.

"He gave up a defensive rebound and bucket, which put them up one," Teachman said. "So he came down, asked for the ball and hit a three."

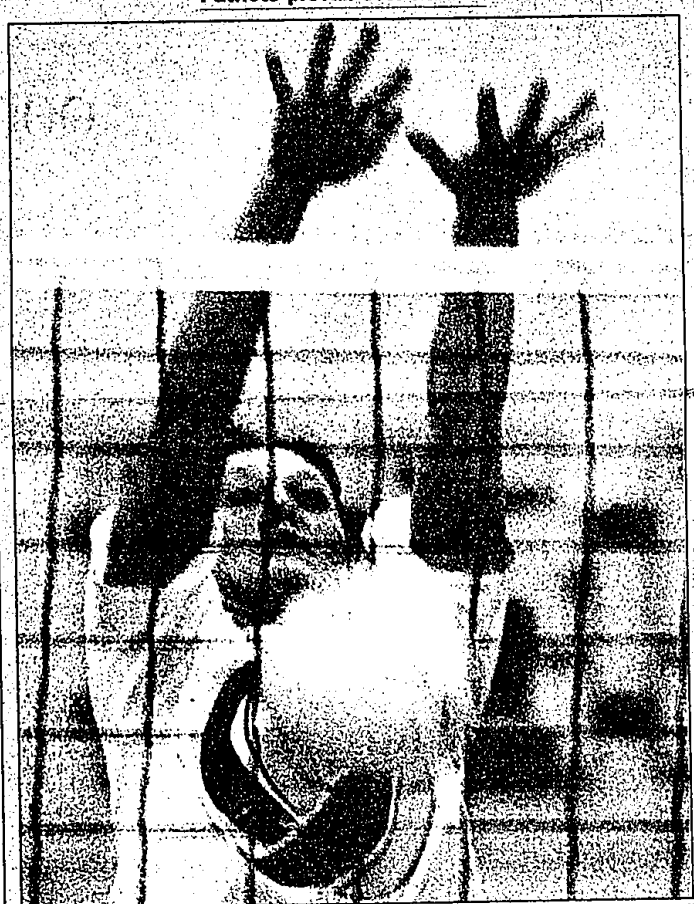
"He realized the defensive mistake and wanted to make up for it. When a guy scores 20 in a 52-45 game, he's a pretty dominant player."

Senior Kevin Bambenek added 10 points and junior Brian Lewis six. Six of the other seven who scored for Harrison had a field goal.

Farmington junior Trevor Gaines had 10 of his 15 points in the first half when he was drawing fouls underneath and made six of eight free throws.

See BASKETBALL, C4

#### Patriots prevail over Raiders



Net result: North Farmington senior Tricia Traczyk blocks a Livonia Franklin spike in a volleyball match Monday. The Patriots defeated the host Raiders in the Western Lakes Activities Association event, 15-10, 15-8, 14-16, 15-2.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

After coaching football for 24 years at Birmingham Brother Rice, Ron Kalczynski thought it was time to step aside and let someone else move up the ladder.

The longtime Farmington resident recently resigned his position as defensive coordinator — a post he held with the Warriors for the last 22 years.

"It's not burnout or anything," Kalczynski said, adding he might return to coaching football as an assistant in the future if the situation is right.

"I just thought it was the right time to do it. It's a good time to get somebody else with different opinions into that position. Sometimes you get a little stale."

"I really think, as far as football, it's good for new ideas to come in."

Sometimes you have to evaluate how kids respond to what you're doing, what kind of impact you're having. That's how you keep things fresh."

The 51-year-old Kalczynski will continue to coach the Rice varsity baseball team. He also teaches religion and is a guidance counselor at the Catholic high school.

Kalczynski began as an assistant coach in 1973. He moved up to the varsity, coaching the defensive line and receivers, in 1974 when Rice was voted Class A champion by the statewide media. He became the defensive coordinator the following year.

"I had a chance to coach my sons at a school I really enjoyed coaching it with the best coach (Al Francana) in the state, as far as I'm concerned," Kalczynski said.

The Warriors have won four state titles since the playoffs began.

Kalczynski's biggest defensive player on the '77 team was 190-pound tackle Steve Chiodo. The entire starting 11 on defense averaged just 165 pounds that year.

"That was a great group of kids," Kalczynski said. "That team is what I think high school football is all about. They loved to play the game, and they were successful because they were able to play as a team."

"They knew they weren't going on to play big-time football. It was their last shot, and they made the best of it. They were good people who were highly motivated. I get excited when people ask me about them."

Kalczynski's fondest coaching memories bring him closer to home, having coached his three oldest sons in football and baseball. Kevin graduated from Rice in '92, Brian '94 and Joe '96.

Kevin played on Rice's last state championship football team and is

now a law student at Wayne State University.

Brian was a member of two Class A champion baseball teams in '92 and '94, Joe one. Brian plays baseball for the University of Michigan, and at Michigan State.

"I had coached other peoples' kids for so many years that when I got to coach my own that was the greatest thrill, forgot the winning and losing," Kalczynski said.

"How many get a chance to coach their own kids and reach the highest point in high school competition with a state title."



Ron Kalczynski

See OBSERVERLAND, C3

## Observer wrestling meet set

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

The number of teams participating in Saturday's Sixth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament is down from past years.

But the amount of teams challenging for first place could be greater than usual.

At least three teams, and possibly a fourth, could make a bid for the championship.

Defending champion Redford Catholic Central is strong again, but so are Livonia Stevenson and Plymouth Salem.

Wayne Memorial appears to have an outside shot, while Farmington always brings a representative squad.

### WRESTLING

After being gracious hosts the first five years, Garden City High School has given way to Salem. The wrestling begins at 9:30 a.m. with the finals scheduled for late afternoon.

Only 12 teams instead of the usual 16 have entered. The number is down because of the uncertainty surrounding the tournament, specifically the site, up until last month.

With the tournament up in the air late last fall, Livonia Franklin, Redford Thurston, Redford Union and Livonia Clarenceville already lined up appearances elsewhere.

Stevenson and CC are two-time Observerland champions, while Farmington claimed the first crown in 1992.

Salem defeated CC in a dual meet and tied Stevenson in a Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division match. Stevenson took sixth place at the 31st annual CC Invitational, three spots ahead of the host Shamrock.

Stevenson carries a 9-3-1 overall record heading into today's Lakes Division showdown against Walled Lake Central and is led by seniors Katsuhiko Sueda and Nick Petryk, state qualifiers as juniors.

See OBSERVERLAND, C3

## Kalczynski steps down as Rice grid assistant