

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Henry Ford beats OCC

Oakland Community College reduced an eight-point halftime deficit in women's basketball Wednesday but not far enough.

The Lady Raiders, who trailed 25-17 at the intermission, were still on the short end of a 62-49 score with visiting Henry Ford.

Mahogany Fletcher scored 17 points and grabbed 17 rebounds to lead OCC. Nicole Schulte added 11 points and Sara Wesa eight.

Nazek Mroueh's game-high 18 points sparked the Hawks, who also had 13 points and 11 rebounds from Lindsay Livorno.

OCC dropped to 6-10 in the MCAA Eastern Conference and 7-18 overall. Henry Ford improved to 10-5 and 12-13.

The OCC men's team also lost to Henry Ford on Wednesday, 64-51.

Walter Malone and Jeff Townsend led the Raiders in scoring with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Elviero Peterson had 10 rebounds.

The Hawks had three players in double figures — Daryl Mason (18), Josh Boven (15) and Jeff Kvalvog (11).

OCC is 1-14 in the conference and 6-20 overall; Ford is 9-6 and 14-11.

### Ambassador commits

Alex Sawruk, a forward on the Computer Ambassadors, has committed to attend Northern Michigan University in the fall.

"Alex has been a great addition to our team this season with his mix of speed and skill," Ambassadors coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "He is sure to be an asset at Northern Michigan on the Wildcat's Olympic-sized ice sheet."

"Alex certainly has the potential to join the ever-growing list of impact freshmen in the CCHA who are coming out of the North American Hockey League."

A 5-foot-11, 186-pound native of South St. Marie, the 19-year-old Sawruk has collected 14 goals and 19 assists (32 points) while picking up 60 penalty minutes in 39 games this season. He was acquired in a trade with Grand Rapids Nov. 24.

Sawruk is the sixth Ambassador to commit to an NCAA Division I school this season. The others are Andy Burnes (Michigan), Craig Kowaleki (Northern Michigan), Michael Smith (Niagara), Steve Jackson (Michigan State) and Mike Roemsenky (Michigan). Jackson and Roemsenky are already with their collegiate teams.

### Lions take to court

Members of the Detroit Lions football team will challenge members of the Thurston High School band and school staff in a benefit basketball game Thursday, March 2, in the Thurston gymnasium at 26255 Schoolcraft, just west of Beech Daly.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for those age 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from any band member or at the door or by calling 313-635-4000. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. The Lions will sign autographs beginning at 6:30 p.m. and during halftime. The game starts at 7 p.m.

Polaroid pictures at \$5 each can be purchased for the autograph signing. Select autographed Lions items will be available for a silent auction.

Proceeds from the event will help defray expenses for the Thurston High band trip to Carnegie Hall on April 21. The band hopes to raise \$65,000 to help fund the trip.

### Big M to sign books

Frank Mahovlich, a former Detroit Red Wing standout now in the NHL Hall of Fame, will visit several book stores in the Detroit area to autograph copies of his biography, *The Big M: The Frank Mahovlich Story*, authored by his son, Ted Mahovlich.

Frank Mahovlich played several seasons in Detroit after helping take Toronto to four Stanley Cup titles. He completed his 22-year NHL career with Montreal, collecting two more Stanley Cup rings.

Mahovlich, who had 633 career goals and 570 assists, currently serves as a senator from Ontario in the Canadian Parliament.

Mahovlich will be at Waldenbooks in the Woodland Square (30200 Plymouth) in Livonia 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. He will be at Borders in Dearborn and Barnes and Noble in Grosse Pointe on Feb. 27.

## Basics with breakfast

### Adults hit ice for early-morning hockey instruction



STAFF PHOTO BY DILL BEEZLEY

Hockey school: Ken Stern of Farmington Hills takes his turn during a drill (above) and takes a break (right) Thursday morning at Suburban Training Center. Stern is a veteran member of the Breakfast Club and finds the experience to be beneficial.



## Hills skaters sharpen skills, knowledge

Adults who sign up for the Breakfast Club, a class offered by Suburban Hockey Schools at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills, are taught the finer points of hockey once a week over the course of 22 weeks.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Don't be misled by the name — Breakfast Club! It has nothing to do with the morning meal, and it's certainly no culinary class.

