

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Youths earn trophies

Five Farmington-Farmington Hills children received trophies at the Boyne Highlands Annual Crazy Days March 21 in Harbor Springs.

Alexander Burns earned first place and Tyler O'Hara third place in the boys 6- and 6-year-old category.

Jordan Burns finished in first place, Megan O'Hara second place, and Elizabeth Ferris third place in the girls 7- to 9-year-old competition.

The competition consisted of three events: a ski jump to see who could jump the farthest from the end of the jump, a Nastar slalom race based on the fastest time through a slalom course and the Silly Slalom, which included jumps and a slalom course.

### Covert named coach

Todd Covert has been named Oakland Community College women's basketball coach by OCC Athletic Director Bernie Little.

Covert, the sixth women's basketball coach in school history, replaces James Gorman, who stepped down after three seasons coaching the Lady Raiders.

He had been an OCC assistant coach three of the past four years and has also coached at Birmingham Sea-holm with former OCC coach Anna Lowney. He also coached an AAU team to a state title and third-place national finish in 1996.

Covert, a 1997 graduate of Oakland University, played one year of basketball at OCC before going to OU where he was a standout golfer. He is a graduate of Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School.

The Lady Raiders were 16-14 last season and 10-6 (fourth place) in the MCOAA Eastern Conference. Covert's office will be located at the Highland Lakes Campus.

### Jenkins top athlete

Amanda Jenkins, sophomore catcher from Clarkston, was named Oakland Community College's Athlete of the Week.

She was OCC's leading hitter during the softball team's spring trip, batting .458 (11-for-24) with three doubles, a grand slam, seven RBI, two stolen bases and a .708 slugging percentage. Jenkins also scored six runs.

The Lady Raiders opened the northern part of their schedule Saturday at Kellogg CC.

### Spring trip a success

The Oakland Community College women's softball team concluded a week of spring training in Florida March 22 with a 6-4 record. Three of the losses were to teams with 18 or more games played this year.

In addition to Amanda Jenkins of Clarkston (see above story), the Lady Raiders were led offensively by Sarah Watters, who hit .400 and had three RBI, and Tracy Lang, who hit .318 and stole three bases.

Amanda Wilcox batted .316 with two RBI, and Danielle TerHear hit .273 with a double, a home run and seven RBI.

Lang also was 2-3 pitching with a 0.55 earned run average in 25.1 innings and 11 strikeouts. Tammy Bastian was 2-0 on the mound with a 0.60 ERA in 11.2 innings. She struck out 10 batters and hit .273.

OCC's home opener is 1 p.m. today at the Orchard Ridge Campus against Kalamazoo Valley CC.

### OHL playoffs continue

The Plymouth Whalers opened Round Two of their Ontario Hockey League playoffs Saturday, hosting the Belleville Bulls. Because Belleville had earned the home-ice advantage but couldn't host the best-of-seven series opener due to a prior commitment in its arena, the arrangement is a bit peculiar.

The Whalers hosted the first game. Belleville will be the site of Games 2 and 3, Tuesday and Wednesday. The series returns to Plymouth for Game 4 Friday. All games start at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call (734) 463-8400.

### Cobras need catcher

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras, an under-14 boys fast-pitch travel softball team, has an opening on its roster for a catcher. For information call (248) 626-7701.

## Senior leaders key to North success

To be successful in girls softball, you need a good pitcher. If you have that, you need a good catcher next.

North Farmington not only has both, but experience, too, and that combination is a big reason the Raiders expect to do well in 1998.

Seniors Kate Devereux and Mickey Spiz have started since they were freshmen and comprise one of the best batteries in the Area. Both were All-Lakes Division players last year.

"As a freshman, Mickey's demise was the defense behind her," North coach Dave Brubaker said. "The same thing happened her sophomore year."

### GIRLS SOFTBALL

"Last year we cut it down. This year I expect (the defense) to stand up and be counted, because there's experience at every position."

Spiz had a 9-13 record and a 2.34 earned run average with 105 strikeouts as opposed to 43 walks. She will do all the pitching again this year.

"I'm going to hand her the ball at the beginning of the season," Brubaker said, "and tell her 'It's yours!' We don't have anybody in the junior or sophomore class who has distinguished

themselves as pitchers.

"I expect Mickey Spiz to do what she's capable of doing, and that's pitching, fielding, hitting. She can do it all. I'd love to have nine Mickey Spiz on the field at one time, because she gives you everything she has."

Devereux caught 30 games, registering a .900 fielding percentage with 29 putouts, 46 assists and eight errors in 83 chances.

