

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Whalers whip Knights

The Plymouth Whalers combined a four-goal second period with a stingy defense in dispatching the London Knights, 6-0, Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

A crowd of 2,468 watched the Whalers improve to 35-17-4 with their ninth straight win. They lead the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with 75 points, six more than second-place Sault Ste. Marie, London is last in the West at 16-31-7.

Bill Ruggiero was in goal for the shutout; he made 18 saves. Gene Chiarello faced 42 shots in goal for London, making 36 stops.

Damian Surma got things started for the Whalers, scoring 1:45 into the first period. In the second, goals by Kris Vernarsky, Stephen Weiss, Tomas Kurka and Justin Williams pushed their lead to 5-0.

Randy Fitzgerald's short-handed goal 1:15 into the third period capped the scoring. Fitzgerald finished with a goal and two assists; so did Surma. Williams and Weiss had a goal and an assist each.

The Whalers have the second-best record in the OHL, behind only the Ottawa 67s (41-13-3).

CC focuses on league

Redford Catholic Central's swim team went to Ann Arbor Pioneer on Saturday night and was ambushed, 133-53, but has no more meets planned until the league meet Saturday, March 4, at Royal Oak Dondore.

The Shamrocks, 8-3, hope to use that meet as preparation for the state championships March 10-11 at Eastern Michigan University.

CC only took three first places against Pioneer.

Greg Brazianus eked out a win in diving on his last dive by .8 of a point. His score was 257.80.

Nick Markou scored a first in the backstroke with a time of 58.27, and Chris LaFond won the breaststroke but missed the state cut time by .17 with a time of 1:03.16.

Coach Jeff Baker hopes to use the practice time and the league meet to get LaFond, Andrew Corbin and two of his relay teams qualified for the state meet.

Carlin needs to chop 4.57 seconds off his 500 freestyle time to make the state meet and is just 1.4 seconds away in the IM.

Finals tickets on sale

Tickets for the Michigan High School Athletic Association lower peninsula individual wrestling finals at Joe Louis Arena are on sale now.

The March 9-11 event is the largest high school wrestling tournament in the United States with 14 weight classes in four divisions totaling 896 wrestlers from more than 300 schools.

All-tournament reserved tickets (\$30) and single-session reserved tickets (\$6) in the upper bowl may be purchased through TicketMaster outlets and the Joe Louis Arena Box Office. Lower bowl tickets are sold out.

General admission tickets (\$5 per session) may only be purchased on the day of the event at the JLA Box Office. Parking is \$3 at the arena parking structure.

Girls soccer camp

Veteran coach Adam Schomer will conduct a girls soccer camp starting Tuesday, Feb. 28, and running through Saturday, March 4. The five-day camp takes place from 4:30-6 p.m. daily and costs \$90 per player. It will be held at the Detroit Lions training dome next to the Silverdome. On Saturday, a free mini-clinic will be held at the dome from 4-4:30 p.m. for youngsters ages 5-11. For more information, call (248) 738-5356.

Roll in the Dome

The Pontiac Silverdome again is a happening place for in-line skaters. Now through April in-line skaters will be allowed to skate around the Silverdome's main walkway. There are 112 sessions of skating available over the next five months.

Skaters are asked to enter at the West Gate Skating on the Third Level. The fees are as follows: \$6 adults; \$5 students with ID; \$3 seniors 65-over; and \$4 youths 12-under. Skate rentals are available with pads for \$5. The 24-hour hotline number to find out exact skating sessions and times is 1-877-875-2832.

Maples oust Falcons from tourney

■ Farmington's stay in the state wrestling tournament ended with a 44-19 loss to Adrian on Wednesday.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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By the time Farmington got to the strength of its lineup Wednesday, it was already too late.

Adrian built an early lead and coasted to a 44-19 victory in a Division II team wrestling regional tournament match at Oak Park.

"We were in a hole without a ladder at that point," Farmington coach Al Beyer said, referring to a 34-0 deficit his team faced following the 145-pound weight class.

