

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, March 2
Canton Agape vs. Greater Life
at Palace of Auburn Hills, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3
Ann Arbor at Clarencville, 7 p.m.
Liggett at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4
Redford Union at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Ypsilanti at Northville, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Thurston Rd., 7 p.m.
Green Hills at Pky. Christian, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 5
Inter-City at Clarencville, 7 p.m.
N.B. Huron at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 6
Garden City at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Southgate, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Melvindale, 7 p.m.
W. Highland at Agape, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7
Huron Valley vs. Taylor Baptist
at Marshall M.S., 7:30 p.m.
(WLAJ Playoffs at Churchville)
Consolation final, 8 p.m.
Championship final, 8 p.m.

Men's College Basketball
Tuesday, March 3
(NCAA-Region 12 Semifinal)
Lansing vs. Vincennes (Ind.)
Schoolcraft vs. Cincinnati State
at Cincinnati St., 6 & 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4
Region 12 championship
at Cincinnati State, 7 p.m.
Ontario Hockey League
Tuesday, March 3
Plymouth Whalers vs. Senia
at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 4
Whalers at Senia, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 7
Whalers vs. South Ste. Marie
at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8
Whalers vs. South Ste. Marie
at Compuware Arena, 6:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
STATE DISTRICT TOURNAMENT
CLASS A
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA (Host)

Wednesday, March 4: Championship
final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the
regional final Saturday, March 7, vs. Trenton
district champion at Trenton's
Kennedy Arena.)

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP'S

at COMPUWARE ARENA (Host)
Monday, March 2: Southfield United
vs. Redford Union, 5:30 p.m.; Royal Oak
Unifed vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4: Championship
final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the
regional final Saturday, March 7, at Compuware
Arena vs. Grosse Pointe South district
champion.)

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Friday, March 6
W. Highland at Agape, 5 p.m.
STATE TOURNAMENT DISTRICT DRAWS
(All Saturday, March 7 unless noted)

CLASS A
Friday, March 6 at LIVONIA LADYWOOD
First round: (A) Livonia Ladywood vs.
(B) Detroit Redford, 5 p.m.
Semifinal: Livonia Stevenson vs. Livonia
Franklin, 6 p.m.; Redford Union vs. A-B
winner, 6 p.m.

Championship final: 7:30 p.m. (Winner
advances to the regional semifinals Saturday,
March 14, at Plymouth Salem vs. Hazel Park
district champion.)

at YPSILANTI LINCOLN

First round: (A) Wayne Memorial vs.
(B) Belleville, 9 a.m.
Semifinal: Westland John Glenn vs.
Ypsilanti Lincoln, 10:30 a.m.; Garden City
vs. A-B winner, noon.

Championship final: 1:30 p.m. (Winner
advances to the regional semifinals Saturday,
March 14, at Temperance Bedford vs. Dearborn
district champion.)

at NOVI

First round: (A) Novi vs. (B) Livonia
Churchville, 10 a.m.
Semifinal: Plymouth Salem vs. Plymouth
Canton, 10 a.m.; Northville vs. A-B
winner, 11:20 a.m.

Championship final: 1 p.m. (Winner
advances to the regional semifinals Saturday,
March 14, at Plymouth Salem vs. Berkley
district champion.)

FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON

First round: (A) Farmington vs. (B)
North Farmington
Semifinal: Farmington Hills Harrison
vs. Walled Lake Central; Walled Lake
Western vs. A-B winner.

Championship final: (Winner advances
to the regional semifinals Saturday, March 14,
at Lapeer East vs. Lake Orion district
champion.)

CLASS C

at PONTIAC NOTRE DAME PREP
Semifinal: Royal Oak Shrine vs. South
field Christian, 10 a.m.; Livonia
Clarencville vs. Pontiac Notre Dame
Prep, 11:30 a.m.

Championship final: 1 p.m. (Winner
advances to the regional semifinals Saturday,
March 14 at New Haven vs. Grosse
Pointe Woods University-Liggett district
champion.)

Farmington has top area finish

BY DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

The Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics championship meet was an event dominated by non-Observerland schools Thursday.

That came as no surprise since 1998 champion Northville-Novis is ranked No. 1 in the state. Furthermore, the runner-up was Hartland, and Brighton was the third-place finisher. They're No. 3 and No. 9 in the state, respectively.

"Northville-Novis was unbeatable," Plymouth Canton coach John Cunningham said. "I can't see anyone in the state beating them."

Hartland and Brighton are two of the teams that should challenge, and (Northville-Novis) beat them by five points — and that's a big gap."

Rochester, Troy Athens and Rochester Adams are the other teams that could give Northville-Novis a run for the state title, according to Cunningham.

The unified Farmington team had the best finish of the five WLAJ teams from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area, finishing in fourth place and 2.2

GYMNASTICS

points behind Brighton with a 137.60 team total.

The league meet marked the first time this season Farmington has beaten Plymouth Canton, which finished sixth behind Walled Lake.

But the Chiefs were missing their top two gymnasts. Liz Fitzgerald was in Washington, D.C., with a government class, and Marcie Emerick was in Hawaii for a long-planned family vacation.

