

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Farmington Family Run

The Farmington Family Festival's four-mile run will be Saturday, June 24. It will begin at 9 a.m. at Shiawassee Park in Farmington, at the corner of Power and Shiawassee Roads.

The entry fee is \$15 before Tuesday, June 20, and \$20 on race day.

The race will be run on the parade route. There will be awards and T-shirts for participants.

For more information, call (248) 473-9570 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Blues baseball tryout

The South Farmington Blues 18-and-under Little Caesars travel baseball team will have tryouts 1 p.m. Saturday, May 27, at Founders Park on Eight Mile Road.

The Blues are looking to finalize their roster with one or two players.

If live in Farmington, Farmington Hills or a surrounding community and would like to play for the Blues, call Garry McVay at (248) 615-1201.

St. Fabian athletics

The CYO athletic program of St. Fabian Parish in Farmington Hills is accepting applications for girls volleyball and soccer and boys soccer teams for the fall season.

Players must be entering fourth through eighth grade and must be members of St. Fabian or a surrounding parish that does not participate in these sports.

Participants are not allowed to be members of any other organized fall league in the same sport. Volunteer coaches also are needed.

A volleyball camp will take place at St. Fabian for girls entering fifth and sixth grades 1-4:30 p.m. July 24-27.

For more information regarding volleyball, call Sue Kendall at (248) 489-5485. Soccer information can be obtained by calling Janet Holm at (248) 653-2721.

Clarenceville benefit

The Livonia Clarenceville baseball team and coaches will play a softball game Friday, May 19, against the Livonia Police Department to benefit the school's SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) and baseball programs.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$2, with cost for walk-up admissions set at \$2.50.

The game will be played on the Clarenceville softball diamond. For more information, call (248) 473-8926.

Area hockey schools

Suburban Hockey School will conduct summer classes at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills July 17-Aug. 11.

The Squirt, PeeWee/Bantam Power Skating and Youth Female Goalie Program will be July 17-21, Squirt, PeeWee/Bantam Hockey School July 24-28, Mite Power Skating and Adult Program July 31-Aug. 4 and Mite Hockey School Aug. 7-11.

Call Suburban Hockey School at (248) 478-1600 to register your player or ask for more information.

UDM baseball victory

Junior David Wampler (Livonia Franklin) pitched six innings of five-hit ball for the University of Detroit Mercy as the Titans defeated Eastern Michigan, 6-5, last week in the second night game ever played at Oestrike Stadium.

Wampler fanned three, didn't walk a batter and allowed no earned runs. Senior Ron Blackmore (Livonia Churchill) scored a run in Detroit's 8-7 loss at Illinois-Chicago. The tying run was thrown out at the plate on a double by senior Mike Daguanno (Farmington/Catholic Central).

Senior Chris Karney (Catholic Central) led off another game against Illinois-Chicago with a home run, but the Flames won, 8-4.

In the finale of a weekend series, Daguanno hit his second home run of the game and 11th of the season, a three-run shot, to break a 5-5 tie in the top of the fourth.

Blackmore's sacrifice fly scored Justin Fendelot (Canton/Westland John Glenn) to give the Titans a 9-5 lead. Wampler came on to choke off a Flames' rally in the final inning to preserve Detroit's 9-8 win.

(Readers can fax sports information to Dan O'Meara at (734) 591-7270.)



A game of keep-away: Farmington's Catherine Brouillette controls the ball by getting in front of North Farmington players Jackie Tate (foreground) and Sara Jakab. Farmington was a 1-0 winner.

Farmington tops North



Soccer action: North's Meghan Callahan executes a header while being challenged by Lorianne DeDomenico Wednesday night.

Colts put harpoon into Whalers' title hopes

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Skeptics predicted before the season that an over-abundance of young players and a noticeable lack of depth would lead to the demise of the Plymouth Whalers during the 1999-2000 campaign.

Undaunted, the over-achieving Whalers proved their critics wrong the entire year — that is, until Tuesday night in Game 7 of the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series when the more-seasoned Barrie Colts jolted the Whalers 4-2 in front of 4,426 fans at Computware Arena.

The standing-room-only crowd watched Barrie forward Tim Verbeek do an uncanny impression of his older brother — Detroit Red Wing Pat Verbeek — by scoring two clutch third-

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period goals to complement the solid play of Colt goaltender Brian Finley, who stopped 25 Whaler shots.

Finley's sterling play throughout the series earned him the Wayne Gretzky trophy, which is presented annually to the MVP of the OHL playoffs.

Finley's biggest save came with 2:40 left in the game and his team up 3-2. Whaler defenseman Shaun Fisher found an open area about 20 feet in front of the net and unleashed a scorching slapshot that Finley managed to deflect high off the glass behind the net.

It turned out to be the Whalers' last

Please see LOSS, C2

Raiders
division
champs

BY DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Enjoying its finest season in two decades, North Farmington concluded an undefeated dual-meet season in boys track and field Tuesday.

The Raiders whipped visiting Westland John Glenn in their final contest, 126-11, and captured their first Western Lakes Activities Association-Lakes Division title with a 6-0 record.

North also finished 6-0 overall, and none of the current team members had yet been born the last time that happened.

TRACK & FIELD

"That was one of our goals once we started rolling," North coach Jeff Simpson said. "We began looking to win all of them."

"It's a testament to the kids' hard work. They've been up to every challenge we've given them."

Winning the division was no fluke, either. The competition included defending WLAA champ Walled Lake Central, perennial power Plymouth Salem and quality teams in Livonia Stevenson and Farmington.

"As strong as our division is, we knew the first three meets with Stevenson, Salem and Central would be tough," Simpson said. "Salem downed a bit, but Stevenson and Central came at us, and the kids responded every time."

The Raiders having been also-rans in the division for so long, Simpson knew it was an uphill fight, which made it all the more gratifying when the Raiders got there.

"I'm pretty amazed," he said. "We knew we would be a strong team, but the kids came together as a team and bought into everything we said, like being ready every day. That's not something we've seen at North Farmington in a while."

The outcome of Tuesday's meet was a big switch for both teams. Glenn has been a strong team for years but is down this year.

The Raiders, who were 1-5 last year, can empathize with Glenn's situation, Simpson said.

"We've been in that position over there," he said, motioning toward the Rockets. "We've been on the losing end of a lot of meets and have come a long way."

"I told the kids 'We have to act the same way. We have to carry ourselves with pride — pride in knowing we turned this program around.'"

On a team with a balance of talent, the Raiders have some key individuals such as senior Anthony Beal and junior Blair Weiss in the sprints and senior Charlie Stambouljan in the distance runs.

But, for the most part, North has a lot of good athletes who have made a contribution, which makes the achievement a truly team effort.

"The rest of the kids are solid track kids," Simpson said. "They're not all-stars, but they know how to compete, and they have a lot of ability."

Jimmy Lala and Mike Millat have run everything from the 200 to the 3,200 in their high school careers. Lala ran the two-mile today just to any he

Please see SOCCER, C3

Please see RAIDERS, C3



Scene of sadness: The posture and expression of the Whalers reflects the outcome of Game 7 in the OHL championship series.