

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Hills hockey sign up

The Farmington Hills Hockey Association will conduct open registration for the 1999-2000 season from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 20, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The registration fee is \$100 for residents and \$125 for non-residents. Players must have a copy of their birth certificates to register.

For more information call 478-8193.

Alma team undefeated

Senior pitcher Erin LaCasse (Farmington Harrison) and junior shortstop Heidi Wahl (Southfield/Mersey High School) are members of the unbeaten Alma College softball team.

The Fighting Scots finished their spring trip to Florida by winning all 10 games in the Fort Myers Collegiate Classic.

Alma defeated the University at Albany (N.Y.) 10-2, Mercyhurst College (Pa.) 2-1, Dominican University (Ill.) 12-2, Ohio Northern University 9-2, Capital University (Ohio) 3-1, Concordia-Moorhead College (Minn.) 9-7, Gannon University (Pa.) 2-0, Ohio Northern University 9-0, Rochester Institute of Technology (N.Y.) 16-3 and St. Thomas University (Fla.) 9-0.

The Fighting Scots resume competition this weekend in the Indianapolis Invitational. Alma plays host to Grand Valley State University in its first home game Tuesday, March 23.

Health Expo experts

Olympic gold medalists Sheila Taormina (Livonia Stevenson) and Peter Snell and former world record-holder Herb Lindsay will be part of a weekend of run-and-walk races as part of a health expo April 10-11 at Domino's Farms in Anna Arbor.

Taormina, a gold medalist in swimming; Snell, a three-time gold medalist in the 800- and 1,600-meter runs; and Lindsay, a former world record-holder in the 10-mile and 20-kilometer road runs, will be joined by 11 other nationally-known speakers and 47 exhibitors who will address such issues as nutrition, sports medicine, acupuncture, massage and homeopathy. Admission to these discourses is free.

Race events are scheduled for April 11 and will include the Domino's Distance Classic 20K run, the U-M Heart Care Program Healthy 5K run and walk and the U-M Heart Care Mitral Mile run, walk and racewalk. All will be at Domino's Farms.

Taormina, who won her gold at the Atlanta Olympics, is a professional motivational speaker and a triathlete. He is called "More than Gold: Get to know an Olympic Athlete, and then you'll realize you can be one, too!"

For race entry forms or more information, call (734) 332-3981 or (734) 662-1000, or check the web at www.athleticventures.com

Cage tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the 1999 Michigan High School Athletic Association boys basketball semifinals and finals through the Breslin Student Events Center Box Office.

The semifinals will take place in East Lansing on March 25-26 and the finals March 27.

Tickets for all semifinal games are \$5 each per session. Tickets for the final games are sold in all-day packages at \$18.

The Class D final will be played at 10 a.m. C at noon, A at 4 p.m. and B at 7:30 p.m.

For the first time, there will be no limit on the number of tickets an individual may purchase for the semifinals or finals.

For more information, contact the Breslin Student Events Center Box Office at (517) 432-5000.

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.

To register, contact the FHAAH by calling (248) 471-6004.



Looking for help: North Farmington senior Matt Kelmigian looks for a teammate and a passing lane Tuesday in a regional basketball game with Southfield-Lathrup, which won, 65-41.

Lathrup ends run by North



North Farmington's post-season tournament run ended with a 65-41 regional loss to Southfield-Lathrup.

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

Southfield-Lathrup turned up the defensive pressure on North Farmington in the second half and turned a close basketball game into a rout Tuesday.

The Chargers outscored the Raiders 40-14 after halftime and coasted into the final of the Class A regional tournament at Birmingham Groves with a 65-41 victory.

"We let (the Raiders) get too comfortable running their offense in the first half," Lathrup coach Mike Avery said. "It was standstill defense instead of pressing the ball. They got confident because we weren't guarding like we normally do."

"It was a good team effort on everybody's part as far as stepping up their game in the second half."

Lathrup (21-3) will play another Western Lakes Activities Association team, Plymouth Salem, for the regional championship at 7 tonight.

The Rocks (19-4), who lost twice to North during the regular season, were 70-68 winners over Detroit Northern in the other semifinal contest Tuesday.

"It's going to be a tough ballgame," Avery said, adding the Chargers "welcome the challenge. They have a good outside shooting team. You have to get on the perimeter and play some defense."

Lathrup senior Brandon Edwards scored 15 of his game-high 21 points in the second half when he was 11-of-12 on free throws.

