

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Adult men's hoop

The City of Farmington Hills is accepting new team registration for men's basketball. Registration is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Leagues will play one night per week, Sundays and Mondays. The cost is \$325 per team.

League play will begin the first week in January, 1998 at the Costick Activities Center, Eleven Mile Road and Middlebelt area. For further information, call the Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (313) 473-9570.

Recreation volleyball

The Farmington Hills Recreation Division is offering men's and co-ed's open volleyball leagues in the gymnasium at the Costick Activities Center, located on Eleven Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Games will be on Tuesday evenings and will start Jan. 6, 1998.

Run volunteers needed

Each year, more than 1,000 runners and walkers participate in the annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K run/walk and Kids Fun Run. These races, however, wouldn't happen without the help of volunteers. More than 1,500 volunteers work at the event each year. They pass out water along the course, serve as course marshals and help with registration. Each volunteer receives a t-shirt and an invitation to a post-race volunteer banquet. Volunteers are being recruited for this year's half-marathon, 5K run/walk and Kids Fun Run, which will be held on Sunday, April 19, beginning at West Bloomfield High School.

To volunteer, call Judy Share-Vine, recreation superintendent for West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at (248) 738-2500.

Hockey contest

Red Wing fans, take notice. MediaOne and ESPN have joined forces to bring the Hockeyman contest to Michigan. The contest runs through March 27 and will include five raffles for hockey and Red Wings-related prizes.

There is no purchase necessary, but the contest is open to Michigan residents 18 and older. Complete contest details and entry forms are available at all Michigan MediaOne locations.

Prizes include a trip for two to Chicago for the Wings/Blackhawks game Dec. 11; a trip to Vancouver to see the 1998 NHL All-Star game; a bundle of prizes on Jan. 19, including three ESPN2 NHL jackets, 24 "Fire on Ice" T-shirts, and 24 ESPN2 hats; a trip for two to the ESPN world headquarters in Bristol, Conn. Feb. 19; and a trip for two to a 1998 Stanley Cup championship game April 1.

Winter hitting camp

The baseball coaching staff at Madonna University will conduct a pair of indoor winter hitting camps this month.

Session I (ages 8-12) will be from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 21 and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22; Session II (ages 13-18) will be from 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 and 4-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

The camp features two full-length hitting tunnels and video taping. The cost for advance registration is \$80. Space is limited.

For more information, call Madonna assistant coach Sean Maloney at (313) 432-5727.

Collegiate baseball

Anyone interested in playing in the 21-and-under Livonia Collegiate Baseball League should contact Greg Wozniak at (313) 937-0669.

LaCrosse honored

Kalamazoo College junior basketball player Kelly LaCrosse (Harrison) was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Player of the Week for Dec. 8-14.

She was the first basketball player to receive the honor for a second time this season. LaCrosse was previously honored the last week of November.

The 6-foot-8 junior scored 60 points in three games for the week.

Hoop teams keep on winning

By SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Destroy. Crush. Thrash. Demolish. Pick any or all of the above adjectives because each applies to North Farmington's 77-54 home victory over South Lyon Tuesday night.

Fourteen Raiders scored as Phil Wama lead the way 19 points, including five three-pointers. Alan Pennella added 13 and Jason Melvin scored nine points for North Farmington (2-0).

"I felt we played well and had good intensity," said coach Brian Swinehart, who was pleased his team's offensive effort. "We're a very balanced team. There's not one guy that's a dominate scorer, but we've got a lot of guys that can score."

While the final score indicated a 23-point victory for the Raiders, the game was truly not that close.

North Farmington led by as many as 33 in the third quarter. Swinehart used his bench liberally in the final 12 minutes of the game.

Tuesday's game didn't look like it would wind up so lopsided early on.

South Lyon took an early 4-3 lead with about a minute gone by. But North's Pennella swished a three-pointer then made a steal and a basket to give the Raiders a 10-4 advantage at the five minute mark.

The sophomore's steal proved to be a foreshadowing. North Farmington pressed and pressured South Lyon into turnover after turnover.

The Lions, in fact, made upwards of 30 turnovers in the game.

"Our scouting report said we could pressure them," Swinehart said. "South Lyon's inability to protect the ball led to numerous easy scoring chances for North Farmington. Wama made a steal and a hoop at 2:35 to make it 14-6."

The Raiders led 17-8 by the end of the period. It didn't get any better for South Lyon in the second.

North outscored the visitors 16-2 in the second quarter. Wama had a pair of three-pointers to pace the attack in the period.

The Raiders led 32-10 at halftime. Swinehart couldn't find much fault with his team's performance in the first half.

"What we've done well this year," he added, "is play as a team. Our guys are really unselfish."

It got ugly in the third for South Lyon. The Raiders scored at will.

A Wama three-pointer gave North a 49-19 advantage with 5:07 left in the period. A basket by Ray Louisa and free throw from Joel Szirtes made it 52-19.



Nice save: North Farmington's Kirk Moundros makes a good one-handed grab to save a possession for the Raiders. North Farmington swamped South Lyon, 77-54 Tuesday night to go to 2-0.

North led 55-23 going into the fourth. South Lyon nearly doubled its output in the fourth playing against the Raiders' bench.

Gary Neighbors led the Lions with 14 points while Matt Nelson and Randy Duncan each added 10.

North Farmington plays its second straight Kensington Valley Conference opponent by taking on Milford today on the road. Swinehart said it'll be a test.

"Milford is always tough," he said. "They'll be disciplined and take good shots."

