

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

MHSAA scholarships

A record number of schools submitted applications for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 1998-99 school year.

The program honors 24 individuals, one in each sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the program and presents a \$1,000 scholarship in each sport.

A record 504 MHSAA member schools submitted applications for this year's awards. The total number of applications, however, fell just short of last year's record of 2,785, with 2,784 applications received.

In addition, a record 1,094 student-athletes will be recognized as additional qualifiers for having met the eligibility criteria for the award, even though they were not a scholarship honoree for their school. All will be presented with certificates commemorating their achievement.

Every MHSAA member high school is allowed to select one student-athlete to represent it in each sport, and an individual may be nominated in more than one sport.

To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale), and have previously won a varsity letter in the sport which they are applying. Students were also asked to show involvement in other school and community activities, submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

The applications will be judged by a 68-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools.

Finalists in all sports will be announced on Jan. 29. Fall sports recipients will be announced on Feb. 10; winter recipients Feb. 17; and spring recipients Feb. 24.

The 24 Scholar-Athlete Award recipients will be recognized in a ceremony during halftime of the Class C boys basketball finals Saturday, March 27, at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.

Here is a list of nominees and qualifiers from Farmington Hills high schools — Harrison: Hegina Bander, soccer; Julie Kluka, swimming; Britany Maxey, tennis; Patty Moloney, volleyball; Dave Pesci, football; Omar Wilson, basketball; Moxey: Susan Agacinski, cross country; Jennifer Borowiec, golf; Mary Gignac, volleyball; Nicole Gopjan, tennis; Kaitlyn Jarzembowski, swimming; Kristen Munro, soccer; Kristen Salla, skiing; Erin Thomas, track; North Farmington: Brad Jaffe, tennis; Justin Street, soccer; Randi Taub, softball and swimming.

CC mat Invitational

The 34th Annual Redford Catholic Central Wrestling Invitational will be held on Saturday in the school gym, starting at 10:30 a.m.

CC is located at 14200 Breakfast Drive, just south of Lyndon Road and east of Inkster Road.

Among the teams scheduled to compete are Observerland schools Westland John Glenn, Livonia Stevenson and Garden City. Others expected are Anchor Bay, Temperance Bedford, Birmingham Brother Rice, Clarkston, Davison, Fowlerville, Fruitport, Howell, Oxford, Romeo and Warren Lincoln.

NFWB baseball tryouts

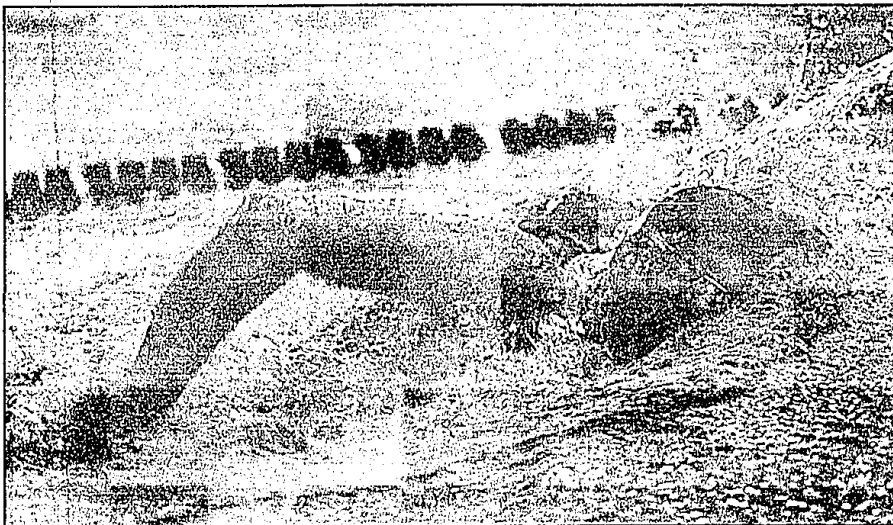
Tryouts for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield 13- and 14-year-old baseball team will take place 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, and Monday, Jan. 18, at the Sports Academy of Novi. For more information call David Friedman in the daytime at (734) 953-0155 or evenings at (248) 788-2595.

Mercy softball clinic

The Second Annual Mercy High School Softball Clinic will be 9-10:30 a.m. (grades 4-9) and 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (grades 7-12) on Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, as well as Feb. 13 and 20, in the school gym.

The cost is \$25 for six sessions or \$5 per session. Attendance is limited to 30 per session.

For more information, call Fred Marinucci at (313) 531-5819 or Jack Falvo at (248) 471-1748.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAZZALA

Dual meet:
Junior Jim Gabriel won the individual medley and the backstroke Tuesday as host North Farmington defeated Dearborn in a swimming dual meet, 141-44. The Raiders are counting on Gabriel, who was a state qualifier last year, to be one of their top athletes in 1999. For dual results, see the story on Page C4.

