

Lacrosse from page B1

on Farmington High's club team last year were likely choices. That group includes seniors Christina Ford, Carolyn Skimin, Sarah Bajek, Jennifer Altshul, Jessica McEvoy and Kristan Grayson and juniors Laurano Walker and Stephanie Jacob. "The first year I think is going to be a learning year," Mahall said. "The seniors are going to provide some stability, because they've been playing four years. It will take a while for the other team members to gather the experience. I anticipate an extensive learning curve the first few games. As the season goes on, players will become more aware of the game structure, and we'll have a better team. I hope the natural athletic skills a lot of the girls have will allow us to blossom at the end of the season."

Boys coach optimistic
Farmington United boys lacrosse coach John Fillion put his players through a strenuous preseason conditioning program, setting the tone for the team's first season. "We improved 300 percent in four weeks of practice," Fillion said. "The kids absolutely love the discipline. They really under-

stand why we had to condition. "They just couldn't believe they made it through it. You have to push kids; they know they can do it." Despite players coming from three high schools, the rigorous preseason workouts helped to establish team camaraderie. "The guys are really pulling together," Fillion said. "You can hardly tell they're from different schools. We had a team dinner (Thursday), and the kids were mingling amongst each other." The 41-member squad is led by captains Alex Gay (senior midfielder), Dan Robin (senior midfielder), Matt Webb (senior defender) and Brian Kozanecki (junior attacker). Other holdovers from the club team are seniors Phil Lablinder and Tom Close, juniors Greg Diven, Ian Cole and Eric Kelly and sophomores Matt Ryder, Charlie Craig, John Notarianni and Jason Close. "The existing players brought a lot of leadership to the program, because they had some experience," Fillion said. "They had a good foundation, and we've built on that." Fillion anticipates a successful season and expects his team to win a majority of its games.

"I think we'll do really well," he said. "The kids have enough talent we should dominate the league; I really believe that." "We have some depth, which is a positive sign. We have a lot of kids to draw from; so the talent is there, and we have enough kids to help us next year."

FARMINGTON 13, ROCHESTER 11
Brian Kozanecki was unstoppable, scoring eight goals to lead Farmington United to a victory in its first-ever contest at North Farmington. "He had just a wicked under-hand shot," Farmington coach John Fillion said, adding Kozanecki's scoring attempts were moving about 70 miles per hour. "It would probably break a leg if it ever hit anybody." Ian Cole scored three goals and had three assists; Dan Robin had two goals and two assists. Kozanecki also had two assists; Jason Close, Alex Gay and Matt Ryder had one apiece. Farmington had an outstanding performance from goalie Francois Berran, according to Fillion, and good defensive efforts by Matt Webb, Krishna Reid, Brian Watha and Brian Doughty. The entire midfield played well, too, he added.

Stevenson coach resigns

By BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
become@ec.ee.home.comcast.net

Stevenson's Tim Newman became the second varsity boys basketball coach in Livonia to resign in the last week. Newman, 43, joins Franklin's Dan Robinson on the sidelines. "I need to take care of business at home," said Newman, who was 17-66 in his four-year stint with the Spartans. "It has to do with time constraints. It's a year-round job these days and at this point of my life I can't fully devote the time." Newman, who took over for Jim McIntyre during the 1996-97 season, has coached Public Schools for over 20 years. He was also varsity girls coach two seasons at Churchill and four at Franklin, as well as being a JV coach at Stevenson. "I've had a wonderful run, but I can't do it full tilt right now," Newman said. "I appreciate what Roger Frayer (Stevenson's athletic director) and Dr. (Dale) Collier (principal) did for me. They allowed me to be a part of a quality program."

BASKETBALL

"I never felt the pressure as far as having a winning record. I miss the kids and the competitiveness. I didn't change my views or my values and I just hope the kids appreciate that and were better people for it. The next thing is to see them come back in four years and see how successful they've become in life." Newman and his wife Nancy have two young children, ages 3 and 1. "I'm never going to say never, but now is not the time to coach," said Newman, who bears resemblance to Indiana coach Bob Knight. "The frustrating part is that I'm leaving a nice freshman group. We had one on the varsity along with three sophomores."

"Whoever takes over will be at a great school to work at and have good kids." Frayer, Stevenson's athletic director, called Newman, who teaches special education at the school, "a great person." "We're going to miss him," Frayer added. "Nobody prepared better and Tim did a great job teaching the fundamentals. I'm devastated to lose him, but I understand why. He needs to spend more time with his family." Frayer said Newman's job has already been posted within the Livonia Public Schools.

All-Observer volleyball from page B2

Ladywood coach Larry Wyatt said, "She was our strongest overall player, our team captain and our team MVP." The outside hitter, who led Ladywood to its ninth straight Catholic League A-B Division title, is headed to Siena Heights University. Andrea Kmet, Livonia Franklin: The middle-hitter was a first-team All-Observer performer a year ago and was a three-year varsity starter. Kmet, an All-Western Division choice in the WLA, was second on the team in total kills with 294 (3.38 per game). She also had 148 total digs and 50 aces. "Andrea has shown she can hold her own in the Western Lakes," Dietel said. "She was a true outside hitter who played the middle position for the good of her team." "Her tenacity, perseverance and deep desire helped lead the team to many victories."

