

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gibbons earns honors

Junior Dan Gibbons of Farmington Hills was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player and the Defensive Lineman of the Year on the Grand Valley State University football team. Gibbons, who played at Brother Rice High School, also was named to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference first team on defensive tackle.

Gibbons recorded the second-best, single-season total for sacks with 14 (for a minus 94 yards) while setting the single-game record with five sacks versus Michigan Tech.

He led the Lakers in tackles for loss with 22 (minus 107 yards) and led all defensive linemen with 40 tackles.

Gibbons also returned a fumble for a touchdown and caught a touchdown pass as a tight end.

Grand Valley finished the season with a 5-5 overall record. The Lakers were 5-4 in the GLIAC under ninth-year head coach Brian Kelly.

Marlins are runners-up

The Morch High School varsity pom-pom squad placed second in the dance competition held recently at Saginaw Valley State University.

There was only a half-point difference between the Marlins and the first-place team. The scores were based on creativity of original choreography and its execution.

The Marlins are coached by Heather Carney of Northville. The team members are Ashley Armbruster, Lauren Burniac, Beth Lamborne and Emily Sharpe from the Plymouth-Canton area; Ariella and Cristina Corsi, Amy Filik, Kalli and Lindsay Fortune, Katie Landsberg, Antoinette Mazzoni and Jessica Stoller from Farmington; Shauna Barcewicz and Alexis Theobald, West Bloomfield; Elisa Brunetto, Westland; Emily Butler, Redford; Christa Davis, Dearborn; Tanya Giroux, Clarkston; Katie Kenny, Novi; Maribeth Phillips, Brighton; Amber Young, Rochester Hills; Beth LaCoix and Linda Karbo, Livonia.

Flyers AAU tryouts

Tryouts for the Oakland Flyers AAU girls basketball teams will be Sunday, Dec. 5; Saturday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 18, at East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt Road.

The times for Dec. 5 tryout are 10 a.m. to noon for ages 13 through 16, noon to 2 p.m. for ages 10 to 12. The times for Dec. 11 and 18 are 9-11 a.m. for ages 13-16 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 10-12.

There is a \$10 tryout fee. The teams will be decided based on the number of applicants and coaches available for each age group.

Call Fred or Diana Ternes at (248) 474-0995 for more information.

Chargers sign Falvo

Mercy High School senior Dana Falvo is one of three softball players who have signed to play for Hillsdale College.

Falvo made the All-Observer first team last season after hitting .407 in the leadoff spot. She was on base 50 percent of the time, scored 20 runs and had eight RBI.

From her center field position, Falvo had 17 assists, throwing out 11 runners at home plate and three each at second and third bases. She made only three errors and had 46 putouts.

Hillsdale coach Jay Jondro also announced the signing of catcher Jessica Arker of St. Clair Shores and Harper Woods Regina and infielder Sara Lesko of Trenton.

Valade leads Hornets

Junior forward MaryJane Valade leads the Kalamazoo College women's basketball team in scoring with an average of 11.5 points per game.

Against Siena Heights on Nov. 27, she connected for six of 13 field goals and five of six free throws for 17 points. She also had seven rebounds in a 66-52 victory.

Madonna hitting clinic

Madonna University will have a softball hitting clinic in the school gym 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 19. The cost is \$35 per player.

Players must register in advance by calling Madonna softball head coach Al White at (734) 432-8783.

Raiders have high expectations



BY DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington anticipates another good year in boys basketball. The Raiders return most of the team that shared the Western Lakes Activities Association title and won a Class A district championship last season.

Last season was one of the best North Farmington has ever had in boys basketball, but it could be the best is yet to come.

The Raiders have a larger presence this year, which means they're expected to be a good team and won't sneak up on anybody this time around.

That's because North returns three starters and five of its top seven players from a team that was 18-5 and was the Western Lakes Activities Association regular-season co-champion.



Emir Medunjanin
All-Observer player

Negoshian said, but he adds: "Sometimes it's easier to get to the top than to stay at the top."

"I'm not one for believing in trying to duplicate last year, because each team sets its own goals and has its own identity."

"The kids have talked about having a good work ethic, playing well every game, leaving it on the floor and letting the chips fall where they may."

North's top player is 6-foot-6 senior Emir Medunjanin, who made the All-Observer team after leading the Raiders with 16.7 points and 8.6 rebounds per game.

Medunjanin, who shot almost 32 per-

cent from three-point distance and 57 percent overall, is a versatile player who can score inside or outside.

"We'll try to work it so we can use him more on the perimeter, because he's a very good perimeter player for his size," Negoshian said. "It depends on how much the other kids develop."

