

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Ware to coach Raiders

Dymetrius Ware had been named men's basketball coach at Oakland Community College by Athletic Director Bernie Little.

He replaces Dr. James J. Berry, who resigned from the position after one season. Ware had been an assistant coach at OCC the last two years.

Ware is a graduate of Siena Heights College and also has an associates degree from Wayne County Community College. He previously coached at DePue High School.

His first task is to find assistant coaches and begin to recruit players.

The Raiders finished the recently-completed season 4-12 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and 6-21 overall.

May wins OCC honor

Sophomore Carrie May of Farmington Hills was named Oakland Community College Athlete of the Week after scoring 39 points and collecting eight rebounds in two women's tournament basketball games.

The North Farmington grad also had six assists, six steals and one block. May was 16-of-27 from the floor and 6-of-12 at the free-throw line.

The Lady Raiders defeated Lakeland (Ohio), 83-69, but lost to Macomb, 78-68, in the NCAA Region XII Tournament.

May had 12 points, six rebounds and three steals while playing 21 minutes Saturday in the Region XII All-Star game in Muskegon.

Josetta Regentin and Jonakieta Sledge also represented OCC, which finished 16-13 overall and 10-6 in the MCCA Eastern Conference.

Team is Florida-bound

The Oakland Community College softball team leaves Friday for Florida and its spring trip.

The Lady Raiders open the season in the Lake City Community College softball tournament on Saturday.

OCC will be in Lake City until Monday night when it leaves for Cocoa Beach where it will stay the rest of the week.

The Lady Raiders have nine games scheduled in Florida before coming home March 22. OCC starts the northern portion of its schedule at Kellogg CC on Saturday, March 28.

Stingrays registration

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingrays are beginning registration for the seven-week spring season, which begins Monday, April 13, and is primarily a training season in preparation for the competitive summer season.

The Stingrays are affiliated with the Farmington YMCA and United States Swimming and have been active in the Farmington community for 18 years.

Interested swimmers should contact Cindi Stoff at (248) 478-4484 for more information.

Cobras comedy night

The 13-year-old NFWB Cobras level baseball team will have a comedy night fund-raiser Sunday, March 22, at Vladimir's Banquet Hall, 28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

The evening begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail hour, dinner at 7 p.m., and the show at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets are available by contacting Marilyn Smith at 477-0764.

Doyle Baseball Clinic

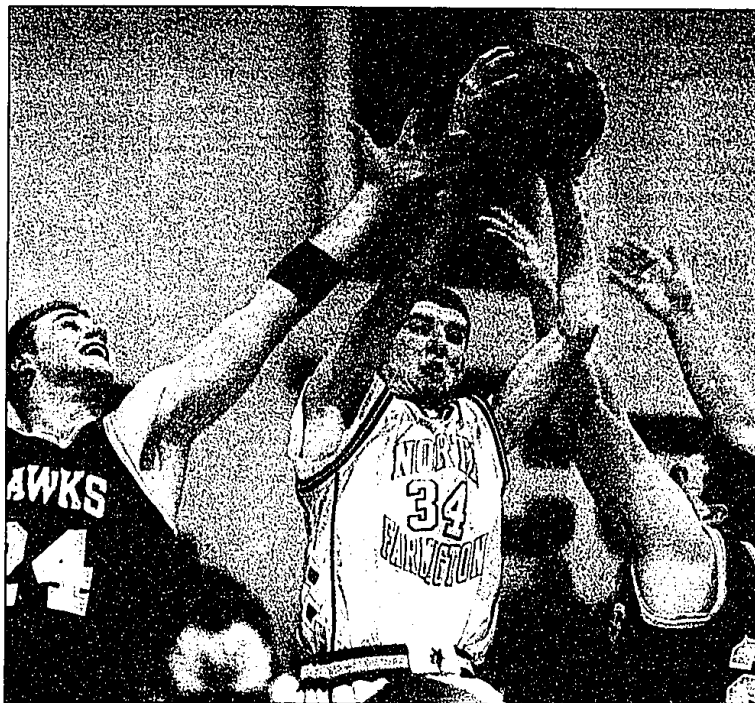
South Farmington Baseball Inc. will host the Doyle Baseball Clinic for boys ages 7 to 15 in April at Farmington High School.

The clinic will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 5. The cost is \$70 before March 27 and \$80 after that.

Participants will receive instruction in hitting, fielding and throwing. Each boy will receive an evaluation at the end of the clinic with tips on how to develop strengths already in place and improve on weaknesses.

South Farmington coaches are encouraged to attend the Doyle Coaches Clinic from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 4 and noon to 5 p.m. April 5 at Farmington High School.

There is no charge for the coaches clinic. For more information, call Bob Houchins at (248) 474-1479.



March Madness: Sophomore center Emir Medunjanin takes a rebound away from Harrison seniors Matt Derocher (left) and Brian Lewis in district tournament play Wednesday. Harrison won, 42-41.

Falcons, Hawks to meet in district tourney final



By DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

It was March Madness at its best as both semifinal games in the district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser were decided in the final minute Wednesday.

The championship game Friday will be an all-Farmington affair in which Harrison plays Farmington at 7 p.m. To reach the final, Farmington rallied from a seven-point deficit at the start of the fourth quarter to eliminate defending district champion West Bloomfield, 56-51.

In the second game, junior Lemar Wilson's three-point field goal with 29 seconds remaining allowed Harrison to beat North Farmington, 42-41.

"The one thing that's different this year is there aren't a lot of variables," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, "not like the guy from West Bloomfield who was injured and we didn't know about."

