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Thursday, January 3, 2001

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Ambassadors triumph

Andy Bozian, a defenseman with the Compuware Ambassadors, scored just 1:17 into overtime to lead his team to a 3-2 victory over the Capital Centre Pride Saturday in Lansing.

Frank Rediker and Steve Brudzewski scored regulation goals for the Ambassadors. Mike Noel and Charlie Henderson scored for the Pride.

### Boat, fishing show

The 18th Annual Michigan Boat, Sport and Fishing Show at the Pontiac Silverdome is scheduled for Jan. 31 to Feb. 4. Show hours are 9-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children 6-14. Kids under 6 get in free. Included will be a helium balloon ride to the top of the dome.

### All-Star baseball camp

Avry's All-Star Baseball Camps, for ages 11-18, will run five consecutive weeks starting Jan. 13 or Jan. 14 at Oakland University. The cost is \$216 for each five-session camp.

Campers may attend either the Saturday or Sunday camp. There will be hitting (75 minutes in length), catching (100) and pitching camps (90).

The staff includes OU head coach Mark Avery, assistant coaches Andy Fairman and Chuck Van Robays, Erick Swanson, Aaron Shrewsbury and Mario Borroci.

For further information, call (810) 362-3583.

### Mercy softball camp

The Farmington Hills Mercy softball program will have its Fifth Annual Winter Softball Camp on the following Saturdays: Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27, as well as Feb. 3 and 10.

The camp is open to all players in fifth through 12th grades. The cost is \$5 per session. The camp will cover throwing, hitting and fielding.

For more information, call Mercy varsity softball coach Jack Falvo at (248) 471-1748.

### Learn to Skate class

The Suburban Training Center will hold Learn to Skate classes Tuesdays from Jan. 16 to March 13. Each weekly class is 30 minutes long.

There will be Snowplow Sam classes 1, 2 and 3 for skaters ages 6 and under, as well as adult beginner classes. Skate rentals in all sizes are available.

For registration information, call the center at (248) 888-1400. Enrollment is limited.

### Winter baseball camp

Eastern Michigan University baseball coach Roger Coryell and his staff will be offering a series of winter baseball camps for ages 8-16 featuring position play and overall fundamental instruction.

Single-day sessions will be Sunday, Jan. 14 and 28; Feb. 4 and 11, and May 6 at Bowen Fieldhouse or Oastrike Stadium (weather permitting).

Topics to be covered include hitting and bunting, catching skills, base running, pitching, infield and outfield play, strength and conditioning, developing arm and bat speed.

The cost for one two-day camp is \$85 or \$150 for both two-day camps. Single-day camp fees are \$40 per session or \$75 for two. Applications must be sent in at least one week prior to camp to avoid a \$10 registration fee.

For more information, call (734) 487-0315; or fax (734) 487-4668; or e-mail roger.coryell@emich.edu. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis (may be faxed or mailed).

### Soccer referee classes

Classes for new soccer referees begin Jan. 13 at the Costick Activities Center (11 Mile and Middlebelt) and run four consecutive Saturdays.

Class times are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. but are limited to the first 35 applicants. The fee is \$58 — \$15 payable to Farmington Soccer Club and \$43 to the Michigan Referee Committee.

Applicants must be older than age 10. The minimum pay per game is \$15. To register for the classes, call Sylvia Charbarneau at (248) 477-6627.

# Mercy skiers anticipate good year



Going downhill: Junior Margot Spera, one of nine returning Mercy skiers, makes a practice run Tuesday at Mount Brighton.



With many of its top skiers returning and having added some new talent, Farmington Hills Mercy looks forward to a successful season in girls skiing. Coach Tom Gable is confident the Marlins will do well in 2001.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
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If coach Tom Gable is right, 2001 will be a successful year for the Farmington Hills Mercy ski team.

Gable believes the Marlins are the team to beat in the Mount Brighton Division and have the talent to win a regional championship as well.

The reason for Gable's optimism is the return of nine skiers, including three senior tri-captains, and the addition of some promising newcomers.

"I really would project this Mercy team take the division championship," he said. "There are some good girl skiers out there, but I don't think (other teams) have the depth Mercy does."

"(The Marlins) definitely have the experience and the little extra depth they need. They put in the extra time in training, and some young ones are pushing who could be producing immediately."

"With that combination, I expect they can handle a top-three finish in the regional and move up to the state meet in Fetokey."

The team leaders are senior captains Nikki Anderson, Laura Burek and Marcy Godlew, all of whom were front-line skiers a year ago.

"All of them went as a group to camp at Mount Hood, Oregon," Gable said, "and came back a hundred percent stronger."

"That makes my job easier because of the terminology. I can talk about the rise line and the fall line, and they understand because they've been to camp."

Anderson was an individual qualifier for the state meet in the slalom event. She also participates in the Central United States Ski Association circuit and is a better skier for it, according to Gable.

"She's trying to make a run at it her senior year, she'll have a great season," he said. "She was a consistent top-five skier in the division last year, so she'll be vying for the top. She'll have a little competition. There's a gal from Brighton and one from Okemos who

are pretty strong."

