

Jack Falvo springs from softball to summer baseball

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
skowalski@homecomm.net

Wrestling and baseball only seem to go hand in hand when a batter rushes the pitcher's mound.

That's not the kind of play that attracted Jack Falvo to America's Favorite Pastime to those who know him growing up are probably wondering what turned him on to baseball and softball.

Jack was strictly a wrestler as a kid, good enough to compete at Western Michigan University after earning all-state honors at Dearborn Fordson.

It had to be his cousin, Redford Township resident Mark Falvo, formerly the Dearborn Divine Child baseball coach who is now an assistant coach at Henry Ford Community College.

Switching his allegiance, Jack Falvo spends springtime coaching the Farmington Hills Mercy girls softball team, on which his daughter Dana plays, and summertime coaching the Michigan Lake Area Rams 10-under team, for which his son Jonathan plays.

Joining the cousins on the Rams' coaching staff are Nick Falvo, Jack's oldest son, and Tom Whiting. The Rams, with three players from Redford and three from Farmington Hills, won the American Amateur Baseball Congress district in Dexter earlier this month and advanced to the regional in Fort Wayne, Ind.

"I always say to Jack 'Remember who

taught you this game,'" Mark said, laughing. "Sometimes it's bad for him because he'll go up to the plate and the umpire will say 'Are you related to Mark?' and he'll say, 'Wait, before I can answer that, is that good or bad?'"

Mark and Jack have sons the same age who two years ago played on different teams. Last year the elder Falvos decided to consolidate teams, and Nick Falvo coached the Rams as a sponsor.

Nick played for the Rams growing up. Sean Falvo is Mark's son and Jonathan is Jack's son.

"We had an all nine-year-old team last year and took our lumps, I think we won six games," Mark Falvo recalled. "The kids hung together, had fun, improved so much. If you had told me a year and a half ago this team would win districts and be 29-0, you'd get a lot of bets against that. Everyone told me just wait a year, there'll be a big difference, and boy has there been. We've gotten bigger and better, and it's a pleasure to watch."

The Rams, financed by Dan Varon, recorded a 4-1 record to win the double-elimination district.

The Rams won their first two games July 16, starting with a 25-8 victory over the Rochester Rockies. The final score is deceiving, very deceiving.

Remarkably, the Rams scored 18 runs in the top of the sixth to turn a 7-7 score into a rout.

"They were all base hits, no 'gimmies,'" Mark Falvo said.

The win sent the Rams into the sec-

ond round where they disposed of the Detroit PAL Pirates, 38-0, a game called after four innings because of the mercy rule.

Nick Davenport led the barrage with three hits, including two doubles, and Brandon Malinowski added two hits. Tom Whiting (Farmington Hills) led the Rams with five runs.

"We were bunting in the last couple innings just to get out," Falvo said.

The Rams started July 16 with a 7-0 win over the Grand Rapids Braves, scoring a run in the bottom of the sixth to break a 6-0 tie.

The Rams suffered their first setback, 8-1, to the Saline Hornets in the next round that afternoon, but with only one loss still received a berth in the district's championship game.

Because the Rockies and Hornets received a first-round bye, they had to play each other in the semifinal.

The Rockies beat the Hornets and jumped to a 3-0 lead with three runs in the top of the first against the Rams in the championship game. But the Rams recovered and beat the Rockies, 9-5, for the championship.

Drew Davenport settled down after the shaky first and went on to pitch a complete-game five hitter, walking only one with five strikeouts.

"When you walk one hitter you're going to keep yourself out of trouble," Mark Falvo said.

The Rams rallied impressively throughout the game.

They scored one in the bottom of the

first on walks to Jonathan Falvo and Sean Falvo and a double by Davenport.

"The two little guys (Falvos) can run and we put the 'thumpers' on after that," Mark Falvo said.

The Rams cut the deficit to 3-2 on a ground out by Sean Falvo that scored Evan Morris (West Bloomfield), who had doubled and advanced to third on a bunt single by Jonathan Falvo.

The Rams traded runs in the fourth.

The Rams' run came after Morris walked, stole second base and went to third on a wild pitch. Nick Flinka's (Redford) ground out scored him to cut the Rams' deficit to 4-3.

The Rams erupted for six runs in the bottom of the fifth for the championship.

Sean Falvo started the rally with a single and stolen base. A base hit by Davenport and walk to Steve McCollum loaded the bases.

A walk to Duane Henderson forced in a run for a 4-4 tie.

Morris' three-run triple gave the Rams a 7-4 lead.

