

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Cobras keep winning

The 14-year-old NFWB Cobras improved their record to 8-2 with three more wins in their travel baseball league.

Andy Wingert pitched a one-hitter June 1 as the Cobras defeated the Lincoln Park Rails, 5-2. Wingert gave up one run and struck out five in five innings.

Bryan Smith finished the game on the mound, pitching the last two innings. Nick Vitanis, Ben Darga and Wingert contributed two hits each to pace the offense.

Dan Lentz went 3-for-4 and had three RBI June 3 to spark the Cobras to a 19-1 rout of the Detroit Rangers. He hit a leadoff homer in the first inning and scored three runs.

Evan Rodriguez, Matt Petry, Doug Pickens, Kevin Zerbo, Smith and Wingert had two hits apiece. Petry knocked in three runs.

Danny Graham, Lentz and Petry divided up the pitching duties, giving up a total of two hits.

The Cobras finished the week with a 10-2 win over the Michigan Rams. Darga, the winning pitcher, Graham and Vitanis combined for 13 strikeouts.

Graham blasted a grand slam, his sixth home run of the season, to break open a close game. Zerbo followed with a solo homer, his fifth.

Graham finished 2-for-4 with six RBI. Vitanis and Sam Grossman, who scored two runs, chipped in two hits apiece. Also contributing to the victories was catcher Matt Clark.

The Cobras are 16-2 overall.

Team needs catcher

The 16-and-under NFWB Ultimate Precision girls softball team needs a catcher. If you're a catcher in need of a team, call coach Rob Schrock at (248) 471-3886 in the evening.

Rockets registration

The Farmington Rockets will have another registration for football players from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 12, at Farmington High School (blue equipment shed).

The Rockets will register football players only (ages 8 to 14). All cheerleading positions have been filled.

The fee is \$80, which includes the cost of equipment, physical, banquet and trophy. Fund-raising is required. Raffle tickets are \$100.

For more information call Vince Dow at 478-8229.

Royal Blue Classic

The IHM Sisters will host their Fourth Annual Royal Blue Classic women's golf outing Wednesday, June 30, at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club in Plymouth. All levels of play are welcome at this golf scramble, which begins with a shotgun start.

Packages are \$100 for nine holes or \$175 for 18, which includes cart, beverage, lunch, dinner, door prizes and a silent auction. For non-golfers, a cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres begins at 3:30 p.m., followed by a silent auction, raffle and dinner for \$50.

The Royal Blue Classic is a major fundraiser for the IHM Sisters. Proceeds go to the IHM Ministry Fund, which helps people in need.

For information, call 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at (248) 433-0950. Registration ends June 11.

Rockers soccer camps

The Detroit Rockers will stage a pair of summer soccer camps (ages 6-16) — 9:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, June 21-25; and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 2-6, at Bicentennial Park in Livonia.

The camps will be directed by Rockers coach and goalkeeper Bryan Finnerty. Appearance will also be made by Rockers Neil Gilbert, Randy Prescott, Droe Callahan and Tim Ernst.

A total of 20 half-day, week-long camps throughout the metro Detroit area are currently available for \$99.

A full-day, week-long session is also offered July 12-16 at Franklin Racquet Club. Half-day camps are \$119 and full-day are \$189.

All campers will receive an official size-6 Kendle ball, camp T-shirt and one free 1999-2000 Rockers VHP season ticket pass.

For more information, call (313) 396-7070.

Mercy golfers No. 1 in Division I



When the 1999 season started, the Mercy High School golf team's goal was to win a state title. The season ended Saturday with the Marlins taking possession of the championship trophy following a convincing win in East Lansing.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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With Farmington Hills Mercy holding a substantial lead after the first day of competition in the state tournament, JV girls golf coach Andy Slonina figured it was safe to bet on the Marlins.

In anticipation of a Mercy victory Saturday, he had hats that already read 'Mercy Golf' embroidered with the additional words 'Division I 1999 state champs' Friday night.

Slonina's money and effort didn't go to waste, and he was able to present the Mercy players and varsity coaches

with the hats Saturday afternoon.

The Marlins didn't disappoint as they went on to claim their first state title in the 20-year history of their program at the conclusion of the second day.

