

# Sports & Recreation

Dan O'Meara, Editor 313-953-2141

on the web: <http://observer.eccentric.com>

The Farmington  
Observer  
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## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### CC edges Cranbrook

Keith Rowe scored the winning goal with 17 seconds remaining in the hockey game Wednesday to give Redford Catholic Central a 2-1 victory over host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

CC sophomore Ben Dunne made his high school debut in goal, stopped 23 shots and played an outstanding game, according to CC coach Gordie St. John.

The Shamrocks (5-0-2) opened the scoring with Ian Devlin's goal at 10:56 in the first period. He was assisted by Pat O'Don and Dave Turner. Rowe's goal was unassisted.

Cranbrook evened the score at the 14-minute mark of the second period. Ryan Kitson put the only shot past Dunne with assists from B.J. Markle and Del DeWindt.

The Cranes are the No. 1-ranked team in Class B-C-D.

"They were the only team to beat us last year, so the kids were really flying," St. John said.

"It was a fabulous game to watch. Most games you go to are reasonably dull, but this was an up-and-down, hard-skating game. Both teams played very well."

### Herrington top coach

Farmington Harrison's John Herrington was named Class A Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

The MHSFCA selects a coach of the year in each of the eight classes. Others honored were AA: Paul Versa, Ann Arbor Huron; BB: Larry Belor, West Branch Ogemaw Heights; CC: Jack Schugars, Muskegon Okridge; DD: Jim Coady, Lawrence; E: Don Lessner, Riverview; F: Dusty Fairfield, Ravenna; G: Ron Warner, Lake Linden-Hubbell.

Harrison was recognized as an academic all-state honorable mention team, and Harrison senior Brian Lewis received an academic all-state special mention. The Hawks had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.687.

The Class A academic all-state teams were Okemos, Gaylord, Woodhaven and Northville. The other Class A honorable mentions are Mount Pleasant, Owosso and Tronton.

### Precision skaters

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club will be the host for the 1998 USFSA Midwestern Precision Team Sectional Championship Feb. 6-8 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

The sectional serves as a national qualifier for all precision teams in the Midwest. Those teams placing highest at the sectional advance to the USFSA National Precision Championships in March in San Diego.

Of the three U.S. geographical sections, the Midwestern is the largest. Some 146 teams and 3,000 skaters are expected to compete.

Precision team skating is expected to become an Olympic event in 2002, magnifying the importance of such championships.

### YMCA roller hockey

Calling all middle school kids looking for something fun to do Saturday nights this winter!

On most Saturdays from Jan. 24 through April (call for exact dates) the Farmington YMCA will be hosting indoor roller hockey from 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Teams will be determined after registration. Players need to provide their own equipment. The YMCA will provide shirts and goalie equipment.

The cost is \$40 for full members, \$80 for program members. Call (248) 653-4020 for registration information.

### SFB registers players

South Farmington Baseball will register players for T-ball, girls softball and boys baseball for the 1998 season at the Heritage Park Day Center 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

Boys must be between the ages 5 to 18 on Aug. 1, 1998. Girls must be between the ages 5 to 15 on Sept. 1, 1998.

South Farmington will also register managers, coaches and volunteers. Boys or girls over the age of 11 can register as an umpire and should call Tim Hammer at 474-3483.

For more information call the South Farmington Info Line (474-3925).

## Hawks dashed against the Rocks



Farmington Harrison suffered its first loss in boys basketball Friday as Plymouth Salem rolled to a 66-51 victory in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest. The Hawks slip to 6-1 overall; the Rocks improve to 6-2.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

The timing of it made Bob Brodie a happy coach. In an important, early-season game Friday, he saw what he believed to be the real Plymouth Salem boys basketball team.

So did Farmington Harrison, which saw its perfect record tarnished with its first loss after visiting Salem did everything right and ran off with a 66-51 victory.

The Rocks, who have won six consecutive games since dropping their first two, are 6-2 overall and 2-0 in the

Western Lakes Activities Association. The Hawks are 6-1 and 1-1.

"We played like we're capable of playing," Brodie said. "I knew if we did that we'd be OK. But I didn't know who would show up — and we did."

"We host a quality hallclub tonight. Harrison has some seasoned veterans and quality players. We were just better tonight."

