

## FARMINGTON SPORTS SCENE

### Flyers defeat Chiefs

Farmington avenged an earlier loss to Plymouth Canton with a 3-1 hockey victory Saturday at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Flyers improved their Western Lakes Activities Association record to 7-4 and their overall mark to 10-5.

Kevin Tomerowski, Matt Lee and Preston Picard scored goals for Farmington, which iced the win with an empty-netter at the end.

The Flyers had a 33-25 advantage in shots on goal.

### Hopper swim winner

Devon Hopper had the Farmington-Harrison swim team's only first place Tuesday in a 1200-met loss to visiting Northville.

Hopper won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 59 seconds flat in the North Farmington pool.

He also was second in the butterfly (58.63) and teamed with Brandon Goad, Max Sattles and Rob Gundlach for second place in the medley relay (1:50.55).

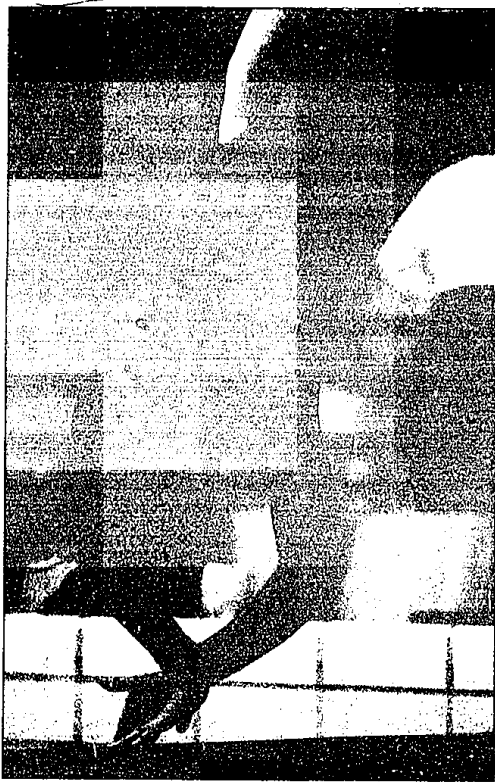
The Phoenix had additional seconds from Goad in the individual medley (2:13.5) and Danny Price in the 100 freestyle (53.91).

Steve Marasone, Price, Chris Vukonich and Mark Benivegna were runners-up in the 400 freestyle relay (3:50.35).

### Carbo Baseball School

Philadelphia Phillies minor league hurler Mark Rutherford will help assist in winter and early spring skill sessions in velocity improvement, power hitting and field at the Bernie Carbo Baseball School.

For more information, call Gordie Rutherford at (734) 421-4928.



No easy task: Farmington's Jenny Galbraith performs a difficult maneuver on the balance beam during a dual meet Monday.

## Gymnasts record season-best total, make major gain

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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The addition of Chelsea Keesling coincided nicely with the improvement of other gymnasts to make a positive difference for the Farmington unified team.

Farmington followed a second-place finish Saturday in its own invitational with a dual-meet victory Monday over visiting Walled Lake, 134.55 to 114.05.

"It's hard to come off a big Saturday meet and go right at it again on Monday," coach Jeff Dwyer said, "but I was real happy. The girls had a pretty good attitude."

Clara Seymour, Kristin Ulewicz and Keesling are the team's top gymnasts, but Nicole White, Natalie Olesko and Jenny Galbraith are closing the gap, Dwyer added.

"I'm starting to notice my fourth, fifth and sixth scores are starting to be higher," he said, including Alaina Perry and Annie Liebermann in that group of improving gymnasts.

"Those girls were low sevens at the beginning of the year, and now they're posting high sevens to low eights, and that's what we need to see. That's what makes a team, actually, the fourth through sixth scores.

"Our one through three girls are pretty tough with Keesling, Seymour and Ulewicz. They're very consistent, and we can rely on them. We're starting to see it more from the other girls."

Keesling earned first place on vault and beam in the dual meet Monday, and Seymour was the winner on bars and floor exercise. Keesling was first in all-around scoring with a 35.95 total,

and Seymour was second at 34.35.

Farmington achieved its highest score of the season Saturday (139.6) to finish second behind Hartland in the invitational at the Farmington Training Center.

"That was definitely the highlight of the season so far," Dwyer said, adding it's the highest Farmington has ever finished in the meet.

