

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Fall baseball champs

With a number of Observer and Eccentric players on its roster, Dearborn Travel won the championship of The Sports Academy's high school fall baseball league.

Dearborn won the American League title and defeated Livonia in the championship game, 10-6. Livonia and North Farmington tied for the National League crown, but Livonia won a playoff contest, 8-1.

All three teams were 13-1 in league play. Eighteen teams participated in the league, playing a 14-game schedule spread over seven weeks.

In the final Oct. 5 at the University of Detroit-Mercy, Livonia led 5-2 early in the game, but Dearborn rallied with a seven-run sixth inning. Jason Wanner (Toledo) broke a 6-5 tie with a two-run double, and game MVP Leonard Wallace (Detroit) followed with a two-run homer.

Area players on the Dearborn team were Tim Reeves, Westland John Glenn; Andy Clauser, Troy; Eric Sams, Birmingham Groves; Charlie Avery, Farmington; Kevin Gichard, Northville; and Redford Catholic Central's Tony Nowakowski. Matt Firlik and Adam Harris. Bob Bracci coached the Dearborn Travel team; Livonia was coached by Bill Rabe.

Fundraiser for Varajan

A Halloween fundraiser party for former All-Observer griddler and 1986 Redford Catholic Central graduate Nick Varajan, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident, will be 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road in Livonia.

Varajan, a Livonia native who also played at the University of Toledo, is undergoing a series of operations to repair facial injuries.

The cost, \$50 per person (adults only), includes food and refreshments, music, 50-60 raffle and door prizes.

You must RSVP by Monday, Oct. 27, by calling Jeff or Debbie Rioux at (313) 937-8955.

Donations can also be made payable to Milan or Judy Varajan in care of Jeff Rioux, 9581 Seminole, Redford Township, MI 48239.

Author talks about golf

Joe Amato, a professor of history at Southwest State University in Minnesota, will talk about his book "Golf Beats Us All" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Polish Panorama Room at Orchard Lake St. Mary's College. The program is free.

His book is the latest of more than two dozen books he has written on subjects ranging from an account of a notorious farm murder to an examination of contemporary ethics.

Amato, who won a four-year caddy scholarship to the University of Michigan, found his dream of turning pro and acquiring perfection on the golf course eluding him.

"If I could not defeat golf on the course," he writes in the introduction to his book, "then I would encompass it by understanding."

His book resembles more a meditation on life's agonies and ecstasies than a tipster's guide to golf.

Amato's advice to someone who wants to take up the sport?

"Learn to hit the ball solid or don't bother. If you're not really hitting the golf ball, you're cut off from the rudimentary pleasure of the sense of force, of propelling something through space."

Indoor hitting leagues

Indoor softball and baseball batting leagues will begin play Monday, Oct. 20, at The Upper Deck in Northville.

Days and times for age groups are as follows — boys 18 and under: 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; boys 14 and under: 4, 5 and 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; boys 12 and under: 4, 5 and 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; girls 18 and under fastpitch: 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

There are five players per team. The cost is \$70 for five weeks and 10 games. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 15. For information call (248) 349-0008.

Oops! Wrong name

Farmington Harrison junior quarterback Dave Pesci was misidentified in a football story Thursday in the Observer.

Raiders can't stop Rocketmen



He plays defense, too: Kirk Moundros rushed for 119 yards Friday, but he puts a hit on a John Glenn ball carrier on this play.

North Farmington's football team refused to let state-ranked Westland John Glenn push it around Friday. But the undefeated Rockets eventually claimed a 19-7 victory behind the running of Reggie Spearmon.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington was the latest team to throw itself in front of the Westland John Glenn football juggernaut Friday afternoon.

The Raiders slowed but couldn't stop the undefeated Rockets, holding Glenn to one first-half touchdown before conceding a 19-7 defeat at North.

"North Farmington gave a very gutsy performance," Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said. "They played with a lot of determination. Coach (Jim) O'Leary and his staff should be proud of their effort."

Glenn's victory sets up a showdown with Walled Lake Central for the Lakes Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association Friday at Central.

Both teams are 4-0 in the division. The Rockets, ranked No. 4 in Class AA, are 6-0 overall. The Raiders are 3-3 and 1-3.

"It's tough to lose, but I'm not upset with our kids," O'Leary said. "I thought they played as hard as they possibly could."

"Now we just want to go 6-3. That would really make our season, and I think we have a shot at it."

Junior tailback Reggie Spearmon did most of the damage for the Rockets, rushing for 148 yards and a pair of 4-yard touchdowns on 26 carries.

His zig-zagging, 21-yard run on fourth-and-5 from the North 29 led to Glenn's first touchdown with 2:35 left in the first quarter.

Two plays later, senior quarter Justin Berent passed 5 yards to Matt Biddinger in the back corner of the end zone for the score, and Rob Mason kicked the extra point.

"Reggie runs hard; he can make guys miss," Gordon said. "He's tough tackle even when you're there," O'Leary said, "but we made a lot of good tackles, too."

The Raiders drove to the Glenn 17, but a fourth-down pass in the end zone was incomplete. The Rockets moved

the ball to the North 19 but were stopped on downs, too.

