

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Trio paces Compuware

Three Farmington Hills hockey players were instrumental in helping Compuware win the Bantam AAA Tier 1 national championship April 6 in Lisle, Ill.

In the final game, Jeff Lantz, Brad Heraghty and Michael Walsh played a key role in Compuware's 5-4, double-overtime victory over the Braves from Middlesex, Mass.

Walsh scored the winning goal with an assist from Heraghty. Lantz was the goalkeeper.

Compuware was unbeaten in six tournament games. Ten teams participated. Compuware won four games in pool play and defeated the Rochester (N.Y.) Americans in a semifinal game, 3-2.

Walsh is a freshman at Catholic Central High School. Lantz and Heraghty are eighth graders at Dunchee and Power middle schools, respectively.

Nick Lang of Livonia also played on the Compuware team, which was coached by Dave Limmatta of Farmington Hills.

Police sponsor run

The Ninth Annual Copa For Kids 10K Run will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The event is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department for the benefit of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The FHPD invites everyone from first-time runners to masters to participate.

The unique and challenging course combines paved and dirt surfaces through quiet subdivisions on winding and hilly roads.

There will be awards for the top three places in each individual age group and special team awards for the top law enforcement teams only.

There is also a non-competitive 5K run/walk that starts at 9 a.m. All registered participants will share in the food and drinks and receive a T-shirt.

The entry fee for the run is \$15 before June 6 and \$20 on race day. For more information and to receive an application, call (248) 473-9925 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Players pick OCC

Oakland Community College women's basketball coach Todd Covert announced the signing of two players and the addition of two transfers to the program.

Danielle Ventimiglia (St. Clair Shores South Lake) and Shana Pratt (Gaylord) signed national letters of intent Wednesday. The transfers are Katie Knake (Grand Valley) and Paula Wesa (Michigan Tech).

Ventimiglia averaged 19.5 points, eight rebounds, four steals and four assists for South Lake. The 5-foot-10 guard was an all-league and All-Metro-East player.

"Danielle will be an excellent addition to our team and will give us immediate dividends," Covert said.

Pratt was a Class B all-star who averaged 28.9 points and nine assists as a junior. A knee injury forced the 5-9 guard to sit out her senior season.

Knake is a former Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes star who finished fourth in the voting for Miss Basketball in 1995.

"We are very pleased to have one of the best players in Oakland County come home and play for us next season," Covert said. "We would like to have more county players consider our program."

Wesa was the starting point guard for Tech last season. She averaged 27 points as a high school senior.

"Any time you can add a player of Paula's ability it will boost the level of play automatically," Covert said.

The Lady Raiders were 16-14 and 10-6 in the conference last season.

Hoop tourney in town

A 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament will be played Saturday, April 26, at St. Fabian Grade School in Farmington Hills.

The age groups are fifth and sixth grades (boys and girls), seventh and eighth grades (boys and girls), ninth and 10th grades (girls) and 11th and 12th grades (girls). Each team is guaranteed three games. There will be separate boys and girls divisions.

To register call (313) 513-7333.

Falcons, Raiders headed for clash on ball diamond



When the high school softball season resumes following spring break, Farmington High and North Farmington will put their undefeated records on the line against each other April 20. The Falcons are 4-0, the Raiders 3-0.

Farmington High went into the spring break Wednesday undefeated after four games in girls softball.

The Falcons extended their winning streak at the expense of Farmington Harrison, handing the Hawks their first loss, 3-2 in 11 innings.

When the season resumes April 20, Farmington will play host to another unbeaten team, North Farmington, which is 3-0 following a 5-4 victory Wednesday over Walled Lake Western.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," Farmington coach Jerry Osborne said, noting the Falcons have five sophomores and one freshman in their starting lineup. "We couldn't be happier."

"If somebody had told me we'd be 4-0 going into Easter break, I'd probably have taken that bet. I'm very pleased with the way the girls are playing right now."

In a game that favored the pitchers, Farmington sophomore Melissa Mytty outdueled Harrison junior Ali Ault in a pair of complete-game performances.

Both pitchers allowed five hits, and both teams made two errors. Mytty fanned 15 and walked five; Ault retired 14 on strikes and didn't issue a walk.

Mytty also had the game-winning hit in the bottom of the 11th inning.

Sophomore Tricia Krause started the inning with a single and advanced on a sacrifice by freshman Danielle Lewis. Mytty hit a long fly ball that went over the center fielder's head.

The Falcons tied the score with a run in the fifth. Becky DePottier doubled and scored two batters later on Angie Luttman's single.

Harrison (2-1) took a 2-1 lead in the fourth when Lindsey Emmett doubled to score Art Ault and then scored on an error.

Farmington got its first run in the third on Kelly DePottier's single, a wild pitch, a fielder's choice and an infield error.

"You hate to see anybody lose, but it was a very good win for Farmington High School," Osborne said.

"With only one senior, we've been fortunate and played good defense. We're averaging two errors a game, which isn't bad when you're starting all young

kids.

"We haven't been giving up too many extra outs, and we've been winning the close ballgames."

Luttman caught a fly ball on the run in left field, making a difficult play for an important out, Osborne added.

"Those are the kind of things you have to do to be successful," he said.

Osborne has emphasized defense since taking over the program, which appears to have a good foundation. Despite losing pitcher and leading hitter Anna Holkinnen from last year's 22-11 team, the Falcons have come back with another solid ballclub.