Instead of pouring a cup of coffee for a little pick-me-up, some Farmington Hills residents jump-start their day by tying on their ice skates and going to hockey practice.

Vince McDermott, Jodi Sandvik and

Ken Stern are among the participants in Suburban Hockey Schools' Breakfast Club who receive instruction and a workout once a week at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The program is aimed at adults who want to learn more about the game or sharpen their skills and is taught by a six-man staff of former professional and college hockey players.

Sandvik, 30, joined the club three years ago to learn how to play hockey for the purpose of eventually joining a

women's hockey team. She grew up in Ohio and saw greater opportunities to play the game when she moved to Michigan.

"I didn't know how to skate or play hockey, but it was something I wanted to do," she said. "So when I saw the brochures I thought it was a better way to start than to just join a league and pray for the best."

Sandvik, who now plays for the Ann Arbor-based Iron Maidens in the Women's Metro Skaters League, said the program has helped her a lot.

"Yeah, it's great," she said. "I've probably progressed faster than some of my teammates who started about the same time I did but don't have that constant instruction."

Sandvik said she has learned the cor-

rect technique for everything from bending the knees to shooting the puck and stick handling.

She attended a WMSL tryout and quickly realized she needed help. Consequently, she spent a full 22-week session attending only the Breakfast Club before going back to the WMSL.

"I learned I was way over my head," she said. "(The Breakfast Club has given her) a good base and has made a huge difference."

"I've gone from nowhere to being one of the better players on my team at the intermediate level. It's worth every penny."

McDermott, 49, and Stern, 45, wanted to reacquire themselves with the game they played as youths when their

Please see **BREAKFAST CLUB, B5**



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BURACOWSKI

OHL action: Randy Fitzgerald (17) and Justin Williams (21) battle for a loose puck with Sting defenseman Scott Heffernan.

## Whalers edge Sting in OHL contest, 2-1

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine standing directly in the path of a speeding, out-of-control steamroller that has just lost its brakes.

You can now relate to the Plymouth Whalers' next opponent.

The Whalers continued their two-month long impression of a juggernaut Friday night, edging Sarnia, 2-1, on a third-period goal from rookie fourth-line winger Rob McBride.

Sarnia defenseman Scott Heffernan came within an eyelash of sending the game into overtime when his slapshot eluded Whaler goalie Rob Zepp and dinged the crossbar with 2:10 remaining.

Plymouth has now won eight games

### HOCKEY

in a row and 11 out of 12, to improve its Ontario Hockey League West Division-leading record to 34-17-4. The fourth-place Sting dropped to 28-22-7.

McBride's unassisted goal — his eighth of the season — made a winner out of Zepp, who turned away 16 shots, including three break-aways.

Zepp's only blemish came five minutes into the game when Sarnia right wing Alex Buturlin one-timed the puck into the net while the Sting were enjoying a two-man advantage.

The talent level of this team is not

Please see **WHALENS, B3**

## Farmington repeats as wrestling champion

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Farmington High wrestlers won their second district championship in a row and fourth in five years Thursday.

The Falcons crushed host Oak Park in the final for the second consecutive year, 46-21, after trouncing Redford Thurston in the semifinals, 69-9. "I thought we wrestled real well," Farmington coach Al Beyer said. "I thought we were up for the matches; we knew what had to be done and got it done."

### DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Farmington, with a 15-6-1 record in dual meets, will return to Oak Park for a Division II regional tournament Wednesday to face Adrian (14-10).

The other semifinal contest will have Trenton (15-6-2) wrestling against Southgate Anderson (19-7). The final match will follow Wednesday evening.

Despite all of their recent success in the district, the Falcons haven't won a regional match since 1996 when they beat Oxford, 42-34, and lost to Hartland in the final, 59-14.

Ypsilanti Lincoln defeated Farmington in last year's regional at Monroe Jefferson, 42-38, and regional host Birmingham Groves was a 43-25 winner over Farmington three years ago.

"If everyone is healthy and everyone is there, we should be competitive with (Adrian)," Beyer said. "It will probably be one of those matches that comes down to one match either way."

Last year's match with Lincoln, in which Farmington rallied from a 38-0 deficit, was a one-bout difference and a match that could've gone either way, he added.

Please see **WRESTLING, B6**