Senior Jeff McKian dropped in a game-high 26 points to lead Salem. The Rocks found him open on the baseline for a lot of short, uncontested jumpers.

McKian scored 12 points in the sec-

ond quarter as the Rocks extended a 13-10 lead to 33-22 at halftime.

He had another 13 in the second half, including six in the fourth quarter as Salem finished off Harrison with a 20-13 point advantage.

"Coach always tells us to bump shoulders coming off the screen, and I was losing the defender that way," McKian said. "After awhile I felt I just wouldn't miss, so I kept shooting."

"We saw the potential we had in the summer. We had a slow start in the first two games and have really picked it up. We're looking better and better, but we still have to improve."

Besides running the Salem offense effectively at the point, senior guard Andy Power scored 11 points, including three three-point baskets.

He had two in the second quarter to help the Rocks extend a 19-13 lead to 29-16, which Harrison coach Mike

Teachman thought was a turning point in the game.

"They made open shots and we didn't; they got second shots and we didn't," Teachman said. "If that had been our best game and we lost like that, it would be real upsetting, but it wasn't."

"We thought we would play good D, but they broke us down with the second and third pass. And they made some good shots, too."

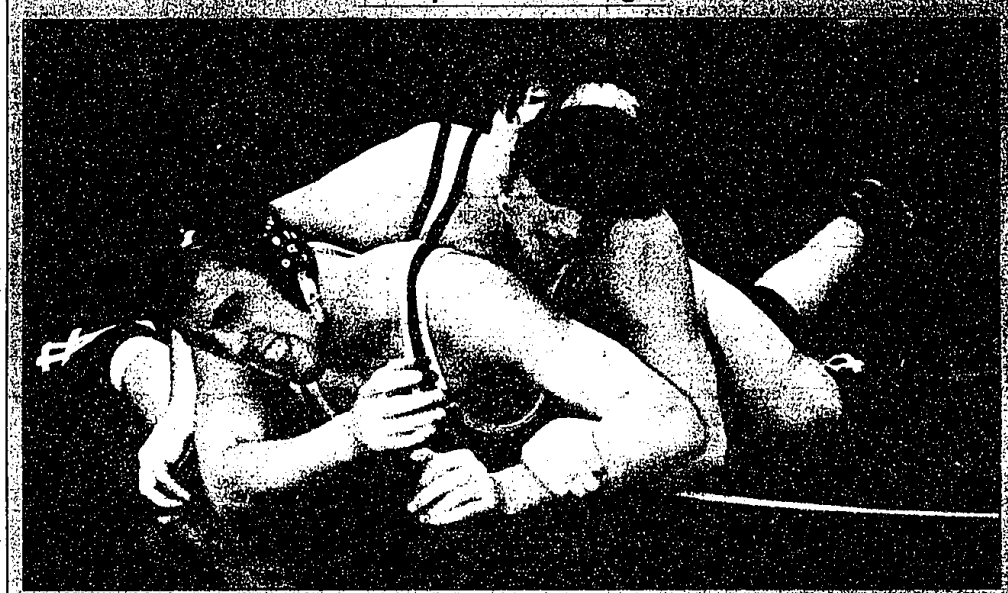
Salem junior Aaron Rypkowski came off the bench to score all nine of his points in the second half, and senior Matt Mair scored all seven of his in the first half. Both players had one triple each as did McKian.

Senior guard Karveem Smartt scored nine of his team-high 13 points in the second half for Harrison.

Junior Lemar Wilson tried to keep

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### Hawks post win over Chargers



Pinning down the opposition: Farmington Harrison's Jake Taylor has the advantage over Livonia Churchill's Ryan Cannon in the 140-pound match Thursday. Taylor pinned Cannon in 4:40 and helped the Hawks defeat the Chargers, 36-34. See Page D3 for complete results of the Western Lakes Activities Association wrestling match.

## Marlins anticipate positive results in '98

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

To say Tom Gable spent the last week coaching his Farmington Hills Mercy and Detroit Catholic Central ski teams might be stretching it, but he certainly kept his athletes busy.

Gable doesn't pretend to know much about ice skating, roller blading and water polo — the sports he had his kids playing while they waited for Mother Nature to cooperate — but it was important to keep them active.

