

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

MIAA academic news

Senior Erin LaCasse of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) and senior Craig Wasen of Farmington (Detroit Catholic Central) were named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association all-academic honor roll.

Both were Alma College student-athletes. LaCasse played softball and Wasen football.

Publinox golf results

Livonia's Gary Palachio won the first flight in the 44th Michigan Publix Golf Association State Match Play Championship Saturday at Bedford Valley Golf Course in Battle Creek, defeating fellow Livonian Jack Lee, 3 and 1.

In the championship flight, Greg Davies (Walled Lake) edged Jody Thomas (Rochester Hills), 2 and 1. Davies is the only player to ever win four major public amateur titles.

Previously, Davies had won the Michigan Medal Play at Detroit Golf Club, the Lee Gohs Tournament at Fellows Creek and the Frank Syron Memorial Tournament at Pontiac Country Club.

Greg Bores of Plymouth was a quarterfinalist in the championship flight, losing to Dave DeWulf (Rochester Hills), 1 up.

The second flight was won by Dave Mortellaro (White Lake), who defeated Ken Johnston (Novi), 7 and 5. In the third flight, Jim Wulst (Bedford) edged Charles Rogers (Lansing), 2 and 1.

Gary White of Farmington Hills was runner-up in the senior flight, losing to Jerry Wheller of Lincoln Park, 6 and 4.

Defending senior flight champion Bob Mott of Farmington Hills was beaten by Ken Niblock (Howell) in a quarterfinal match.

Golden Fox Classic

The Golden Fox Classic will be played Wednesday, Sept. 1, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

There will be a continental breakfast, 9:30 a.m. shotgun start, lunch, silent auction, dinner and other attractions including a special appearance by former Detroit Red Wing Mickey Redmond.

There is a limit of 144 golfers. The cost is \$150 for a single golfer and \$50 for a person who wants to attend the dinner only.

The event is co-sponsored by the Plymouth United Way of Michigan and Community Opportunity Center, a Livonia-based, non-profit organization that provides housing options for persons with developmental disabilities.

To sign up call the COC at 734-422-1020 or Plymouth United Way at 734-453-6879. Check out the COC web site at <http://mihometown/coe/coc> or e-mail COC at COMOPCTH@rc.net.

Sports Academy camp

The Sports Academy will have a baseball/softball hitting camp Aug. 10, 11 and 12. Former Montreal Expo Aaron Knipeper will run the camp.

There will be a session 9-11 a.m. for campers between the ages of 8 and 12 and another from noon to 2 p.m. for ages 13-18.

Campers will learn tips on increasing bat speed, proper hitting techniques and much more.

The cost is \$60. To register call Knipeper at (248) 380-0800, ext. 112. Send checks to the Sports Academy, 22515 Heelip Drive, Novi, MI 48375.

The Sports Academy has extended registration for its high school fall softball league to Saturday, Aug. 14. League play begins Aug. 29 and lasts until Oct. 10. Teams are guaranteed 19 games plus playoffs. Games are played Sundays at Powers Park in Novi.

The cost is \$1,100 per team, \$150 for an individual player. Call Aaron Knipeper at the Sports Academy at (248) 380-0800, ext. 112.

Western hoop tryouts

Walled Lake Western High School will conduct tryouts for its varsity, junior varsity and freshman girls basketball team Aug. 16-18.

A physical is required to try out. For more information, call coach Marv Allen at (810) 229-9708 or Western at (248) 980-8500.

(Fax sports news to 734-691-7279.)

Highland Games

Defending champ hails from Farmington Hills



King of the Hills: Kurt Pauli, clad in traditional kilt with tartan pattern, practices throwing the 16-pound Scottish hammer in preparation for the Highland Games.

Kurt Pauli, four-time champion of the Detroit-area Highland Games, will put his title on the line Saturday against a strong field of international competitors at Greenmead in Livonia.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Kurt Pauli of Farmington Hills is the reigning king of athletics competition in the annual Scottish Highland Games, but even he admits his title could be in jeopardy.

Unlike good King Duncan of Shakespeare's MacBeth, he'll be on guard against all challengers Saturday during this year's event at Greenmead in Livonia (Eight Mile and Newburgh roads).

But the organizers of the Detroit games have pulled out all the stops for their 150th anniversary and lined up a formidable group of international stars.

Pauli has won the local games the last four years, but the competition this year includes three-time world champion Ryan Ferie of California, 1998 world runner-up Petur Gudmundsson of Iceland, Scotland's Craig Anderson and five-time Canadian champion Harry MacDonald.

"Of anywhere in the country, it's one of the best fields you'll see," Pauli said, adding he's hoping for third or fourth place this year. "The guy from Iceland is actually a two-time Olympian in the shot put, so he's very good in the stone put."

