

Fire wins Mite AA title



Hockey champs: The Farmington Hills Mite AA Fire won the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League championship with a 14-0-0 record. The Fire scored 117 goals and held opponents to four. The team members are (seated, left to right) Justin Hoomaian, Matt Wass, Steve Schumacher, Kyle Betz, Matt Kreager, Joe Pazzo; (middle row) Austin Accettura, Court Murtland, Cameron Fowler, Joe VanAntwerp, D.J. Vandercook, Nickolas Gatt, Griffen Hodges, Jon Ponte; (back row) coaches Steve Kreager, John VanAntwerp and Britt Ponte.

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Andre Robichaud and Randy Fitzgerald assisted.

Rob Zepp was sharp in goal once again, stopping 31 of 32 shots. After allowing nine goals in the first two games, Zepp surrendered just six in the last four. Craig Andersson took over for Madden in the second period following Weiss's second goal, making 16 saves.

Whalers 5, Guelph 3: Talk about stepping up your game. That's just what Justin

Williams has done for the Plymouth Whalers over the last three games. After failing to score a goal in the first two games—both losses Williams has erupted, scoring seven times in the last three games (all wins).

Three of those came last Saturday as the Whalers held off the Storm to take a 3-2 lead in this best-of-seven series.

All three of his goals came in the opening period, the first with the game just 60 seconds old

(Kris Vernarsky assisted), the second on a power play at 13:58 and the third at 18:00. Stephen Weiss and Shaun Fisher both assisted on the last two.

Fisher, who had a goal and three assists in the game, scored at 4:21 of the second period to give Plymouth a 4-0 lead.

Williams and Weiss assisted. Brent Kelly then took command for Guelph, scoring twice.

again to make it 4-3.

But the Storm could draw no closer. Eric Gooldy's empty-net score with 45 seconds left ensured the win for the Whalers (Fisher and Randy Fitzgerald assisted).

Rob Zepp made 23 saves for Plymouth. Chris Madden, who performed so well for Guelph in the first two games, was pulled after giving up Williams' three goals in the first period. Craig Andersson played the last two periods, making 17 stops.

Farmington girls set to compete in track, field

Ann Badynee is counting on a number of returning athletes to make the Farmington High girls track-and-field team competitive in her first season as coach.

"We have a young team but, combined with that, we have some strong leaders who are setting goals the team wants to accomplish," Badynee said. "We were very close to the city championship last year, and that's something we're gunning for this year."

"I'm a new coach, so they're getting used to my way of running things; but everybody is responding very well, and we're very excited about the season."

One of Farmington's top returnees is sophomore Kate Bouschet, who is the defending city champ in the long jump and the 100-meter dash. She also was fourth in the Western Lakes in the long jump.

"She was one of the leading scorers last year and is going to carry a lot of the load again this year," Badynee said.

Sophomores Kristeen Balla and Megan Annarun are all-area cross country runners and give the Falcons a one-two combination in the distance events. Balla runs the 800, too, while Annarun specializes in the 3,200.

"We look for that to be Kristeen's track event," Badynee said. "She went to state in cross country, so she has a good gas tank."

"Megan is stronger in the longer stuff. She'll probably run the mile, too, on occasion. I'm not a big fan of doubling that event (with the 3,200), but we're going to do it sometime."

The Falcons also return junior sprinter and hurdler Kristel Stricker. In the city meet, she was second in the 200 dash and third in the 100 hurdles.

"She has outstanding tech-

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nique and is a strong runner," Badynee said.

The long jump might be Farmington's best field event with senior Fallon James and junior Lindsey Mergener back again.

"It could be a fairly strong event, but we haven't had a whole lot of time to work at it; so we're going to progress as we go along," Badynee said.

Some freshmen sprinters have been impressive in time trials, including Clara Seymour and Elena Spatolas. Senior Lyn Harvie is "grout out of the blocks," according to Badynee, and first-year junior Kalyn Willis will help in that area.

The quarter-mile prospects are Mergener, Harvie and sophomores Sarah Thomas and Kristin Maki.

Sophomore Emily Darnbrook can run the 800. Freshman Claire Czaplicki was the No. 3 runner on the cross country team and will help in the distance races, as will sophomore Lisa Kasper and Reeni Surma.

In addition to Stricker in the hurdles, Farmington has juniors Danielle Miller, who is sidelined with a sprained ankle, and Amanda Phillips and freshman Carla Stricker.

"I'm looking for good things from them," Badynee said. "I'm definitely looking for some points in that event."

In the throwing events, Farmington's hopes rest with junior Sarah Stewart and sophomores Heather Friedl, Jocelyn Atkins and Eliza Hutchinson. Junior Sara VanBuren is the only one with experience in the pole vault.

Farmington's first meet is today at home against Harrison.

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