

**FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE**
All-America glidders

Former Farmington Harrison football standouts Brian Lewis and Brett Foster earned national post-season honors as members of the Kalamazoo College team.

Foster, a freshman defensive lineman, was selected to the USAFootball.com Freshman All-America first team.

He also earned third-team honors on the National Weekly Gazette North Region team. Foster led Kalamazoo linemen with 43 tackles, including eight for lost yardage and three sacks.

Lewis, a junior offensive lineman, earned an All-America honorable mention from USAFootball.com.

He also served as offensive captain for the Hornets, who were 5-4 overall and tied for second place in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association with a 3-2 record.

Valade 4th in scoring

MaryJane Valade, a senior from Farmington Hills Mercy High School, scored 23 points Wednesday to move into fourth place on the list of Kalamazoo College career scoring leaders in women's basketball.

She had 1,163 career points and needed just 25 more to take over the No. 3 spot.

Valade also had 482 career rebounds, the third highest total in school history. She needs 18 more to be the third Kalamazoo player to reach the 1,000/500 Club for points and rebounds.

In the current season, Valade is averaging 14.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Her career averages through 88 games are 13.2 and 5.5, respectively.

Valade's single-game career highs are 28 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists, five steals and two blocks.

She has earned all-MIAA first-team honors twice and second-team honors once. She was named to all-tournament teams at DePauw and Anderson in 1997, Madonna in 1998, Elmhurst in 1999 and DePauw in 2000.

Valade is a history major and art minor. She spent a term in Caen, France, as part of Kalamazoo's study abroad program.

The Hornets were 8-3 overall and 0-1 in the MIAA after losing to host Hope College Wednesday, 69-67.

Hippler on U.S. team

Farmington High School honor student Nick Hippler will travel to Belgium in July as a select member of the United States Baseball Stars, who will compete against a team of Belgian Olympic hopefuls.

Hippler, the catcher on the Farmington varsity team, must raise the money necessary to pay for the trip.

His fundraising efforts are being sponsored by Glendale Auto Supply, located on Orchard Lake Road, just north of Shawwassee.

Anyone interested in obtaining an oil change coupon that would benefit Hippler's cause should call 474-8993 and ask for Nick.

Webber leads CMU

David Webber of Farmington Hills (Country Day High School) is the leading scorer on the Central Michigan University men's basketball team with an average of 17.2 points per game.

A preseason All-MAC pick, Webber had his fourth 20-point game of the season in his team's last game Dec. 21, which resulted in a 92-62 victory of Tri-State of Indiana.

The 6-foot-2 junior guard has 13 three-pointers this season and needs four more to reach 100 for his career. Webber, who needs 62 points to reach the 1,000 plateau, also averages 4.7 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.8 steals per game.

The Chippewas finished their non-conference schedule with a 6-3 record, their best since 1980-81. It included a 67-68 win over Purdue.

Hawks begin New Year with victory



BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison began the New Year with a much better result than it ended the old year in boys basketball. The Hawks, who were 0-4 in December, started the 2001 portion of their schedule Wednesday by thoroughly trouncing host Waterford Kettering, 70-39.

"Any win is a good win," Harrison

coach Dave Turnquist said, adding the Hawks used the break during the holidays to refocus their efforts.

"We got back in the gym and practiced New Year's Eve and even New Year's Day. We had some very spirited practices."

"The time off did us a little bit of good. We still had some conditioning things to deal with, but we came back ready to go."

Harrison doubled the score after one

quarter for a 14-7 lead and extended its advantage to 30-16 at halftime.

Each team had its most productive quarter in the third as the Hawks outscored the Captains, 22-12, for a 52-28 lead heading into the finale.

Jeff Ross came off the bench to score a career-high 17 points, which included three three-point baskets, and grab eight rebounds to lead the Hawks.

Matt Elroy made five of six free throws and finished with 13 points. All 11 players scored as Winston Coffee added eight, Steven McElroy seven in his first varsity start and LaDarius Brown six.

Coffee hit a couple threes in the first quarter to give the Hawks a jumpstart. McElroy also had seven

rebounds, Brown six and Dave Condemi five.

