

FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

SFBI conducts sign-up

South Farmington Baseball Inc. will be registering players for the 1999 season at the Heritage Park Day Camp on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

Registration sessions will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23.

All new players must show a birth certificate at the time of registration. The cost is \$40 for T-ball, \$80 for all softball and baseball players under age 15 and \$120 for baseball players age 15 and over.

For more information call the SFBI hotline (474-3925). SFBI also will register team managers, coaches and volunteers during the registration period.

SFBI is recruiting umpires for the 1999 season. SFBI has a new umpire scheduler and has increased umpire pay rates.

Pistons visit schools

The Detroit Pistons, with their community outreach "Pistons Partners Program," hope to impact elementary school children in Farmington and around southeastern Michigan.

The Pistons will be at William Grace Elementary School in Farmington at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, and Lanigan Elementary School in Farmington at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, with step one of their program: "The Jam Session."

Coach Steve Moreland and Pistons mascot Hooper will be the featured speakers during a 40-minute interactive, motivational/educational assembly.

The objective is to impact youth by discussing topics that will play a key role in the game of life. Topics such as becoming a team player, positive peer pressure, building self-esteem and read to succeed will be discussed.

The second phase will be a basketball clinic that will take place at Grace Elementary 3:15-4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, and Lanigan Elementary 4:45-6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Along with hoops instruction, students will receive a Pistons T-shirt, Pistons prizes and a Pistons certificate of participation.

For more information on the Pistons Partners Program, call Chris Fritsching, basketball camp and clinic coordinator, at (248) 377-0104.

Hearn in ODP tourney

North Farmington senior Craig Hearn returned last week from an all-expense paid trip to San Diego where he competed for the Midwest team in an Olympic Development Program national tournament.

Hearn, a Division I all-state forward, was one of just three Michigan players to make the Midwest team and travel to San Diego for the Jan. 1-6 event.

Teams representing four regions of the country and the under-20 national team took part in a round-robin competition.

Last year was the first time Hearn was able to attend ODP tryouts due to his commitment to his club team in previous years.

Hearn advanced to the next round through five tryout sessions and was selected for the Midwest team during the final tryout phase in St. Louis last August.

Hearn scored a school-record 49 goals for the Raiders last fall, finishing his prep career with 91 goals and 33 assists. He is undecided about his college choice at this time.

NFWB baseball tryouts

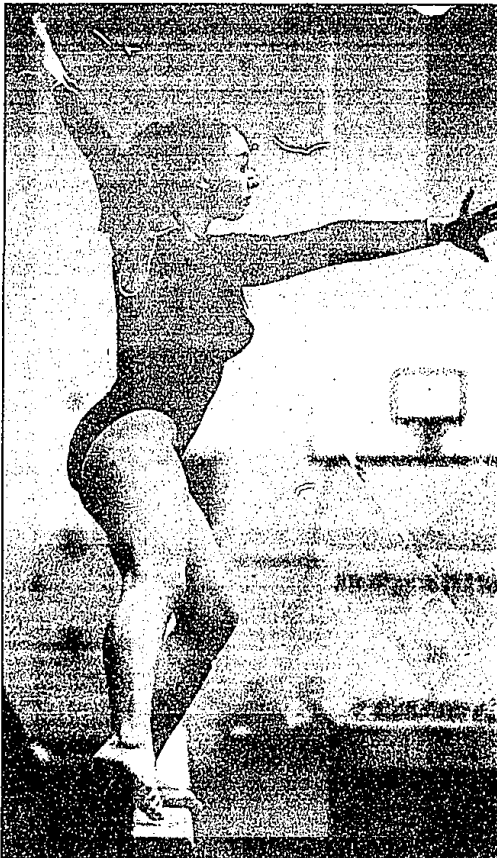
Tryouts for the NFWB 13- and 14-year-old baseball team will be 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, and Monday, Jan. 18, at the Sports Academy. For more information call David Friedman in the daytime at (734) 953-0155 or evenings at (248) 785-2595.

Mercy softball clinic

The Second Annual Farmington Hills Mercy High School Softball Clinic will be 9:10-30 a.m. (grades 4-6) and 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (grades 7-12) on Saturday, Jan. 9, 15, 23 and 29, as well as Feb. 13 and 20, in the school gym.

The cost is \$25 for six sessions or \$5 per session. For more information, call Fred Marinucci at (313) 531-5819 or Jack Fulvo at (248) 471-1748.

Gymnasts anticipate good year



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Top-notch gymnast: Senior Brook Rubin is a four-year member of the Farmington gymnastics team and one of its top performers.

With many of its top gymnasts returning, Farmington's unified team looks forward to having a successful season in 1999. The team, led by seniors Brook Rubin, Liz Stoler and Anna Clark, won its only dual meet in December and will continue following the holiday break Monday.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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With a veteran team returning and the addition of promising newcomers, Farmington's unified gymnastics team anticipates another successful season in 1999.

Farmington just missed qualifying for state and won 70 percent of its dual meets last year.

Graduation losses were few; however, Kelly Barenie and Marie Law were first-team All-Observer selections.

But Farmington returns senior tri-captains Brook Rubin, Anna Clark and Liz Stoler, as well as junior Jamie Mitello and sophomore Lauren Ouellette. Chelsea Keesling is the most promising member of a strong freshman class.

Rubin also was a member of the All-Observer first team. Clark, Stoler and Mitello were second-team selections.

"Barenie and Law) were outstanding competitors, but we're hoping, with our freshmen and just the maturity of the team, we can be where we were last year," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "Our goal is to make it to state as a team."

