

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Adult hockey sign-up

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is accepting registrations for the 1999 season, which begins March 28.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to participate in either the 18-, 30- or 40-and-over leagues. Team entries are being accepted for the 18- and 30-and-over leagues. Following individual registration, a draft will be conducted to determine teams in the 40-and-over league.

The entry fee for 18- and 30-and-over teams is \$2,160. The 40-and-over individual fee is \$245.

Registrations are being taken at either the Farmington Hills Ice Arena or the Suburban Training Center. For more information call the FIAHA at (248) 471-6004.

St. Edith grid sign-up

St. Edith's football program will register players for the 1999 season at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, in the school gym. St. Edith is located on Newburgh Road, just south of Five Mile Road.

All boys who will be in the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades next fall and are members of either St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Aidan, St. Kenneth or St. Maurice parishes are eligible.

Coaches for Redford Catholic Central, Dearborn Divine Child, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson and Northville high schools will be in attendance.

For more information, contact coach Bill Hamilton at (734) 462-3917 or coach Brad Dickey at (313) 240-6130.

Fishing trivia contest

Fishing enthusiasts, take note. Here's a chance to prove your fishing or fishing knowledge and win tickets to the 11th Annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo in the process.

We'll hold a fishing trivia contest each Thursday in the Observer & Eccentric through Feb. 25. Answer the weekly trivia question correctly and have a chance to win four tickets to the Sportfishing and Travel Expo, which will be held March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. One weekly winner will be randomly selected from all the correct answers we receive. All entries for this week's question must be postmarked by Monday, Feb. 1.

The biggest freshwater fish in the Great Lakes is the lake sturgeon. What is the weight of the current state record for lake sturgeon?

Send the correct answer to: Fishing Trivia Contest, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Remember, all entries must be postmarked by Monday, Feb. 1.

Women in Leadership

Olympic gold-medal swimmer Sheila Taormina of Livonia will headline a list of keynote speakers and workshop presenters at the 11th Michigan High School Athletic Association's Women in Sports Leadership Conference on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 7-8, at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing.

Taormina, a member of the U.S. 800-meter women's freestyle team that captured the gold in Atlanta, will be joined by Plymouth Canton athletic director Sue Heinmann, who will speak on the topic "Building Self-Confidence and Continuing the Process."

The other keynote speaker will be Shery Solberg, assistant to the executive director of the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

Registration is under \$10 and limited to the first 600. For information, call the MHSAA at (617) 332-5046.

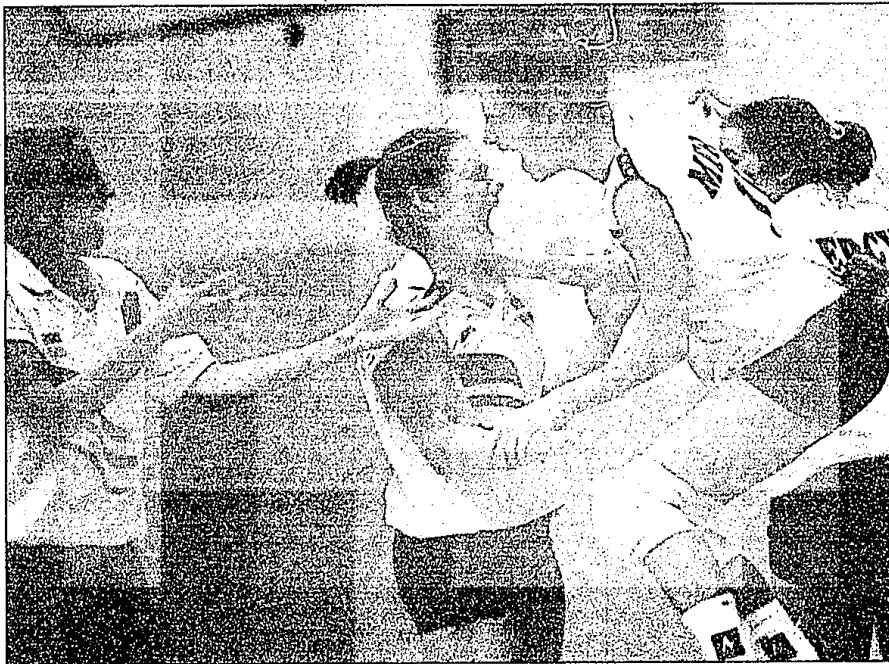
SoccerZone sign-up

SoccerZone is accepting walk-in and mail-in registration for its third season of indoor soccer until Feb. 6 and Feb. 13 for inline hockey.

The soccer fees are \$775 for adult teams and \$750 for teams 19 and younger. The individual fee is \$65. The cost includes referee fees and a SoccerZone jersey for new players.

