

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Roble in all-star game

Farmington Harrison senior Amy Roble has been selected to participate in the 19th Annual All-Star Festival sponsored by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan on Saturday, June 20.

Roble will play for the girls A-B East team against the West at Flint Powers High School. Game time is 1 p.m. and will be preceded by the girls C-D all-star game at 11 a.m.

Roble is the second Harrison player to play in the all-star event. Heather Hopkins was a 1992 participant. "It's a well-deserved honor," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "Amy has a great work ethic and is a real neat person. She brought a lot of positive things to our program above and beyond basketball."

Roble, who is undecided about her college plans at this date, was a four-year starter for the Hawks and was named to the All-Observer team the last two years.

She averaged 14.6 points and more than five rebounds while leading the Hawks to a 16-6 season last fall. She holds the school career record for most three-point field goals with 85.

Roble also was named an academic all-stater by the BCAM. To be nominated, a player has to have a 3.5 or better grade-point average and have been named to an all-state team in basketball. Roble has a 3.75 GPA.

OCC women advance

Oakland Community College rallied in the second half Monday to defeat visiting Schoolcraft College in the first round of the MCCAA women's basketball tournament, 71-65.

The Lady Raiders trailed 40-28 at halftime but outscored the Ocelots in the second half, 43-25.

OCC's Jessica Regentin scored 15 of her game-high 27 points in the second half. Jonakieta Siedgo finished with 11 points. Mya Badger and Carrie May added 10 apiece.

Sledge also had 15 rebounds and Regentin nine, but the Lady Raiders were outscored, 57-52, as Theresa Cooper pulled down 19 caroms for Schoolcraft.

Cooper also paced the Ocelots with 15 points while Kim Washnow and Amber Tackett tossed in 10 each.

The Lady Raiders shot 38 percent (26-of-68) from the floor and the Ocelots 30 percent (25-of-83). Schoolcraft's shooting cooled off in the second half (from 16-of-37 for almost 41 percent) while OCC's improved from (37 percent on 13-of-35 shooting).

OCC made just two of 18 three-point attempts, Schoolcraft five of 19. OCC also sank 17 of 26 free throws — 16 of 24 in the second half — and Schoolcraft 10 of 14.

The Lady Raiders, who were to play Macomb in the second round Wednesday, had won four in a row and 10 of their last 13 games. OCC improved to 15-12; Schoolcraft fell to 13-14.

Matmen pass 1st test

Farmington High School qualified five wrestlers and Farmington Harrison three for the Division II regional wrestling tournament Saturday at Monroe Jefferson High School.

In the district tournament Saturday at Birmingham Groves, Farmington's Jerry Lema (135) and Ben Lukas (171) placed second, Tony Lema (130) third, Mark Ostach (162) and Andy Wood (189) fourth.

Harrison's Chris Gadjew (215) was second, Jon Taylor (119) and Jake Taylor (135) fourth.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to the regional, and the top four in that meet qualify for the state tournament March 13-14. The Division I and II finals will be at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

North Farmington didn't have any regional qualifiers Saturday in the Division I district tournament at Walled Lake Western.

(See wrestling stats on Page C3).

Pee Wee Reese tryouts

Concealed Security will conduct tryouts for its 12-and-under Pee Wee Reese baseball team in the near future.

For tryout dates, time and information call Lou Pirronello during the day at (313) 532-4066 or (734) 462-1408 in the evening.

(Farmington readers can fax information for the Sports Scene to Don O'Meara at (313) 591-7279.)



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Concentration: Junior Emilie Villemonte passes the ball as teammates Melissa Mytty and Meghan O'Rear (3) anticipate the next move for Farmington. North Farmington won the match, 15-8, 15-8.

Raiders end league play with win over city rivals



North Farmington finished its Western Lakes Activities Association round-robin volleyball schedule with a 15-8, 15-8 win Monday over Farmington. The WLAA tournament will be played Saturday at Harrison and Farmington.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It was a long time coming for the North Farmington volleyball team, but nonetheless it made for a perfect ending Monday.

In the final regular-season match for both teams, the Raiders earned their first Western Lakes Activities Association victory at the expense of visiting Farmington, 15-8, 15-8.

"It was the seniors' last home game, and I think that made a big difference," North coach Christine Diebold said. "They were so pumped and determined to make the last game the best game."

"It was a nice way to end. I wish we had it at the beginning of the year, so they'd know what it's like to win. Once you get that first one, it creates some momentum."

The Raiders were more efficient in terms of their overall execution Monday, putting more of their serves into play and running their offense to a successful conclusion while mistakes cost the Falcons.

"We've improved so much," Diebold said. "This was a great game for serve receiving and digging. We covered our hitters, and we covered our blockers. That was really nice to see."