Flinka brought Morris home with a bunt. Flinka scored the final run on Jonathan Falvo's ground out to shortstop.

The Falvos have their sons on the team, of course, and another player from New Boston who almost seems like family to Mark Falvo: Jonathan Cervenak.

Cervenak's older brother, Mike Cervenak, played shortstop for Falvo at DC before going on to star at University of

Michigan. The younger Cervenak plays catcher.

"A lot of times at this age you get on first base and second and third are automatic bases with steals," Mark Falvo said. "But with Jonathan, he can make the throw down there and can get people out at second and third."

The Rams were allowed to draft one player from the district to take to regionals and they elected to take Saline pitcher Casey Dushman, an easy choice according to Mark Falvo.

"He's beat us three times this year," he said. "We asked the kids who they wanted to take and it was him unanimously. I don't care what level you're playing. The guy who makes the biggest difference is on the mound."

Mark Falvo gives the players' parents and Varon a good deal of the credit for the team's success.

"The key to any little league or younger team is the parents," he said. "Both the mothers and fathers are at the ballgames, all positive. The most important thing is to have fun at this age. Dan is very supportive, loves the game of baseball, especially the young kids."

The Rams finished the Little Caesars League with a 17-6 record for second place.

The Falvos won't coach together again until next summer because this combination just won't work in softball, Mark Falvo said.

"I don't think the girls could take me," said Mark, laughing.

Names and flashy no-names dot Joe Dumars' tennis event

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER
mbudner@homecomm.net

Jimmy Connors provides the marquee name.

Short-haired Bjorn Borg provides the superstar presence. Yannick Noah, Mats Wilander, Guillermo Vilas and Johan Kriek provide a formidable field of senior tennis stars.

But it's Mansour Bahrami, a relative unknown on the regular pro tour, who makes the crowds roar on the Worldwide Senior Tennis Circuit.

The eighth event on the worldwide tour concludes this afternoon at the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club with championship singles and doubles matches slated to begin at 1:00.

Bahrami played in both singles and doubles competition at this year's event, hosted by the BOH for the second straight year after two previous stints at the

Fairlane Tennis Club in Dearborn.

He was the number-two seeded singles player and advanced to the semifinal round after an exciting victory over Borg Friday afternoon.

Bahrami could not play the pro tour in his younger days because of the volatile political situation in his native Iran when overseas travel was restrained.

He eventually made it to France - where he now calls home - and competed in the 1989 French Open. He finished ranked among the top 50 doubles players in 1987, '88 and '89.

The 43-year-old Iranian joined the Worldwide Senior Tennis Circuit in 1994 - two years after its inception - and immediately gained a reputation as a court jester.

He entertains with an engaging, energetic style that includes a number of behind-the-back and

between-the-leg trick shots.

Combined with an appealing personality that often finds him interacting with the crowd, it's easy to understand why Bahrami is a fan favorite.

While a charming and humorous court presence is his manner, he is quick to point out there is quite a serious side to his often overlooked ability.

Bahrami is currently the Worldwide Senior Tennis Circuit's fourth-leading point scorer after the first seven events.

He won the singles title at the Delta Airlines ATP Senior Tour of Champions earlier this year in Doha, Qatar, and was a doubles finalist with Kriek at the BTI Championships in Raleigh, N.C.

"I have plenty of disguises. I won the first tournament of the year and I'm number four on the tour," said Bahrami, who learned to play tennis while working as a ballboy at a Tehran

Tennis Club.

"So don't get me wrong," he said. "Don't think I am a clown."

"No, I am not a clown. I am a tennis player who is playing different tennis than the other guys."

"I play the game I always play. It is no antic. That's the way I play. And that's what I enjoy."

While he insists his comedic style is no act, Bahrami realizes his brand of entertainment is a valuable commodity on the circuit.

"People like the way I play because it's different," said Bahrami. "I like to play and keep the people happy. This is the way I've played since I was 10 years old."

"I feel that people like what I do, and I just love to see them laugh and have a good time. I love to see them laughing and that's what keeps me going."

"If nobody comes to watch us there would not be a tournament, and so I like them to give them their money's worth," he said. "If they're not having a good time I don't like it. I like to win, but I like to do it this way."

BOH SENIOR TENNIS INFORMATION: Noah arrived in town Tuesday evening, lost a singles match to Peter Fleming Wednesday evening, and was headed back to New York by the weekend.

It was a quick exit for the mobile Frenchman, who lost in a championship 10-point tie-breaker after splitting the first two sets with Fleming.

Noah is pictured on the tour's media guide along with Connors, Borg and John McEnroe, and is considered one of the tour's marquee players.

