

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

LaCrosse earns honor

Senior pitcher Erin LaCrosse was one of four Alma College softball players named to the all-tournament team following the Alma Invitational March 25-27.

The Fighting Scots won all five games and the championship, defeating Aquinas College in the final, 6-0. LaCrosse (3-0) pitched a four-hit shutout in the semifinals as Alma best St. Francis of Indiana in five innings, 8-0.

In the second game of the tournament, LaCrosse pitched a complete game and earned her second win of the season in a 7-4 victory over Lake Superior State.

Her former teammate at Farmington Harrison, Jennifer Myelinaki, is the third-leading hitter on the Western Michigan University softball team through 11 games with a .323 batting average.

Junior Anne Grimaldi of Farmington Hills (Farmington High) placed second in the 5,000-meter run (19:16) as the Alma women's track team finished fourth of seven teams in the Huntington Relays March 27.

Adult sand volleyball

Farmington Hills is accepting new team registrations for adult sand volleyball. There are leagues for teams of two, three, four (coed and women's) and six (coed) players.

Registration is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Leagues will play one night per week.

For fee and schedule information call the Department of Special Services at (248) 473-9570. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

OCC drops twinbill

Oakland Community College lost a doubleheader to visiting Delta College in women's softball Thursday at Shell Park in Waterford, 7-4 and 8-6.

The losses left the Lady Raiders 0-2 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and 6-8 overall.

Delta had 13 hits off OCC pitcher Amy VanDoorn in the opener. Winning pitcher Sara Smith allowed seven hits while striking out 11 and walking three.

Jennifer Sorgeloos and Tammy Bastian had two hits apiece for the Lady Raiders.

In the second game, Delta scored five runs in the top of the seventh inning to win. Rachel Fuller pitched 6½ innings and took the loss.

Delta leadoff batter April Vega went 3-for-4 and scored two runs. Lisa Erndt had two hits, scored three runs and had three RBI.

Danielle Ventimiglia knocked in two runs for OCC. Sorgeloos and Tammie Davis hit safely on two occasions each.

After winning pitcher Julie Seebeck went six innings, Smith threw a hitless seventh inning to preserve Delta's lead.

Prep coaches needed

Livonia Clarenceville is seeking a varsity cheerleading, assistant girls basketball and varsity gymnastics coach. For more information, call athletic director Chuck Sorrentino at (248) 473-8926.

Half-marathon race

Volunteers are needed for the 23rd Annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon on Sunday, April 18.

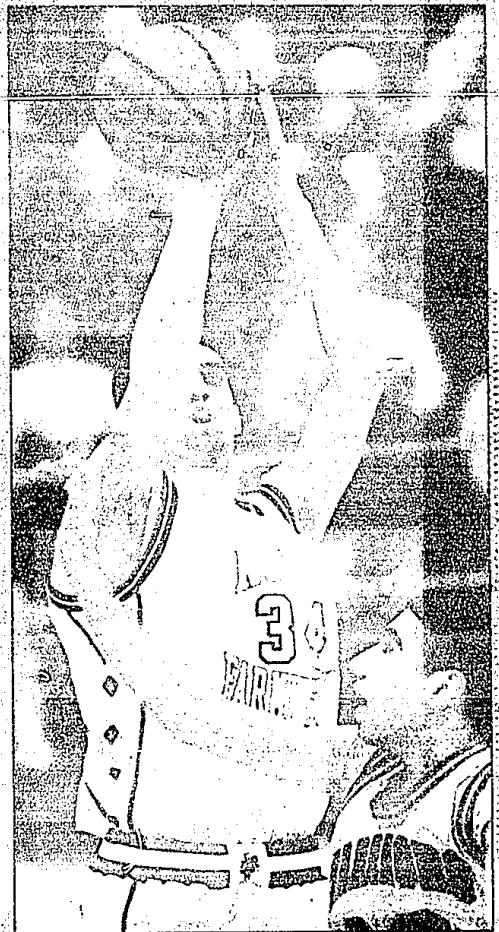
Volunteers are needed to help pass out T-shirts and numbers at registration, hand out water on the course and help keep runners and walkers on the course. Volunteers will also assist runners at the finish line.

The half-marathon and the 5K run-walk begin at West Bloomfield High School. The 13.1-mile half-marathon begins at 12:45 p.m. and the run-walk at 10:30 a.m.

