

Thursday, June 8, 2000

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Track stars visit area

The first of its kind — at least in this area.

That's what Saturday night offers at the Plymouth Canton football stadium. Never before has such an illustrious group of athletes been brought to this area for such a noteworthy event.

The Michigan International Track Invitational will bring together some of the fastest men and women, including several Americans who are pursuing a spot in the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in July. Qualifying standards must be met for athletes to compete in the Trials; that's what they'll attempt to do at this meet.

"This meet has literally exploded," said meet director John Goodridge. "It's a very special event unfolding."

Certainly, it is a premier lineup. The men's mile, for instance, will feature Canada's Kevin Sullivan, the 15th-fastest miler in the world in 1999, 1998 U.S. Olympian Paul McCullen and Kenyan Amos Kipyegon.

The women's 1,500 meters highlights Collette Lisa, the U.S.A. indoor national mile runner-up, while the men's 800 includes Trinity Townsend, the seventh-ranked American at that distance in 1999.

The women's 800 will feature three women who have been very close to the U.S. qualifying time in the 800 of 2:05.0: Jill McMullen of Ypsilanti, Melissa Smith of Grand Valley State and Hope Sanders of the Indiana Invaders club.

In the 400, Nigerian Clement Chukwu (16th fastest in the world last year) will compete.

On a closer-to-home note, high school sensation Dathan Ritzenhein of Rockford will try to reach the U.S. Olympic Trials qualifying standard of 13:47 in the 5,000-meter run. Ritzenhein, the Footlocker national high school cross country champion, won both the 1,600 and 3,200 races at last weekend's state meet, setting a new state record of 4:08.08 in the 1,600.

He'll be up against some tough company, including four Americans who have already qualified for the U.S. Trials, which start July 13.

The meet will begin at 7 p.m. and last for approximately two hours. Admission is \$5.

Ace for Milczarski

Dave Milczarski of Farmington Hills shot a hole-in-one Saturday at Kensington Golf Course.

He used a nine iron to ace the 146-yard No. 8 hole. Milczarski, 41, has been a golfer for 16 years. It was his first hole-in-one.

Sorrows grid signup

Early registration for Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Youth Organization varsity and JV football teams will be 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 11, in the church hall at Power and Shiawassee roads in Farmington.

Along with student-athletes in OLS Parish, School or Religious Education program, students who are members at parishes bordering Sorrows may also register.

Those parishes include St. Alexander, St. Andrew Kim, St. Clare, St. Colman, St. Fabian, St. Gerald, St. James, St. Michael of Southfield, St. William and Our Lady Queen of Peace. The cost is \$75.

If you cannot attend early registration, you can sign up by calling varsity coach Ugo Abate (474-5880), JV coach Steve Machacek (478-9459) or Athletic Director Marge Chowning (474-5720).

Cops For Kids Run

Farmington Hills Police will conduct their 11th Annual Cops For Kids Run to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association Saturday, June 10. The race starts at 9 a.m.

All registered participants will receive a T-shirt. The race entry fee is \$20 on race day. For information and applications, call (248) 473-9615.

Hawks district champions again



District champs: Third baseman Kim Spaulding (right) congratulates pitcher Lindsey Emmett after Harrison's final-game win.



Despite leaving a slew of runners stranded on base, the Farmington Harrison softball team managed to push across four runs Saturday and beat Country Day in a Division 2 district championship game at Birmingham Seaholm.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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As it turned out, coach Mike Teachman and the Farmington Harrison softball fans had no reason to worry. But it sure was a scary feeling they had watching the Hawks leave 12 runners on base in a Division 2 district championship game Saturday.

Harrison scored enough runs, however, and pitcher Lindsey Emmett held the Beverly Hills Country Day hitters in check to give the Hawks a 4-0 win.

It was the second district title in three seasons and fourth in seven for Harrison (17-10-1), which returns to the same Birmingham Seaholm site for a regional tournament this week.

The Hawks play Livonia Ladywood (13-21) at noon Saturday, and the survivor faces the Orionville-Hamtramck winner for the championship.

"The next thing about this game is, if you have pitching and play defense, you can overcome what the headlines are about," Teachman said.

"Everyone wants home runs and batting average, and that trickles down to our level. Yet, that's not what wins games. It's pitching and defense."

The Hawks played an errorless game in support of Emmett, who tossed a three-hitter and struck out six. She walked two and hit two.