Kmet, headed to Schoolcraft College, was named the Patriots' top defensive player and was All-Region, along with All-Region Academic. Carrie Brankiewicz, Farm. Mercy: Brankiewicz made the All-Area team for the second year in a row after leading the Marlins to their 11th consecutive district title and a 31-16-1 record. Brankiewicz, who will play volleyball for Kalamazoo College, led the Marlins in nearly every category, registering 411 kills from 853 attacks for a .482 kill percentage. At the net, she also had 21 stuff blocks and 15 touch blocks. Defensively, she had 275 digs and rated 96 percent on serve receive. She graded .846 as a server, putting 367 of 398 into play with 83 aces. "In my seven years, I think Carrie has been one of the greatest leaders, both by example as well as verbally, as I've ever coached," Mercy coach Ed Moeller said. "What sets her apart is she's a star in three sports (volleyball, basketball, softball); yet, she never gets full of herself. She's very, very helpful and encouraging to younger players." "As far as being a volleyball player, she's a real complete player. She plays the front row, but she leads the team statistically in passing. I always thought she could be a great setter if she wanted to be. She's a student of the game. She watches volleyball on cable TV every chance she gets."

Shannon Mann, Livonia Churchill: The All-Western Division pick in the Western Lakes led the Chargers in total kills (166), solo blocks (31) and serve accuracy (144 points). The three-year varsity performer also led in serving efficiency (91.7 percent with 50 aces) and was second on the team in total digs (235). "Shannon was a middle hitter who developed into a fine defensive player as well as an offensive threat," Churchill coach Mike Hughes said. "As a middle hitter she hit angles very well and was almost impossible to stop with a single blocker." "She served with excellent control to all parts of the court." Mann will play volleyball next year for Henry Ford Community College. Erin Barnes, Livonia Ladywood: The All-Catholic selection was a versatile performer for the Blazers who could play outside and middle. She averaged 3.4 kills, 1.1 blocks and 2.3 digs per game. "Erin was our most consistent attacker," Wyatt said. Barnes recently signed to play volleyball at St. Clair College. "Noel was one of our top all-around players," Glenn coach Stacy Carey said. "The thing I like about her as a front row player is that she was by far our best passer."

blocks and 136 kills on the season. "Bernadette has something special," said RU coach Vicki Toth. "When she started, I don't think even she was aware of her natural gift to play and lead the game at such a rapid pace. She's quick defensively and attacks as though she's 6'0." Merriman, is would like to play for the University of Michigan-Dearborn, also had 83 aces on the season and an 83 percent serving percentage. "She's a competitor," Toth said. "You can see it in her eyes how much she loves to play and compete." Noelle Swartz, Westland John Glenn: Out all last year because of knee surgery, Swartz bounced back to enjoy a fine senior year, making All-Lakes Division in the WLA. She finished the season with a team-high 135 kills, to go along with 45 blocks, 188 digs, 58 aces and only 10 errors in 219 serve receptions. Swartz recently signed to play volleyball at Schoolcraft College. "Noel was one of our top all-around players," Glenn coach Stacy Carey said. "The thing I like about her as a front row player is that she was by far our best passer."

Metro Mazda
We've Gone Nuts!

2000 Protegé LX-A	LIST \$15,840
BUY FOR \$13,679**	\$199 Per Month
27 Month Lease \$1,812 due at signing	
2000 MAZDA 626 LXA	LIST \$19,875
BUY FOR \$15,999**	\$219 Per Month
27 Month Lease \$1,872 due at signing	
2000 MAZDA Protegé	LIST \$22,875
BUY FOR \$17,999**	\$239 Per Month
27 Month Lease \$1,872 due at signing	

Metro Mazda
www.metro-mazda.com 248-548-0444
21425 WOODWARD • FERNDALE

Two great reasons to have a GARAGE, YARD, OR PORCH SALE!

1. It's an easy way to put more money in your budget and
2. we will put the name of everyone* placing an ad for a garage, yard, or porch sale into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate at Meijer!

There'll be a winner every week through September 28.

So, grab a pencil and make a list of all the things you want to sell.

Place your ad for as low as \$22.50* and who knows?— you could be one of our weekly winners!

Observer & Eccentric HomeTown Classifieds
HOMETOWN CLASSIFIEDS SELL! MEIJER
A Million Reasons. A Single Store.

Oakland County: 248-644-1100 Wayne County: 734-591-0900
Rochester/Rochester Hills: 248-852-3222 Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford, Waterford: 249-475-4595

*Some Restrictions Apply. Contact date 4/2/00-2/28/01