Rubin has been a top performer since her freshman year and also lends by example, according to Dwyer. Rubin has been to the state meet two of the last three years and placed in the all-around competition last season.

"She's a leader as far as how she works out in the gym," Dwyer said. "She's mature enough that she knows how to handle the girls at meets. Before each event begins, the captain will get the team together and give them a little talk, keeping everyone on task."

"Brook is pretty consistent, so I look for her to have a good year. I can always rely on Brook to score; I don't have to worry about her."

Clark, whose best events are vault and floor exercise, and Stoler are all-arounders, too. Both are not only more experienced as gymnasts but more mature as individuals and competitors, according to Dwyer.

"Clark has worked hard in the gym lately, and I think it's going to pay off," he said. "She's been real close the last couple years, but she seems a little

hungrier this year and I like that."

"I feel like I'm being repetitive," he added, speaking of Stoler. "It seems like Liz has grown up a lot. She's becoming more consistent and has a lot of potential."

"I can say almost the same thing for her as I did for Anna. They've matured a lot. That's what I like about having an older team. They know what the big meets are all about because they've been there."

Mitello, a state qualifier on beam, didn't do much gymnastics training in the summer, but she surprised Dwyer by winning the beam and floor competition in the team's only meet of the season thus far on Dec. 9 in which Farmington defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer, 135.10 to 132.05.

"She came in at least in shape," Dwyer said. "She's a talented girl and it showed. I'd say beam is her best event, and she looks stronger on floor. She doesn't do bars, but I'm trying to get her to do that because you never know what can happen."

Ouellette is a versatile athlete who had a late start in gymnastics because of diving and also plays softball for North Farmington in the spring.

"She was behind a little bit, but she's getting into shape," Dwyer said. "This is the hard part of season where we're getting through the grunt work."

"I don't think (Ouellette) knows how good she can be. I think she's on her way and I think you'll see some good scores from her."

Farmington managed to win its first dual without Keesling, who had to skip that meet to maintain her eligibility in club gymnastics. She's a Level 6 club gymnast, with 10 being the highest.

"She's going to be one of our top all-arounders; she'll give us a lot of help," Dwyer said. "She'll definitely have a real big impact."

Juniors Jennifer Galbraith, Courtney Wild and Caroline Dean also return from last season. Galbraith specializes on vault and bars, Wild bars and beam; Dean is good on vault, beam and floor.

The freshman class includes Krystin Ulewicz, who competed all-around in the first meet, Shelly Patrick, Haley

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Raiders crush Chiefs in league opener

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

If people aren't taking North Farmington's basketball team seriously in the Western Lakes Activities Association, they'd better start.

The Raiders displayed a lot of the trademarks of a very good, well-coached team Friday night when they dispatched tough Plymouth Canton, 62-42, in the WLAA opener for both schools.

Canton was about an hour late arriving for the start of the junior varsity

game, due to the weather of course. It didn't leave it's game behind, but it didn't arrive with a full tank, either.

"It was like we ran out of gas," said Canton coach Dan Young, whose team scored nearly as many points in the second quarter (20) as it did in the other three combined.

The Raiders improved to 5-1 while the Chiefs are now 2-4.

"We told our kids at halftime that

Dan Young was a good coach and that his kids play hard," North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian said.

"They made a great run. But we hit some shots early in the second half, got up a little bit and that seemed to help."

"To their credit, it was still a game with about 3½ minutes to play."

The Raiders limited the Chiefs to just three points in the final period, however, while scoring 16 themselves. They held a 17-13 margin in the third quarter.

North Farmington had a lot of success early and late with lob passes over

the defense to the inside. Junior center Emir Medjuran and junior guard Phil Watha had 16 points apiece for the Raiders.

Junior forward Adrian Bridges scored nine points, as did senior guard Albert Deljosevic.

Watha and Deljosevic have good size, which also gives Negoshian the option of letting them shoot over smaller defenders outside or take them down low for a little game of muscle.

North showed versatility by scoring

Please see RAIDERS, D5

Marlins expect to contend for Mount Brighton honors

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
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PREP SKIING

Unlike most metro Detroiters, Tom Gable was happy to see all the snow that fell over the first weekend of the New Year.

To Gable, the coach of the Farmington Hills Mercy and Detroit Catholic Central ski teams, it meant the official start of the season.

About time, he thought. With the late arrival of winter, Gable couldn't hold team tryouts at Mount Brighton until Dec. 12, about two weeks after the usual start.

After making final cuts, the teams had a pair of informal workouts between Christmas and New Year's Day. The first scheduled official practice on Monday was postponed, ironically, due to too much snow.

"I went to the hill, maybe half the girls and half the boys showed up," Gable said.

The teams opened their seasons Tuesday with a giant slalom race in the Mount Brighton Division of the Southeastern Michigan Ski League.

Mercy, the two-time defending division champion, took second place with 37

points. The Shamrocks, third in last year's regular-season boys division standings, came in third with 69 points.

Following is a look at the prospects for both teams:

Farmington Hills Mercy

The Marlins lost four key members to graduation, including third-team, all-state choice Donise Hartcock and regional selection Cristy Dabringhaus.

They were part of a team that made two straight Class A state meet appearances, finishing sixth in 1997 and seventh last year. The Marlins were regional champions in '97 and runners-up last year.

Kristen Smith and Jamie Borowiec also graduated after figuring in Mercy's outstanding team the last two years.

"I'll miss them dearly, but I have two seniors (Krystin Salls and Renee Burek) moving right there into the leadership role," Gable said.

"Both will be very accomplished senior



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACQUEL

Veteran skier: The Marlins will be counting more heavily on senior Renee Burek to lead the team in 1999.

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