

# Sports & Recreation

The Farmington  
Observer

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on the web: <http://observer.occnet.com>

## FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### OCC softball team .500

The Oakland Community College softball team returned from its annual spring trip to Florida with a 4-4 record.

The Lady Raiders opened with a doubleheader loss to Indian River (Fla.) CC, 7-1 and 9-7. OCC split with Brevard (Fla.) CC, losing the opener, 7-3, but winning the nightcap, 10-8.

After a couple days of practice, OCC moved north to Lake City and won back-to-back games over Baker (Kan.) University, 3-0, and Cumberland (Tenn.), 8-6.

The Lady Raiders competed in the Timberwolves Tournament and beat South Suburban (Ill.) College, 2-0, before losing to Palm Beach (Fla.) CC, 7-1.

Megan Eorhart (Waterford Mott) batted .429 to lead OCC and also was 2-0 on the mound. Tammie Davis (Waterford Kettering) batted .381 in eight games with four RBI.

Leanne Domke (Ortonville) hit .360 and had seven RBI; Jennifer Sorgelose (St. Clair Shores South Lake) hit .333, and Missy VanDoorn (Royal Oak Dondoro) hit .237 with three RBI.

VanDoorn and Rachel Fuller (Clarkston) were 1-2 as pitchers. VanDoorn had nine strikeouts and Fuller five.

OCC began its northern schedule Saturday at home. The Lady Raiders play host to Muskegon CC in a doubleheader today at Shell Park in Waterford starting at 1 p.m.

Senior pitcher Erin LaCasse (Farmington Hills/Harrison) earned her first victory of the season for the Alma College softball team March 19 when the Scots beat Bluffton, 6-1. She struck out two.

Alma was 15-0 heading into a game Tuesday with Grand Valley State University at Alma.

### Youth soccer champs

The under-13 Michigan Hawks, a girls soccer team coached by John Buchanan, captured first place in the Indoor National Tournament held March 5-7 at Fraser and Wixom Total Soccer.

The Hawks defeated the Cleveland Internationals in the championship match, 7-2. They also had wins over Syracuse, N.Y. (8-0), Ohio Premier (6-2), the Cleveland Cobras (7-0) and the Syracuse, N.Y., Scorpions (8-2).

The members of the Hawks are Kyle LaPorte and Melissa Doherty, both of Livonia; Jordan Falcuwan, Plymouth; Marissa Sarkesian, Canton; Erica Rose, Farmington; Sabrina Must, Bloomfield Hills; goalkeeper Kathryn Cummings, Jenny Szymanski, Troy; Nicole Cauzillo and Whitney Guenther, Northville; Nikki Hermann, Deane; Kuba, Kelly McManis, Moe Pawlak, Novi; Jill Kohler, Flint; and Erin Dean, Dearborn.

Tiffany Graves is the assistant coach. The team manager is Linda Cauzillo.

The Hawks have won several tournaments, including the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Cup and will compete this summer in South Dakota for the region tourney title. They also won the Washington Area Girls Soccer Tournament and Dayton tourney.

### U.S. Soccer Academy

The United States Soccer Academy is seeking players, boys and girls on teams under-11 through under-19, for a developmental program to represent the U.S. in the world's largest youth soccer tournament, the Gothia Cup in Sweden and the Dana Cup in Denmark.

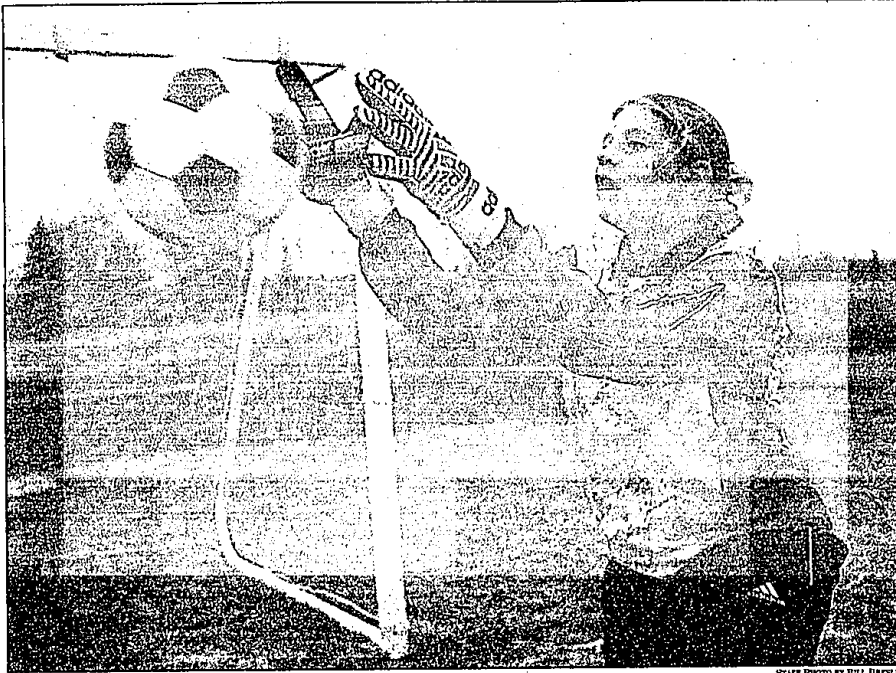
Players will attend a five-day training camp in Denmark and must be available to travel July 13 through Aug. 2. For more information, call 1-800-656-5499.

### Prep coaches needed

Farmington Public Schools is looking for qualified applicants to fill a position as a JV girls soccer coach effective immediately. Contact Athletic Director Brian Swinehart at (248) 489-3352.

