

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington
Observer
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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

News from diamond

■ Senior outfielder Jennifer Myslinski of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) is a tri-captain on the Western Michigan University softball team.

Myslinski had started all 11 games as of March 20 for the Broncos, hitting .250 (10-for-40) with two doubles, one triple and three RBI. She had scored four runs and is second on the team in total bases (14).

WMU's record was 4-7 overall.

■ Junior catcher Chuck Archambeau (Farmington High) is playing baseball at Alma College; freshman pitcher Zach Burton (Harrison High) is on the baseball roster at Kalamazoo College, and freshman infielder Adam Harris (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) is on the North Central College team in Naperville, Ill.

All-star grid game

Farmington High School senior Brian Brinsden is one of three Observerland players who will participate in the annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game July 29 in Spartan Stadium.

The 6-foot-2, 242-pound Brinsden, who will play at Ferris State University next fall, played outside linebacker for the Falcons, who were Western Lakes Activities Association and Division 2 regional runners-up.

The other area players on the East squad are Westland John Glenn tailback Eric Jones and Redford Union running back/linebacker Mike Maccek. ■ Farmington Harrison coach John Harrington was named the MHSFCA's Coach of the Year in Division 3 after leading the Hawks to a record 10th state championship.

OCC sweeps twinbill

Oakland Community College swept a women's softball doubleheader Thursday from visiting St. Clair, 4-3 in each game.

Rachel Fuller pitched a complete game in the opener, scattering nine hits. The Lady Raiders had just five hits. LeeAnn Domke was 2-for-3 with two RBI. Courtney Tuffin went 3-for-3 in St. Clair.

In the nightcap, OCC scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning, giving the win to reliever Lynsay Bzdek. She pitched 1½ innings of hitless relief after taking over from Megan Earhart.

St. Clair outlived OCC, 9-8. Earhart had two hits. Domke, Nicole Schulte and Mandie Harrison had one RBI apiece.

The Lady Raiders are 2-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 4-6 overall.

Gymnastics results

In the Michigan State Gymnastics championships March 25-26 in Lansing, Andrea Bentley of Farmington Hills placed eighth on beam in Level 9 competition.

Clara Seymour of Farmington Hills finished 10th on floor, 13th on bars and beam in Level 8 gymnastics.

Jennifer Stungis of Novi was second on floor with a 3.975 in Level 10, and Michelle Wasielewski of Northville was first on beam and third on vault and floor. She was second in all-around scoring with a 36.075 total.

All four girls are members of the Farmington Gymnastics Center team.

Grimaldi leads Alma

Anne Grimaldi of Farmington Hills (Farmington High) paced the Alma College women's track team with a fourth-place finish in the 3,000-meter race March 25 at the Emory Invitational in Atlanta, Ga.

Grimaldi finished in 11:04.04. She has the team's best time this season in that event and the 1,000 meters (5:07.44).

Synchronized skating

Julie Maggio of Farmington Hills is a member of the Western Michigan University synchronized skating team that earned a pewter medal (fourth place) in the long program at the U.S. National Championships March 2-4 in Plymouth, Mich.

WMU concluded its season Saturday when selected members competed in individual competition at the inaugural Collegiate Conference Nationals in Oxford, Ohio.

Green pitchers hold key for North

■ North Farmington enters the 2000 baseball campaign without an experienced varsity pitcher. Obviously, that's the most important factor facing the Raiders.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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A few years ago, North Farmington had the most experienced, talented pitching staff of any baseball team in the area.

The Raiders are faced with the exact opposite situation as they prepare for their 2000 season opener Friday at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"It's the first time in all my years of coaching I don't have a returning pitcher," coach Irv Horwitz said, adding none of five seniors have pitched and North will rely on former JV arms.

This year's staff consists of juniors Jeff Granat, Scott Stein and Pat O'Connell and sophomore Mike Rosenberg. Granat is the lone lefty in the group.

"That's going to tell the tale of North Farmington baseball — if these young kids can pitch," Horwitz said.

"We're going to scrimmage Harrison Monday. I'll pitch everybody and see what we've got. Then I'll throw in some others and see if they can throw the ball."

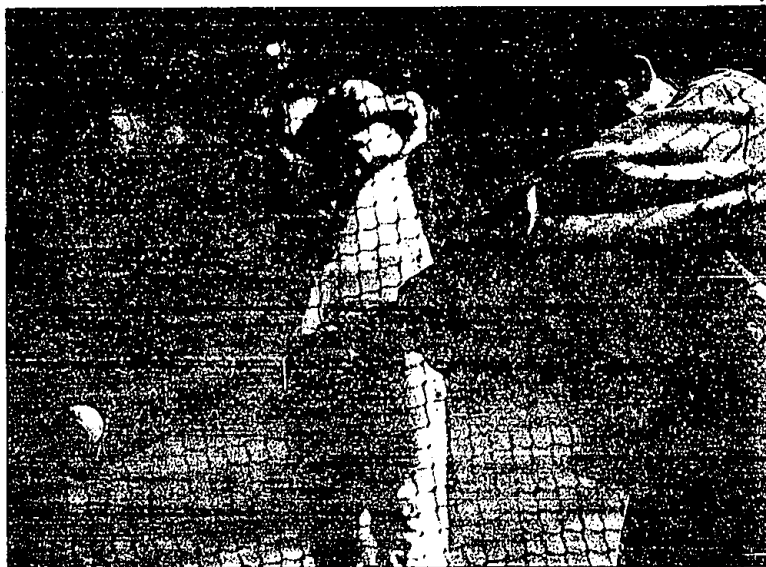
The Raiders, who were 15-8 last year and went down to the end of the season before being edged out by Livonia Stevenson for the Lakes Division title, have some positive points, too.

