

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Farber county champ

North Farmington senior Adam Farber was a double winner Saturday in the Oakland County Championships in boys swimming and diving at Royal Oak Dondro High School.

Farber won the 100-yard butterfly in 53.75 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 59.82. Both times were his best this season. His breaststroke time is the best in Observeland.

The Raiders also were fifth in the 400 freestyle relay, sixth in the medley and 12th in the 200 freestyle.

North finished 10th in the team standings with 70 points. Brother Rice won the title again with 280. See complete results on Page D5.

Adams adds to stats

Farmington's Kate Adams had a goal and three assists for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute women's hockey team in games last week against Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattanville and Sacred Heart.

Adams, a junior defenseman and former standout athlete at Farmington High School, has played in all 20 games, and she ranks third on the team in total points with five goals and 11 assists.

Rensselaer is located in Troy, N.Y.

Spring soccer sign up

Spring registration ends Friday, Feb. 16, for the Farmington Soccer Club. Registration forms are available at the Farmington community libraries and Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Office.

The fee is \$45 for returning players and \$65 for new players. After the deadline, a \$25 late charge will be assessed.

To register visit the club Web site at www.leaguesonline.com or call the club registrar at (248) 426-7146.

Hawks step forward to claim victory



Trailing by a point early in the third game, host Farmington Harrison caught fire and pulled away to a 15-3, 9-15, 15-7 win over crosstown rival North Farmington on the volleyball court.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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It was early yet in the decisive third game, and the outcome of the volleyball match was still very much in doubt.

The question was which team would step forward and claim the victory?

That team was Farmington Harrison, which overcame a 4-3 deficit in the finale after losing the second game Monday to defeat visiting North Farmington, 15-3, 9-15, 15-7.

The Hawks dominated the rest of the third game, scoring the next five points on Alex Cicori's serves and the last four with Marina DeMeyer on the service line.

"Once we got some confidence and our serve going, we were able to keep the pressure on," Harrison coach Kevin Lashbrook said. "We started passing well the last half of the third game, and we were able to get our offense going."

"That's when we're a pretty tough team to beat. We can play with most teams we face."

DeMeyer had a block for point and a kill during the run that put the Hawks in front, 8-4.

A strong Harrison finish began with Jill Maxey winning back the serve with a kill. She had two more during the final run, and Maggie Condeni slammed the ball down for the team's final point.

But Harrison's ability to take command of the game and win the match began in the back row, according to Lashbrook.

"I knew if we passed well, we had a pretty good chance to win," he said. "In the second game, we just passed horribly, and that was the key to the loss."

"We dealt with that and did what we had to do to win."

Lashbrook added Harrison setter

Gayle Ternes does a great job, but there's a limit to what a good setter can do.

"On a bad pass, even a good setter might have only one option," he said, "which makes it easier for the other team to play defense."

"When you pass well, a good setter is able to dictate the offense and keep the defense off guard. A good pass makes all the difference in the world."

The first game was close for a long time; the Hawks had a 4-2 lead after 12 sideouts but eventually took control. Amber Bahr and Cicori served aces, and Latoya Burrell's kill made it 10-2. Kelly Taylor served the last five points, including an ace for the finale.

Burrell, who led the Hawks with eight kills in the match, and Maxey, who had seven, had one kill each during the final five points.

"We switched up our rotation two weeks ago, and it's finally starting to show results," Lashbrook said.

"We moved Amber from outside hitter to defensive specialist, which is her natural position, and put Latoya in the front row."