"It helps that a lot of sophomores played quite a bit last year," Osborne said. "Meghan O'Rear has done a fantastic job behind the plate. She's gotten a lot better and is only going to get better in the next two years."

"Kristin Brown is doing a very nice job in the leadoff spot. Her on-base percentage is close to .600, which is exactly what you want in a leadoff hitter."

Raiders rally to edge Warriors

After two shutouts to begin the season, North Farmington conceded the first run to Walled Lake Western, but all four were unearned Wednesday.

Senior pitcher Mickey Spisz has now pitched 21 innings without allowing an earned run for the Raiders. Western had eight hits; Spisz walked two and struck out five.

"Twenty scoreless innings of 21, so she's doing what she needs to do," North coach Dave Brubaker said.

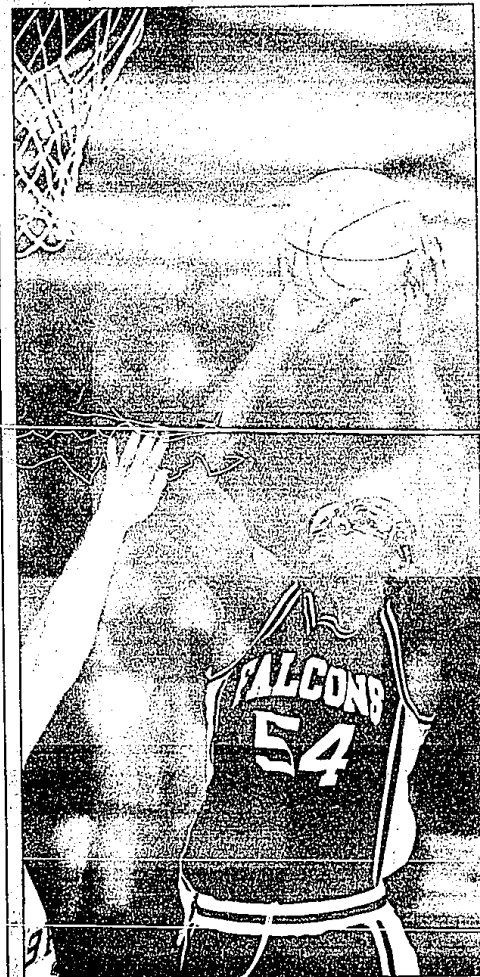
Western took a 4-2 lead in the second inning with Dayna Azzopardi's grand slam. The Warriors loaded the bases with a single, a walk and an infield error that would have gotten the Raiders out of the inning.

North scored the winning run in the bottom of the fourth when junior Randi Taub singled, moved up on a walk to Jenny Panush and scored on Diana Gustkey's single.

The Raiders scored twice in the first and third innings. Kate Devereux drove in two runs with a triple and a single, and Samantha McComb had a

Please see **SOFTBALL, D4**

All-Observer basketball team



All-star player, Farmington High School senior center Trevor Gaines is one of five players named to the All-Observer first team in boys basketball. Farmington Harrison senior Matt Derocher made the second team. See story on Page D4.

Mission of Mercy

Marlins have golf talent to match '98 aspirations



Defending champion, junior Jennifer Borowiec hopes to repeat as county and league medalist.

If all goes well, 1998 won't be just another outstanding year for the Farmington Hills Mercy golf team. It will be the best ever!

The Marlins return everyone from a successful team and have added some talent, so it's easy to see why coach Vicky Kowalski has great expectations for this season.

"All of them have gotten a little better, and now we bring in (freshman) Erin Borowiec," she said. "That's icing on the cake. To me, that pushes us over the edge."

In fact, Kowalski thinks her current team has the potential to be the best she has had since she started the program in 1981.

"I believe we have a stronger team than the first two years when we had Meg Mallon," she said.

"I can put eight girls on the course who can shoot in the 40s. They're not all going to do that every day, but all eight can shoot that well (on any given day)."

Mercy's top player is junior Jennifer Borowiec, who was the medalist in the Oakland County and Catholic League tournaments and led the Marlins to the team championship in both.

"She worked real hard on her game last summer and even through the winter," Kowalski said, adding Jennifer and Erin made trips to Texas, South Carolina and Tennessee to play golf during the off season in Michigan. "They're ready; they've been playing."

In addition to Jennifer Borowiec, the Marlins return other members of the All-Observer first team in senior Kristen Smith and junior Angela Harbar. Junior Sarah Cahill made the second team.

Borowiec averaged 43 strokes per nine holes last season. Harbar 46, Smith 48 and Cahill 50.

"Sarah, Kristen and Angela took time to play more tournaments, too," Kowalski said. "They've improved their games, and that improves our team."



Kristen Smith
All-Observer player



Angela Harbar
All-Observer player

Mercy's top eight players includes junior Heidi Wegmuller and sophomores Tanya Foster and Lindsey Denmore.

In the team's only competition thus far on April 6, Jennifer Borowiec shot 42, Erin Borowiec 43, Smith and Harbar 46 as the Marlins defeated Birmingham Marian, 177-233.

Mercy didn't need to count Cahill's 47 or Foster's 48. Furthermore, Wegmuller shot 60 and Denmore 65, both respectable scores by most standards.

"I think the girls are going to push each other," Kowalski said. "Jennifer won't necessarily be No. 1 all the time, although she wants to be."

"Besides the county and league championships, I also think she can contend in some of the bigger tournaments at Brighton and East Lansing."

Mercy will have varsity A and B teams this year, plus a JV squad. When two tournaments take place on the same day, the Marlins will send

Please see **GOLFERS, D3**