

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer
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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Bad is good for Mercy

Most girls golf teams would be thrilled to shoot a 100 total score in good weather. Not so for the Farmington Hills Mercy varsity A team, even on a bad day.

Playing in windy conditions Thursday, the Marlins started the dual-meet season with a 190-201 victory over host Harper Woods Regina.

"The girls know they didn't play as well as they're capable, even with the wind," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "All of them said this will be the worst round of the year."

Regina shot 185 on the same course (Gowale Country Club) earlier in the week, so that tells you what the conditions were like.

Mercy's Erin Borowiec and Regina's Amanda Pettit shot nine-over-par 44 to share medalist honors.

LeTanya Foster shot 47 for the Marlins, Christina Cibrario 48 and Gretchen Anderson-Watts 51. Josie Artymovich carded a 50, Lindsay Laskowski 51 and Amy Osterman 56 for the Saddletrees (2-1).

"(The Mercy girls) were glad to have the first match done," Kowalski said. "They felt things can only get better. They weren't down in the dumps; they were happy they won."

Farmington golfers win

Farmington United edged visiting Lakeland by one stroke in girls golf Thursday at Glen Oaks Golf Course, 194-195.

Senior Cassie Jamison, shot 39 to lead Farmington, which evened its dual-meet record at 1-1. Senior Katie Perry shot 49, junior Sarah Laird 50 and junior Karolyn Knutson 55.

Leslie Mattiace shot a round of 44 for the Eagles, who suffered their first loss in three meets.

Farmington lost its season opener Monday to host Millford at Mystic Creek Golf Course, 197-206.

Jamison finished with a 41 score, Perry 53, Laird 55 and Knutson 56.

Falcons defeat Eagles

Farmington is undefeated (2-0) after the first week of the high school baseball season.

The host Falcons gained their second victory Thursday, outscoring Lakeland, 13-11.

John Waisanen pitched 4½ innings of relief to earn the victory.

Tony Luttman went 3-for-4 with three RBI and scored two runs; Bob Houchins had two hits and scored twice.

Czech leads Britons

Freshman Carey Czech of Farmington Hills (Mercy High School) led the Albion College women's track team with three first-place finishes and two second places Wednesday in a dual meet at Alma College.

Czech had firsts in the long jump (15-10½), high jump (5-0) and the 400-meter relay (52.7). She placed second in the 100 hurdles (16.9) and the 400 hurdles (1:15.2).

The Britons lost the meet to the Scots, 90-60. Czech, who also plays volleyball, took up track in her senior year at Mercy. She has the best times in six events for the Britons.

Girls lacrosse debut

Farmington United had the misfortune of starting its first season against two of the best teams in the Michigan Women's Scholastic Lacrosse Association.

After opening Monday with a 19-6 loss to visiting Troy, host Farmington was beaten by Farmington Hills Mercy Wednesday, 17-2.

"Mercy won the league championship last year, and Troy was the only team to beat them," Farmington coach Mike Mehall said.

Farmington's Christina Ford scored three goals in the Troy match. Stephanie Yacoub and Carolyn Skimin accounted for the others. Lindsey Hirsch and Jennifer Altschul scored one goal apiece against Mercy.

"The big thing is the girls played better the second game," Mehall said. "They're starting to use the field in a more effective way."

"These two games were strong learning experiences, because the girls were able to see lacrosse played for the first time very effectively."

"We hope it's going to be a stepping stone to improving the team. Hopefully, in the next few games, we'll start to increase our skill."

Hawks defeat Falcons in season opener



Track dual-meet opener, Harrison's Jason Scarbrough crosses the finish line ahead of Farmington's Chris Tobe to win the 1,600-meter run Thursday at Harrison. The Hawks won the first meet for both teams with an impressive showing, 88-49. Scarbrough also won the 1,600 race, and Tobe won the 3,200. See Pages B3 for complete boys and girls track and field results.

North has talent, promising outlook

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Potential is one thing; production is another, according to North Farmington softball coach Dave Brubaker.

The Raiders, who feature some outstanding individual talent on their roster, hope to live up to lofty expectations and have a big year.

Brubaker would like to see his team, which had an 18-14 record last year and is an honorable mention in the coaches association's preseason poll, eclipse the record-setting, 20-9 season of 1998.

"On paper, this is the best team I've ever fielded, but games aren't won or lost on a piece of paper," he said. "All it takes is one weak link somewhere to have a let-down on an off day and wreck the chemistry of the team."

"If we're willing to give our best every day, good things should happen."

North's top player is junior Samantha McComb, a first-team, All-Observers shortstop who has started there since she was a freshman.

McComb had an impressive .453 batting average with 43 hits, eight doubles, three triples and five home runs. She also scored 40 runs and drove in 37.

"All she did the last two years was get better," Brubaker said, adding



Veteran player: North is solid behind the plate with junior catcher Kristy King, a second-team, all-area player, still on the roster.

McComb had all-state numbers last year but was overshadowed by two seniors with lesser stats. "She'll show up and she'll have the kind of year I expect out of her."

The Raiders have a second-team, all-area catcher in junior Kristy King, who batted .402 with 39 hits, 10 doubles, three triples and 32 RBI. She'll bat clean-up behind McComb.

Marlins hope to remain champs

■ Farmington Hills Mercy is the defending Division I state champion in girls golf and is shooting for another title this year.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy is a defending state champion in girls golf and has every intention of holding its hard-earned ground this year.

The Marlins are thinking seriously about a title repeat despite losing three key players to graduation from its Division I championship team.

The reason they remain so optimistic is the return of three all-area players and the rapid development of some younger ones.

Mercy's top player is one of the best in the state — junior Erin Borowiec, who was the individual runner-up last year and the top contender to be No. 1 this year.

Borowiec finished one stroke behind Kim Benedict of Rochester Adams in the state finals, shooting a course record of 73 the second day and finishing at 153. She was the Catholic League individual winner and averaged 39.9 strokes in dual meets.

"(Wednesday) she shot even par at practice, so I think she's ready," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "She had a great summer; she couldn't wait for the season to start."

Senior Lindsey Densmore was a member of the All-Observers first team, too, and senior LeTanya Foster made the second team. Along with Borowiec, they comprise the nucleus of this year's Mercy team.

"The team has a goal, led by these three; they want to repeat as state champions," Kowalski said. "We've had 13 different girls shoot under 50 already. Erin has been under 40 twice already at practice."

Densmore emerged as a top player last year, shooting 183 and finishing 18th in the state tournament. She was seventh in the regional and averaged 46 for nine holes.

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Erin Borowiec

SOFTBALL

"Chrissy is capable of catching every game," Brubaker said. "She's a gamer. Her RBI and run production the last two years has been outstanding. You can't play for Computware and not be a good player."

The Raiders have two quality pitchers in junior Christina Colombo, who did all the work last year, and freshman Beth Danielewicz, who excelled at the CYO level and was the all-star MVP last summer in the Girls Incredible Fast-Pitch League.

"I threw (Colombo) into the fire last year with no varsity experience, and she got 18 wins for us," Brubaker said. "She's the kind of girl who works hard and rises to the occasion."

The anticipation is so great (regarding Danielewicz), because you know what she's capable of doing.

"If you put a girl who has had varsity success with a girl who should have varsity success, I'd want to be one of the players behind them."

When they're not pitching, Colombo can play just about anywhere but will likely go to second base or the outfield. Danielewicz will play first base or be a designated hitter.

"Both will be in the lineup all the time," Brubaker said.

Senior Kristy Reinhardt returns as the regular first baseman and will be the backup catcher. She also plays for

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