"For the first time in five games, we held our own on the boards," Turnquist said. "We're still not to where we need to be, but it was certainly our best effort as far as rebounding goes."

Junior guard Nick Meier scored 11 points and junior forward Pete Atkinson eight for Kettering, which made 14 of 38 field goals (37 percent) and nine of 19 free throws.

"We took advantage of the smaller floor," Turnquist said. "We played a three-quarter-court matchup some most of the night and did a nice job of not giving them any open looks."

The Hawks shot 52 percent (25-of-48)

Please see BASKETBALL, B5

Western Lakes dual-meet opener


Event winner: Mike Batkie of the unified Farmington/Harrison swim team won the 100-yard breaststroke Thursday, but the Phoenix lost the dual meet to Livonia Churchill, 101-84. Teammate Kyle Chamberlin won the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BISHOP

Mercy, CC earn wins in openers

Detroit Catholic Central and Farmington Hills Mercy were the undisputed leaders of the pack as expected in their first skiing competitions Thursday.

Both teams, coached by Tom Gable, started the 2001 season with victories in a slalom meet at Mount Brighton.

Catholic Central, with senior Matt Gable leading the way, took first place in the boys division with 30 points to easily outdistance runner-up Brighton, which had 67.

Mercy, a little less of a favorite than CC entering the season, got four top-10 finishes, including a third and a fourth by a freshman and sophomore making their varsity debut, to finish first by a 20-63 margin over Brighton.

PREP SKIING

"That was absolutely astounding," Gable said. "The second-place team was 43 points behind them."

"That's amazing. They definitely made a statement on the hill. It was a real surprising result."

The Marlin's top finisher was freshman Elizabeth Kujala, whose combined, 39-second time was good for third place. Kujala, a product of the Central USSA ski program, turned in slalom runs of 21.65 and 17.45.

Sophomore Nicole Zaleski had runs of 22.74 and 18.22 for a fourth-place combined time of 40.96.

"That's two brand new high school racers, and their results are phenomenal," Gable said. "Our returners, Nikki Anderson and Laura Burek, came in nice and steady, fifth and eighth."

"That's quite a score for an opening meet. I believe they can hold their

Please see SKI, B4

All-Observer trio leads Farmington team

BY DAN O'MEARA
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When Jeff Dwyer makes a lineup for his Farmington unified gymnastics team, he faces a pleasant dilemma every coach would like to have.

Dwyer has so much depth on this year's team he has to make some difficult decisions as to who will compete on a given night.

"We have a lot of girls who can score in the eights and higher," Dwyer said, "so I'm very excited about our potential."

With last year's top gymnasts returning and some talented newcomers joining the team, Dwyer expects Farmington will have a good season, if not an outstanding one, in 2001.

Farmington won its first three meets in December but suffered its first loss Thursday to the first-year Livonia unified team by less than half a point.

Dwyer's team was minus two of its



Chelsea Keesling



Kristin Ulewicz



Clara Seymour

best gymnasts, but the loss prompted the coach and gymnasts to have a "good talk" afterward.

"Talent alone doesn't do it," Dwyer said, adding it was a learning experience and, therefore, a good meet for his team.

"We talked about goals we wanted as a team and what it takes to reach those

goals because, potentially, we have a very good team."

Leading the team again are three All-Observer gymnasts — juniors Chelsea Keesling and Kristin Ulewicz and sophomore Clara Seymour.

Keesling is a two-time state qualifier who was the No. 2 all-arounder in the Western Lakes Activities Association

GYMNASTICS

and finished 19th at the Division 1 state finals.

Keesling, who won every event Thursday, broke the Farmington Harrison school record with a 37.20 all-around, eclipsing the one she set last season of 37.10.

"Chelsea will always be near the top of Division 1 gymnasts because of her talent," Dwyer said. "She's just a real tough competitor, very consistent."

"She has developed into a very good team leader, and that's going to help. She and the other captains (Ulewicz and junior Anne Lieberman) are some of the best captains we've ever had. They know what it takes to get the team to the next level."

Ulewicz tied for fifth place on balance beam in the Division 2 state meet

Please see GYMNASTICS, B5

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