

# SPORTS

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1997

## FARMINGTON:— FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### NFWB softball tryout

There will be an open tryout for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield/Ulimate Precision 16-and-under girls fast-pitch summer tournament team on Saturday, March 1.

The tryouts will take place in the North Farmington High School gymnasium from 3-6 p.m. Interested players should arrive prepared for an indoor tryout.

For additional information contact Rob Schrock at (810) 471-5665.

### Soccer registration

The Farmington Soccer Club is accepting late registrations for its spring season in age groups under-8 through under-14 for boys and girls.

Forms are available from the Parks and Recreation Department, Activities Center and public libraries on a first-come, space-available basis.

The fee for new players is \$95. For more information call 474-8558.

### Golf fitness program

To help novices and veteran golfers avoid golf-related injuries as well as improve their games, Botsford Hospital's Total Rehabilitation and Athletic Conditioning Center is offering Tee Off with TRACC every Wednesday from March 5 through 26.

The four-week program includes informative insights as well as practical demonstrations on conditioning and endurance exercises, strengthening to tone the muscles used in the golf swing, learning safe routines to improve flexibility and honing the proper practice techniques at the driving range.

The 90-minute sessions are offered at either 10 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. at TRACC, 39750 Grand River, in Novi. The fee of \$40 includes a take-home exercise program.

Due to limited capacity, pre-registration and pre-payment are required. For more information or to register call (810) 473-5600.

### Whalers post triumph

The Detroit Whalers built a 4-0 lead by the midway point of the second period, but then had to hold off the Erie Otters to post a 5-4 Ontario Hockey League victory Thursday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Harold Druken scored a goal and added two assists to lead the Whalers' assault, which lifted them to 25-30-5 and kept them in fourth place in the West Division.

But Steve Wasylik's power play goal with 7:38 left in the third period proved to be the game-winner. Erie scored in the game's final minute to pull within one but couldn't get the tying goal.

Erie Goody and Druken scored first-period goals to help Detroit to a 2-0 lead. Jan Voderaska and Julian Smith added markers in the second period to boost the Whaler advantage to 4-0, before the Otters answered with three second-period goals.

Mike Morrone contributed two assists. Robert Esche was in goal for Detroit; he made 23 saves.

Detroit plays host to the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1, and at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 2.

### Registration continues

Late registrations for the 1997 South Farmington Baseball/Softball season are still being accepted.

To register you must pick up the registration materials from the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department located behind city hall at Orchard Lake and Eleven Mile roads.

You must mail the registration form with the fee and a late registration fee to S.F.B.I., Post Office Box 176, Farmington, MI 48332.

### Bowling Bonanza

The Eighth Annual Alzheimer's Bowling Bonanza will make its way to Cloverland Bowl in Livonia on Saturday, March 15.

Bowlers are entitled to three games, lunch and door prizes for an \$8 fee. Registration for the event is due Feb. 28; pledges are due March 28.

The people with the top pledges will be eligible for such prizes as airline tickets, color television, ski machine and microwave oven.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Alzheimer's Association Detroit Area Chapter. For information call (810) 557-8277.

### U.S. Open golf courses

Historic Oakland Hills Country Club has hosted six U.S. Open golf tournaments. A number of books have been written about the course and the tournaments. Now another one is available. "Golf Courses of the U.S. Open" by John Steinbreder depicts each of the 48 golf courses that have hosted the U.S. Open since the inaugural Open held in 1895.

The book, featuring more than 150 full-color and black-and-white photographs, covers all aspects of these exceptional courses. It covers each course's unique design, as well as highlights from some of golf's most stirring competitions, giving a true sense of why these courses are considered to be among the world's elite.

Oakland Hills was the host for six Opens in 1924, 1937, 1951, 1961, 1985 and 1996.

### Western Lakes gymnastics



League finals: Farmington Public Schools gymnast Sarah Nolan performs a balance beam routine Thursday in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet. Farmington was fourth with a team total of 138.5 points; Nolan was ninth in all-around competition. See story on Page D2.

BY JOE KYRIAKOZA  
STAFF WRITER

Clarkston's parade survived the rain and the sloppy slope conditions as both its boys and girls squads managed to grab the top spot in the Southeastern Michigan Ski League championship meet Thursday at Alpine Valley.

The Wolves logged the best scores — girls 76, boys 119.5. On the girls side, Bloomfield Hills Lahser placed second (98) behind Liz Hill's first-place finish in the giant slalom. Farmington Hills Mercy was seventh (216).

"Finishing second to Clarkston is no shame," Lahser coach Mike Barry said. "Clarkston has a very good ski team."

Placing second for the boys was Grand Blanc with 157.5 points, followed by Detroit Country Day (161). Catholic Central was 10th (259).

Clarkston's success was established in the giant slalom, as the Wolves separated themselves from the next finisher by 40 points on the

### PREP SKIING

boys side and by 22 on the girls side. Lahser's girls second-place finish (45 slalom, 53 giant slalom) was rewarding for Barry despite the messy conditions.

"This is the most competitive ski race in Southeast Michigan because the best teams from the B, C and D regions are here," Barry said. "We have a motto here, 'Any slope, any snow, any time.' The girls try not to let the peripheral stuff that they can't control mess with their minds."