"You just try to throw the best you can; that's all you can do. A lot of us in North America see each other many times throughout the season, so we're used to it. Except for the guy from Scotland, all the other guys know each other very well."

The 27-year-old Pauli has been a professional Highland Games competitor for nine years. He has done eight of about 20 expected competitions this year, winning at Alma and Edinboro, Pa. A trip to Iceland is planned for later this month.

Pauli has followed in the footsteps of his father, Jim, who competed for 25 years and retired a few years ago. He judges competitions now. Pauli's brother, Jason, will travel from Buffalo, N.Y., to compete this weekend.

"His dad is probably the top judge in the country right now," Pauli said. "Sometimes we do all three; my dad is judging, and my mom is keeping score."

Each contestant will have to do five events this weekend — the caber toss, stone put, 28-pound weight for distance, hammer toss and 56-pound weight for height. Winning requires more than just brawn, too.

"Technique is pretty much all important," Pauli said. "It takes basic strength and you see big guys out there, because that's what it takes. But it comes down to technique to determine the winner."

Please see HIGHLAND GAMES, C6

Blues finish 3rd in AABC World Series

The 10-year-old South Farmington Blues ended their season Saturday with a third-place finish at the American Amateur Baseball Congress Willie Mays World Series in Olive Branch, Miss.

The Blues opened with a win over the Memphis Tigers. With the Blues trailing 3-2 entering the fourth inning, Harvey Martin doubled off the right-

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field fence, scoring Andy Lentz and Brooks Tuyn for a 4-3 lead.

Reliever Jeff Gorecki shut out Memphis over the last three innings to preserve the win, aided by key defensive plays by shortstop Stephen Doty and first baseman Zak Kozuchowski.

In the second round, South Farmington overcame a 7-1 deficit to defeat Rockford, Ill., 10-9. Rockford entered the tournament as the Illinois state champ and the North Central Regional winner, sporting a 50-3 record.

Brian Noble picked up the win as the Blues fought back with timely hits from Kozuchowski, Gorecki and Paul Greenwood.

In the final inning, the Blues trailed 9-7 until receiving RBI from Lentz, Kevin Rafferty and Tuyn, with Chris Eyged scoring the winning run.

The Blues were eliminated in the fifth round of the playoffs with a heartbreaking loss to the eventual champion from Puerto Rico, 5-4.

Please see BASEBALL, C2

Observerland stars enjoy experience despite defeat

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
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Whether the experience lasted one play or four quarters, five Observerland players enjoyed their time in the 19th Annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game Saturday at Michigan State University.

Their only regret was on the scoreboard, but all-star games are about having fun, not winning and losing.

The five were members of the East, which suffered a 35-9 loss to the West under partly-cloudy skies at Spartan Stadium. The West set all-star records for points and margin of victory, winning for the ninth time against the East's 10 wins.

Westland John Glenn tailback Reggie Spearman was injured on the first play of the East's opening drive, which ended with an 8-yard pass to Dearborn Edsel Ford's Kevin Zurek. Spearman fell out of bounds on the downs marker with his shoulder after a short carry and watched the rest of the game wearing an ice pack for precautionary reasons.

Joining Spearman on the East were Detroit Catholic Central tight end Nick Brzezinski, Redford Thurston linebacker Scott Genord, Farmington Hills Harrison wide receiver Ricky Bryant and Livonia Clarenceville cornerback Walter Ragland.

"When I got up I felt my shoulder stinging," said Spearman, a Grand Valley State signee not used to sitting out games, though he still cheered on his

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teammates. "It's not good. I ain't used to that."

He also isn't used to wearing No. 10 instead of the No. 2 he sported at Glenn. The sooner players mailed in their background information, the sooner they got to pick a number.

Utica Ford quarterback Craig Krenzler, bound for Ohio State, got his information in earlier than Spearman and picked the number before Spearman had a chance.

He doesn't link the injury to the new number.

"I'm not superstitious," Spearman said, smiling.

Zurek, an Eastern Michigan University signee, accounted for all of the East's scoring. His 46 yard field goal in the first half was a new All-Star Game record for distance.

Brzezinski caught a pass but spent most of his time blocking, an art he learned well at CC, winner of the last two Class AA state championships.

He doesn't think the heat had an effect on the two teams' play.

"It was nice and breezy and the training staff kept us cold with towels (on the sidelines)," Brzezinski said. "We started off real well moving but couldn't click after that. All the schemes are different and you don't have enough time to mesh."

Please see ALL-STAR, C5



Tightrope act: Ricky Bryant of Farmington Hills tries to keep from going out of bounds after making a reception Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRITAN MITCHELL