

**FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE**
Adult hockey sign-up

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is registering teams for its spring season, which begins Sunday, March 25.

Teams entries are being accepted for the over-18 and over-30 age groups. The fee is \$2,600 per team, \$2,500 if received by Feb. 20.

Players must register individually for the over-40 division. Subsequently, there will be a player draft. The fee is \$275 per player.

Checks or money orders should be payable to the Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association and mailed to P.O. Box 3357, Farmington Hills, MI 48333.

All divisions will play 16 games plus playoffs. There is a limit of eight teams in the over-18 and over-40 age groups and 10 in the over-30. Registration will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register call the FHAA at (248) 471-8004, leave a message and wait for a return call.

Valade honored again

The Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association has named Kalamazoo College's MaryJane Valade co-Player of the Week in women's basketball.

A senior forward from Farmington Hills (Mercy), Valade scored a total of 40 points in two league victories last week.

She scored 14 points in a 59-49 win at Albion College and 26 points in a 79-52 win over Adrian College.

Valade made 15 of 25 field goals and 10 of 10 free throws. She also grabbed 11 rebounds and had three assists, two blocks and one steal.

This is the second time this season Valade has earned the MIAA Player of the Week honor. She shared the latest award with Laura Poppema of Hope College.

Kalamazoo is 15-7 overall and 7-5 in the MIAA. The Hornets end the regular season this week with home games against Olivet College, on Wednesday and St. Mary's College of Indiana on Saturday.

Goalie of the Week

Chad Davis of the Compuware Ambassadors was named Goalie of the Week for the North American Hockey League after posting home-and-away wins against the Cleveland Barons last week. Davis registered 64 saves in the two wins.

The Allen Park native has a 17-6-2 record with a 2.79 goals-against average and a .903 save percentage.

Ford rally tops OCC

Henry Ford Community College overcame a two-point, halftime deficit Saturday to defeat host Oakland CC in men's basketball, 84-77.

The Raiders, who led 41-39 at the halfway point, were outscored in the second half, 45-36.

James Driscoll scored a game-high 29 points for the Hawks, who improved to 8-4 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 15-7 overall.

He made nine of 15 field goals and 11 of 13 free throws. Teammates Daryl Mason, Josh Boven and Randy Royal added 10 points apiece.

Kevin Williams Jr. scored 23 points to lead the Raiders. He made nine of 14 field goals and was 5-of-6 at the line.

Darnell Robo tossed in 19 points and Jason Washington 12 for OCC, which is 3-10 in the conference and 7-17 overall.

Williams also had a game-high 15 rebounds and Cornelius Stanford 13 as OCC outrebounded Ford, 61-36.

Lady Raiders tumble

Beth Fortuna and Katie Martin combined for 53 points to lead Henry Ford Community College to an 82-49 win over Oakland CC in women's basketball Saturday.

Fortuna had 28 and Martin 25. They were 17-of-35 from the floor — all makes were deuces — and 19-of-24 at the line. They also had 20 rebounds apiece as the Hawks outrebounded the Raiders, 60-41.

Ford's Nazek Mroueh added 12 points. Debbie Wess scored 14 points and Shannon Storm 10 to lead the Raiders.

Storm had 12 rebounds and Wess eight.

The Hawks, who had a 32-14 half-time lead, are 8-4 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 15-7 overall; the Raiders are 4-9 and 8-14.

Happier days for healthy Hawks

■ Farmington Harrison showed what it can do with a healthy team Tuesday by beating North Farmington in boys basketball, 59-42.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
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The pieces to the puzzle finally seem to be falling into place for the Farmington Harrison boys basketball team.

And the timing couldn't have been worse for North Farmington, which appeared on the schedule at an inopportune moment and absorbed a 59-42 defeat Tuesday.

Where the Hawks are concerned, there's nothing like a win over a crosstown rival to make things better when you haven't had many successes.

"We become more healthy every day," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said, referring to injuries that have plagued his team and contributed to a lot of close losses.

BASKETBALL

"We had 7-on-7 in practice the other day for the first time all year. When we're healthy, we're a pretty athletic team."

"The kids kept the faith through the tough losses. We're in a competitive situation every day and, hopefully, it's going to pay off for us."

