

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1997

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Horton paces OCC victory

Kevin Horton of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) captured medalist honors Friday to lead the Oakland Community College men's golf team to the Eastern Conference championship in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The conference tournament was a three-stage event with 18-hole competitions at different sites on each occasion.

Horton shot 80 at Dearborn Country Club April 21, 74 at The Orchards in Washington Township on April 22 and 79 at Bay Valley Country Club in Bay City Friday for a 233 total.

"Kevin has really come around," OCC coach John Eicheland said. "He's probably the most improved player on the team."

"He's gone from being the seventh man on the winter trip to the second or third man. He's a hard worker; he's come on and shored up our starting five."

Horton is averaging 78.7 strokes per 18-hole match, which is second only to Ron Borawski's 76.6 average.

OCC's Pate Clinton followed Horton with a 235 tournament total; Erron Gomez and Dave Daiek shot 41.

Borawski missed the second event because he was taking a final exam and didn't have a three-match total.

Junior Olympic volleyball

It promises to be a busy few months for the The USA Michigan East Junior Olympic girls volleyball squad.

The team recently placed first at the AAU 18-Under Elite Tournament sponsored by the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Thus, they qualified for the East Coast championship slated for Penn State University this month, and the Midwest championship at Ball State University and the ASICS National Championship in Chicago next month.

Team members include Kristy Kreher, Katrina Lehman and Stacy Sakowski (Birmingham Marian); Blair Miller, Vanessa Callaghan and Kelly Sheeran (Birmingham Seaholm); Ashley Ossola (Northville); Sara Pogits (Livonia Ladywood); Stacy Bida (Royal Oak Kimball); Kilee Goetz (Blissfield); and Shannon Healy (Waterford Kettering).

Rice glidders honored

Brother Rice's 1996 football team enjoyed an excellent season on and off the football field.

The Warriors finished the regular season with an 8-1 overall record and qualified for the Class A playoffs. Rice was eliminated from the postseason tournament by suffering a tough first-round loss to Grosse Pointe North, 35-31.

In the classroom, the Warriors were recently awarded Academic All-State honors by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). It was the second straight year they gained academic honors.

"This award recognizes the academic accomplishments of the football team. We are proud of the young men who learned teamwork on the football field, while concentrating on their academic studies. All of our students are in a challenging college prep program and we value their scholastic work as well as their athletic achievements," said Brother Rice Athletic Director Mike Popson.

Whalers make it official

The Ontario Hockey League hockey club tore away the final vestiges of its former identity by officially changing its name to the Plymouth Whalers.

That has been the plan since the Whalers opened their new home, Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township last fall. Before making the change, the Whalers (in existence for seven years) had been known by many names, such as the Detroit Compuware Ambassadors, the Detroit Junior Red Wings and, most recently, the Detroit Whalers.

What the Whalers never had before was a permanent home, like the one they now enjoy on Beck Road near M-14. In their first season at the new arena, the Whalers drew more than 110,000 fans, an average of 3,430 per game — for a team that finished fourth in the OHL's West Division.

"It just makes sense," said Whalers' assistant general manager and marketing director Kerry Kerch, who announced the name change. "Since day one, Plymouth and its surrounding communities have welcomed us with cooperative support. Our fan-base is mostly from this area. It's our way of giving back and saying thank you."

Another no-hitter for prep

Mark Colo pitched his third no-hitter of the season April 26 for the Redford Catholic Central JV baseball team.

The Shamrocks won the first game over Harper Woods Notre Dame behind Colo's pitching, 8-2. He struck out 12.

CC's Casey Rogowski had five hits in the doubleheader, Bobby Malek and Mario D'Horin three each. ND won the second game, 8-6.

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Falcons stage soccer upset



The Farmington High girls soccer team demonstrated what it's capable of doing Wednesday with a 4-2 win over Livonia Churchill, 2-1. Coach Bob Neff hopes the Falcons will sustain their momentum.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Coach Bob Neff believed all along his team was capable of competing with the perennial powers in Western Lakes Activities Association girls soccer.

He was rewarded for his confidence Wednesday when Farmington High toppled host Livonia Churchill, one of the traditional elites of the WLA, 2-1.

Before the season started, Neff said the necessary next step for the Falcons was not just to play well against the best teams but to win some of those games.

"What I saw was them putting into action in a game what I saw in

practice," Neff said of his players. "I knew we had the talent; we just hadn't put it together in a game format."

"What we thought we had was what we saw from the kids. There's talent on the team, but no individual can do it alone; so we need the team work."

The victory improved Farmington's record to 4-4-1 overall and 4-3-1 in the conference.

Churchill suffered its first loss in the Western Lakes Activities Association and only its second of the season.

It was the first time in five years the Falcons have beaten the Chargers, who are 7-2-2 overall.

"(The victory) was (big) but is tempered by some games we wish we'd won but didn't," Neff said.

"If we're peaking now, it's going to be an excellent win. If this is just a flash in the pan, it will be disappointing, and it's going to take the next couple games to tell us that."

"If the team is coming together heading into the tournament, this should be good. We're hoping we've stepped up the level of our game and can sustain it."

Stacey Supanich scored for Churchill just four minutes into the game, and the 1-0 lead stood through much of the second half.

