

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Daguanno sets record

A game-tying home run proved to be the record breaker for University of Detroit Mercy senior Mike Daguanno (Farmington Hills and Catholic Central).

Daguanno's leadoff homer in the bottom of the seventh inning helped give UDM a 10-7 win over Aquinas College. The home run was his fifth of the season, but more importantly, the 35th of his career, giving him the school record and breaking Jamie Lopice's school mark of 34.

Falcons crush Cranes

The Farmington baseball team braved Tuesday's blast of winter-like weather to win the season opener at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, 16-2.

Farmington ripped open a close game by scoring 12 runs in the seventh inning.

The Falcons had an outstanding pitching performance from Ian Parrott. The junior hurler went the distance, striking out 16 batters and giving up only four hits.

Offensively, it was a balanced attack for the Falcons, with every starter getting a hit.

Brett Brown and Tony Luttman led the way, both going 2-for-3 at the plate. Brown had a triple, scored four runs and stole two bases; Luttman had two RBI and scored two runs. Justin Gerwowski and Kyle Burcar drove in two runs apiece.

"It was not ideal baseball weather," Farmington coach Pete Finn said. "Both teams were having a hard time swinging the bat, but we were able to zero in on some of their starter's pitches and get some runs."

Despite the weather, Finn was pleased to get the season under way with a victory.

"I was happy that we came out with a good attitude and were ready to play in the cold weather," he said. "We do have a lot of room for improvement. We need to do a better job of running out some balls. On a cold day like this, though, I've got to keep things in perspective."

Mercy wins golf debut

Defending state champion Farmington Hills Mercy opened its girl golf season Monday, but the Marlins have yet to put their A squad into action.

Mercy played its B team in a dual meet with Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes and won, 193-278.

Scoring for the Marlins were Katie Landsberg (47), Katie Dinamora (48), Michelle Kelly (49) and Maureen McFawn (49).

Mercy has its first Catholic League dual meet today at Gownie Golf Course against Harper Woods Regina.

The Marlins have also won the Catholic League title eight straight years, which is as long as the league has been sponsoring a tournament.

Ambassadors No. 1

The Compuware Ambassadors enter the North American Hockey League playoffs as the top team in the East Division after splitting their final two games of the regular season at St. Louis last weekend.

The Ambassadors got a 6-1 win on Friday, getting two goals apiece from Matt Rutkowski and Ryan Lesanu. Lukas Krajicek had a goal and an assist and Mark Norrington scored a goal. Craig Kowalski stopped 27 of 28 shots on goal to get the win.

St. Louis avenged that loss with a 3-1 win over Compuware. Eric Ortup scored twice in the third period for the Sting; the Ambassadors' goal was scored by Chris Sad.

The Ambassadors begin the defense of their NAHL and national title by hosting the USA NAHL Team in a best-of-three series that starts at 2:05 p.m. today. Game Two will be at 6:35 p.m. Friday, and Game Three (if necessary) 2 p.m. Saturday. All three will be played at Compuware Arena.

NAHL Grac of Week

This honor goes to the Plymouth Whalers' Damian Surma. He had a goal and an assist in an 8-0 playoff win over Guelph and added an assist in a 3-2 victory over Guelph Friday.

A 19-year-old left wing from Lincoln Park, Surma was second on the Whalers in scoring during the regular season with 32 goals and 35 assists for 70 points. In 54 games with the Compuware Ambassadors in 1997-98, Surma had 12 goals and 18 assists.

Brown cheers MSU to hoop title



Farmington High grad and Michigan State cheerleader Scott Brown helped root the Spartans to the NCAA basketball championship.

By DAN O'MEARA
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Thanks to the exploits of Mateen Cleaves and the other seniors on the Michigan State University basketball team, Scott Brown was able to end his college career on a winning note, too.

The Farmington resident and MSU student was court-side Monday night at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, cheering the Spartans on their way to the NCAA championship.

Brown, a 1995 graduate of Farmington High School now in his final college semester, concluded a four-year stint with the MSU cheerleading squad during which he traveled across North America in support of the football and men's hoop teams.

The more-experienced Spartans rolled over upstart Florida before a national television audience Monday night to capture their second NCAA title in school history, 89-76.

"I think it's one of the greatest things I've been a part of at MSU," Brown said. "There have always been big

victories in football, basketball and volleyball, but this was definitely the pinnacle of my college career. It was a great win to go out on — a last hurrah, you could say."

Brown was impressed by MSU's aggressive style of play and thrilled to see the Spartans take control of the game early against the Gators.

"I think they approached the game with their heads on straight," he said. "They did their homework and went out there, fought through the press and played a very productive game."

Brown had complete confidence in the Spartans all the way.

