

Sports & Recreation

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Traczyk stars for NU

Sophomore Tricia Traczyk, a member of the 1997 All-Observer volleyball team, completed her second year as the starting middle hitter for the Niagara (N.Y.) University team.

The North Farmington graduate again led the Purple Eagles in blocking and was among the team leaders in kills and service aces.

Traczyk, who was named to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference all-academic volleyball team, competed in the MAAC championships in November at the All-Star Sports Complex in Disney World, Fla.

Conrad's wins awards

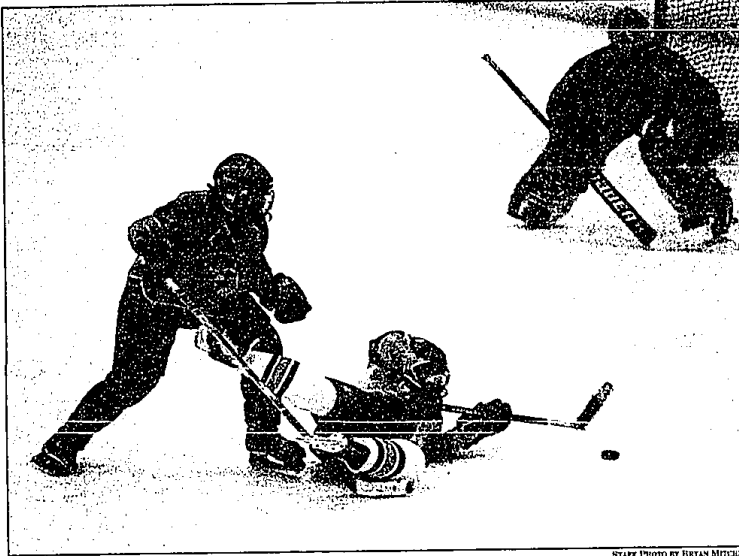
Conrad's Gymnastics Academy of Farmington Hills won three team trophies and had 12 first-place finishes in individual competition Dec. 13 in its annual No-L Invitational.

Jonathan Grinter, 7, of Farmington Hills, earned three first-place and three second-place awards. Other boys from Conrad's taking first places were Garrett Farley, 7; Chad Layton, 7 (three); Alex Saunders, 8; Michael Bogart, 11; Gregory Hogan, 8 (two); and Tyler Flood, 12 (two).

Conrad's students finishing second in various events included Layton, (two); Saunders, Robert Wesley, 8; Nick Fenzan, 10; Hogan, 8 (two); Kevin Kowalski, 9 (three); and Flood (four).

The meet drew teams from as far away as Kalamazoo. In addition to a Conrad's team of 26 boys ranging in age from 6 to 17, young men from nine other academies participated.

The 116 gymnasts were divided into seven classes and competed in six events: floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar.



STAFF PHOTO BY BERTAN MITCHELL

Hockey action: Churchill's Adam Jakubowski takes down Rice's Pat Morrow before the latter can attempt a shot at the Churchill goal, defended by Ryan McBroom. The teams battled to a 2-2 draw.

Warriors, Chargers settle for tie

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Nobody likes ties in hockey, but nobody throws them out, either.

Birmingham Brother Rice scored with 66 seconds to play Wednesday night to earn a 2-2 tie with Livonia Churchill in a non-conference

HOCKEY

hockey game at Campuware Arena. "We were very fortunate," Coach Barry Mills of the Warriors said. "They totally outplayed us. Any time you can come out of a game like that with a tie, you take it."

That's the beauty, or ugliness, of a tie. There are things both sides can use for praise and to challenge their teams to improve.

"We were sleeping a bit out there at various points in the hockey game," Coach Jeff Hatley of Churchill said. "Maybe we were thinking about Christmas shopping or something."

Churchill dominated play for long stretches of time. But the last eight minutes they went into their prevent defense — and any Detroit

Lions' fan can tell you that only prevents you from winning.

Brother Rice, 3-4-1, played well only in spurts until the final eight minutes. Otherwise Churchill, 3-3-3, hit harder and moved the puck better.

"Our boys have to learn that they need to play three periods of hockey," the Warriors' Mills said. "Not just a period and a half. Our goaltending kept us in the game,

Please see HOCKEY, C2

YEAR IN REVIEW

Hawks, Marlins in 1998 spotlight

Hirings, firings and 'good-byeings'... the last month gets ripped off the calendar and another year has been added to Observerland lore.

Each season is filled with stories of teams and coaches leaving their marks on the local sports scene.

This year a local coaching legend got fired — and wound up taking a job with one of his old schools' arch rivals. A great golfer finished a great prep career while a long-time area coach-athletic director decided to hang it up.

We were blessed with state championships, again, to highlight another banner year of sport.

Redford Catholic Central football coach Tom Mach won 200th game: The Shamrocks won their second-straight Class AA football championship in late November, and along the way Mach won his 200th career game. The Shamrocks' 35-14 win over Sterling Heights Stevenson in the AA semifinal gave Mach 200 wins quicker than any coach in state history.

The Shamrocks' 27-23 comeback victory over Rockford in the AA final gave him a 201-42 career record. He is the 25th coach in state history to reach 200 wins.

The Shamrocks have won five Class AA titles in the 1990s and six overall under Mach, whose teams are 23-2 in the playoffs this decade. Farmington Marinas' football juggernaut: The Hawks won their ninth state title in November when they defeated Hudsonville in the Class A championship game, 35-13.

Harrison was 13-0 for the second year in a row and will take a 26-game winning streak into next season. The Hawks also were the highest-

Please see YEAR IN REVIEW, C2

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