

All-Observer

Farmington, Mercy stars are among top players

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Matt Lee wins Big I

Kenny and Matt Lee of Farmington continued their summer golf schedule with good results.

Matt won the Independent Insurance Agent Junior Classic Qualifier in the 15-16 age division at Bogey Lake Golf Course June 21. It was his second straight tournament win.

His score of 72 was the second-lowest round of the tournament, which included participants up to the age of 18. Matt was four over par after the first three holes but played the last 15 three under.

By winning his age division, Matt advances to the Independent Agent state tournament at Katko Golf Course in Big Rapids July 18-19.

Should he finish in the top six at Big Rapids, he will advance to the national event Aug. 15-20 at Northgate Country Club in Houston, Texas.

Kenny and Matt also played in the Emerald Junior Tournament June 23 at Maple Creek Golf Course in St. John.

Kenny tied for second place in the 16-18 age division with a score of 78. Matt tied for third in the 13-15 age group with a score of 75.

The brothers previously won the Optimist Junior Tournament qualifiers and competed in the state finals Friday at Arbor Hills Country Club in Jackson.

Hippler paces 346 win

Nick Hippler had four hits and five RBI Wednesday to lead American Legion Post 346 of Farmington to a 9-3 baseball victory over host Chief Pontiac II.

Lou Hadley was the starting and winning pitcher. He threw five innings, allowing six runs on six hits. John Weisner finished the game.

Hippler's hits included three doubles. Carlos Medina hit a two-run homer for Chief Pontiac. Adam Harris and Joe Wagner pitched for the home team.

Post 346's record improved to 2-3.

Schools need coaches

Farmington Public Schools is seeking applicants for the positions of varsity, junior varsity and ninth grade girls basketball coaches for the fall of 1999.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest with any pertinent information to Brian Swinehart, Director of Athletics and Physical Education, 32789 West Ten Mile, Farmington, MI 48336.

Swinehart can be reached by phone at (248) 489-3352. His office fax number is (248) 489-3418.

Farmington Hills Mercy High School needs a diving coach and a JV cheerleading coach. Please call the athletic office at (248) 476-2836.

Summer ice programs

The Suburban Training Center of Farmington Hills offers a full slate of summer skating and hockey programs.

The offerings include Rise and Shine 4-on-4, an adult morning league (\$100 per player); 3-on-3 Summer Challenge, a one-day event for youth players (\$200 per team); Learn To Skate for ages 3 and up with instruction in proper skating technique (\$80 per skater); Learn To Play Hockey for beginning players (ages 4-6) (\$80 per player); Summer Skills and Conditioning, organized conditioning skates to prepare house-level players for evaluation (\$12 per session); Pop-In Hockey Practice, open ice time for players to work on their skills (\$8 per session); and Shooting Range, open ice time two afternoons a week to practice shooting skills (\$6 per session).

For more information or to enroll in a program, call the Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400.

Soccer tryout dates

The Farmington Soccer Club's under-16 girls select team (Flames) is looking for new players. Tryouts will be 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 29, at North Farmington High School. Call Gordon Shull at (248) 789-0025.

Tryouts for the Farmington Soccer Club's under-17 boys Fury will be June 28 and 29. Tryouts for the under-14 girls Flash will be June 30.

All tryouts will be 6-8 p.m. at Pioneer Park. Both are Little Caesars Premier teams. For more information call (248) 861-7834.



All-Observer player: Farmington senior Emilie Villemonte was a four-year standout for the Falcons as a midfielder.



Farmington High senior Emilie Villemonte earned a position on the All-Observer girls soccer team for the second year in a row and is joined in 1999 by Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore Abbey Shepherd.

BY C.J. RISAK

STAFF WRITER
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The more things change, the more they ultimately stay the same.

Whoever first put that thought into words wasn't thinking of girls soccer in Observeland, but they could easily have used it for proof. Once again, four teams dominated the area: Livonia's Stevenson and Churchill, Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton.

Once again, Stevenson emerged as the area's top team, advancing to its third-straight Division I state final. Once again, Canton appeared to be the Spartans' toughest roadblock en route to that title fight — only the Chiefs never got that far, losing for the second-straight year to Salem in the districts.

And once again, Stevenson eliminated Churchill in the district tournament.

There were some differences, of course. The Spartans weren't nearly as dominating as they were when they won back-to-back titles in 1997-98, piling up two-straight undefeated seasons. They lost to Salem during the season, and were beaten by Rochester Adams in overtime in the state final.

And yet, after losing 10 seniors to graduation in 1998, what Stevenson accomplished this year was nothing short of remarkable. Jim Kimble coached them to a 16-5-1 record (two of the losses coming against the Illinois state champion and runner-up) and to within a few minutes of a third-straight state title.

It wasn't a team lacking talent, to be sure. Stevenson had the state's best player for the second-straight year in Andi Seid, a junior and team captain who anchored the Spartan defense from her sweeper position. Seid succeeded Allison Campbell (now at Tennessee) as Miss Soccer.

