

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington
Observer

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Sunday, August 2, 1998

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

GAM tourney

Farmington Hills resident Lisa Lyness Chalmers finished 48th at the Golf Association Women's Championship July 28 at Loon Lake Golf Club in Gaylord.

Chalmers totaled 197 for the two-day tournament. East Lansing's Stacy Slobodnik took the championship with a 166 total.

Time for hoops

North Farmington High recently released the fall schedule for its girls' basketball team.

The Raiders open the season Thursday, Aug. 27 at Ann Arbor Huron. North then plays a pair of road games before labor day with Bloomfield Hills Andover and Brighton.

The Raiders play a total of 21 regular season games this year. The state tournament begins on Nov. 16.

Blues baseball

The South Farmington Blues 9-year-old baseball team completed a sweep of the Elba Invitational, July 24-26, beating four teams by a combined score of 41-13.

The Blues won preliminary games against Elba, 10-6; North Farmington West Bloomfield, 12-0 and Flushing, 7-0, and beat Durand in the championship game, 12-7.

What's more, they had to rally from a 5-0 deficit behind the hitting of Andy Lentz, Jeff Kaberline, Chris Eyged, Kevin Rafferty and Jon Castine to win the championship.

Pitchers Stephen Doty and Brian Noble shut out Durand over the last four innings. Defensively, the Blues were led by shortstop Thomas Whiting, second baseman Brooks Tuyn, first baseman Andy Harris and centerfielder Paul Greenwood.

South Farmington ended its season with 12 straight wins, including tournament championships in North Farmington, Grand Blanc and Elba.

The Blues are managed by Rick Tuyn, with assistants Larry Miller and Don Eyged.

Fitness meet medalists

Among the area competitors who earned plaques for first, second or thirds at the 41st annual Detroit Metropolitan Youth Fitness meet held July 23 at Kensington Metropark near Milford included:

•Firsts — Andrea Dunn (Garden City), Class A (ages 13-14) softball throw, 125 feet, 11 inches; Matthew Dunn (Garden City), Class D (ages 7-8) agility run, 24.67; Matthew Bessenen (Livonia), Class C (ages 9-10) chinning, 15; Greg Hogan (Farmington Hills), Class D chinning, 13.

•Seconds — Lisa Montgomery (Livonia), Class B (ages 11-12), running long jump, 10-6; Brittany Paek (Canton), Class A standing long jump, 6-10; Curtis Rose (Canton), Class B running long jump, 12-2; Steve D'Annunzio (Canton), Class D running long jump, 8-8.

•Thirds — Bridgette Sotzen (Livonia), Class A chinning, 13-45; Gina Kilgore (Canton), Class C chinning, 9; Andrea Hurn (Livonia), Class A, running long jump, 9-11.

Bell's summer stroll

More than 2,000 walkers are expected for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan will stage its seventh annual 5-kilometer Summer Stroll for Epilepsy on Saturday, Aug. 15 at Tiger Stadium.

Livonia resident and Detroit Tigers manager Buddy Bell will serve as honorary chairman.

Check-in begins at 2 p.m. with Bell kicking off the walk at 3 p.m. from the stadium to the Corktown area surrounding the ballpark.

Sponsors include Henry Ford Health System, General Motors, National Bank of Detroit and Tigers.

For registration information, call the Epilepsy Foundation's Summer Stroll hotline at 1-800-377-6226.

Have sporting news? Send information about teams, programs or any other related items to: Dan O'Meara, Farmington Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150 or fax (734) 591-7279.

O'Donnell aiming at 2000 Olympics

Farmington High School graduate Jennifer O'Donnell isn't taking archery as seriously these days, but she's still competing on a world-wide level and hoping to get back in Olympic form.

For the second consecutive year, Canton's Heritage Park is the site of the National Target Championships — the 114th annual. And once again, Farmington High School graduate Jennifer O'Donnell is among the participants.

The week of events ends Sunday with the second annual National Traditional Tournament, with archers using the older-type bow of years past.

Several of the world's best archers were scheduled to compete throughout the week, including the first and second-place finishers last year in the men's division of the National Target Championships, Americans Butch Johnson and Justin Hulsh.

In the women's division, there are three of the world's top 20 scheduled to compete: Natalia Nasaridze (ranked No. 1), Deniz Gunay (No. 8) and Elf Alinkaynak (for Turkey, No. 16). That's one reason why there are even more archers scheduled to compete this year (more than 550) than last (530).

But O'Donnell, a 24-year-old former Olympian who wasn't ranked coming in, knows what it takes to get to the summit.

"I'm not really competing much right now," she explained, "because I'm still going to school. Hopefully, I'll be able to start shooting more when I graduate. I'll just have to make enough time to train."

O'Donnell has been competing in archery for nearly 12 years, or half her life. She was a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team and an alternate in 1996; it

was an experience she hopes to repeat, perhaps at Sydney in 2000.

"It really like to go to Australia," she admitted. Of course, getting there won't be easy. O'Donnell figures it will take between 20 and 30 hours of workouts a week to get into the proper form, including extensive cardio-vascular conditioning. "When you go for six-to-eight hours a day during a tournament, well, it's better to be in better shape," she explained.

Going into her senior year at Lawrence Technological University (she's majoring in interior design), O'Donnell hasn't had the time to devote to all her interests. But that hardly means she's given it up.