"Although we hadn't always seen it during the tournament, I knew when they needed it they always brought out their A game," he said. "After being down 14 to Syracuse and coming back to win, I knew they wouldn't lose."

Even when Cleaves twisted an ankle early in the second half Monday and left the game temporarily, Brown's confidence never wavered.

"That happened right in front of me," he said. "When I saw him limp off, knowing how Mateen is, I knew he'd get it taped up and be back out. He wouldn't let it keep him out of the game."

Following the game, Brown and the other cheerleaders led an impromptu pep assembly at the RCA Dome and later went to the team's hotel to greet the players

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The road to Indy: Following MSU's regional victory at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Brown and his mother, Bernetta Brown, display an early edition of the next day's newspaper.



Balancing act: Scott Brown (right) lifts a fellow cheerleader at the Final Four.

Hawks enlist help with pitching staff

By DAN O'MEARA
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BASEBALL

If coaching makes a difference, Farmington Harrison will develop the quality pitching it will need this year to remain a baseball power.

Longtime coach John Herrington has ex-Detroit Tigers pitcher Dan Potry and former Harrison All-Observer and Wayne State University ace Jake Lawson working with his pitchers.

Chris Ghannam will remain the top assistant coach, and Herrington's son-in-law, Rob Zelinski, is also helping with the coaching duties.

Harrison lost three of its top four pitchers to graduation — regulars Zach

Burton and Joe Ghannam, as well as Mike Hoad, a second-team, all-area first baseman.

The leading returnee is junior right-hander Tim Doig, who was 5-0 with a 3.73 earned run average. He struck out 36 in 30 innings.

The Hawks, who were 23-6 last year, are counting on senior Jim Kay, a transfer from Farmington High School, and left-hand junior Matt Zarkin, who pitched on the JV.

Herrington might also call on senior Lou Hadley, who will play shortstop and hasn't pitched since he was a freshman. Hadley hadn't played quar-

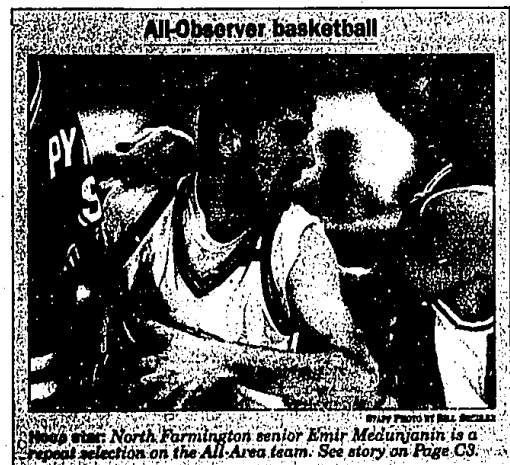
terback since his freshman year, either, but ended up leading the Hawks to a state championship in football last fall.

"We have 11 players who are at least part-time pitchers, but those are the top four," Herrington said.

Seniors Ed Cleland and Kent Taylor will share the catching position. Cleland was the backup last year, and Taylor's playing time was limited by a sore arm. He did hit .295 as a designated hitter, however.

Three quarters of a quality infield

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Here star: North Farmington senior Emir Medunjanin is a repeat selection on the All-Area team. See story on Page C5.

Whalers calm Storm, 5-1, advance in OHL playoffs

Started slow, but the finish was fast and decisive.

After losing the first two games of their best-of-seven opening series in the Ontario Hockey League playoffs, the Plymouth Whalers regrouped. An 8-0 trouncing of the Guelph Storm March 29 got them righted; on Tuesday at Guelph, the Whalers ended the series by stopping the Storm, 5-1.

Plymouth, the OHL's top team during the regular season, wins the series by sweeping the final four games. The Whalers next opponent depends on the outcome of the other three OHL Western Conference quarterfinal series.

Justin Williams continued his red-hot play with a goal and an assist, but this game belonged to Stephen Weiss, who scored two goals and assisted on another.

Once again, the Whalers sent Guelph goalie Chris Madden — who was instrumental in their first two defeats

HOCKEY

— to the sidelines early by scoring three first-period goals.

Williams gave Plymouth an early lead, scoring at 6:09 of the first period with assists from Weiss and Chris Cava. Kris Vernarsky made it 2-0 with an unassisted goal at 14:19, and 1:44 later Weiss increased that lead to 3-0, assisting going to Williams and Cava.

Weiss' second goal, scored before the second period was a minute old, pushed Plymouth's advantage to 4-0. Cole Jarrett assisted.

The Storm got their only goal of the game with three seconds left in the second period from Joe Gerbe.

Stephen Morris ended the Whalers' scoring, getting the only goal of the third period with 6:34 remaining.

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