"I had no idea we could hit that. I was predicting four to five points higher with Chelsea. We jumped from 132 to 139. That was definitely a team effort there."

The strong showing has caused Farmington to re-evaluate its team goals and consider qualifying again for the state meet a real possibility.

"It's kind of exciting because any time you're in the high 130s you have a chance," Dwyer said. "Our goal is to do like last year and strive to make states as a team."

"I told the girls the next day 'You know what this means? Our goals have changed.' I think you want to have some lofty goals."

"It's just good to work toward high goals. Last year we hit it, sometimes you don't. But you have to keep shooting for the stars."

Lauren Simpson of Linden High School, who trains with the Hartland team but competes as an independent, won three events Saturday and had the top all-around score in Division I. Keesling and Seymour, who won on bars, were second and third, respectively.

Kristin Ulewicz, who was sick and didn't compete Monday, was first on

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## Raiders bombard Chargers, have sole claim to 1st place

BY BRAD EMONS  
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After just four games in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball season, only one team remains unbeaten — North Farmington.

On Tuesday, the host Raiders played like contenders and made Livonia Churchill look like WLLA pretenders in a convincing 55-33 triumph.

Both teams are 6-4 overall. The loss dropped Churchill to 3-1 in the WLLA, while North is 4-0.

The Raiders jumped out to leads of 15-1 and 22-5 in the opening quarter and Churchill could get no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

North's 2-3 matchup zone defense created havoc for the Chargers, who shot just 12 of 44

### BASKETBALL

from the floor (27 percent).

"We wanted to limit them to one contested shot and out," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "We knew that Churchill had been shooting the ball well from the perimeter, and they do a lot of nice things as far as setting screens to get shots."

"I thought we had a good first half running our zone and playing in the matchup."

North's 6-foot-6 senior center Emir Medunjanin was efficient from the floor, making eight of 10 shots en route to a game-high 16 points. Three of his field goals came off dunks, including a spectacular one-handed putback jump late in the first quarter to give the Raiders a 19-5 lead.

When Churchill collapsed

inside, Medunjanin took his game outside.

"You don't see a lot of players in our league of that caliber," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "He's a quality player for any conference. You have to respect a player like that because he has so many tools."

Medunjanin and 6-5 Adrian Bridges pretty much controlled the backboards for North, combining for 21 rebounds.

"I'm very impressed with North," Austin said. "They're a very good team, very skilled."

"We were so shaken in the first half by their aggressiveness that they took us out of our game."

North sharpshooters Phil Watha and Brian Shulman, a pair of senior guards, finished

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By Barry Gibson  
Director of Ticket Sales  
Detroit Tigers

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### WRESTLING

When North Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament. When Saturday, Jan. 26. Competition starts at 9 a.m. The finals are expected to begin at approximately 6 p.m.

Wrestler Livonia Churchill, High School.

Admission \$5 and is good for the entire day.

PAST FINISHERS:

1999: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Livonia Stevenson, 3. Garden City, 4. Plymouth Salem.

2000: 1. Plymouth Salem, 2. Redford Catholic Central, 3. Livonia Stevenson.

2001: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 2. Redford Catholic Central, 3. Garden City.

2002: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Garden City, 3. Plymouth Salem.

2003: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Garden City, 3. Plymouth Salem.

2004: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Garden City, 3. Plymouth Salem.

2005: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Garden City, 3. Plymouth Salem.

2006: 1. Redford Catholic Central, 2. Garden City, 3. Plymouth Salem.

## Shamrocks favored to repeat as champs in Observerland tourney

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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If the rankings hold true to form, there will be a lot of repeat winners Saturday in the Ninth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament.

It all starts at the top with defending team champion Redford Catholic Central, which has been ranked No. 1 in the area all season.

The Shamrocks are favored to win consecutive titles for the first time and their fourth overall championship.

"I'm sure we're going to be in contention," CC coach Mike Rodriguez said, "but I don't see us walking away with it."

### PREVIEW

"A lot of people out there are going to help us. Where we might be weak, they'll knock out some of the other boys."

"Everybody has somebody who's good. I just hope we have a few more."

If CC doesn't win it, history indicates either Livonia Stevenson or Plymouth Salem will. No other team has won the tournament since Farmington captured the inaugural event in 1992, and rarely has any other school finished among the top three.

"If some of our younger guys come through and our seniors do well, we'll be in good luck."

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