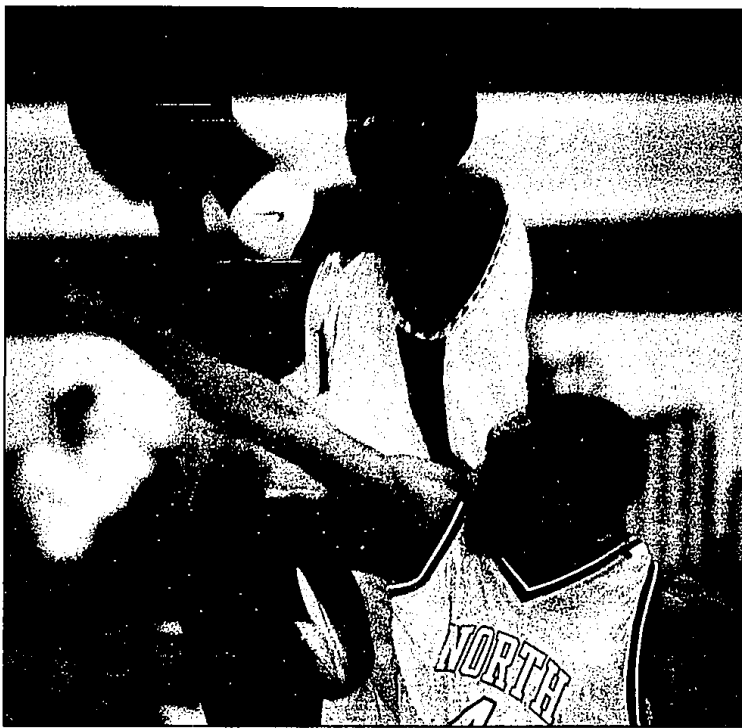
The Hawks have won their last two games, both in the Western Lakes Activities Association, to move ahead of Livonia Churchill and escape the WLAA basement.

Harrison is 2-8 in the league and 4-12 overall; North drops to .500 in the WLAA (5-5) and overall (8-8).

"It's a combination of not only getting healthy but improving," Turnquist said. "We were not a good defensive team early in the year, but the boys have made that the focal point the last couple weeks."

"It's not to where it needs to be, but

Please see HOOP, D4



Rising to the occasion: Harrison's LeDarius Brown is committed to taking the ball to the basket Tuesday while North Farmington's Jason Neal tries to obstruct his progress. Harrison won, 59-42.

Western Lakes expansion will put total at 15

BY BRAD EMONS
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For the first time since 1985, the landscape is changing in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

On Feb. 5, the 12 principals from the WLAA voted unanimously to expand the league to 15 schools with the inclusion of Wayne Memorial from the Michigan Mega Conference, along with two new schools set to open in the fall of 2002, Plymouth High School and Walled Lake Northern.

"The WLAA constitution only allows for membership consideration for those schools whose district has a current affiliation with the league," said Walled Lake Central principal David Barry, who serves as the

league president. "All three schools submitted a letter of application last fall and it was reviewed under the constitutional by-laws. We also had another school not affiliated with our member districts apply, but that request was denied."

The Observer learned the school denied entry was Ann Arbor Huron.

Since 1985, the WLAA has consisted of 12 schools broken down into a pair of divisions.

The Lakes Division consists of Walled Lake Central, Livonia Stevenson, Plymouth Salem, Farmington, North Farmington and Westland John Glenn.

Western Division members include Walled Lake Western, Plymouth Canton, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Northville and

Please see WESTERN, D7

Battalion takes 2 Ws from Whalers

Apparently, the Plymouth Whalers' offensive eruption Friday against the Brampton Colts — a 6-1 Plymouth win — was an aberration.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Whalers no-offense woes returned in a home-and-away series against the Brampton Battalion.

Brampton scored the go-ahead goal with no time left in the second period Saturday at Compuware Arena, and that was more than the Whalers could overcome as they lost 3-1.

HOCKEY

Sunday's game at Brampton was even more discouraging. The Battalion scored a pair of power-play goals in the second period and for the second-straight night Brampton goalie Brad Topping outduelled Plymouth's Rob Zepp to post a 2-0 win.

The two losses dropped the Whalers further behind first-place Erie in the race for the top position in the

Please see WHALERS, D6

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