"Things always happen in sports, so it just feels good to beat a team we hadn't beaten," said Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer, adding his team was close to matching its season-best score of 138.4.

"At least we finished strong. We just have to keep it up. There's still room for improvement."

Farmington also was minus one of its top gymnasts, Anna Clark, who was out with a back injury. Dwyer expects to have her back in competition for the March 7 regional.

"I still very optimistic heading

into the regional," Dwyer said. "I'm optimistic we can be one of the top three teams."

"We still haven't had that perfect meet, so it still might happen. We have to make up 2.2 points, but you never know in this sport. That's a lot, but it is conceivable, so I have hope."

Farmington also had the top individuals among Observerland gymnasts in each event.

Kelly Barone tied for fifth place on vault (8.8); Marie Law scored 8.95 on bars but didn't medal, and Brook Rubin was fourth on balance beam (9.05) and eighth on floor exercise (9.05).

Rubin also had the best all-around score among area gymnasts, placing seventh overall with a 34.85 total.

"That's a sign of our depth," Dwyer said. "We have six strong girls in each event. I'm proud of the fact they're all Division II."

"Despite stress fractures in both legs, according to Cunningham."

"My anticipation is, if (Driscoll) doesn't do freshman things, she should do very well at the regional and state," he said. "She's one of those kids, if she hits, she'll be super."

WESTERN LAKES GYMNASICS RESULTS

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.

1998 GIRLS GYMNASICS MEET

Feb. 28 at Plymouth Canton

TEAM SCORES

1. Northville-Novis, 145.05; 2. Hartland, 140.05; 3. Brighton, 139.80; 4. Farmington Unifed, 137.60; 5. Walled Lake Unifed, 132.95; 6. Plymouth Canton, 130.25; 7. Westland John Glenn, 128.30; 8. Plymouth Salem, 127.70.

RESULTS BY EVENT

Vault: 1. Shannon McCall (Brighton), 9.05; 2. Gabe Salazar (Hartland), 8.95; 3. Missy MacRae (N.N.), 9.25; 4. Erica Winn (N.N.), 9.2; 5. Kristin Weber (Hartland), 9.15; 6. Kim Matte (Brighton) and Jodie Koening (Hartland), 8.85; 7. Stacey Williamson (Farmington), 8.85; 8. Brooke Rubin (Farmington), 8.85; 9. Marie Law (Farmington), 8.8; 10. Nicole Pelletier (N.N.) and Amy Driscoll (Canton), 8.8.

All-Around: 1. Shannon McCall (Brighton), 37.20; 2. Missy MacRae (N.N.), 36.75; 3. Kim Matte (Brighton), 36.55; 4. Erica Winn (N.N.), 35.50; 5. Stacey Williamson (N.N.), 35.20; 6. Kristin Weber (Hartland), 35.05; 7. Brooke Rubin (Farmington), 34.85; 8. Heather Rosenthal (Hartland), 34.80; 9. Marie Law (Farmington), 34.70; 10. Gina Spinaze (N.N.), Nicole Pelletier (N.N.) and Ashley Dobbs (Brighton), 34.40.

TOP AREA SCORES

Farmington lead
Vault: Kelly Barone, 8.8; Brook Rubin, 8.4; Marie Law, 8.4; Liz Stoler, 8.35; bars: Law, 8.95; Lauren Ouellette, 8.75; Rubin, 8.35; Barone, 8.2; beam: Rubin, 9.05; Jamiy Miletto, 8.8; Barone, 8.4; Stoler, 8.4; floor: Rubin, 9.05; Law, 8.9; Barone, 8.55; Stoler, 8.45; all-around: Rubin, 34.85; Law, 34.70; Barone, 33.95; Stoler, 33.15.

Plymouth Canton
Vault: Amy Driscoll, 8.55; Michelle Farnsworth, 8.05; Bobbi Jones, 8.0; Nicole Vaagene, 7.95; Kristin Schilk, 8.85; Vaagene, 8.75; Kristin Schilk, 8.8; Farnsworth, 8.0; beam: Farnsworth, 8.2; Vaagene, 7.9; Driscoll, 7.55; Holly Graham, 7.55; floor: Driscoll, 8.8; Graham, 8.2; Vaagene, 7.85; Schilk, 7.65; Natalie Wood, 7.65; all-around: Driscoll, 33.75; Vaagene, 32.45; Farnsworth, 31.60; Schilk, 31.25.

Westland John Glenn
Vault: Stephanie Thompson, 8.3; Kristen Costantino, 8.25; Nicole Simonian, 7.9; Jessica Boach, 7.9; beam: Thompson, 8.7; Costantino, 8.65; Boach, 8.15;

happy (with the team performance). I tell the girls it's just a sport. I'm always just looking for effort, and the team is always outstanding in its effort."

Canton no doubt would have scored better with Fitzgerald and Emerick (the division champ on vault based on the dual-meet season). But Cunningham had no illusions about overtaking the top three teams even with them in the lineup.