Raiders reach for prosperous '99



Senior leader: Matt Zald, a team captain with Tony Munaco and Aaron Rycroft, is one of North's and the area's top swimmers.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@homecomm.net

North Farmington is counting on quality over quantity to have another successful season in boys swimming and diving this year.

The Raiders have a small but talented group of 14 seniors and juniors on a 22-member squad, which resumed competition Tuesday following the holiday recess with a dual meet against visiting Dearborn.

North finished third in the Western Lakes Activities Association last year behind Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson.

It appears the Raiders, who were fourth in the WLAA Relays last month, will be among the league's top teams once again.

"Judging from the relay meet, we're probably going to have some good dual meets with teams in the league," North coach Pat Duthie said. "We'll have to

see how we do and how the competition stacks up, but I think we'll have an interesting season."

"We have some individuals who are pretty good athletes, and we should make it to the state meet with a few of them."

"But there's not a lot of time left. The season will go quickly. It's time to work hard, and there's no time to waste."

The Raiders will be led by captains Matt Zald, Aaron Rycroft and Tony Munaco, as well as follow seniors Oz Pearlman, Mark Wachaberg, Joe Lebovic and Justin Goodwin. Nearly all are four-year team members.

Zald set a varsity record and broke Mike Buntis' record in the 50 freestyle (21.88) and qualified for state in two events last year. In the WLAA meet, he was second in the 50 and third in the 100 freestyle.

Wachaberg is another sprinter who

Please see SWIMMING, C6

Whalers stagger home from road trip

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER
bemon@homecomm.net

One of the Ontario Hockey League's hottest teams was snowed under during its latest road swing.

Playing four games in five days, the Plymouth Whalers returned home Sunday night from Oshawa a bit weary, bruised and battered, going 0-3-1.

The West Division leaders (27-8-3), playing without five regulars — all competing at the World Junior Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba —

BASKETBALL

lost 2-1 to the host Generals in the final game of the trip.

The Whalers finished 3-4-1 during the eight-game stretch without defencemen Paul Mara (U.S.) and Nikos Tselios (U.S.), along with forwards David Legwand (U.S.), Harold Druken (Canada) and Tomek Valtonen (Finland).

All five are expected to return by Friday, including Druken, who played in

Tuesday's World Junior Championship final against Russia.

"The whole way was bad travel — bad roads, bad trip," Whalers coach Pete DeBoer said. "But I feel the team played a little above expectations given the fact that we were missing five impact players — all at once — and we played close to 500 hockey."

In the Oshawa loss, rookie goaltender Derek Dolsen stopped 21 shots, while Whaler counterpart Robert Holsinger turned away 32.

Andrew Peters scored the game-winner for Oshawa (19-14-3) with 8:43 to

go in the final period.

Each team tallied a goal in the opening period.

Oshawa's Kevin Colley notched his 21st of the year, while Plymouth's Rick Smith tallied a power-play goal, his 14th of the season.

On Saturday, Central Division-leading Barrie and the Whalers played to a 2-2 draw before 4,092.

Whalers backup goaltender Rob Zepp turned away 34 of 36 shots, while Barrie netminder Ben Vanderklok made

Please see WHALERS, C3

Clarenceville sacks Donaldson as coach

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER
bemon@homecomm.net

Chuck Donaldson, the only coach to guide Livonia Clarenceville to a state football playoff berth in school history, has been fired.

First-year Clarenceville athletic director and assistant principal Chuck Sorrentino made the decision during holiday break.

The 31-year-old Donaldson, who was 26-20 during his five-year tenure, said the move came as a "total shock."

"I really had no idea," Donaldson said. "The only reason I received is that they were looking at the long-term range of the football program. He (Sorrentino) said without a JV or freshman team, he could see it collapsing in two or three years because of the num-

FOOTBALL

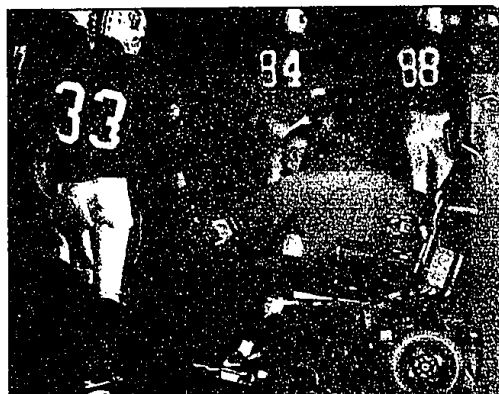
bers."

Despite the Trojans going 7-3 and qualifying for the first time ever for the state playoffs, Sorrentino, with the apparent blessings of Clarenceville principal Dave Simowski, decided the program needed to go in a different direction.

Simowski was unavailable for comment Tuesday night.

"Although it's unpleasant, I feel it's the right decision and the right thing to do," Sorrentino said. "Evaluating coaches at the end of each sports season falls under my job. Did I consult others? Yes. Hiring and dismissing

Please see DONALDSON, C4



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Coaching change: Chuck Donaldson, congratulating running back Walter Ragland, is out as Clarenceville football coach.