"We have a real good group of kids who show me they can play some defense," Horwitz said.

"If we can get some of these pitchers to throw the ball over the plate at the varsity level, we might be able to do something."

Of the returning seniors, Ross Patterson and Brian Lafer were the only ones who played regularly.

Patterson made the all-area second team after a solid season at second base in which he hit .449 with seven



All-area player: North senior infielder Ross Patterson works on his batting skills during practice Thursday. He earned a place on the All-Observer second team last year after hitting .449.

doubles, two home runs and 19 RBI. He'll move to shortstop in place of All-Observer player Evan Feldman.

"He's going to be a good leader for us," Horwitz said.

Senior Brian Lafer returns in center field. He batted .279 with a double, a home run and 15 RBI.

"He's an excellent defensive player," Horwitz said. "He has good defensive

skills, so he gets to the ball pretty well."

Senior Zach Lessway will start in left field, senior Mike Livernois in right field and senior Paul Kammer at first base. Lessway appeared in 11 games, Kammer and Livernois, who was injured, eight apiece.

Horwitz has a lot of confidence in junior catcher Ethan Goodman, who

had some varsity experience last year.

"He's doing an excellent job in the preseason and really getting the ball down to second base," Horwitz said. "He does a great job behind the plate, and he's a good leader."

Junior Mike Sack will play second base and junior Jeff Vieder third base.

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It's learning experience for new teams

BY DAN O'MEARA
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LACROSSE

Farmington Hills Raiders and Farmington Hills Hawks are the only two teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association competing for the Lakes Division title. The Raiders are the defending city champion in both, also.

"That's why we've been working pri-

marily with stick skills, the passing and catching, since that's obviously the important part of the game."

"Recently, we had a full-field scrimmage, so they could become aware of the field structure and understanding what the player responsibilities are."

The girls start Monday with a home game against Troy. The boys began Friday with a 13-11 win over Rochester. The girls games will be

played at Farmington High, the boys at North Farmington.

There are 47 players on the girls' team, which will be split into a varsity and JV. Mehall will keep 24 on the varsity, half of whom will be on the field at one time.

Mehall was still evaluating skills and deciding who will be on the varsity last week, but the girls who were

Please see LACROSSE, B5

North aims to repeat as city champion



City champion: North senior Heidi Frank holds the title in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs.

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North Farmington hopes to defend its city championship in girls track and field, and it appears the Raiders have the personnel to enable them to do that.

The Raiders are strongest in the longer running events, but they have other proven individuals spotted throughout their lineup.

Leading the team are senior captains Heidi Frank, Holly Stockton, Dayna Clemens and Nicole Taylor. In the Western Lakes Activities Association meet, Frank was sixth in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races. She is the defending city champion in both, also.

"She can run anything from the 400 up," North coach Bill Pinnell said, adding the mile is probably her best event. "She has the potential to be under 2:30 in the 800, 5:30 in the mile and 12 minutes in the two mile."

Stockton can run any race from the 800 to the 3,200, and senior Cristina Boshtan is another veteran distance runner.

The Raiders are counting on sophomore Kelly Kuo, who had a good cross country season and is much improved, according to Pinnell.

Sophomores Kristen Stamboulis and Nicole Moudros and freshmen Shara Cherniak and Amy Miller provide depth in the distance events. "Overall, I think we're going to be much improved (there)," Pinnell said. "We just have some questions trying to round out the 3,200 relay. That's where we had our biggest losses (Karen Beckli, Katie Harris, Kori Rothman)."

"Those were some solid legs there, and we're looking to the rest of that group to step up. We definitely have two strong legs with Heidi and Holly. "I think the 1,600 relay will be pretty strong, too. Heidi is very versatile and can always give us a split on the mile relay if we need it."

That's where Clemens and Taylor enter the picture. Both can run the short dashes and contribute in the sprint relays.

Clemens, who was second in the 200 in the WLAA,

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is an excellent hurdler, too, but will concentrate more on the 300 hurdles instead of the 100 this year. "I think she's going to surprise a lot of people," Pinnell said, adding Clemens ran the 300 last summer while competing for a track club. "It made her a little tougher in thinking she can run the 400 and 300 hurdles."

"There are about eight events we can put Dayna. We can move her up to the 400 or down to the 100; she can run both hurdles in addition to both sprint relays. It's just a matter of where we want to put her."

Other returning sprinters are juniors Rebecca Abela and junior Laura Hirzel and sophomore Kristin Ulewicz, who can help in the 400.

"As the year progresses, we could have a fairly good group of quarter milers," Pinnell said. "Usually, if you're strong in the 400, where you have people moving up or down, that's a sign of a fairly strong track team."

Sophomore Tasha O'Neal was the city champion in the shot put and was fifth in the WLAA. Senior Debbie Chen, junior Jenny Chen and sophomore Sue Hand are throwers, too.

"Tasha, by the time she graduates, should be over 40 feet in the shot," Pinnell said. "The discus is a tough event because of all the technique involved. We're trying to get three throwers consistently in the 90s and over."

Pinnell thinks the Raiders will be improved in the high jump with Ulewicz and sophomore Anne Lieberman leading the way. Taylor will help in the long jump along with freshman Christy Stockton.

"(Taylor) has never done a field event, but that's an event where we're looking to improve and she has the speed," Pinnell said. "She's going to give it a shot."

North has one of the area's best pole vaulters in senior Lauren Turner, who was first in the city meet,

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