"He was more of a post-up last year. Obviously, we still need him inside; that's where it starts. We're forcing people to stop him, to double-team him, and we'll make reads off that."

Complementing Medunjanin in the post is 6-5 senior Adrian Bridges, who averaged 6½ points and rebounds. He's a three-year varsity player, too. His forte is defense and rebounding.

"We're trying to get him to look to score more," Negoshian said. "He's very fundamentally solid. He's a low-maintenance kid. He consistently does his job and goes about it in a quiet way. Sometimes he goes unnoticed, but he's such a good player. He does a nice job rebounding and contesting shots."

The third returning starter is 6-1 senior Phil Watha, who plays a very consistent outside scoring threat.

Watha was the team's second-leading scorer with 11½ points per game. He made 45 of 116 three-point attempts for 39 percent. Watha also averaged 4½ rebounds and 2½ steals.

"He'll be a solid wing player who shoots the three, and we want him to go to the basket a little more, to do a little more ball handling and stuff like that," Negoshian said.

"He's a very solid outside shooter. The other thing is he's very solid when it comes to what we're trying to do defensively, and he does a lot for us. He has decent size for a guard, so he can rebound for us."

The sixth man last season, Brian Shulman, moves into a starting role at



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARKER

Senior leader: North Farmington's Emir Medunjanin is one of the best players in Observerland and his team's leading scorer.

Please see RAIDERS, B3

Flyers flatten Patriots in 8-0 victory

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

HOCKEY

Farmington hockey coach Glenn Breuhan compared his team's strong finish last season to a snowball rolling down a hill, picking up momentum with every turn.

Friday night at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena, that snowball turned into a full-fledged avalanche.

The Flyers rolled over Livonia Franklin, 9-0, behind a balanced scoring attack and near-flawless goaltending.

ing by senior goalie Logan McLean.

With a record of 5-0, the second-year program has already matched its victory total from the inaugural 1998-99 campaign in which it finished 5-18-1. The Patriots dropped to 1-2.

"We only won five games last season, but we won a couple at the end and it kind of snowballed into the district tournament, where we played well, but

lost in overtime to Brother Rice," Breuhan said.

"Tonight, we met every goal we've been working to achieve. It was a total team effort in which everyone contributed."

The lopsided loss stung Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt, who questioned his team's desire.

"Our performance tonight was absolutely atrocious," Jobbitt said. "We played with a total lack of effort and lack of heart. A couple of kids gave 100

percent, but for the most part it was an embarrassing performance."

"Farmington has a very good hockey team. Their goalie was outstanding, and their top line is very good. We just didn't come to play tonight and it showed."

McLean did his best Y2K bug imitation — he turned the lights out on the Patriots' forwards and made their lives miserable with a series of acrobatic saves.

Please see FLYERS, B7

Hadley's performance key to Hawks' success

BY DAN O'MEARA
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FOOTBALL

One thing that separates Farmington Harrison from most high school football teams is the employment of an efficient and successful passing game.

So there was a lot riding on the arm of senior Lou Hadley when he was asked to play quarterback a quarter of the way into the 1999 season.

"We weren't pass blocking real well, and we needed somebody with quick feet," Harrison coach John Herrington said, adding he had never seen Hadley play quarterback. "He said when he came to Harrison he was a quarterback, and he was switched to slotback in double sessions."

Herrington noticed Hadley, while playing catch, "was throwing it back better than the others were throwing it to him. So we figured maybe he could play quarterback."

"We thought about going with Agim (Shabaz) and putting (Hadley) back at receiver, but we felt more confident with a senior in there."

Hadley made the switch from slotback in the second half of the Northville game in the fourth week of the regular season.

He started every game after that, with the exception of the Plymouth

Canton game, and led the Hawks to their third straight state championship and 10th overall.

"I had a lot of fun playing that position," Hadley said. "I adopted pretty well to it, I'd say. It's a tough position to play. The toughest thing was having to learn everything from audibles to the playbook. I know some of it from being a receiver, but I still had to learn a lot."

"I was kinda shocked (when Herrington asked him to play quarterback), but I know if I worked at it and did my best I'd be all right at it. That's basically what I did."

It took some time for Hadley to get comfortable playing the position and the passing game to develop as Harrison tried to stabilize the offensive line.

Hadley saved his best for last. He had his best performances as a passer in the last two games of the season, helping Harrison win the Division 3 state title.

He completed 64 percent of his passes (16-of-25) and threw for 44 percent of his total passing yardage (359) and 33 percent of his touchdown passes (three) in those two games.

Please see HAWKS, B3