Adam Sparks' Walled Lake Central girls squad logged a fifth-place finish in the championship.

"We were hoping actually to place in the top three," Sparks said.

"The weather (was a factor). We were in third place after the slalom, but when the GS came, whoever had the fastest skis was going to win."

For the boys, Milford's Jeff Phillips claimed top honors in the slalom with a total time of 41.54,

## Hawks rally to win again



BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

It was a good thing for the Harrison Hawks and their fans the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball tournament started Friday and not Tuesday.

There was no school Saturday; nobody had to work. Everybody could relax and recover after a wild, frenzied, 56-53 victory over visiting Northville.

It was yet another draining and emotional experience for the Hawks, especially coach Mike Teachman, after Harrison made another second-half comeback.

"It's said a win is a win," Teachman said. "I have my eight-hour appointment with my therapist tomorrow morning. I told the kids we have practice Sunday; I have to go sleep for 30 hours."

The No. 3-seeded Hawks (15-3) will play host to seventh-seeded Livonia Franklin in a semifinal game Tuesday. The Patriots (10-8) knocked off No. 2 Plymouth Salem on Friday, 74-66.

"I think we have killed the cat; the nine lives are gone," Teachman said.

"We just have to go out and play basketball."

"I can only present them with what I think is right, and they still have to execute it."

Harrison, which trailed 43-39 going into the final period, took its first lead since early in the game, 50-49, when Matt Derocher scored with 2:14 remaining.

Kevin Bambenek and Justin Snow, who scored a game-high 16 points, kept the Hawks in front with half a minute to play, 54-51.

But Northville's Dave Terakedis made a driving layup and was fouled with :20 on the clock. He missed the free throw, however, and Harrison stayed one point ahead.

Bambenek, who missed four free throws down the stretch, made up for it with a game-saving steal.

Terakedis was going to the hoop again with a steal when Bambenek took away the ball with one second remaining.

Harrison's Jared Hopkins sank two free throws to ice the victory after Northville coach Tim Turner was given a technical foul following

See HAWKS, D3

## Shamrocks prevail in OT over Eaglets

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
STAFF WRITER

The rivalry is so good four quarters just won't do it justice.

Redford Catholic Central and Orchard Lake St. Mary's battled through two overtimes Thursday before the Shamrocks prevailed, 58-55, in the semifinals of the Detroit Catholic League tournament.

"We're in the finals," Catholic Central Coach Rick Coratti said. "It wasn't easy. Nothing's easy for us."

CC will play for the Redford City Championship against Bishop Borgess in the Catholic League finals Sunday at 4 p.m. in the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

"CC's been our nemesis in the tournament," said St. Mary's coach Dennis Butcher, whose team was trying to advance to the Catholic League final for the fourth-straight year. "They're a good team. They're well-coached. If we can't win it, I hope they do."

The Shamrocks downed the Eaglets in overtime a year ago, 73-59, in the finals of the Catholic League tournament. CC held the edge in overtime in that one, 16-2.

St. Mary's had beaten Catholic Central, 64-60, earlier this season

### BASKETBALL

but Butcher acknowledged that was then and this was now.

"It's much different playing Catholic Central in December than playing them now," he said. "Nick Moore, who's a sophomore, has stepped up his play quite a bit."

"And Chris Young was a timid player then. He's stepped up his game, too."

"Their team has matured." The rivalry isn't over, either. Both have a solid nucleus of players returning for future overtime battles.

Young is a junior and so is the player Butcher had fronting him most of the game in an effort to keep him from getting the ball, Mike Robinson. Young is 6-10 while Robinson is four inches shorter.

The game drew a crowd of a couple of thousand people, among whom were University of Notre Dame (and former NBA) Coach John McLeod.

Along with McLeod was former Detroit Pistons' broadcasting partner, George Blaha, and a former Irish star (and current Pistons' See SHAMROCKS, D3

## Mercy 7th, CC 10th in league finals

BY JOE KYRIAKOZA  
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"The weather (was a factor). We were in third place after the slalom, but when the GS came, whoever had the fastest skis was going to win."

For the boys, Milford's Jeff Phillips claimed top honors in the slalom with a total time of 41.54,

while Grand Blanc's Dale Stelter did the same in the giant slalom (47.60).

Country Day placed third overall but first in the slalom with 74 points. Nick Frisch was its top finisher with a time of 44.10 (eighth). Birmingham Brother Rice, which finished sixth overall, took second in the slalom with 77 points behind Erik Baraszu's (44.25) ninth-place finish.

"The kids skied well," Brother Rice coach Robert Rhoades said. "I was happy with the performance, especially in slalom."

West Bloomfield (seventh overall) tied Brighton for fourth in the slalom with 81 points led by Eric Kaban's (44.26) 10th-place finish.

Many of the above squads tuned up for Class A meet on Monday at Crystal Mountain in Thomasville, including the Mercy, Walled Lake Central and Lahser girls.

"I'd be happy anywhere in the top five," Sparks said. "There are some really good teams; we saw some today."



League meet: Renee Burek competes for Mercy's team.