To win the match, the Falcons needed to win by pin at the six remaining weights, but it was impossible for Farmington to win by then since it intended to void the 189 bout.

Senior Mark Ostach earned Farmington's first victory with a decision at 155, and the Falcons proceeded to score 13 straight points, including Ostach's win.

WRESTLING

Junior Mike Murland just missed a pin at 160 and won by major decision, and senior Ben Lukas pinned his opponent at 171.

But those wins came too late in the match to do any good for Farmington, which finished with a 15-7-1 record in dual meets.

"They're tough in the upper weights, too," said Beyer of the Maples. "They're a tough, solid team all the way through. We needed to score some points in the lower weights and we just didn't."

Adrian started with back-to-back pins and won key bouts at the next two weights, both by 8-6 decision.

Farmington's best wrestler in the lower weights, senior Jon Simmons, was edged out, and freshman Josh Woods lost in overtime when he was penalized for locking his hands.

"Simmons was sick out there, and that hurt us right there," Beyer said. "Had we won those matches, maybe we would've had a little momentum going."

That stopped us from getting our momentum going, and Adrian got their momentum going instead."

Another pin and three decisions in the next four weights gave the Maples their 34-0 lead.

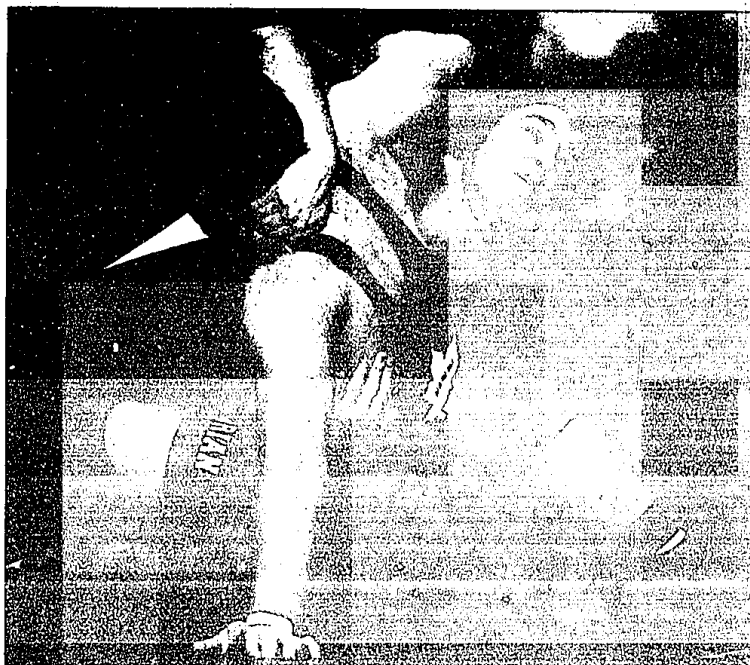
"They're tough in the middle and tough where we're tough," Beyer said, adding Adrian has a team large enough to fill A and B lineups.

"I'm sure they have a lot of intensity and hard-fought challenge matches in their room. That's the advantage of having a big team."

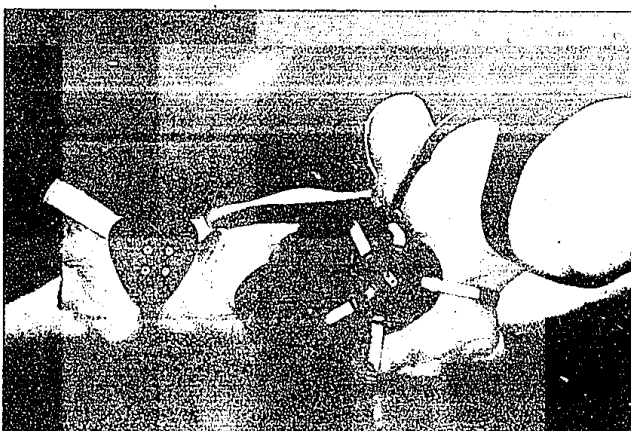
Farmington's only other win came from senior heavyweight Brinn Brinsden, who won his last bout as a high school wrestler by pinning his taller, heavier opponent, Gabe Garcia, early in the second period.