Still, it took an exceptional coaching job by Kimble for Stevenson to overcome early-season losses to Troy Athens and Salem. He deserves the acclaim.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Andrea Seid, junior, defender, Stevenson: The team captain was selected Michigan's Miss Soccer after leading the Spartans to their third consecutive state championship game appearance.

Sied, an All-Western Lakes Activities Association pick, scored 10 goals and added nine assists this season.

"Andi is the backbone of our team," Stevenson coach Jim Kimble said. "She is one of the finest players I've ever had to pleasure to coach."

"I like to refer to her as a coach's dream and a forward's nightmare. She has certainly received the recognition she deserves."

Sied is a three-time first-team All-Observer selection.

Christen Shull, junior, defender, Salem: This was a season during which defenders sparked at all the key times, and in the Western Lakes Activities Association — with powerful forwards like Canton's Anne Morrell, Northville's Brigid Bowdell, Churchill's Stacey Stupenich and Kersten Conklin, Stevenson's Lindsay Guskic, Farmington's Emilie Villemonte — that was a necessity if a team were to succeed.

Shull kept the Rocks' defense together. An all-WLAA selection, she played sweeper unless her exceptional marking skills were needed. Against Bowdell in the district semifinals, against Morrell in the district finals, against Guskic in the regular season, she stepped in and shut them down at key times.

"She's definitely one of the top backs in the state and she got better each game," said Salem coach Doug Landefeld.

Cheryl Fox, junior, defender, Stevenson: During Stevenson's state playoff run, Fox became the team's defensive stopper marking some of the state's most dangerous offensive players.

"Cheryl always rises to the challenge," Kimble said. "She is our best marking back as she proved marking the likes of Brigid Bowdell (Northville), Abby Crompton (Rochester Adams), Lindsay Tarpley (Portage Central) and Kersten Conklin (Livonia Churchill) who scored over 150 goals combined, but none against Cheryl and Stevenson."

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, D4

Whalers move to fill holes in lineup

BY C.J. RISAK
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There are five Plymouth Whalers who will be playing next year, which is a good news/bad news kind of thing. Because while they'll still be playing hockey, they won't be playing for the Whalers.

Perhaps the top five players on last year's Ontario Hockey League regular-season champion, these five — forwards David Legwand, Harold Druken and Adam Colagiacomo, and defencemen Nikos Teolios and Paul Mara — have had shots with the National

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Hockey League teams that drafted them. All five could be regulars in the NHL within the next few years.

But while that's great news for them, it's not so good for the Whalers. There will be a lot of holes to fill.

Indeed, Pete DeBoer, the team's coach/general manager, estimated that of the players drafted, they will need "seven or eight to step in and play."

"This is a good year to be drafted by the Whalers."

The Whalers were the OHL's highest-scoring team last season, but most of that offense has departed. Of the players who will return for certain, DeBoer said the highest scorer would be Damian Surma (17 goals).

So there will be needs everywhere, but offense will be in great need.

"In the past, we had a few different holes at different spots," said DeBoer. "Still, when you go into a draft you just try and get the best player you can. But we do need to replace some scoring."

"Those (five) guys are all going on to pro careers. You don't replace them,

you just try to bring in someone to fill the holes."

On Day One of the draft, held June 5, the Whalers took Stephen Weiss with their first-round draft pick (20th player taken overall), then picked Cole Jarrett (44th overall) and Steven Morris (51st overall) with their two third-round picks. Weiss was a center who last played for North York in Junior A; Jarrett and Morris were both Junior B players, Jarrett a defenceman for Waterloo and Morris a center/right wing for Stratford.

Please see WHALERS, D2

Blackhawks capture title

The Blackhawks of Farmington-Farmington Hills won the Metro Hockey League's Spring Shootout in June.

The newly-formed, JV Division team, which is comprised of players entering their freshman and sophomore years at Farmington high schools, competed during the regular season against teams from across the metro area.

The Blackhawks finished with a 10-1 record and advanced to the championship game at City Arena in Detroit. The team rallied to defeat Redford, 3-2.

Bryan Robbins scored the winning goal with assists by Brandon Belknap and Scott Patterson. Goalie Danny Zeldes was awarded team MVP honors.

The other Blackhawks goals were scored by Nick Maki and Mark Rauth. Drew Mortens had two assists, Brandon Laczkowski and Maki one each.

The Blackhawks will be coached by Dennis Patterson next season and will compete at the Midget A or JV Division levels within the Farmington Hills Hockey Association.

Interested players can contact Patterson via email at ice9JV@aol.com or call him at (248) 653-8119.



Hockey champs: The members of the Blackhawks are (front row, left to right) Greg Hocking, Brandon Belknap, Mark Rauth, Brad Cregar, Chris Frayne, Danny Zeldes, (middle row) Scott Patterson, Nick Maki, Chris Sherub, Victor Colagias, Brandon Laczkowski, Bryan Robbins, Drew Mortens, R.J. Ulrich, (back row) Markus Barlag, Nick Pituch, assistant coach Randy, head coach Darrel Gagnon and Brian Baran. The Blackhawks won the Metro Hockey League's Spring Shootout at City Arena in Detroit with a 3-2 win over Redford.