The Kids Run begins at 11:30 a.m. on the track at West Bloomfield High. Early registration for the half-marathon is \$17 before April 9 and \$20 after that date. Early registration for the 5K is \$14 before April 9 and \$16 thereafter. Early registration for the Kids Run is \$10 before April 12 and \$12 after April 12.

For more information call West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at (248) 738-2500 or visit its web site at <http://www.metro.net/lib.mi.us/WestUParks/wbphome.html>.

All-Observer basketball players



All-Area stars: Farmington Harrison senior Andrew Burt (above) and North Farmington junior Emir Medunjanin (right) were named to the All-Observer first team in boys basketball. Each led his team in scoring and rebounding. See Page D3 for profiles of the first- and second-team players and a list of the first through fourth all-area teams.

Falcons enter season minus top pitcher



BY DAN O'MEARA
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There's good and bad news regarding the Farmington High softball team as the 1999 season approaches.

On the positive side, the Falcons have eight starters back from a team that was 14-14 and are optimistic about doing better this year.

But Farmington will be without its top pitcher, junior Melissa Mytty, for the first month of the season at least.

A back injury that caused Mytty to miss the entire volleyball season is expected to keep her idle until May.

"If she came back in April, that would be fantastic," Farmington coach Jerry Osborne said. "Eventually, she'll be able to play, but we want to be safe and make sure (the injury) heals. She's a college-prospect player, and we don't want to take any chances with that."

Taking Mytty's place will be junior Jessica Brown, who pitched primarily on the JV but appeared in some varsity

games when Mytty was sidelined with a sore elbow.

"She's going to do a good job for us," Osborne said. "Her strike-to-ball ratio is very good. She won't hurt us as far as walking batters. She's not an overpowering pitcher, but she moves the ball around and throws strikes."

Brown will have a veteran receiver behind the plate to help her in junior catcher Meghan O'Rear, who was voted the most improved player on the team last year.

"Her skills have come a long way since her freshman year," Osborne said. "She had a lot of big base hits and is a very good defensive catcher."

In the field, the Falcons have solid, experienced players at nearly every position, beginning with sophomore

first baseman Danielle Lewis, who started at second base and replaces Kelly DePotter at first.

"Danielle is a good power hitter," Osborne said. "She has a good glove and is a very solid infielder. She's going to be a very good first baseman by the time it's all done."

Senior Heather Martin, who had been a designated hitter, takes over for Lewis at second base.

"She doesn't hit for a great average, but she comes through with the big base hit when you need it," Osborne said. "She's a gamer; she does a nice job."

The important shortstop position remains in the capable hands of junior Julie Rotenheiser, who makes tough

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Harrison intends to challenge for title

BY DAN O'MEARA
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In the second half of the 1990s, Farmington Harrison has done well on the baseball diamond, and the Hawks plan to finish the decade by continuing that success.

"I think we should be a very good team," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We've had four back-to-back good years, and this team could be as good as any of them."

The Hawks, who are 78-29 during that span, set a school record for single-season victories last year with a 23-7 record and shared a division title with Walled Lake Western.

Harrison just missed winning its third Western Lakes Activities Association crown since 1995, losing to North Farmington in the championship game, 3-2.

The Hawks, who were Division II regional runners-up to Redford



Joe Ghannam
senior pitcher



Mike Hoed
senior first baseman



Dave Pesci
senior outfielder

Thurston, are minus their top two hitters of a year ago — Zack Cornwell, who plays for Central Michigan University, and Mike Fisher. But they have plenty of returning

talent, enough to cause Herrington to be so optimistic about the upcoming season.

Harrison has a pair of experienced senior pitchers in Zach Burton, who

became the ace of the staff last year when Cornwell developed a sore arm, and Joe Ghannam.

Burton finished with an 8-0 record and 1.59 ERA; he had 66 strikeouts and only 15 walks in 67 innings.

"He had a sore arm in the regional; otherwise, we might have been able to win that," Herrington said. "He had an outstanding junior year, and I think he should be as good if not better."

"He lifted a lot of weights and appears to be quite strong. He won against two very good teams, Royal Oak Dondoro and Country Day, and two of the better pitchers in the state last year."

Ghannam was right behind with 56½ innings pitched and an 8-3 record. He had 46 strikeouts, 23 walks and a 3.08

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BASEBALL