"I'm sure there are several people who are upset that Yannick lost, but I'm not one of

them," quipped Fleming after the match.

While Noah still has the long, braided locks that made him an easily-recognizable tour player, the same cannot be said for Borg. The 43-year-old Swede was known for his white bandanna that kept his shoulder-length blonde hair in place. Borg now sports a short haircut.

John McEnroe won last year's tournament at the BOH. However, he did not return to defend his title.

McEnroe caused a bit of a stir last year after he threw his racket and yelled at the crowd when his infamous temper took over during a quarterfinal match.

Word around BOH circles said it was pretty much a mutual understanding that he did not want to return and BOH officials really did not want him back.

CITY OF KEEGO HARBOR
NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO FILE PETITIONS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999

Please take notice that the last day to accept completed nomination petitions for names to be placed on the November 2, 1999 ballot at the General Election is Tuesday, August 3, 1999. Petitions for candidates must be completed and turned in to Keego Harbor City Hall, 2025 Beechmont, Keego Harbor, Michigan, no later than 4:00 p.m. on that date.

Under PA 683, a candidate filing a petition or fee for office must now submit a birth certificate, naturalization paper or a passport as proof of citizenship in addition to the Affidavit of Identity. All candidates who do not comply and submit proof of citizenship at the time of filing will not be eligible to appear on the ballot.

The following Council positions are available:
TWO COUNCIL SEATS FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS

DOROTHY I. KARZECKI
City Clerk

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for:

1. CAD/Drafting Lab Furniture - North Farmington High School
2. Media Center Furniture - Dunckel Middle School
Warner Middle School

at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, MI 48336 until 1:30 P.M., Thursday, August 5, 1999 at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. No oral, telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile proposals will be considered. No proposals will be considered after the time of closing of bids.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid; to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

A set of bid documents may be obtained by calling the purchasing department at (248) 489-3844.

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THE
Observer & Eccentric
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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 1999

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vagnozzi at 7:30 p.m.

Council Present: Barnett, Bates, Grant, Oliverio, Soronon and Vagnozzi.
Council Absent: Rilla.
Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Whinnery, Assistant to the City Manager Arbuckle, Directors Biselli, Boyer, Countegian, Lasley, Moultrap and Attorney Donahue.

CITY COUNCIL TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Received verbal presentation from Leslie Reinhold, 1999 Miss Farmington/Oakland County.
- Presiding.
- Week of July 24-30, 1999 Eight Mile Clean Team Campaign Week.
- August 1, 1999 International Forgiveness Day.
- Received Local Control Achievement Award from Michigan Municipal Worker's Compensation Fund.
- Introduced ordinance to rename property commonly known as 34024 Eight Mile Road, east of Cass Avenue, to Office Service District.
- Deferred consideration of Eleven Pine/San Marion project to August 9, 1999 City Council meeting.

APPROVED:

- Resolution in opposition of House Bill 4777 which challenges local home rule.
- Resolutions amending the language for various Charter Amendments to be included on November 2, 1999 election ballot.
- MDOT's postponement of NorthWestern Highway Rehabilitation Project to construction season of 2001.
- Entering into executive session to discuss labor negotiations.

AWARDED PURCHASE ORDERS FOR:

- Various purchase orders for various amounts for repairs at Ice Arena.
- Repairs to Police Department vehicle to Ultimate Look Collision in the amount of \$4,724.32.

ALDO VAGNOZZI, Mayor
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Published: July 26, 1999

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
BROADVIEW AND DOHANY DRIVE ROAD
RESURFACING

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan at the Clerk's Office at 31555 Eleven Mile Road until 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 9, 1999, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

This project consists of approximately 3,900 Linear Feet of local road resurfacing with a hot mix asphalt. The approximate quantities of major items of the work are as follows:

Bituminous Road Paving	1,000 Tons
Pavement Removal	300 S.Y.
1 Foot Wide Milled Butt Joint	1,300 L.F.

Plus miscellaneous items necessary for a completed project.

Plans, specifications, and proposal forms may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at the above address on or after Monday, July 26, 1999, upon deposit of \$20.00, which is non-refundable. Proposals must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the City of Farmington Hills. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond by a recognized surety company in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid, payable to the City of Farmington Hills, as security for acceptance of the Contract.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance, Labor and Material and Maintenance and Guarantee Bonds.

The City reserves the right to waive any or all proposals, to waive irregularities and/or informalities, and to make the award, that in the opinion of the City Council is in the best interest, and to the advantage of the City of Farmington Hills.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Published: July 25, 1999