Rain and 40-degree weather aren't going to keep snow skiers happy in the middle of winter.

"On Monday we went ice skating, Tuesday roller blading, Wednesday water polo," said Gable, who had fun

### PREP SKIING

chaperoning. "I don't let them sit at home conjuring up negative thoughts. I want them to be ready."

"The two schools operate very well together, are very spirited, have respect for what they accomplish. Last year both qualified for the state meet, a first."

Snow finally fell late Wednesday and combined with the man-made stuff to finally get one slope at Mount Brighton in favorable enough conditions. The base wasn't deep enough, however, to put the gates in place, Gable said.

Unseasonably warm conditions and rain canceled about two weeks of

meets, pushing back the season opener of the Mount Brighton Southeastern Michigan Ski Association to 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Gable doesn't expect any of the meets to be rescheduled.

"The last Monday of February is set aside for the state meet, and you need the regional two weeks before that," Gable said. "You just don't have enough time. You'd have to race non-stop every day. The kids need training time. It would be dangerous otherwise."

Mercy won the Mount Brighton Division and Class A regional last year and, with everyone returning, a repeat is expected. The Marlins finished ninth at the state meet and Gable expects

improvement there.

"I'd say they're a powerhouse," Gable said. "If we ski well and are focused, we're capable of breaking into the top three or four in the state."

The top returnees for the Marlins are seniors Denise Hartsock and Christie Dabringhaus, and Dabringhaus finished one-two in the slalom and two-three in the giant slalom at the regional.

Hartsock finished among the top 15 at the state meet, but a knee injury to Dabringhaus played a role in her finishing lower than 20th overall.

"They're bigger and better and both are raring to go," Gable said. "Their conditioning is excellent; they've gone

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## Raiders persevere in victory over Pioneers

North Farmington overcame a number of obstacles Thursday to win its second dual meet in boys swimming.

The Raiders won four events and relied on superior depth to defeat host Dearborn, 63-41.

"We didn't win a close race, but we managed to win the meet," North coach Pat Duhlie said.

Furthermore, there was no diving competition; the meet took place in a smaller pool (four of the five lanes were used for individual events), and the Raiders were in the middle of exam week.

"We were just happy to win the meet and get out of there," Duhlie said, adding the Raiders competed for the third time in six days and were tired.

North senior Dan Gabriel won the individual medley (2:12.78) and backstroke (5:59.91), and he helped the Raiders win the medley relay along with Jon Zald, Mark Wechsberg and Matt Zald. The relay foursome had a 1:47.17 time.

### BOYS SWIMMING

Zald had the only other North victory with a time of 1:11.86 in the breaststroke.

While the Pioneers won most of the races, the Raiders (2-0) were able to match them most times with a 4-3-1 scoring format for first, second and third places. It was 6-3-1 in relays, and North went one-two in the medley relay.

Matt Zald was second in the 50 and 100 freestyle with respective times of 24.11 and 53.16, and Jim Gabriel was second in the IM (2:16.45) and backstroke (1:00.5).

North had another second from Craig Panske, who completed the 500 freestyle in 5:30.22.

North's runner-up relay teams consisted of Jim Gabriel, Chris Clayson, Brandon Digia and Justin Hawkins in the medley (1:53.21); Hawkins, Wach-

berg, Digia and Matt Zald in the 200 freestyle (1:39.25); Digia, Adam Farber, Jim Gabriel and Dan Gabriel in the 400 freestyle (3:40.26).

The Raiders received third-place swims from Farber in the 200 (2:01.6) and 500 (5:30.98) freestyle, Wachberg in the 50 freestyle (24.68) and butterfly (1:03.61), Hawkins in the breaststroke (1:13.27) and Digia in the 100 freestyle (54.03).

### Duffy provides highlights for Hawks

Josh Duffy provided Farmington Harrison with its only first-place finish Thursday as Novi defeated the Hawks in a dual meet at North Farmington, 120-65.

Duffy won the 100-yard backstroke with a 59.26 time. He also was second in the individual medley (2:17.9) and helped Harrison finish second in two relays.

Matt Walker was runner-up in two events for the

Please see **SWIMMING**, D2