

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Football banquet

The 1997 Farmington football team held its annual banquet on Nov. 19 at Vladimir's Banquet Hall. The following players were recognized for outstanding performances:

MVP - Nick Colton and Todd Richardson; Most Improved - Tim Smith and Saif Salman; Granite Award - Scott Ryce; Effort - Steve Economy; Outstanding Lineman - Ben Yowell; Coach's Cup - Mark Ostach; Scout Team - Robby Ilich; Big Play - Grant Weber; Our Gang - Todd Richardson; Specialist - Todd Richardson; Big Hit - Jon Zomphier; Key Block - Ben Yowell and Jungchul Kim; Captains - Joel Lewis and Bryant Bronner

Adult men's basketball

The City of Farmington Hills is accepting new team registration for men's basketball. Registration is based on a first-come, first-serve 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 (810) 473-9570.

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.

Collegiate baseball

Anyone interested in playing in the 21-and-under Livonia Collegiate Baseball League should contact Greg Wozniak at (313) 937-0609.

Cowboy action

The wild, wild west is comin' to town, with the New Dodge World's Toughest Bulls and Broncos show scheduled to invade Joe Louis Arena Jan. 3 (7:30 p.m. show) and Jan. 4 (2 p.m.).

Touted as the most prestigious and unique rodeo to ride through Michigan and surrounding states, this year's show has four pro teams of nine cowboys each competing in bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding.

Other attractions include a free concert following Saturday's show, featuring country singing sensation Ty Herndon; free pony rides on Sunday, with kids tickets (12 and under) half-price; and the world's smallest "cowboy": Whiplash, a five-pound monkey who will entertain audiences with his antics while he rides his "mount" — a collie — in rounding up wild sheep.

Ticket prices are \$18, \$16, \$12 and \$10 and are available at the Joe Louis Arena, the Fox Theatre Box Offices, and all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets can also be purchased by phone by calling (248) 645-6666.

For further information, call (313) 933-6606.

Mat site changes

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has announced changes in the format and venue of its Lower Peninsula Individual Wrestling Finals. The changes are effective in 1999.

The new format will feature a three-day event which will be held at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. This will allow all four classes to compete in one facility.

Previously, the finals were conducted in a two-day format at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek and University Arena in Kalamazoo.

The new format will begin on a Thursday, and will allow more time between matches and will showcase the championship match in each weight class in each division (instead of the matches happening simultaneously).

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene may send them to sports editor Don O'Mara, 36321 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (313) 581-7279.

Farmington slams Railsplitters

Falcons rip
Lincoln 81-58
behind Gaines,
Orr; now 4-0

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

At the height of his powers, Mike Tyson was the most feared boxer on the planet.

The heavyweight would unleash a ferocious attack from the opening bell and not stop until his opponent was on the canvas. Farmington High's 81-58 home victory over Ypsilanti-Lincoln Thursday night was a lot like an old Tyson fight.

The Falcons (4-0) threw haymaker after haymaker to pound out a 14-point lead by the end of the first quarter. The Railsplitters never knew what hit them.

"We came out and tried to establish tempo," Farmington coach Dennis Mikel said. "We like to get up and down the floor."

"I feel good about this group. They play hard and play together."

Farmington opened the game with a 12-1 run. Trevor Gaines put an exclamation on the run with a thunderous slam dunk at 7:16 of the quarter.

The Falcons didn't let up and pressured Lincoln into numerous turnovers. Ypsilanti, in fact, had more than a dozen turnovers in the first half.

"Our game plan is to play up tempo," Mikel said, "no matter who we're playing."

Gaines and Matt Orr each scored 18 points to lead Farmington. Bryant Bronner played a solid game off the bench by adding 11 points. A total of 11 Falcons scored in the contest.

Mikel said he liked his team's balanced scoring. The Falcons have good depth in most areas, he added.

"We're a little thin on the inside," the coach commented. "But we have a lot of people that can shoot from the perimeter."

After taking a 24-10 first quarter lead, Farmington made the game a rout in the second.

The Falcons started the period much the way they did the first by going on a 16-4 run. A pair of three-pointers from Orr highlighted the spurt, which gave Farmington a 40-14 lead about midway through the quarter.

Gaines finished with 12 points in the half while Orr added 10. The Falcons led 49-20 at halftime.

That lead stretched to 32 points with five minutes remaining in the third quarter. Mikel went to his bench at that point.

Ypsilanti-Lincoln responded with a run of its own. The Railsplitters cut the lead to 20, 53-45, by the end of the period.

Chuck Hamilton keyed the run with 11 third quarter points. He led

Please see BASKETBALL, E2



Air Mikel?: Farmington High's Matt Mikel drives to the basket in Thursday's win over Lincoln. He finished with eight points for the 4-0 Falcons. Mikel is the squad's point guard.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Looking Good

Gymnasts open with victory

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

So far, so good.

Farmington's combined gymnastics squad got off to a solid start Wednesday night with a 128.45-125.70 road victory over Grosse Pointe North.

According to co-coach Jeff Dwyer, the team has been sharp since the start of practice last month. He gave credit to the gymnasts' hard work in the off-season.

"A lot of the girls dedicated themselves over the summer," Dwyer commented. "I see a lot more potential with this team. If they're hungry, I think they'll do well."

Well is exactly how the combined team performed Wednesday.

Farmington posted good scores in three of four events to finish with 128 points. Dwyer, who shares coaching

responsibilities with Alicia Herpick, thinks the squad will eventually tally in the 130s.

"I like this group of girls," he added. "I think we'll go far."

Marie Law and Kelly Barenie led the way in the vaulting competition Wednesday. The senior duo tied for second overall with an 8.45.

Lauren Ouellette was next for Farmington with a 7.95. Jamie Milltel scored a 7.95.

On the uneven bars, Law was second overall with a 7.9. Brook Rubin placed third at 7.7. Ouellette had a 7.75 and Anna Clark a 7.45.

Rubin led a sweep of the balance beam by scoring 8.55. Law was second at 8.2, Milltel third at 8.0 and Ouellette finished with a score of 7.4.

In the floor exercise, Rubin scored an 8.4, Barenie an 8.2, Law 8.15 and Liz Stoler had a

7.95. Farmington was scheduled to open the season last week in a meet with Ann Arbor, but it was snowed out.

The combined team is now off until after the holidays. Farmington hosts Salem Jan. 7 to open its Western Lakes Activities Association schedule.

Dwyer said the league will be tough again this season.

"It was the hardest league in the state last year," he added. "It'll be the hardest league in the state this year, too."

Farmington finished third in the WLAA last year behind Highland and Northville. Dwyer said those two will likely battle again for the conference championship.

"I don't think we'll be able to challenge them," he said. "We're a really good team, but

Please see GYMNASTICS, E4



Strong again: Liz Stoler will be counted upon for strong performances this winter for Farmington.