In other words, the finalists are well known to each other. The Hawks won

the regular-season meeting, 46-41.

Pierre Brown returned from a five-game absence during which he recovered from mononucleosis to score a game-high 26 points and lead West Bloomfield to a 61-59 win over Harrison in last year's district final.

The Hawks (18-3) held a small lead throughout most of the game Wednesday, but the Raiders (11-10) forged a 35-35 tie with baskets by Emir Medunjanin and Ray Lousia midway in the last period.

The teams traded free throws and one-point leads until North's Phil Watha made a three-point shot with 48 seconds left to put the Raiders up, 41-39.

Wilson answered for Harrison, swishing a triple from the right side to put the Hawks back on top.

"That was a huge shot by Lemar, after he missed two," Teachman said. "He had to shoot that one, although we said we wanted to get the ball inside."

That was the shot to take — and we passed five, six times to get that shot, which is something we hadn't done.

"I was concerned when we were up one and they had the ball, because I didn't like the way the drives were being called. Watha misses a three and steps out another eight feet and hits one."

With time running out, Lousia drove to the basket, but his attempted layup reached the side of the rim and went no higher. The Hawks rebounded the miss and let the clock expire.

"Here we are again — a one-point loss to Harrison," North coach Brian Swinehart said, referring to a 40-39 loss to Harrison in the regular season. "The ball rolls a quarter inch one way, and we get the win."

"We played hard; we gave it everything we had. It hurts but we don't have a single regret about the way we played."

Lousia and fellow senior guard Dan Singer scored 13 points each. Senior Kirk Moudros added six for the Raiders.

Senior forward Brian Lewis led the Hawks with 10 points and played a strong game in the post. Harrison's Matt Derocher, Jared Hopkins, Andrew Burt and Wilson finished with eight points apiece.

"Brian Lewis is the guy who turned the tide for us," Teachman said. "He did a little screaming at halftime and

Please see BASKETBALL, C4

Marlins win 9th straight district

By DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball team has learned how to deal with pressure situations, and a tougher mental attitude served the Marlins well Saturday.

Mercy won a pair of extended games to capture its ninth consecutive district tournament championship at Berkley High School.

Just as they did last year, the Marlins defeated the host Bears in their first match (15-7, 16-14) and Detroit Henry Ford in the final (16-14, 15-9).

VOLLEYBALL

"Before, we were caving under pressure; now we're thriving under pressure," said first-year Mercy coach Ed Moeller, who was relieved as well as pleased with the successful conclusion.

"I was nervous coming into it," he said. "I didn't want to be the first guy to break (the string of district titles to which previous coaches Tim DeBello, Ann Kolnyttis and Peggy Spengler made contributions)."

Despite Mercy's dominance in the Berkley district, Moeller wasn't taking anything for granted, not with three sophomores in his starting lineup and seven on the team.

"We're a really young team, so I didn't assume anything coming into this," he said. "Only four of these girls played in this tournament last year."

"The Catholic League toughened the kids up, and they played better than they have all year."

Moeller was encouraged by the team's third-place finish in the University of Michigan-Dearborn tournament Feb. 28 in which the Marlins won three 16-14 games.

"We haven't lost an overtime game yet," he said. "We're a very consistent serving team. We make (the opponent) beat us."

"We put a lot of pressure on the girls in practice, and they've learned to like the pressure. They've accepted the idea that mental pressure is positive, and they get an adrenaline shot from it."

The Marlins (30-22) advance to the Plymouth Salem regional to play the host Hawks, champions of the Western Lakes Activities Association, in the first round Saturday at 10 a.m.

Catholic League champion Livonia Ladywood and Ferndale meet in the other semifinal at 11:30 a.m. The final match is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

"We will absolutely have to play our best," Moeller said. "But we had a couple of great games with Ladywood, and Ladywood and Salem have gone back and forth."

"We know what we're up against. They're an outstanding team, but we have no fear playing them."

Mercy was the third opponent Saturday for Henry Ford (32-9-1), which played its third extended game of the day in the championship match.

Please see VOLLEYBALL, C2

Swimmers prepare for state-meet finale

By DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

Seniors Dan Gabriel and Matt Walker will lead the way for Farmington Public Schools this weekend in the Class A boys swimming and diving championships at Eastern Michigan University.

Both swimmers scored in the state meet last year and hope to conclude their prep careers with improved performances in 1998.

Gabriel was fifth in the 100-yard backstroke (52.96) after finishing ninth in that event as a sophomore.

He has the best time in Overlandland this year at 54.12, and the state meet will be the first time this season he has shaved and tapered.

"With Dan it's always possible he might move up," North coach Pat Duthie said. "There are some good swimmers around the state, but Dan is



Dan Gabriel
North Farmington



Matt Walker
Farmington Harrison



Nick Sosnowski
Catholic Central

a very good competitor when it comes down to the big meets.

"I know he's hoping he'll go faster this year. He wasn't shaved or tapered

at the conference meet. Hopefully, this will be the big one."

Gabriel, who won the Western Lakes Activities Association backstroke title

PREVIEW

with a 54.15 time, is the best backstroke in school history, according to Duthie.

"You certainly don't like to lose someone of Dan's ability, but that's what it's all about — getting them to the next level," he said. "He's been an outstanding swimmer and outstanding young man the last four years."

Walker finished 11th in the breaststroke last year with a school-record time of 1:00.18, and he also has the area's best time in that event this year at 1:02.85.

"He's hoping to make the top six; that's our goal — and to break a minute," Harrison coach Lisa Collins said. "He qualified early, so he wasn't tapered for the league meet. That has a

Please see SWIMMERS, C3