

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer

INSIDE:
Girls basketball, B4
Boys soccer, B4

Page 1, Section B

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Spitfires edge Whalers

Stove Ott scored a pair of goals, including the unassisted game-winner with 3:27 left in the game to give the Windsor Spitfires a 4-3 Ontario Hockey League win over the host Plymouth Whalers before 2,136 fans at Compuware Arena Friday.

The Whalers fall to 3-5-1 in the OHL, while Windsor evened its mark at 3-3-1.

It was 1-1 after one period.

Ott scored short-handed at 8:57, while Shaun Fisher countered with four seconds left in the period from Jamie LaLonde and Rob McBride.

Both teams scored in the second period — Justin Williams from Andre Robichaud and Kris Vernorsky for the Whalers (3:29) and Joe Sewell for the Spitfires (13:52).

Julian Smith, on an assist from Williams, scored short-handed at 12:53 to give Plymouth a 3-2 lead. Mark Ridout answered for the Spitfires at 13:38.

Windsor goalie Ryan Aschaber turned away 32 shots, while Aaron Molnar faced just 14 for Plymouth.

Scholar-athlete award

Scholar-athletes have until Monday, Nov. 22, to submit application to their respective high school principals for the MHSAA's \$1,000 Scholar-Athlete Award. The award will be given to 24 athletes and is underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Students applying must be graduating in 2000, carry an unrounded 3.5 (on 4.0 scale) grade-point average, have won a letter in a varsity sport and be involved in other school activities as well. Applications are available on the MHSAA's website. Each member school can nominate one student-athlete and an individual may be nominated in more than one sport. A committee of school administrators will select regional and statewide winners. The recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA boys basketball finals Saturday, March 25.

Group ticket sales are under way for the 1999 MHSAA girls basketball finals at Rose Arena in Mount Pleasant Dec. 2-4. Groups of 10 or more get a 50-percent discount off the \$5 semifinal and \$6 final ticket prices.

Groups must submit their orders by Friday, Nov. 12, to Central Michigan University Athletic Ticket Office. The order form can be obtained by writing CMU at Athletic Ticket Office, Rose Arena, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, or download the form from the MHSAA's website. Tickets can also be ordered through the CMU ticket.

Ocelots defeat Raiders

The home stretch is approaching. And Schoolcraft College's volleyball team is still in the running in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference race. The Lady Ocelots reinforced their position with a 15-12, 15-5, 15-4 victory over conference rival Oakland CC Thursday at SC.

The win improved the Ocelots' record to 8-2 in the league, 17-14 overall. The Lady Raiders fell to 3-8 in the league, 7-30 overall.

SC remains in a three-way race for first in the league. St. Clair County CC leads with a 9-2 conference mark (43-10 overall); Henry Ford (20-12) is tied with SC for second at 8-2.

A pair of Livonia Franklin grads led SC in the win over the Raiders. Nicole Boyd topped the Ocelots with 16 kills, while Danielle Wensing totaled 32 assists to kills.

Lauren Ruprecht (Livonia Churchill) had 10 kills and three blocks; Cindy Maloof had six kills with a team-best .556 kill percentage.

C'ville arts and crafts

Approximately 150 artisans will display their creations at the Clarenceville High School Athletic Booster Club will present its annual Holiday Boutique, an arts and crafts show, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13.

Proceeds will go toward college scholarships, training equipment, uniforms and numerous other necessities needed to maintain the extra-curricular sports budget.

The Booster Club offers a variety of shopper services, including babysitting, a snack bar and a raffle of crafts donated by crafters.

(Observer readers can submit sports information by fax at (734) 591-7279.)

Falcons just miss in title game



The big game: Farmington senior Mark Ostach looks for running room Friday night in the Western Lakes championship game.

Farmington High was outstanding on defense Friday night and refused to let Walled Lake Western cross its goal line. But the Warriors kicked three field goals and beat the Falcons in the WLLA championship game, 9-7.

By DAN O'MEARA
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Alan Mukhtar figured he might have to kick an important field goal Friday night, but even he never anticipated having to answer the call three times.

Mukhtar kicked field goals of 29, 32 and 30 yards to give Walled Lake Western a 9-7 victory over host Farmington in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship football game.

"I had to be ready," said Mukhtar, a first-year kicker who also plays on the soccer team. "It's the happiest day of my life."

The last kicker was a soccer player, also. I wanted to have fun and try it, it being my last year in high school."

With the Falcons up 7-0, Mukhtar missed his first attempt from 45 yards early in the second quarter, but he didn't let it bother him.

