

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Blues baseball clinic

The South Farmington Baseball Inc. Blues will host an instructional baseball clinic for all ages from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 6.

The clinic site will be the Cross of Christ Church gymnasium, which is located on the northwest corner of Telegraph and Lone Pine roads.

Wayne State University varsity baseball coach Rod George and his assistants will serve as clinic instructors. The cost is \$46. To register, call Greg Anderson at (248) 477-5096.

Grimaldi wins honor

Junior Anne Grimaldi of Farmington Hills, a member of the Alma College women's track and field team, was named the school's athlete of the week for her performance Feb. 6 at the Huntington Relays.

Grimaldi helped the Scots to a first-place team finish in their opening meet of the year by soaring ahead in the 3,200-meter run with a winning time of 12:11.8. She also took third place in the 1,600 run with a time of 5:35.8.

Grimaldi is an accounting major and a member of the cross country team, too.

Whalers blitz Sting

After two tight periods, the Plymouth Whalers broke loose for five goals in the third period Sunday to rout the host Sarnia Sting in an Ontario Hockey League game, 7-2.

The win pushed Plymouth's record to 40-9-3 for 83 points, tying it with the Ottawa 67s and the Barrie Colts for first place overall in the OHL. Sarnia slipped to 28-16-5.

The win was the Whalers' third in three days. They beat the Kitchener Rangers 2-1 Friday in Kitchener, then edged the Toronto St. Michael's Majors 5-3 Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Peter Cava gave Sarnia the early lead Sunday, scoring a power-play goal at the 5:46 mark of the opening period. The Whalers answered with goals from Nikos Tselios (5:58) and Jason Ward (9:05), but the Sting's Ivan Novoseltsev knotted it at 2-2 before the period ended.

A scoreless third period set the stage for the third-period fireworks. Ward's second goal of the game, and 15th of the season, broke the tie. Goals by David Legwand (his 26th), Harold Druken (45th), Tselios (16th) and Damian Surma (12th) followed. Druken also had two assists in the period; Kevin Holdridge (Redford Catholic Central) had two assists, too.

Rob Zepp made 17 stops in goal for Plymouth; Curtis Cruickshank had 33 saves for Sarnia.

Fishing trivia contest

Here's a chance to prove your superior 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 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. 15.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1996, Dennis Nevins shattered the state record when he landed a brook trout in excess of nine pounds while ice fishing on Clear Lake in the Upper Peninsula. By how much did Nevins' fish break the old record of six pounds, 12 ounces?

Send in the correct answer to: Fishing Trivia Contest, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Remember, all entries must be postmarked by Monday, Feb. 15.

U-DM hoop promotion

The University of Detroit Mercy women's basketball team is having a Take-A-Kid-To-The-Game promotion when the Titans host Wisconsin Green Bay Saturday at Calhoun Hall.

The program, designed to promote the women's game to youth, allows children 13 and under to enter the game free with a paid adult admission. This is the fourth year for the program that has grown from 30 NCAA schools in the first year to 289.

OCC cagers bombard rival S'craft



Montez Briggs connected on 62 percent of his field-goal attempts and scored a game-high 48 points Monday as Oakland Community College ripped heavily-favored Schoolcraft in a men's basketball game, 117-97.

BY C.J. RISK
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Not even the return of leading scorer Lamar Bigby could stop unheralded Oakland Community College from taking a part nationally-ranked Schoolcraft College in men's basketball Monday. The Ocelots had won 16 straight

games, including their first six in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference, but the Raiders handed Schoolcraft its third loss in five games, 117-97.

Bigby, averaging 18 points a game, missed the last three games, including a critical loss to Flint Mott. Two games were due to an eligibility issue and the

other to a violation of team rules.

He was cleared to play against OCC Monday, but Bigby wasn't enough to derail the hot-shooting Raiders, who came into the game with losing records in conference play and overall.

But the Raiders were hardly in awe of the Ocelots, who were No. 13 in the country at one time. OCC started fast and never relented, rolling to a 59-45 lead by halftime and increasing that to 30 points with three minutes left.