Glenn drove 70 yards in 10 plays (all running) with the third-quarter kickoff to score again. Spearmon had all but 10 of the yards on eight carries.

"At halftime, we said we were going to go right at them," Gordon said. "The first drive of the second half was important. We thought, if we scored right there, that would put us in position to win the game."

The Rockets made it 19-0 on their second possession of the second half. A 36-yard pass from Berent to Eric Jones led to another Spearmon TD on the next play. An attempted two-point conversion failed.

Following Biddinger's interception midway in the final quarter, Gordon sent out his second offensive unit and later the backup defense.

The Raiders scored with 40 seconds remaining on Brant Reilly's 23-yard pass to Evan Feldman and Lance Sittler's extra point.

Kirk Moundros, who rushed five times for 49 yards during the 80-yard scoring drive, finished with 119 yards on 27 carries.

"I'm proud of these kids," O'Leary said, adding the Raiders were minus injured starters Colin Parks-Fried, Nathan Boji and Garry Pento. "Glenn outplayed us; they beat us. But I think our kids came a long way today in realizing they're a pretty good football team."

Berent was 8-of-18 passing for 101 yards. Jones had four catches for 51 yards, and fullback John Pettit added 79 rushing yards on six carries. Reilly completed four of 17 passes for 46 yards. Glenn outgained North 333-171.

"I think we did a good job in the secondary. I think we confused them a bit," O'Leary said. "We dropped off the outside linebackers into different zones and got in the passing lanes."

"We wanted to take away their screen passes, because a 5-yard play turns into 20 yards with their kids."

One touchdown too costly for Farmington

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

You might say Farmington got done in by a Fair job on the part of Plymouth Salem.

Sophomore Matt Fair, the Rocks' quarterback of the future, did a better than fair job of running Salem's option attack as an emergency starter Friday night to help Plymouth edge Farmington, 7-0.

Fair was one of four fresh faces

FOOTBALL

Coach Tom Moshimer elected to start ahead of disciplined regulars.

"We put in some new faces under trying circumstances," Moshimer said after the Rocks improved to 2-2 in the Lakes Division in a 3-3 season. The Falcons are now 2-4 overall, 1-3 in the Lakes.

"They did a pretty good job,"

Moshimer said of linemen Thomas Foor, receiver/defensive back Kevin Conte, lineman Rob Drabicki and Fair. "Our quarterback did an excellent job, being only a sophomore."

"They were replacements and they did a good job under trying circumstances."

Fairness mandates pointing out Farmington was minus the services of captain David Viane, who punts, plays wide receiver and defensive back.

The only touchdown of the game

came in the third quarter on a 3-yard run by wingback Charlie Schmidt. The score was set up by an interception.

Linebacker Jason Lukaski, a sophomore, tipped a pass by quarterback Joel Lewis of Farmington and defensive back Jeff McKian alertly fielded the pop-up on the Falcons' 25.

The Rocks' offensive line cleared some holes for junior fullback Eric Peterson, Fair and running back

Please see FALCONS, E4

Hawks down Mustangs to remain in contention

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Winning is never easy as proven by the Farmington Harrison girls basketball team Thursday.

Even though the Hawks best visiting Northville 51-45, they had to overcome their share of adversity.

The Hawks were already faced with the task of controlling one of the best players in the league, Northville's Lauren Metaj. Add to that, guard Ari Ault was playing sick and center Amy Jenkins was recovering from being ill.

And to top it off, forward Amy Roble picked up her fourth foul just 1:09 into the second half. She left the game, and the visiting Mustangs went on a 7-0 run to take a 34-27 lead.

Faced with the possibility of losing control of the game, Harrison coach Pete Mantyla put Roble back on the floor, and the result was a 17-0 Harrison run.

With the win, the Hawks improved to 8-3 overall and 4-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Mustangs dropped to 7-3 and 3-2.

"This win gives us a chance to win the division and keeps us in the hunt to win the conference," Mantyla said. "There's still a long way to go, and I don't think any team will go undefeated in our league."

Metaj led all scorers with 22 points. Senior forward Christine Herndon

BASKETBALL

added nine for Northville.

The Hawks were led by senior guard Mahogany Fletcher's 12 points. Ault added 11 points and six assists; Roble had nine points and five boards.

What hurt Northville for the second straight game was scoring droughts. On Tuesday, the Mustangs went scoreless in the second quarter en route to a 48-35 loss to Plymouth Salem.

On Thursday, the Mustangs fell behind 8-0. In the second half, Northville went scoreless for 7:25 as the Hawks turned a 34-27 deficit into a 44-34 advantage.

"Those dry spells haven't been a problem all season until the past two games," Northville coach Pete Wright said. "Against Salem, I thought we were tentative."

"Tonight, I thought their pressure affected us. We would make a turnover and that would lead to two or three more turnovers. We've got to figure how to be more consistent for the entire game."

Part of the problem Northville faced was caused by the constant pressure of the Harrison defense. The Mustangs made an uncharacteristic 31 turnovers.

"I wanted us to utilize our height,



Please see HAWKS, E4