Competing in the Northern Regional last month outside Toledo, O'Donnell finished first — even though she's managed to train for only a few hours a

Please see ARCHERY, D2

Tennis anyone?



Tournament tested: Stars of tomorrow showed up at the Junior Tennis Classic, held last week at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Jason Norville (top), 10, of Farmington Hills shows the form that helped him compete in the 12-under division. Reent Surma (right), 13, of Farmington, eyes the ball as she returns a backhand against her opponent.



Stingers 12th at NSA tourney

The Stingers 18-year-old and under travel team finished 12th at the NSA World Series in Columbus, Ohio July 20-26.

The 18 and under brackets were made up of 64 — the best teams in the nation and Canada. All of the participants had to win berths to attend the prestigious five-day event.

A loss in the first game put the Stingers in the losers' bracket early and set the tone for an early exit. But the Stingers players set their minds to play for pride and finished the tournament with a 4-2 overall record.

It was the first time the Stingers have been to the World Series.

The squad opened the tournament against the Lady Louisville Sluggers, falling 6-2. Jen Elwell pitched a six-hitter for the Stingers, striking out four.

Poor defense plagued the Stingers. Five errors contributed to several Louisville runs.

The Stingers out hit with seven for the game. Shayla O'Mara, Wendy Bonse and Melissa Baliko each had two hits.

In game two, the Stingers came back to blank the Indiana Sting 7-0. LeAnne Schraufnagle (Livonia Stevenson) was the winning pitcher and didn't allow a runner past second base.

The Stingers edged the Rascals of Lexington, Kentucky, 4-3 in game three. Leah Moeller pitched a five-hitter for the

Stingers, striking out five and allowing no walks.

Rachel Viers had two hits to lead the offensive attack. Her two-run triple sealed the win.

Good defense and great pitching led to a 2-0 win over the Indiana Pride in game four. Elwell tossed a one-hitter.

Neither team scored in regulation, which forced the international tie-breaker to be invoked. The Stingers got a chance to score forced as the visiting squad.

Kerry Fitzgerald was placed at second base to start the inning. Kelly Sylvester moved her to third on a bunt and later scored on a passed ball. Kate Homant made it 2-0 when she scored on a squeeze bunt by Wendy Bonse.

The Stingers continued their winning ways in game five by beating the Ohio Silver 8-6.

Leah Moeller started and earned the win. Elwell relieved her in the fourth inning and picked up a save.

Maria Melchor smacked two triples while Sylvester had a timely single that set up the winning runs. Shayla O'Mara added a home run.

The Stingers closed the tournament with a 4-1 loss to the Ohio Pride. The team was depleted for the game as several players headed for home to in an all-star game.

Schraufnagle started for the Stingers and took the loss.

See STINGERS, XX

Cobra baseball squad shines

The North Farmington West Bloomfield Cobras travel 13-year-old baseball team recently completed its season by going 4-3 in the United States Specialty Sports Association World Series.

Held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Series featured 68 teams from across the country. The tournament ran from July 20-26.

NFWB finished in ninth place in the 37-team major division of the Series.

The Cobras opened with an 8-6 setback to the Texas Warriors despite a solid pitching performance from Nick Vitanis.

NFWB bounced back to defeat the Pomona Mudcats 12-9. The Cobras trailed 7-0 in the third inning before rallying.

Bryan Smith slammed a bases loaded triple in the fourth inning to end a five-run rally. He went 2 for 4 for the game with four runs batted in.

Andy Wingert, Danny Lentz and Doug Pickens each added two hits against the Arvada, Colorado squad. Catcher Ethan Wilkenson squelched a Pomona rally by nailing a runner attempting to steal third base.

The third game of pool play saw NFWB beat the Angels 10-1. Steve Rabbish and Danny Lentz pitched well for the Cobras.

At the plate, Doug Pickens had two hits and two runs batted in. Kevin Zerbo smashed a home run while Evan Rodriguez knocked in a pair of runs with a sharp single to left field.

The Cobras 2-1 pool play record qualified them for the championship round at the No. 16 seed.

NFWB opened by beating the East Cobb Georgia Astros 6-2. Vitanis and Lentz combined their efforts to produce an excellent pitching performance.

Zerbo provided offensive muscle going 3 for 3 and scoring two runs. He connected for his second homer of the Series in the second inning.

The Cobras dropped a 13-6 decision to top seed Houston Panthers.

Smith went 3 for 4 at the plate while Sam Grossman and Danny Graham each collected two hits. The Cobras did cut one player down at the plate as Clark, playing left field, charged in on a single and threw a strike to Lentz, who relayed a perfect throw to Zerbo at home for the tag.

The loss placed NFWB in the losers' bracket of the double elimination format.

The Cobras bounced back to edge the Fort Bend Texas Outlaws 3-2. Graham delivered an excellent pitching performance, allowing three hits while going the distance.

Matt Petry and Grossman provided the offensive spark by collecting two hits each. Grossman scored two runs and Petry the third.

Grossman also made the defensive play of the game when he stabbed a line drive while playing shortstop in the fourth inning. He then whirled and doubled off the runner at first base to stop a rally.

The Cobras closed the tournament by falling 9-4 to the Memphis Tigers.

The score was tied 3-3 going into the seventh inning when the Tennessee squad erupted for six runs. The Cobras battled back in the bottom of the seventh, but came up short.

Lentz and Andy Wingert delivered

See COBRAS, D3