First-year OCC coach Dymetrius Ware wouldn't take credit for the lopsided win.

"I wasn't shooting it," he replied when an onlooker complimented him

on his coaching. "I just watched, like you did."

SC coach Carlos Briggs was forced to watch, too, and it wasn't pretty.

"It was ugly," he said. "We were selfish, and (the Raiders) played like a team."

Most of the damage was inflicted by the OCC backcourt. Point guard Montez Briggs lit up the Ocelots for 46 points, converting 13 of 21 shots (62 percent) from the floor, including six of nine three-pointers, and all 14 of his free throws. Briggs also had eight rebounds, six assists and four steals.

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Power play at center court



Dig this, Rockets: Farmington's Lyndsy Howard, a 6-foot-1 sophomore middle hitter, sends a spike over the net Monday. The Falcons lost to Westland John Glenn, however. See story on C4.

Raiders assume top spot

BY DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington started slow but finished strong Tuesday to remain the only undefeated boys basketball team in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Raiders overcame an early lead by visiting Northville and pulled away in the final four minutes to post a 53-34 victory.

The win coupled with Walled Lake Western's 47-45 loss to Plymouth Salem puts North atop the WLAA standings with a 7-0 record.

With four league games left, the Raiders play at Westland John Glenn (6-2) Friday and at Western (7-1) Tuesday. Their last two games are against Livonia Stevenson and Farmington.

BASKETBALL

Making five of its first seven shots, Northville (4-4) worked the ball inside, beating the North defense for early layups and a 12-6 lead.

But junior Phil Watha hit the first of his six three-point baskets to end the first quarter and get the Raiders going offensively.

North, now 11-2 overall, also turned up the defensive pressure and held Northville to just three points in the second period while taking a 21-15 halftime lead.

"It was a matter of making a couple (defensive) adjustments, with (junior center) Emir (Medunjanin) moving up a little bit," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "And I think we started playing harder on defense."

"(The Mustangs are) a very difficult team to play against. They're big and they get in that odd-man front zone, and our kids did a great job of adjusting to it. To Northville's credit, they had a good game plan and played very well."

Northville stayed within four points after three quarters, 34-30. But Watha hit back-to-back threes to start the fourth and make it a 10-point difference.

Brent Allen's layup with 4:44 remaining kept the Mustangs close at 40-34, but the Raiders finished the game by scoring the last 13 points, including six by Medunjanin and one more three by Watha.

"(Northville has) been playing people very tough," Negoshian. "That's not indicative how close it was."

"Our kids were very patient, went about attacking the zone and got very

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Warriors show they still have what it takes

BY MARTY BUDNER
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The talk about Brother Rice's decline in swimming is greatly premature. In fact, if Saturday's Oakland County swimming and diving championship meet is any indication, the Warriors remain a legitimate state-title threat.

Many state swim observers believed Brother Rice's swim team, owners of five consecutive state Class A championships, would be on the downturn this season after losing three key swimmers to graduation. Even though they've

SWIMMING

been No. 1 most of this year, it was widely speculated the Warriors' lofty ranking was based strictly on past performance.

Well, the Warriors made a big statement at the county meet, rolling to their sixth consecutive county crown and looking very strong and deep in the process. They are highly motivated to defend their state title, and the county performance was a big confidence builder.

Rice scored 305 points and easily defeated Rochester Adams, which was led by record-breaking junior Christian Vanderkay and placed second with 192 points. North Farmington had the best finish among Farmington schools (eighth place).

Rice won both freestyle relays, was third in the 200 medley and placed among the top six in seven of the nine individual events. The Warriors scored in all 12 events, including the 200 freestyle in which they took five of the first six places. Rice also had three scorers in the 1M, 100 and 500

freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

Rice's first-year coach, Mike Venos, admits it took his Warriors a little time to adjust to the graduation of last year's swim studs Karl Pawlewicz, Matt Parrish and Nick Duda. But he was very pleased with his team's efforts Saturday.

"It's a little different. It took some time for these guys to quit looking around for Matt Parrish, Karl Pawlewicz and those guys," Venos said. "A lot of people in the past thought we

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