A medical situation prevented Brins-

Please see REGIONAL, C3



Battle of the big boys: Farmington's Kyle Domagalski (facing the camera) wrestles with Adrian's Nick Vanover in the 215-pound bout Wednesday. Domagalski lost the bout on decision.



Farmington winner: Ben Lukas (right) is in control of the 171-pound bout against Dave Herman in the regional tournament match Wednesday at Oak Park. Lukas won by pin in the first period.

Raiders edge Hawks to reach semifinals

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

When his team clinched the first seed in the Western Lakes Athletic Association basketball tournament, North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian was hoping for an easy first-round game.

But when he learned his team had to travel to cross-town rival Farmington Harrison, he knew the Raiders were in for a battle.

The eighth-seeded Hawks did not disappoint him, as they pushed the

BASKETBALL

WLA regular-season co-champs to the limit Wednesday but came up a bit short, 71-66.

"They didn't surprise us, because we knew they would play hard," Negoshian said. "They're very well coached, and we always say we're going to get a great game whenever we come to Harrison."

"It seems like there is always someone upset in the first round of this tournament. We won our conference on

Monday, and we go right back into the frying pan."

North will play host to Plymouth Canton, which defeated Livonia Churchill on Wednesday, in a semifinal game at 7 p.m. Friday.

Down by nine points after three quarters and seven at the three-minute mark of the fourth quarter, Harrison rallied to cut North's lead to 69-66 with less than 10 seconds to go.

Going for the tie, Harrison senior Nick Hall missed an off-balance, three-point shot with 2.9 seconds on the clock.

North's Mike Primeau, who finished with 15 points, was fouled and hit two free throws to ice the victory.

"My guys absolutely left their hearts out on the floor tonight," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said. "A coach can never ask for anymore than that."

The Hawks, who fell to 9-9 on the season, were led by Joe Hundley's 26 points, and Brinn Nelson added 21 points.

North, which pushed its record to 13-5, was led by Phil Watha's 15 points.

Please see RAIDERS, C2

Salem upsets Farmington's playoff hopes

BY C.J. RISK
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Bob Brodie called it "almost a carbon copy of the last time we played."

His opposite number, Farmington coach Denny Mikel, agreed except that the time length expanded.

"We can't beat Plymouth," Mikel said after Brodie's those guys Salem had upset his Falcons, 65-64, Wednesday.

"In 10 years, I've never beaten them."

BASKETBALL

The win sends the Rocks to the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament semifinals. They host Wallid Lake Western, which beat Northville Tuesday, at 7 p.m. Friday.

To be fair, in the decade Salem has dominated, Mikel's Farmington squads have not been of equal caliber. This season, however, the Falcons are

They went into Wednesday's game with a 14-3 record. Salem was 9-8. Now, two of Farmington's four losses

have come against the Rocks, who are currently 10-8.

The challenge in their first meeting, a 52-40 win Feb. 4, was to overcome the loss of their starting guards in the last week and the death of teammate Mark Bolger the previous Friday.

All this while playing the Falcons on their floor.

But Salem managed it. And a video could have been sent for the second match-up.

"We got behind," said Mikel. "Once you get behind on Salem, they're going to break you down one-on-one and

make you pay."

"The key to playing them is don't let them get the lead on you. They're a very well-prepared, well-coached team. They don't make mistakes, and they take advantage of your weaknesses."

Mikel had altered a few things for this game but to no avail. The Rocks broke on top, leading 14-10 after one quarter and 28-20 at the half.

The Falcons threatened a comeback, but could never quite complete it. With 4:58 left, Salem's lead had grown to 11

Please see FALCONS, C2