She also rebounded from a so-so sophomore year at the plate to hit .433 and lead the Raiders in hits (33), doubles (six) and stolen bases (16). Devereux also had 21 RBI and scored 28

runs.

"Kate needs to come out and be the field general and carry a big stick," Brubaker said. "She has to take command of the defensive situations and contribute offensively with her bat."

The Raiders have three players in the field with extensive experience, too. Senior second baseman Lynn Livermore is an all-division player three years running. She recovered from a knee injury two years ago to bat .310 with 29 hits, including six doubles. She also had 17 RBI and scored 23 runs.

Please see RAIDERS, D7



**Key players:**  
Center mid-fielders Angela DeDomenico of Farmington High (left) and Emily Jackson of Harrison battle for possession of the ball in a game last year. Both players return for the 1998 season and will play key roles for their respective teams. DeDomenico begins her senior year with the Falcons, while Jackson enters her sophomore season with the Hawks. Farmington and Harrison meet Monday in an early-season game at Farmington.

## Falcons have team to challenge



Farmington High School has no shortage of talent on its girls soccer team; however, the Falcons once again face a schedule full of formidable opponents in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Compared to most girls soccer teams in this state, Farmington High School fields a superior lineup.

With quality athletes among 14 returning varsity players and talent at every position, the Falcons have few if any weaknesses.

The problem is Farmington plays in the Western Lakes Activities Association and must compete against some of Michigan's best teams.

The schedule includes games with

defending Class A champion Livonia Stevenson, 1996 winner Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem, the 1995 state runner-up.

Thus, the question facing Farmington, which lost only three players to graduation following a 6-7-1 season, is the same as last year.

Can the Falcons break out from the middle of the WLAA pack and reach the next level?

"Stevenson has many returning play-

ers and was just a powerhouse last season," Farmington coach Bob Neff said. "They are very likely to be an extremely strong team again."

"Everybody in this league improves every year. If you improve more than everybody else, you'll have a better win-loss record. If you improve as much as everybody, you just maintain the status-quo. If you're not working at improving, you're going to go backward. It's an extremely tough league."

Much of what the Falcons do on the field will revolve around the playmaking duo of senior Angela DeDomenico, the 1997 team MVP, and junior Emilie Villemonte in the midfield.

DeDomenico, who has started since she was a freshman, initiates a lot of

the offense and led the team in assists, but she tends to be overlooked outside of the team because of her role, according to Neff.

"She's a playmaker, so what happens is she plays the ball off to the person who sends it toward the goal, and another person takes the shot," he said.

"It's not like hockey where you're counting two passes before the shot. So she doesn't have the stats that a lot of people have, but she's a very good playmaker."

Villemonte benefitted from DeDomenico's passing and led the Falcons in goals scored.

"She's extremely skillful with the ball and has one of the most powerful

Please see FALCONS, D2

## Hawks regroup for start of new era

The good news is Farmington Harrison returns eight starters from its most successful girls soccer team.

The bad news is the Hawks, who were 7-8-1 and set a school record for single-season victories, will be without the best player in school history.

Sara Kloosterman was the starting goalkeeper for four years and was named Miss Soccer last year, but she has gone on to distinguish herself at Michigan State University.

"Without Sara, it's going to be an adjustment for the defense and me," Harrison coach Glenn Breuhan said.

### GIRLS SOCCER

"Sara kept us in games we probably never should have been in. She held the score down against the dynamite teams and allowed us to do things on defense we won't be able to do without her."

The first player to start in goal other than Kloosterman since 1993 will be sophomore Moira Morel, who was a reserve midfielder last year.

"She seems to have what it takes to be a goalie," Breuhan said, adding

Kloosterman worked with her last season. "She's willing to do whatever it takes to help the team. I don't think she's even thinking about filling Sara's shoes. She's going to do the best she can. Moira is learning every day because it's a new position, and she's going to get better and better."

Helping to take the pressure off Morel is junior Regina Bander, an all-division sweeper, and senior Tiffany Nelson, a returning starter at stopper.

"Regina is an outstanding sweeper," Breuhan said. "She's very smart on the

field. She reads the plays well and is able to break them up."

"This is Tiffany's fourth year on the varsity, and she knows her position very well. I'm sure she's going to have a good year."

The Hawks also lost defenders Lindsey Robbins and Andrea Platt to graduation. Returning senior Janine James steps into a starting role, and the fourth defender will be either freshman Emily Hauser or junior Patty Moloney.

"Janine has been used as a marking

Please see HAWKS, D2