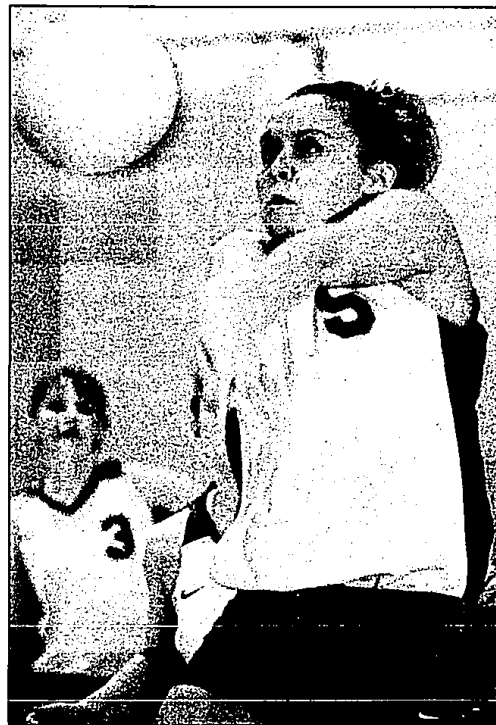
"I just put (Burrell) in the starting lineup recently, and she's been our shining star the last two weeks."

North came back and played well in the second game and had the kind of strong finish Harrison had in the first and third games.

The Raiders also passed and executed their offense a lot better.

"When we serve and pass well, we're a good team," North coach Deb Calanchi said. "But when we just let teams serve we make it too easy for them, and that's what happened in the first game."

"The first game was ugly, and that surprised me. The girls were fired up



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL
Making the connection: Farmington Harrison's Kelly Taylor passes the ball to the setter Saturday at the Schoolcraft Invitational.

Please see VOLLEYBALL, D2

Free throws help Farmington maintain 2nd place in WLAA

Farmington was perfect shooting free throws in the fourth quarter Tuesday to clinch a 53-47 victory over Plymouth Canton in boys basketball.

It was a key Western Lakes Activities Association win for the Falcons, who remained one game behind league-leading Walled Lake Central.

Farmington is 11-3 overall and remains alone in second place in the WLAA at 7-1. Canton is 6-8 and 5-3, respectively.

The Falcons led 35-32 going into the fourth quarter and outscored the Chiefs by three, 18-16, while going 10-for-10 at the free-throw line.

Farmington had a 16-7 lead after one quarter, but Canton battled back in the game and cut the difference to two points at halftime, 24-22.

BASKETBALL

Senior Matt Mikol scored 15 points to lead the Falcons, who were 16-of-22 at the line. Senior Jeremy Mazes had 12, senior Curtie Tillman 10 and senior Mike Griffin seven.

Oliver Wolcott was the only Canton player in double figures with 16 points. Nick Cabanatan added eight. The Chiefs made seven of 12 free throws.

Raiders defeat Patriots

It would appear North Farmington and Livonia Franklin spent most of the game Tuesday standing at the free-throw line.

The teams combined to shoot 78 free throws and make 51 as the heat Raiders outshot the Patriots for a 78-69 victory.

North was 24-of-32 at the line and Franklin 27-of-44. The teams still managed to complete the game by 9:15 p.m.

Senior Blair Weiss scored 19 points to pace the Raiders, who held quarter leads of 16-14, 34-28 and 51-42.

Senior Mike Patterson and sophomore Marcus McComb contributed 15 points each and junior Mike Leach 12. Senior Eric Wilder added six.

McComb also led the Raiders, who are 6-4 in the WLAA and 8-6 overall, with eight rebounds, four steals and five assists.

Franklin's Mike Copeland scored a game-high 20 points. Joe Ruggiero netted 19 and Ian Reid tossed in eight.

The Raiders made four three-point field goals, the Patriots (2-6, 4-10) two — both by Ruggiero.

Improving
Salem tops
Harrison

BY C.J. RISAK
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These are two basketball teams, not all that different in level of talent, that are headed in opposite directions.

Not too long ago, Plymouth Salem and Farmington Harrison were headed down the same path, and it wasn't a pleasant one. But in the last three weeks, the Rocks have righted their ship; Harrison hasn't.

For three quarters of their game Tuesday at Salem, it seemed the Hawks may have discovered a turning point in their season — and at Salem's expense. A three-pointer by Jeff Ross at the buzzer to end the third gave Harrison a 46-43 advantage heading into the final period.

Please see BASKETBALL, D3

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STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL STECHERMAN
Hoop scene: Harrison's LeDarius Brown drives past Salem's Nick Tochman in a WLAA game Tuesday.