Mercy's previous best was a pair of third-place finishes. The Marlins are also the first Catholic League team to win a state championship in girls golf.

Shooting 350 on the first day at Forest Akers East Golf Course in East Lansing, the Marlins were 14 strokes ahead of Grand Blanc and 19 in front of Rochester Adams.

"Actually, I think the girls were a little disappointed Friday," said Mercy

head coach Vicky Kowalski, who started the program in 1980. "Three-fifty was the highest score we had all year, but the course was playing tough."

"But we looked at what everybody else did and thought 'Well, maybe we didn't do so bad.' Saturday people were truly impressed with our score on that course. We came to the forefront, and we came to play Saturday."

The Marlins left no doubt who was going to win and clinched the title by shooting a 328 team score on the West Course, the more difficult of the two.

Mercy finished with a 678 team total and ended up winning by 36 strokes over runner-up Adams and 54 over Grand Blanc, which slipped to third place.

"I was sure we would do better Saturday," Kowalski said. "Basically, the coaching staff felt, if we shot 340 on Saturday, we'd be safe."

"It turned out to be true. When the girls went out and shot 328, we were



Erin Borowiec
tied state record



Jennifer Borowiec
placed 3rd in state

obviously thrilled. We thought it was a great score on that course."

Mercy didn't have an insurmountable lead Friday, according to Kowalski, who pointed to Grosse Ile as an example of what can happen in a two-day tournament.

The Red Devils were eight strokes

Please see MARLINS, C8

District champions in softball



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL LEUBACHMAN



STAFF PHOTO BY DEANOR KAMLER

Tourney triumphs: Area teams winning district tournament titles Saturday included the Farmington and Mercy softball teams and the Farmington Harrison baseball team. Farmington softball players (above) celebrate their victory over heavily-favored Plymouth Canton in a Division I district. Mercy fielder Carrie Brankiewicz (left) receives the ball too late to make a putout on Redford Union's Laura Hilson in a Division I tourney at Birmingham Groves. Mercy won the title with a 9-1 victory. See Page C2 for the softball stories. Harrison won the Division II baseball district tournament at Birmingham Seaholm by defeating Country Day, 2-0. See Page C3 for that story.

State champ

Jaffe wins No. 1 singles title; Raiders runners-up

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Years of practice and hard work on the tennis court came to fruition Saturday for North Farmington senior Brad Jaffe.

In the finale of the Division II boys tournament, Jaffe achieved his longtime goal by winning the state championship at No. 1 singles.

His success helped the Raiders earn a second-place team finish. Okemos was first with 26 points followed by North with 18, East Lansing and Portage Central with 15 each.

"A couple years ago, when I started getting pretty good, I realized I had a chance at winning the state championship," Jaffe said, "and the last couple years I set my goal to try and win it."

"It feels wonderful. All my hard work and dedica-

BOYS TENNIS

tion paid off. It's just great, a dream come true."

Jaffe, the No. 1 seed who finished the season with a 27-2 record, breezed through his first two matches at the Midland Community Center, conceding just two points.

His semifinal match with East Lansing's Todd Townsend was his toughest, but Jaffe prevailed in two sets, 6-3, 7-6.

"In the semis and finals, my consistency paid off," Jaffe said. "I figured my opponents might have a few tremendous shots, but in the long run they'd break down. Maybe I was smarter, too."

"They'd go for the huge shot, and I was playing percentage tennis, just very consistent. I was keeping

the ball in play, not making any errors. It was just overall, basic tennis, and it paid off."

Jaffe defeated Saline's Chris Mitchell in the finale with relative ease, 6-3, 6-1. He needed three sets to beat Mitchell in a dual match in early May, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0.

"The time before I learned what I needed to do to beat him," Jaffe said. "I realized his forehand was better than his backhand, so I attacked his backhand."

"The majority of balls I hit to his backhand. But I didn't overemphasize the backhand, because he could get in a rhythm that way. I tried to hit to the backhand as much as possible without overdoing it."

"And I returned his serve well, too. He has a real powerful serve, and I was getting most of the nerves

Please see RAIDERS, C8.