Farmington's Emilie Villemonte tied the score with 14 minutes remaining and assisted on the second goal.

Angela DeDomenico, who assisted on the first goal, netted the game-winner with seven minutes left when she fired a shot from 18 yards out.

"I really want to credit the defense

and the offense," Neff said. "It was a total team effort."

"Kate Adams kept us in the game with eight saves. They threatened a couple times with corner kicks, but we were able to push them away."

Neff singled out sweeper Claire Lockhart, stopper Dana Babinsky and outside fullbacks Olivia Nelums, Sarah Turk and Angi Newman for their work on defense.

The midfield crew of Marina Vazquez, Emily Curtin, Villemonte, Karen Pawlowski, Tara Tweedy and DeDomenico earned special mention from the coach along with forwards Jamie Jakacki and Jodi Guilford.

"We had 80 minutes of high effort by all of the kids who were on the field," Neff said. "It was a terrific effort by everybody; it was just a terrific team effort."

Farmington plays host to Walled Lake Western in another WLA cross-over game Monday and visits Livonia Stevenson in a Lakes Division contest Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEARON LONKALSKI

Marlins whip rivals: Senior defender Rebecca Coury controls the ball as she clears it from the Mercy defensive end of the field Thursday, leaving a host of Ladywood players in her wake.

Record setters

Marlins stay on roll with additional victories

GIRLS GOLF

Building on the momentum gained by winning the Oakland County championship Tuesday, Farmington Hills Mercy's golf team continued to produce excellent results last week.

The Marlins shot a school-record 177 team score in a dual meet Thursday against Livonia Ladywood and then won the Finckey best-ball tournament on Friday.

The old dual-meet record was 181, which Mercy shot once last season and tied earlier this year.

Jennifer Borowiec and Angela Harbar fired rounds of 41 at Glen Oaks Golf Course. All the Mercy scores were under 50 as Kristina Smith carded a 46 and Sarah Cahill 49.

"I was very pleased with (the team score), because it was very windy and cold that afternoon," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said.

"Jennifer and Angela were upset with themselves, because they took a six on a par-3. Both said they easily could have had 30, otherwise."

"They shot great scores but weren't satisfied with that. That's good because it shows they still want to do better."

The Marlins increased their Catholic League record to 8-0 and improved to 9-1 overall.

"We're definitely heading in the right direction, because the scores keep on getting better," Kowalski added.

In the best-ball tournament, each school entered three twosomes and counted the two best scores.

Mercy and Plymouth Salem tied for first place based on two best-ball scores, and the tiebreaker became the third twosome.

Cahill and Heidi Wegmueller had a best-ball total of 87 compared to 111 by Salem's third duo.

Borowiec and Smith combined for a 79-stroke best-ball total, Harbar and Lindsay Denasmore 87. The Rocks had scores of 75 and 91 to tie Mercy at 166.

"It was real good for the girls to learn team work," Kowalski said. "If they have a bad hole,

their teammate can rescue them. I saw them talking a lot more on the course than in dual meets, so it was a good learning experience."

Borowiec was the runner-up for individual medalist honors with an 83 at Rush Lake Hills Golf Course. Salem's Katie Collins was first (81), and teammate Katie Murina was third (84).

Smith shot 91, Harbar 98 and Denasmore 104. Cahill had her best 18-hole high school score with a 95, and Wegmueller finished with 101.

"I was very pleased with our individual scores and pleased our pairings worked so well," Kowalski said. "We sent six good golfers out there, and it's nice to have that luxury."

"The girls were very pleased to be in two tournaments this week and win both. Now they're looking forward to the week after next."

Mercy will defend its league title Tuesday, May 13, at St. John's Golf Course in Plymouth and attempt to qualify again for the state finals at Sylvan Glen Golf Course on Friday, May 16.

"Their confidence is building," Kowalski added. "Our goal is to finish in the top five in this state."

Marlins trounce Blazers

Betsy and Mary Gignac provided new meaning for the term "Sisters of Mercy" on the soccer field Thursday.

They combined for three goals and three assists to lead Farmington Hills Mercy to a 4-1 victory over Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood.

Senior Betsy Gignac scored two goals and had one assist; sophomore Mary Gignac had two assists — both on her sister's goals — and scored once herself.

SOCCER

Jena Kluska accounted for the other Mercy goal with help from Betsy Gignac. Shannon Lirette assisted on the Mary Gignac goal.

The Marlins, who led 4-0 at half time, improved to 6-2 in the Catholic League Central Division.

"The wind was a huge factor," Mercy coach Deepak Shrivaram said. "In the first half, we had the wind to our advantage, and I know it helped our forwards. If we touched the ball, it just flew. We took advantage of that and really began to click."

Jenny LaChapelle scored 15 minutes into the second half for the Blazers, 2-8-1 overall. Kelly Fuller made eight saves in goal for Mercy.

"In the second half, we made an adjustment because we were going against the wind," Shrivaram said. "We had some good play in the back from Lynn Brownlie and Mary Gignac, who we moved from center-halfback to sweeper."

Laurin Hendrickson, Mario Lantz, Rebecca Coury and Stephanie Kreeg

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