The hockey fee is \$225 for midgut teams and older, \$795 for first-time teams and younger. For individuals who have never played, the fee is \$85 and includes two jerseys. The fee is \$75 for returning players.

SoccerZone is located at 41660 Grand River, Novi.



Celebration: Farmington Hills Mercy's Mary Gignac (left), Kelley Blunden (center) and Carey Czech have reason to celebrate Tuesday after the Marlins ended a long victory drought against rival Livonia Ladywood with 15-11, 15-10 wins over the Blazers at Mercy. The Marlins are in first place in the Catholic League's Central Division with a 3-0 record.

Marlins relish win over Blazers



The reaction of the Farmington Hills Mercy players - joy and jubilation - was certainly understandable. The Marlins hadn't beaten Livonia Ladywood at volleyball in almost a decade until doing so Tuesday, 15-11, 15-10.

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

If winning requires the right attitude as much as talent, Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball players were certainly in the proper frame of mind Tuesday.

The host Marlins were jumping for joy after defeating perennial Catholic League champion Livonia Ladywood for the first time in nearly a decade, 15-11, 15-10.

"We've been talking about this for a year. We have to beat the big guys; we have to keep our composure. It's a mindset," Mercy coach Ed Moeller said. "When we beat (Temperance) Bedford here in a tournament, I think that's when we started to believe we could. Now it's just an attitude."

The Marlins took over first place in the Catholic League Central Division with a 3-0 record and improved to 23-14 overall. The Blazers are 3-1 in the division and 20-12-1 overall.

Mercy relied on the strong outside hitting of senior Mary Gignac and junior Carrie Brankiewicz and the solid

play of senior Kaitlyn Jarzembowski in the middle to outthrust Ladywood.

The Marlins also were sharper on defense. The Blazers had trouble handling Mercy serves, as well as spikes, making it difficult to generate a consistent offense.

That prevented Ladywood from capitalizing on its greatest asset — 6-foot-1, all-state hitter Jenny Young, who was more effective on the service line with her powerful jump serves.

"We just didn't pass the ball and, when you don't get the ball on target, you can't run an offense," Ladywood coach Larry Wyatt said. "Mercy obviously outplayed us; you have to give them their due."

The Marlins switched from their regular 6-1 alignment and used a 6-2 for the purpose of countering Young and Ladywood's usually strong attack.

Carey Czech, the only other senior on a Mercy team that includes 10 juniors, Kristy Ramsey and Alexis Jones joined Gignac, Jarzembowski and Brankiewicz on the front line.

"We just thought we had to get big

Photo see MARLINS, C5



Point for Marlins: Mercy's Carrie Brankiewicz (right) exchanges high-fives with teammate Carey Czech after making a kill.

Rough road trip for Hawks



Hoop action: Farmington Harrison's Andrew Burt and teammates lost to host Plymouth, Salem Tuesday, 63-47. See story on Page C4.

Defending champion Rocks pass on Observerland meet

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington High wrestling coach Al Beyar isn't sure where his team will finish Saturday at the Eighth Annual Observerland Tournament, but he's sure of one thing.

When the action starts at 9 a.m. at Livonia Churchill, the Falcons will have the upper hand on at least one of the annual contenders.

"Plymouth Salem: We'll finish ahead of them, won't we?" Beyar said.

In any other year, that's a bold prediction for the Falcons, who haven't placed first since winning the inaugural meet in 1992 and have rarely finished ahead of the Rocks since.

But this year is different.

Salem, the defending Observerland champion, won't be participating because of a previous commitment to compete in the Holt Tournament.

WRESTLING PREVIEW

"We would rather be at Observerland this week, believe me. The last few years we didn't know if (the Observerland) would run or not. But we made a commitment at the end of last school year (with Holt) and had to stick with it."

Salem is 7-0 in dual meets and would've had a chance to defend its crown, for sure. In its absence, two-time champion Detroit Catholic Central becomes perhaps an overwhelming favorite with three-time winner Livonia Stevenson the best hope for second.

The Shamrocks have three state champion caliber wrestlers in their lineup, led by defending Division I heavyweight champ Casey Rogowski. CC also has the top-seeded wrestler in Observerland at 162 pounds, junior Mitch Hancock, and the top 215-pounder, senior Brock Naysmith.

Naysmith's only loss in 23 matches is to a state-title contender Mike DeGarin of Clarkston. Hancock is 16-3 and Rogowski 24-0 with 22 pins. Chris O'Hara (103), Sean Bell (140) and Ryan Zajdel (145) also figure to move through the

Photo see OBSERVERLAND, C4