"My teammates were trying to keep my head up; they were saying all positive things," he said. "I guess I was a little short the first time; I thought it

was in. It wasn't a big deal; I've done it in practice."

"It was a team win. The defense did it. If not for the defense stopping them all the time, we wouldn't have won."

Indeed, both defenses were outstanding. Farmington quarterback Grant Weber scored the only touchdown on a 22-yard run, and the Falcons (5-3) kept the state-ranked Warriors (8-0) from crossing their goal line.

Farmington had a chance to win the game at the end, but Stephen Wayne's field-goal attempt from 37 yards was wide right.

"The game did come down to a final kick, but there were a hundred plays (with small but key details) that nobody sees," Farmington coach John Bechtel said.

"Unfortunately, everybody focuses on the kick, because everyone sees it. But it wasn't the difference in the game. It was just one of a lot of plays."

The Falcons moved the ball up the middle of the field early against the

Please see FALCONS, B2



Defensive stopper: Senior linebacker Matt Webb and his defensive teammates are pumped up after stopping the Warriors.

Hawks keep hope alive with victory

By RICHARD L. SROOK
STAFF WRITER

FOOTBALL

If Farmington Harrison continues to keep plugging away, it just may plug itself into the state high school football playoffs.

Harrison handed host Livonia Stevenson a 10-0 defeat Friday night to improve to 4-4 with Detroit Country Day on the schedule next Saturday.

"I have no idea what's going to happen, really," Harrison coach John Herington said. "They're a very good team. But if we can beat them, who knows, maybe the computer will be kind to us."

"Ever since the forfeits, we've just tried to play the best we can and see what happens."

"That's a pretty good team," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said of the Hawks. "If they get into the playoffs,

they could make some noise."

Stevenson has lost two in a row after starting with six straight wins, and the Spartans close the regular season Friday with a game at Livonia Churchill.

"That's two weeks in a row we haven't scored," said Gabel, whose team lost to Farmington, 13-0, in its previous outing. "We need to score to get our offensive confidence back."

"We've played two really good defensive teams in a row."

Harrison got its points on a 28-yard field goal by Kris Wong with 26 seconds to play in the first half and a 1-yard plunge by fullback Kent Taylor on the first play of the fourth quarter.

What it also got was a huge lift from reserve tailback Chris Roberson, who

came in running like a colt on fresh legs.

His first carry was a 65-yard bolt around the right side that took the ball to the Stevenson 16 and set up Wong's field goal.

Kevin Woods, who gained 43 yards on 12 carries, had his bell rung on his second carry of the second half, so Roberson came in to finish up.

The backup ended up with 155 yards rushing on 13 carries.

So where have you been hiding him, coach?

"That's what he was asking," Herington cracked. "He's been hurt for two weeks, but he took over when we needed it."

Jason Allen was Stevenson's leading rusher with 72 yards on 14 carries.

The Spartans moved the ball well between the tackles but not quite well enough to sustain drives.

"We didn't make a big play," Gabel said. "When you're running on such a small margin of error, you can't make mistakes. You have a back to get the wrong way or a breakdown, and that takes you out of it."

Stevenson went for it on fourth down at the Harrison 31, but Brian Nelson intercepted on his own 12. The Spartans recovered a Hawk fumble on the Harrison 39 in the third quarter but fumbled the ball right back two plays later.

Harrison ran 5:36 off the clock late in the fourth quarter, so Stevenson only had 2:02 to try to score 10 points.

The Hawks' defensive backfield of Lou Hadley, who also plays quarterback, Nelson, Roberson and Nick Hall drew praise from Gabel for their quickness in getting to the backs and receivers.

Raiders take their turn at winning

By RICHARD L. SROOK
STAFF WRITER

CASEY COUNTRY

After a long wait, the Raiders took their turn at winning Friday night as they defeated Livonia Stevenson 10-0.

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"I think we did a good job of it," Gabel said. "I think we did a good job of it."

"She was coming along and we were talking about trying to break 21. With Joshy Stockton, definitely would've had a little more breathing room, but the other girls are stepping up and doing the job."

North's Heidi Frank was the No. 1 runner in the entire three-school meet with a 20:40 time, finishing ahead of all the Plymouth Salem girls, too.

In the dual with Farmington, North's Kelly Kuo was fourth, Kristina Stamboulis fifth, Nina Haski seventh and Shara Cherniak 10th.

Farmington's Megan Annarino was second, Kristina Balle third, Shanna Barkhume sixth, Betsy Luskthaler eighth and Danielle Miller ninth.

Please see FALCONS, B2