Free throw wins it

Andrew Burt's free throw with three-tenths of a second showing on the clock Tuesday night gave Farmington Harrison a 62-61 victory over Brighton.

"The boys hung in there and came back," Coach Mike Teachman said. "We tried to give the game away."

"We had two lulls. Without those two, we had a good win on our hands."

Despite the fact free throw shooting is down everywhere, free throws continue to decide games.

Brighton shot 23 of them in its home gym. And made 17.

Farmington Harrison shot six. And made three.

The big one, of course, was by Burt, who was hammered in the lane as he attempted a game-winning shot in mid-play with the Hawks and Bulldogs tied at 61.

He missed the first and made the second to decide the contest. Brighton is now 1-2 while Harrison is 3-0.

Matt Derocher played off foul trouble and scored 20 points. Brighton's All-Everything Drew Henson, the quarterback who is bound to Michigan if pro baseball doesn't get him first, scored 18 points to lead the Bulldogs but only scored seven of those while being guarded by Derocher.

Jared Hopkins led Harrison with 22 points while Josh Olinik backed Henson with 19 for Brighton.

The Bulldogs held a 56-52 lead with time winding down when Derocher hit an arching triple and then a basket to put the Hawks ahead, 57-56.

Henson countered for Brighton but Hopkins' Derocher in the paint and he double-clutched over Henson, made the basket and converted the

three-point play when fouled to make it 60-58.

Olinik retaliated with his own three-point play to put Brighton ahead, 61-60 inside 20 seconds. A blown layup gave Harrison the ball and the Hawks worked it in to Burt in the paint, where the junior was fouled.

Harrison took a 24-22 lead after one quarter but was holding a 22-12 lead when it gave up eight unanswered points on unfouled turnovers. A similar stretch early in the fourth quarter hurt the Hawks.

Teachman's team won the second quarter 16-11 and the third by a 10-9 margin.

Burt ended with six points and Teachman said he was pleased with his play and also that of reserve Zach Burton, who "gave us a nice lift with six points and also got four rebounds. He helped out on Henson."

Derocher drew his second foul with six minutes left in the second quarter so Teachman sat him down so he'd be able to play aggressively in the second half.

"Henson is a neat player," Teach-

Please see HOOPS, C2

Area swimmers tank up

Pool season gets under way for North Farmington, Hawks, Falcon teams

By SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High won't have the area's biggest swim team this season.

In fact, the Falcons will have a hard time filling out a full lineup sheet with just 13 athletes. But that doesn't mean they'll roll over and play dead, either.

"We'll do some damage one way or another," coach Ross Bandy said of the

Western Lakes Activities Association league meet in February. "We might not be first or even fifth, but we'll take some points away from people."

Farmington never has had huge squads. Bandy said 20-25 swimmers has been the norm over the past five years.

Numbers would've been right around that figure, but about a half dozen

underclassmen decided not to return to the team.

"It's very disappointing to me," said Bandy, who has coached the Falcons for 14 seasons. "But the kids that are here are the ones that really want to be here."

The Falcons are coming off a successful 1996-97 season.

Farmington finished third at last year's league meet and posted a 7-4 overall record. Additionally, several swimmers qualified for the state finals.

Jeff Thomas and John Hawkins are two standouts that graduated. Thomas was an Oakland County champ while Hawkins won two events at the conference meet.

"We lost a lot of good utility swimmers as well," Bandy said. "We lost a considerable amount of kids."

Of the 13 on this year's team, six are returners.

Pete Butler headlines those returners. He was a WLAA co-champ in the 100-yard freestyle a season ago. The senior will stick with sprint events, Bandy said.

Matt Beauchamp is a four-year swimmer. He'll concentrate on the breaststroke.

Ryan Scheidies is another Farmington senior. Bandy said Scheidies has made significant improvement in his career as a Falcon.

"He has improved every year," he commented.

Diver John Lowery should earn plenty of points for Farmington, too. "I think he'll be in the league's top eight," Bandy said.

Andrew Berger, also a senior, will swim the breaststroke. Devin Hopper is a sophomore that should contribute in the backstroke.

Freshman Rob Gunluck will see plenty of action. Bandy said he swims three strokes, butterfly, back and freestyle.

"We'll definitely need him," he added. "It'll be tough for Farmington to repeat its 7-4 dual meet season, the coach said. Having just 13 swimmers will leave the Falcons thin in several events."

"It'll be difficult to win a meet," Bandy said. "We'll have to give up a lot of points."

Despite that fact, he thinks Farmington can do decently at the WLAA meet where a few swimmers can score a lot of points.

"We'd like to be back in the top five," Bandy said.

Hawks win opener

Farmington Harrison will battle the numbers problem again but is hopeful of improving on last season's 2-7 dual meet record.

"We think we'll be a better league and state team," Coach Lisa Collins said. "We just don't have the numbers to compete at the dual meet level."

"At the (WLAA) league (level), we're hoping to move up into the top six. At the state (meet), we hope to have 3-4 swimmers place and maybe get a relay team or two qualified."

Collins' team debuted Tuesday at North Farmington and swam away from Farmdale, 103-65.

The Hawks' medley relay team of Josh Duffy, Matt Walker, Steve Schwadt and J.T. Svoke combined to swim a winning time of 1:54.17.

The 400 freestyle relay team of Joe Brincat, sophomores Dan Jacde and Kris Wong plus J.T. Svoke won its the backstroke.

Please see SWIM, C3



Making Waves: Josh Duffy is one of the seniors coach Lisa Collins is counting on to lead Farmington Harrison's swim team this season. Duffy will swim backstroke, individual medley and freestyle for the Hawks.