"We've done a lot better about being there at the net. If the other team sees you at the net, they tend to take a second look and not necessarily see the ball. We were much more aggressive this game."

With the Raiders leading 11-7 in the second game, a spike by Farmington's Katie Maus appeared to fall just outside the back line on the North side.

The officials ruled it in play, drawing a negative reaction from the North players and spectators. The Raiders seemed to rally after that, needing two service rotations to finish the game.

"(The North players) wanted to prove we were correct," Diebold said. "Instead of letting it bring us down, we used it to our advantage, and that's an improvement. In the past, we wouldn't have done that."

Colette Burear and Katie Callahan

Please see VOLLEYBALL, C2

Aquinas prevails over CC

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Turnabout is fair play.

Southgate Aquinas couldn't agree more after its 65-48 victory over Detroit Catholic Central in a Catholic League Central-AA boys basketball semifinal playoff game Wednesday at Schoolcraft College.

Aquinas senior center Brian Fair, who played his freshman year at CC before transferring, scored seven points and grabbed three rebounds against his former teammates.

BASKETBALL

The Raiders outscored the Shamrocks 18-12 in the fourth quarter, and it was Fair's three-point play with 7:40 remaining that got things started, giving Aquinas a 40-34 lead.

Fair, who grew up in Livonia and attended St. Michael Grade School, followed his older brother Derrick to Aquinas. Their father, Steve Fair, was an all-stater at Aquinas in the 1970s.

"My dad's senior or junior year he beat CC at Aquinas, and now I can finally tell him I did it," said Fair, who still remains friends with CC player Chris Respondek.

"I dreamed of playing CC. At the beginning of the year, we weren't pulling together. Now I think we're unstoppable."

The Raiders, ranked No. 1 in Class D, did a remarkable job against Catholic Central's 6-foot-10 senior center Chris Young and 6-1 junior guard Nick Moore.

Young was held to 10 points, attempting only eight shots and making four. Most of his 16 rebounds came on the defensive glass.

Moore was scoreless in the second and third quarters and finished with 10 points, seven in the first quarter.

The two-time defending Catholic League champion Shamrocks fell to 14-4 overall.

"Fair did a helluva job and he goes unnoticed," Aquinas coach Ernie Price said. "Both (Young and Moore) are great players. My assistant last year (Mark Montgomery) coaches at Central (Michigan) now, and he told me they'd take Nick right now. The kids really stepped up to the challenge. Defense is where we won the game."

If the Raiders can look this good against a solid Class A school, Class D schools should be fodder for them in the state tournament.

The Raiders (13-5) will try for their first Catholic League championship since 1993 at 4 p.m. Sunday at the University of Detroit-Mercy's Calihan

Please see BASKETBALL, C3

Nighthawks players foresee bright future

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Following the recent success of the women's U.S. Olympic hockey team, more Americans know what Metro Skaters Hockey League players have known for years.

It's not a game played by men only. Hockey is one of the fastest-growing sports among women in America.

The Farmington Hills Nighthawks and other MSHL members were thrilled to see the U.S. women win the Olympic gold medal in Nagano, Japan, and believe it will spur further interest in their game.

"It will do a lot for women's hockey," said Patty Schoff, president of the MSHL and the Ice Pack's goalie.

"There's a lot of support in Canada. Now there will be even stronger support (nationally) as far as others wanting to play and other organizations taking it more seriously. It legitimizes it as a sport."

Jill Treder, the second-leading scorer on the Nighthawks with 18 goals and 27 points, sees women's hockey gaining respect in the wake of the Olympics.

"It shows women can achieve in sports," she said, adding the growth of women's hockey could lead eventually to college scholarship opportunities for young women.

HOCKEY

"I'm really glad (the U.S. women) won, but I'm really excited for the Skirts girls, because they don't have anywhere to go," Nighthawks player-manager Stephanie Henkel said. "Now they have a goal."

The University of Michigan plans to make women's hockey a varsity sport while Michigan State and Western Michigan have club teams at the present time, too.

Despite the early broadcast hour, many of the Nighthawks players watched the U.S. women defeat Canada in the gold-medal game last week, 3-1. The game was telecast live at 4 a.m. and again at 7 a.m. on tape delay.

"I wanted to be the first to know who won the game instead of somebody telling me," said Nighthawks defender Geraldine Schinzel, who set her alarm for 4 a.m. "If somebody asked me 'Do you know who won the game?' I wanted to say 'Yeah, I do!'"

"I couldn't leave for work (until after the game)," Schoff said. "I had to know who won that game! By the time it ended, I was late for work. They didn't have to ask (why). They knew."

Please see HOCKEY, C4



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Hockey night in Farmington Hills: Geraldine Schinzel plays defense for the Nighthawks in a Feb. 19 game with the Ice Pack.