Burek is another varsity veteran who is following in the footsteps of her older sister, Renee, who helped the Marlins win consecutive regional titles a few years ago.

"Laura was a constant top-10 skier in the division and certainly has improved 100 percent," Gable said.

"Marcy is real goal-oriented. She has worked real hard and her improvement is like night and day. She's skiing extremely strong."

I expect Laura and Marcy to chase Nikki right up toward those top positions."

Another improved skier is junior Melissa Desautel, who also went to summer camp. She was a top-20 skier last year, and Gable thinks she could "be knocking on the door to the top 10."

Others vying for the fifth and sixth spots in the varsity lineup are juniors Dana Woolsey, Rachael Rozycki and Margot Spera and sophomores Kelly Martin and Nicole Zaleski.

The Marlins could have a freshman in their top six, because Gable said Elizabeth Kujala is an outstanding prospect with great potential.

"It would appear to me this young lady could have an immediate impact," Gable said, adding Kujala competes in the CUSSA and was in the J4 Junior Olympics.

"From what I've seen so far and based on my experience in coaching, I would say this girl is a state skier as a freshman."

Gable compares Kujala with his daughter, Niki, a former Mercy standout and All-American at Seattle University who will be an assistant coach for her dad this year.

The Marlins won the one-day division meet last year but finished second in the overall season standings.

Mercy was 10th in the Southeastern Michigan Ski League, but the Mount Brighton Division teams have since withdrawn from the SEMSL due to scheduling conflicts.

The Marlins, who start the season today, have been invited to compete at

Please see MARLINS, D2

# Wiseman gives Whalers instant offense

BY NICHOLAS A. GISMONDI  
SPECIAL WRITER

The holidays are a time of surprises. The Plymouth Whalers don't want any. The Whalers ended the 2000 portion of their season as one of the Ontario Hockey League's best teams. They plan on remaining there.

And as a title contender, they have made moves to keep themselves in a competitive spot, including a post-Christmas trade. The Whalers dealt promising first-year player Nathan

## HOCKEY

O'Nabigon and a third-round 2002 draft pick to the Mississauga Ice Dogs in return for their leading scorer, Chad Wiseman.

Wiseman brings 15 goals and 29 assists (44 points) to the Whalers, which ranks 10th in the OHL. The Whalers are expected to make at least one more move before the midnight trading deadline on Jan. 10.

"Pete (DeBoer) and I have come to the realization that we are most likely not going to get Justin (Williams) back from Philadelphia, so scoring is something that we have to address," said associate coach Steve Spott. "Chad is a guy who can do that for us, and he helps to take a lot of the pressure off offensively."

Williams was the Whalers' leading scorer last season. Drafted by the Flyers, he was invited to the team's pre-season training camp and has stuck

with them. Wiseman made an immediate impact with the Whalers, scoring two goals in their 3-1 win over the Windsor Spitfires Friday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Wiseman scored his first goal as a Whaler at the 3:39 mark of the first period, his 16th goal of the season with assists from Tomas Kurka and Cole Jarrett.

Bryan Thompson made it 2-0 at the 2:59 mark of the second period when he

Please see WHALERS, D3

# Falcons, Raiders finish 2nd in holiday tourneys

Farmington High finished second in the Riverview Gabriel Richard holiday basketball tournament, losing Friday to the host Pioneers, 46-39.

Richard took an 11-4 lead after one quarter and, playing a deliberate game, stayed in front through halftime, 18-11, and three periods, 25-20.

Both teams opened up a little more offensively in the fourth quarter, but the Pioneers still outscored the Falcons, 21-19.

"We just did not play very well; we didn't shoot the ball very well," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said, giving Richard credit for doing so.

"They were very patient with their offense and made us play defense on them. They made good decisions and took high-percentage shots."

"(Richard) slowed the game down a little bit with that technique, and we were not as patient on offense as we should have been."

Farmington's Curtis Tillman scored a game-high 16 points. Jeremy Mazes had nine and Matt Mikel six. Josh Visser and Bryan Ramey scored 13 points apiece for Richard (5-1).

The Falcons (3-2) shot under 27 percent, making 12 of 45 field goals. They were 15-of-35 shooting free throws and the Pioneers 21-of-28.

## BASKETBALL

Coach Mikel added Farmington's bus did not arrive, and the bus returning with the JV team had to take the variety to Riverview. Consequently, the championship game started 10 minutes late at 7:40 p.m.

"We never seemed to get in sync from the opening tip," Mikel said. "We came out very flat. We just didn't have our best game with us. It was an uphill battle, but the kids hung in there."

Richard led all the way, although Farmington trimmed its lead to three points in the fourth quarter.

"We couldn't get the big bucket when we needed it," Mikel said. "Even though we didn't shoot real well, had we shot better at the foul line I think we probably could have still won the game."

"Hopefully, we'll get back on track for our game Friday with (Livonia) Franklin."

"Although we're not completely satisfied with that (3-2 record), I think we have some good things we can build on for the rest of the season."

Please see BASKETBALL, D3

## Motor City Roundball Classic



Holiday basketball: CC's Mark Willoughby finds the going rough as he drives between Country Day's Kevin Nelson (30) and Auburn Hills' (11) last week. See story on Page D4.