

Observer Sports

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Buha joins PGA Tour

Jason Buha, a former Farmington High School golf standout, earned his PGA Tour card Monday when he finished 9-under-par in the PGA Tour's Qualifying School in Miami, Fla.

The 24-year-old Buha, who won the Class A state championship as a high school senior in 1992, finished the six-round event with a 411 total, shooting 69, 66, 69, 66, 70 and 71.

Buha, a second-team All-American at Duke University, began the final day at 10 under, but he struggled early and his score rose to 7 under.

He finished strong and knocked two strokes off his score to make the cut. Eight-under was the magic number. The top 35 golfers plus ties were accepted.

Buha graduated from Duke in 1997 with a degree in economics.

College sports report

■ Tricia Traczuk, a former All-Observer volleyball player at North Farmington High School, completed her junior season with the Niagara (N.Y.) University volleyball team.

Although the Eagles were picked to finish near the bottom of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, they fared better than expected and finished in fifth place.

As a middle hitter, Traczuk ended the year with 277 kills, 241 digs, 66 blocks and 20 service aces. She also was named to the MAAC's all-academic team again.

■ Mary Gignac finished her freshman season with the Western Michigan women's soccer team.

The former Farmington Hills Mercy standout scored two goals on 15 shots while starting four of 19 matches. The Broncos were 10-9-1 overall and 5-5-1 in the Mid-American Conference.



Touchdown catch: Senior Nick Hall makes a 40-yard reception in Harrison's 24-20 win Saturday with Jim Rembouski defending.

Hawks headed to Dome again

Farmington Harrison earned a record 13th trip to the state football finals by defeating Monroe Jefferson, 24-20. The Hawks will try to tie a state record with a win Saturday over Grand Rapids Creston at the Silverdome.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison's defense has to switch gears and start thinking pass instead of run for this week's game — the last one in 1999.

Literally, it's the last game of the high school season.

The Hawks will try to win their third consecutive and a record-tying 10th state championship when they play Grand Rapids Creston for the Division III title at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Pontiac Silverdome.

It's the last game of the two-day, eight-game finals weekend sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Harrison (9-4) reached the final stage of the tournament by defeating a power running team in Monroe Jefferson last week, 24-20. Creston (12-1) presents an entirely different challenge with its penchant for passing.

"They're complete opposites; there couldn't be two teams that are more different," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We're going from a team that runs one or two formations and pounds it out to 30 formations and a wide-open attack."

The booklet containing Harrison's scouting report on the Polar Bears was a record 34 pages thick.

Fourth-year coach Charles (Sparky) McEwen, a former quarterback for Creston, runs an offense similar to what you'd see in the Arena Football League. Junior quarterback Carlton Brewster

is the offensive catalyst for the blue-and-gold Polar Bears. His favorite receiver is Bret Haney, who wears No. 1, but Creston has a number of other players who are capable of providing fireworks.

"They have six people they throw to," Herrington said, adding the Hawks haven't seen a passing team as good as the Polar Bears since Ryan Huxjak (University of Toledo) played quarterback at Northville nearly a decade ago.

"They'll throw 40 times a game. The most times we've thrown was probably 15. They'll throw it on their 1-yard line, and they'll throw it on your 1-yard line."

"Brewster" sees the whole field and has a great release. He's tough to sack because he has quick feet and, if you leave someone open, he throws timing patterns."

Ironically, the Hawks were hurt by Jefferson passes in the first half last week, partly due to the fact they were looking for the run so much.

"With this team, you know they're going to pass," Herrington said. "They don't throw off play-action, so you don't have to commit as much to the run."

"In some ways, it's easier but it's harder, because they have great receivers. They have outstanding skill position players."

Herrington has said the strength of the Harrison defense is its secondary of

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Marlins state runners-up; G.P. North unseats Mercy

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Ann Arbor Pioneer wasn't the team Farmington Hills Mercy had to worry about after all Saturday in the girls Class A swimming and diving finals.

It was Grosse Pointe North, which won six events and the state title by just six points over the defending champion Marlins, 168-162.

Mercy coach Jim Downs thought Pioneer, with a strong diving contingent, posed the biggest threat to his team's title, but the Pioneers put just one diver in the finals and finished a distant third with 146 points.

Pioneer's team total would have been enough to win last year's meet. Ironically, the Marlins scored 40 points more this year and didn't win.

"Earlier in the year I thought 'This is a team (GPN) we're going to have to watch,'" Downs said. "Then it shifted to Pioneer."

SWIMMING

"Pioneer beat (North) by three (in a dual meet); we beat North by 22, and Pioneer beat us by 18. You couldn't figure anything out!"

"When we beat North by 22, I didn't know what to think. You have to look at the quality of people. They were able to score more first places; that's what got us."

The Norsemen had a pair of double individual winners in Carly Piper, who won the 200 and 500 freestyle races, and Kammy Miller, who was first in the butterfly and the breaststroke.

But the outcome was still in doubt until the final event. The teams were tied going into the 400-yard freestyle relay in which GPN edged Mercy by 1.07 seconds for first place.

The Norsemen broke the state record (3:31.25) set a year ago by the Marlins with a 3:29.27 finish.

Ironically, Mercy also swam a better time (3:30.44) this year, using the same team of Kelly Carlin, Kristin Lorias, Amy McCullough and Elizabeth Posvar.

The Marlins took their only first place in the medley relay, defeating GPN by nearly two seconds and setting an all-class state record (1:46.95) in the process.

Mercy's Erin Downs, McCullough, Elizabeth Garlow and Posvar broke the old record of 1:47.23 that was set by Birmingham Seaholm in 1992.

Garlow swam a 30.02 split time in the breaststroke on the medley relay; Downs had her best split in the butterfly (25.94); McCullough went 27.24 in the backstroke and Posvar 23.75 in the freestyle.

"Erin waited on Garlow, and Posvar waited on Erin," Downs said. "They wanted to make sure

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State finals: Mercy junior Amy McCullough placed second in the 50-yard freestyle and third in the 500 at the girls Class A championship meet Saturday.