Solomon Edwards, a 6-foot-2 senior who has

Please see BASKETBALL, C4

Raiders' Zald earns all-state honors

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

Senior Matt Zald became the first North Farmington swimmer since Jon Kershaw to score in two events at the Class A boys state championship meet Saturday.

Zald finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and 11th in the 100 freestyle. Anyone finishing in the top 12 scores team points and is considered all-state.

"He's the fastest kid we've had in the 50, and we've had 31 years of swimming at North Farmington now," North



Matt Zald

SWIMMING

coach Pat Duthie said. "I think it's quite an accomplishment. There aren't a lot who score, let alone score in two events."

"I was real pleased with what he did. He's not real happy, because he believes he could have gone faster in the 50. With more background, I have no doubt he could be faster in the 100."

Zald, who was undefeated in dual meets in the 50 and was the Oakland County champion, swam 21.63 in the finals but went 21.54 in the prelims Friday.

"The place was not a big deal to him," Duthie said, "but his time expectations were a little faster than what he swam. He didn't have a good start in the

prelims. The block seemed to rock back on him, and his foot was a little high on the wall (at the turn). Consequently, he went a little deeper on the push-off."

Nonetheless, Zald's prelim time broke his own school record and qualifies for All-America consideration.

Zald also swam his best time (47.64) in the finals of the 100 freestyle, improving on his prelim time of 47.95.

Kershaw was a double state champion for the Raiders in 1994, winning the 200 and 100 freestyle titles.

Zald made great strides since last season, according to Duthie, when he qualified for state in the same events but didn't score. Zald's best times a year ago were 21.88 in the 50 and 49.10 in the 100.

Furthermore, he didn't train during the summer while he was gone on a

family trip to Australia.

"He's done this in 12 to 13 weeks of training (since the start of the season)," Duthie said. "He has a lot of natural ability."

"In a year's time, Matt came a long way. After four years, when I look at his times as a freshman, he came a real long way."

"He was very focused and most importantly was a real team leader. He was the sparkplug of this team, and he helped everyone to accomplish more."

Zald's focus enabled him to overcome adversity — he was ill the week of and after the Western Lakes Activities Association meet — and continue to train at a crucial point in the season.

"Give him credit. He was sick, but he always got himself in the water; he

Please see SWIMMING, C4

State finals

Farmington 6th in team competition

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

Consistency was the hallmark of the Farmington gymnastics team throughout the 1999 season, including its final performance in the state meet.

Farmington fell short of matching its best score but still finished sixth in the 12-team competition Friday at Hartland High School.

The host Eagles won the state title with a 144.75 score, edging Western Lakes Activities Association champion Brighton, which scored 144.45. Farmington was better than six other teams with a 138.8 team total.

"If you look at the teams that were there, if we would've had a perfect meet, I don't know if we could've been much higher," Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said. "Those teams had some pretty good gymnasts."

"We had a very solid meet. I was happy with the outcome. If we had a bad event here or there, you could say we could've done this or that, but we had a good meet."

GYMNASICS

"The thing I like about our team is we had one Division I, and we showed you can be pretty tough in high school without having to be in a club. I'm quite proud of the girls."

If Farmington had equaled its best score of 141.8 that it scored at the regional meet, the team would have moved up two places ahead of Portage Northern (141.5) and Rochester Adams (141.4) to finish fourth behind third-place Rochester (141.85).

"You can always think 'What if?' and that will drive you crazy," Dwyer said, adding the judging was a little different.

"Everyone came away with a good feeling. We reached our goal; we made it to state. When we got there, we said 'Let's see how high we can place.' We beat out six very good teams. These

were 12 teams from the entire state, and we were better than half of them. I feel great about that."

Farmington's top individual scorers in team competition were, on bars: freshman Chelsea Keesling 9.05, senior Brook Rubin 8.85, sophomore Lauren Ouellette 8.25 and senior Anna Clark 7.8.

Junior Jamie Millette led the way on balance beam with a 9.05; Keesling scored 8.9, Clark 8.4 and freshman Kristin Ulewicz 8.25.

Keesling received a 9.25 on floor exercise, Millette 8.85, Rubin 8.7 and Ulewicz 8.65. Ulewicz had the best vault score at 9.15; Ouellette had an 8.65, Clark 8.6 and Rubin 8.4.

"I don't think we had any real outstanding scores, but as long as we kept posting high 8s on each event we were going to score between 138 and 140," Dwyer said. "We've been so consistent in that range except for one meet."

This was one of our better competitive teams. The girls were hungry this year. They had that attitude; they weren't scared when they got to region-



State meet: Chelsea Keesling was in the top 10 in two events.

Please see GYMNASTICS, C6