"We've been in the high 130s, so my anticipation is we would've been right around where Farmington is, 137-138, which in this meet is irrelevant," Cunningham said.

Liz has been around 36 in her all-around, so not having her was painful. But again we weren't going to win."

He was pleased with freshman Division II Amy Driscoll's 10th-place finish on floor and Holly Graham scoring 8.2 on floor.

"Despite stress fractures in both legs, according to Cunningham."

"My anticipation is, if (Driscoll) doesn't do freshman things, she should do very well at the regional and state," he said. "She's one of those kids, if she hits, she'll be super."

Walled Lake
Vault: Megan Thayer, 8.45; Amber Fine, 8.4; Tonya McCarty, 8.4; Shannon Ray, 8.3; beam: McCarty, 8.8; floor: Thayer, 8.7; Fine, 7.8; beam: Thayer, 8.7; Lindsey Lyda, 8.4; Fine, 8.3; McCarty, 7.8; floor: McCarty, 8.8; Thayer, 8.15; beam: Thayer, 8.4; all-around: Thayer, 34.00; McCarty, 33.75; Fine, 32.50; Grier Corner, 29.35.

Plymouth Salem
Vault: Allison Bracht, 8.15; Janine Schmieding, 7.95; Ashley Heard, 7.6; Amy-Marie Zielinski, 7.05; beam: Bracht, 8.65; Schmieding, 8.0; Heard, 7.6; Sara Maccioni, 5.2; beam: Bracht, 8.4; Marie Deroche, 7.55; Schmieding, 7.35; Mashia Pruehen, 7.2; Noor Bracht, 8.15; Beth Steinhilber, 8.15; Schmieding, 7.5; Heard, 7.2; all-around: Bracht, 33.35; Schmieding, 30.80; Heard, 28.90; Pruehen, 19.90.

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Habitat packets help wildlife

Do you want to help make a difference in wildlife? Do you support wildlife habitat improvement? Now you have your chance to take action.

For the seventh year in a row, the Traverse Bay Chapter of the Michigan Wildlife Turkey Hunters Association is making it possible for hunters and landowners to improve habitat for turkey and other wildlife through the sale of Wild Turkey Habitat Packets.

Each packet contains a variety of 1-year-old seedling trees and shrubs indigenous to Michigan and its harsh winter climate. At maturity these seedlings will produce nuts and fruits useful as winter food to many varieties of gamebirds and mammals. Each packet includes 10 Red Oaks, 10 Highbush Cranberry, 10 Winterberry, 10 Red Oyster Dogwood, five Roselow Crabapple and five Norway Spruce.

The packets sell for \$35 each, plus \$8 per packet if you want it shipped UPS. Packets will be available for pickup in northern Michigan or will be shipped in late April.

To order packets send a check or money order made to Traverse Bay Chapter, MWTHA, c/o Linda

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

Gallagher, 110 S. Intermediate Lake Drive, Central Lake, MI 49622.

The sale of these packets is the major fundraiser of the Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association. All money raised by the MWTHA remains in Michigan and is used for projects that support the wild turkey.

In 1997 the MWTHA spent more than \$50,000 on supplemental turkey feeding programs and habitat improvement. This feeding project was a major reason why Michigan turkey hunters enjoyed some of the best hunting in the country last year.

Hunter safety class

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is offering a special hunter safety class for persons with disabilities. The class will take place March 7-22 at the Richmond Sportsmen's Club.

"Although people with disabilities can make any hunter safety course, this course may be inspiring for people who would like to get tips and ideas from other hunters with disabilities," said conservation officer Rob Pinson of the DNR's southeast district office.

The course is open to anyone age 12 or older. For more information and to register call (610) 794-9717.

Look for the Loon

It's tax time. For many that means anxiety and distress, but

for others it means a refund check.

As you prepare your Michigan tax form this year consider donating a small portion of your refund to the Non-game Wildlife Fund.

There is a special line on the Michigan tax form for allocating money for the Non-game Wildlife Fund. Just look for a picture of a loon.

Money from this fund is used to restore extirpated wildlife species, to provide wildlife recreational opportunities for Michigan's citizen and visitors and to promote wildlife education.

Some of the programs the Non-game Wildlife Fund supports include the surveys of bald eagles, ospreys, grey wolves, common loons, frogs and toads as well as restoration projects for the peregrine falcon, the pine marten and the grey wolf.

For information on other projects that are supported by the Non-game Wildlife Fund, you can request a free copy of the quarterly newsletter The Spotting Scope.

Simply send a card with your name and address to Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909-7680. You can also visit the DNR's internet site at <http://dnr.state.mi.us>. Information on the Natural Heritage program can be found in the Wildlife Division link.

And remember to look for the loon on your state tax form.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Clarencville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizens Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843.

SHOWS
OUTDOORAMA
Outdoorama '98 Sport and Trav-

el show runs through March 1 at the Novi Expo Center. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 1. Admission is \$6.50 adult, \$3 for children 12 and under, and children ages 5 and under will be admitted free.

SPORTFISHING EXPO
The Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo will be March 5-8 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 5-6; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Admission is \$7.50 adult and \$3.50 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under will be admitted free.