"What was working for her today was power," Teachman said. "She was just overpowering batters."

"They tried to make contact and stopped their wrists (causing a carom effect instead of driving the ball). She was supplying the power."

The Yellow Jackets had runners at second and third in the second inning, but right fielder Gayle Ternes made a double play, catching a flyball and throwing out the lead runner at the plate.

Country Day had the same situation but with two outs in the sixth. The threat ended with Emmett fielding a ground ball and assisting on the third out.

"We couldn't quite come up with the big hit when we needed it," Country Day coach John Meyers said. "A couple times we had runners in scoring position, and they made great plays."

"I give their pitcher a lot of credit. She made the big pitches and got the

Please see HAWKS, C3

30th win qualifies
Mercy for regional

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy advanced to the regional round of the state softball tournament for the third consecutive year Saturday.

The Marlins won the Division 1 district championship at Birmingham Seaholm with a 7-4 victory over the host Falcons.

It was the 30th win of the season against 10 losses for Mercy, which beat Detroit Marquardt in a regional semifinal Saturday at Royal Oak Memorial Field.

"It's our third district title in a row, and we're pretty fortunate to be able to do that," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said.

"The girls played a solid seven innings and didn't let down at any time in the game. It's a tribute to their effort and desire to compete."

"They really did a good job today," Megan Fedick pitched the first 9 1/3 innings to start the win against Groves, but they were shut out by senior Erin Howard.

Howard entered with the bases empty and took out in the seventh inning and promptly squashed the last remaining hope for Groves.

"She made a ground ball that hit the home plate for a forechuck, and the game ended when she got the next

SOFTBALL

out to hit a popout to second base. Fedick struck out 10 batters and walked one, but the teams engaged in a hitting slugfest; the Marlins held a 15-11 edge in that category.

Mercy's Dana Falvo went 4-for-5 and scored two runs. Carley Tracey was 3-for-4 with two RBI; Erin Carson and Alex Duda added two hits apiece. Duda also had an RBI and scored a run.

But the star, according to Falvo, was second baseman Naveen Naani, who was outstanding in the field, he said.

Groves had runners at first and second with no outs in the sixth inning when Naani dove to her right to stop a ground ball. She did and made another, driving effort to reach second base ahead of the runner.

Naani also had a hit, worked an 8-3 count for a walk, scored a run and batted in another run.

"She just played an inspired game," Falvo said.

The Marlins supported Fedick with two outs in the first inning and were up 4-0 before the Falcons scored their first in the bottom of the fourth. Mercy led 8-3 going into the seventh.

Please see MARLINS, C5



Safe at first: Mercy's Dana Falvo reaches base safely, beating the throw to the bag after hitting a ground ball against Groves.

Marlins have 3rd-place finish in state meet

BY DAN O'MEARA
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It's difficult to be disappointed when your team finishes third in a state-meet competition — and most teams wouldn't be.

But Farmington Hills Mercy isn't just any girls golf team.

The Marlins had hoped to repeat as Division 1 state champions Saturday but instead settled for third place.

Grand Blanc captured the title with a two-day total of 670 strokes — 20 more than runner-up Traverse City Central, which was only two ahead of Mercy, 690-692.

Central was the first-day leader at



Erin Borowiec



Lindsey Denamore

Forest Akers East Golf Course in East Lansing with a round of 332. The Marlins were third and trailed Grand Blanc by just two strokes, 344-346.

"After the first day, I was confident

we could overcome Grand Blanc, but I wasn't so sure about Traverse City," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said.

"What happened Saturday was a shock to everyone. Nobody expected Grand Blanc to go that low." The Bobcats shot an amazing 326 team score Saturday to overtake Central and win the tournament by a comfortable margin.

"We had our second-best score (342) of the season the second day," Kowalski said, adding the Marlins averaged 344. "In the long run, you can't be any more consistent than that."

"When you look at the teams in Division 1, how can you complain when you're in the top three?"

GIRLS GOLF

A third-place finish wasn't a total surprise to the Marlins, who saw the challenge before them when they competed with Grand Blanc and TCC in earlier tournaments.

"We knew what we needed to do to win," Kowalski said. "We had to have three girls in the 80s both days — in addition to what Erin (Borowiec) was going to shoot. We only got one."

"With Grand Blanc shooting the way it did Saturday, we could not have won. I just have to give (the Bobcats) all the

Please see GOLF, C7

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