Farmington Hills Mercy High School is searching for a varsity women's coach. Call Mercy Athletic Director Nancy Malinowski at (248) 476-2836.

(Readers can fax information for the Farmington Observer Sports Scene to Dan O'Meara at (734) 591-7279.)



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DICKLER

## '99 Marlins boast talented squad



BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Farmington Hills Mercy plans to field its most talented soccer team in a decade, according to coach Deepak Shivraman. The Marlins had an 11-5 record and were runners-up in the Catholic League last season.

amount of experience among the players and the skill level is pretty high.

"I'm optimistic but I know talent alone is not going to get the job done. (The Marlins) have to sacrifice and work hard. Those two elements are sometimes harder to get out of players than talent alone.

"We've had players in the past who were not as talented but brought a great attitude to the table. Hopefully, the present team can emulate them."

The Marlins, who were 11-5 last year, have a veteran group of midfielders led by senior co-captain Mary

Gignac and sophomore Abbey Shepherd. Both were All-Catholic players.

Gignac, a four-year starter who scored seven goals, and Shepherd, who led the Marlins in scoring with 12 goals, and made the All-Observer first and second teams, respectively.

"Mary gives us a lot of leadership and is a solid fixture in the middle," Shivraman said. "Abbey is a tremendous player with a lot of potential. Her energy level is great."

Sophomore Carrie Denton started every game at outside halfback, and freshman Ashley Hamble replaces Stephanie Krieg, who moved to Bishop Foley.

"I think we're going to have the most talented midfield at Mercy in a long time," Shivraman said. "We've always had players who stood out, but I've never seen a team more talented than

this team. The most important thing is the experience Mary brings in the middle and the amount of skill Carrie and Abbey bring to the team."

On the forward line, Mercy returns juniors Susie Robie, who scored 11 goals, and Carrie Kluska. The Marlins will play a 4-4-2 with sophomore Sumbal Ahmad coming off the bench.

"Susie has proved to be a quality forward in this league, especially in the championship game with Bishop Foley," Shivraman said. "She took on some of the best defenders in the state and was able to score a

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## Inexperienced Raiders continue building process

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Ronald Reagan promised during the 1984 presidential campaign not to take advantage of his opponent's youth and inexperience.

The players on North Farmington's girls soccer team would probably like their opponents to make the same pledge.

The Raiders were winless last season

### GIRLS SOCCER

and face another formidable lineup of foes with a young and largely untested team.

Their roster includes 14 returning players but only two seniors as opposed to four freshmen.

"Half our team is underclassmen, so we're still building," coach Tim Russell said. "We're still relatively young and

learning about the game.

"Overall, we're more balanced than we've been in a few years. We're not a very deep team. We have a lot of girls who are trying to work into the lineup. But, as far as the starting 11, I'm pretty comfortable."

Senior Cathy Ricco and sophomores Kelly Hogan and Joyce Chung are returning players who will start in the midfield.

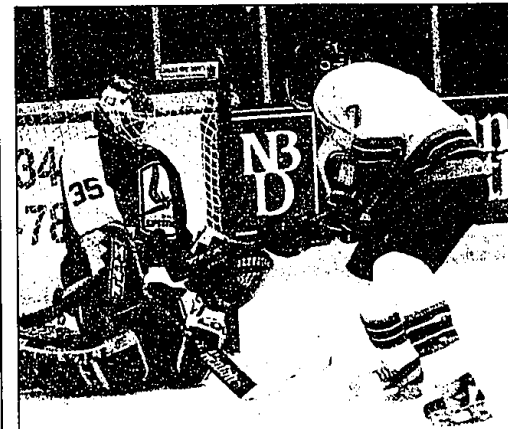
Freshman Lauren Hogan joins the

group as the fourth starter, and juniors Lamin Atasi and Carly Siskind will come off the bench in support.

"They're having a good time; that's the big key," Russell said. "They more experienced than what we've had in the past, but most are only sophomores. In a couple years, they'll be quite improved."

The forwards include returning juniors Jackie Tate, Shannon Harney,

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STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL THURGOOD

Scoring play: Troy Smith puts the puck past Spitfires goalie Ron Vogel for a Whalers goal Friday in Plymouth's playoff victory.

## Whalers complete rout of Spitfires in 8-2 win

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE  
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Goal, goal ... yawn ... goal, buzzer. OK, who's next?

And so it went for the Plymouth Whalers Friday in an 8-2, go-through-the-motions win that sent the Windsor Spitfires packing for the season.

The win capped an impressive 4-0 first-round sweep by the Whalers, who outscored Windsor 27-6 in the series.

Plymouth head coach and general manager Peter DeBoer didn't see much room for improvement in how the team performed against the Spitfires.

"We won our first round; we got through it healthy, and we're pretty confident with the way we handled the four games," he said. "It's a nice way to get through it. We've got some time off before our next round."

Who the Whalers will face in the next round is still to be determined, but the opening game of the series is

set for next Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Plymouth. The team could face London, Sarnia or Sault Ste. Marie depending on how the other series finish.

"It doesn't really matter who we play," said DeBoer. "All three teams are in our league, and we had equal success against each of them. They're all about equal distance as well, except for the Soo."

Despite having to endure an eight-day stretch between games, DeBoer was confident his squad will be ready to play and is confident the layoff won't have much of an impact.

"I think the most it would carry over to is maybe a period or so next Saturday night," he said. "That would be the worst of it, but that's our job as coaches to schedule the week out right, so we

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