



FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Winter hockey clinics

Suburban Hockey will conduct mid-winter clinics and workshops at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and the Birmingham Ice Arena.

Suburban Training Center will be the site for Defense, Quick 'N Fast and Shoot To Score workshops on Feb. 22-23. The workshops will be two hours per day, and the cost is \$90 per player for each session.

The mid-winter workshops are open to players age 6 and up. Players will be grouped according to ability.

Suburban Hockey will have a three-day clinic at Birmingham Ice Arena Feb. 19-21. Power skating and puck handling clinics will be offered for mites and squirts.

Checking and scoring clinics will take place for pee wees and bantams. The clinics run two hours each day, and the cost is \$140 per player.

Enrollment is limited. For more information call Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1600 or visit the Web site at www.suburbanhockey.com.

Prep hockey news

Hockey fans can buy tickets in advance for the Tuesday, Feb. 27, playoff game between Farmington Unified and Livonia Stevenson.

The teams will meet in a Division 1 regional tournament contest at 8 p.m. at the Redford Ice Arena, which is located on the east side of Beech Daly between Plymouth and Schoolcraft.

Tickets cost \$4. For advance tickets or information, call Leah Calagias at (248) 553-0808 or send an email to eveldn@aol.com. Tickets also will be available at the door starting one hour before game time.

Tryouts for the high school hockey spring team will be 8:30-10 a.m. Sunday, March 11, and 4:50-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Suburban Training Center.

Any Farmington Public Schools student with hockey experience currently in eighth through 11th grades is encouraged to tryout. The cost is \$16 per tryout.

For more information, call Leah Calagias at (248) 553-0808 or send an email to eveldn@aol.com.

NHL plans expansion

The North American Hockey League — of which the Compuware Ambassadors is a member — will add the Pittsburgh Forge for the 2001-2002 season, it was announced Wednesday.

The Forge purchased the Rochester Junior Americans franchise, which had been inactive this season. The team will be led by general manager Kevin Constantine, former head coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins and San Jose Sharks.

Chris Imes, who played for the University of Maine's NCAA championship team in 1993 and was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1994, will serve as the team's coach. Imes was the assistant coach of the Tri-City Storm of the United States Hockey League.

All-Catholic volleyball

Three Redford St. Agatha volleyball players have been selected to the All-Catholic volleyball team.

Rhonda Humberger, Jennifer Szakai and Georgina Seefeld were named to the A-West squad.

Livonia Ladywood's Erin Bartee and Melissa Buckshaw are on the Central Division team along with Junior Kristin Loridas of Farmington Hills Mercy.

St. Agatha's Amanda Nelson is on the A-West all-league team while Ladywood's Desiree Betts and Mercy sophomores Tessa Kuykendall and Anne Rosevelt are on the all-league Central Division team.

Bob Sowden of St. Agatha is the A-West Coach of the Year. Szakai was also named to the A-West all-academic squad as were Mercy's Katie Dinamore and Ladywood's Megan Lantto in the Central Division.

Falcons continue as district champs



Farmington defeated North Farmington in the championship match Thursday, 58-23, to win yet another district tournament title in wrestling. The Falcons advance to regional action Wednesday at Birmingham Groves.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington High wrestlers had to wait for a close, exciting preliminary match between rivals North Farmington and Farmington Harrison to end before having their turn.

But the Falcons were more than ready when their time came Thursday. They crushed North in the final, 58-23, to capture their third consecutive district tournament title and fifth in the last six years.

"They really came to wrestle today; that's for sure," Farmington coach Al Beyar said. "This was probably their best match all year. It's a good place to be at this point."

The Falcons (6-11) will face Ferndale

(9-12-1) in a semifinal match of a Division 2 regional Wednesday at Birmingham Groves, whose 18-5 team will meet Auburn Hills Avondale (3-26) in the other semi.

Both matches begin at 5 p.m. with the championship event to follow after the conclusion of these contests.

"We just need to wrestle as hard as we did today," Beyar added. It didn't look good for Farmington early in its match with North, which had a 17-10 lead through the first five bouts.

But the Falcons, with the strength of their lineup coming up, prevailed in eight of the last nine weights, winning seven by pin and one by void.

"We had some people come through big time," Beyar said. "Everybody did

what he had to do to win this match. "North Farmington beat us at the league meet, and we knew it would be a lot different than when we met them the first time (in a dual)."

Farmington's Andrew Bernicchi had a pin at 112 pounds and was followed later by Aaron Turk (145), Cam Murtland (145), Mike Murtland (160), Brett Brown (171), Stephen Wayne (189), Blake Belsky (215) and Delane Turner (275). Jon Schwartz (119) won a major decision, and Mike Kish (140) won on a walkover.

"Two kids had their first wins today," Beyar said, referring to Bernicchi and Turner. We recruited (Turner) out of the hallway. He's made some progress and we're real happy with him.

"We pulled (Schwartz) out of the league tournament because of a sprained ankle. He was on crutches early in the week and could barely walk Monday.

Turk, Mike Murtland, Wayne, Blake and Brett — those are our seniors and they came through for us."

It wasn't just the winners who made an impression on Beyar.

Freshman Dan Mortens (125) lost by technical fall to North's Ramis Beyaral; but avoided a pin. Farmington's Charlie Raymond was ahead on points all the way until Mike Zultak (152) scored a pin with one second remaining.

"Charlie Raymond almost pulled it off," Beyar said. "Kids all the way; through did what they needed to do to keep the score down or to get a pin."

There was a team strategy the Falcons executed in each individual bout; he added.

"We saw at the league meet North was working a lot of headlocks," Beyar said. Coach (Barry) Walsh worked on that all week, not allowing North to score big points with it, and it looks like it worked pretty well."

For the Raiders, things had to work out perfectly, according to coach Jim Stuel, and they had a bad start when they lost the coin flip, forcing North to put its wrestler on the mat first.

Please see WRESTLING, B4.



Mercy wins regional meet: Laura Burek helped the Marlins capture a Class A regional ski title Thursday. Mercy will advance to the state finals in Petoskey on Monday, Feb. 26.

Marlins headed to state

Catholic Central and Farmington Hills Mercy came out on top at the Class A Region III ski meet on Thursday.

The Shamrocks came away with 39 points in the slalom and 56 in the giant slalom to earn 95 total points, while Brighton was second with 118 and Milford-Lakeland was third with 179 points.

PREP SKIING

The Marlins won the girls half of the meet with 73 points overall (35 in the slalom and 38 in the GS) while Walled Lake Central had 98 points for second and Brighton was third with 118. Ladywood was 14th with 555 points.

The top three teams advance to the state finals on Feb. 26 at Nub's Nob in Petoskey.

"CC was the defending champion and Mercy didn't qualify last year, so it's a great feeling," coach Tom Gable said.

"The girls skied really well and put pressure on Marian, because I think they were the favorite. There was a dogfight in the morning (for the slalom), and Marian knew it was in for a battle. Maybe the pressure got to them. They didn't ski the GS very well at all.

"I don't believe the guys went in favored. I think Lakeland was favored, because it was ranked in the last couple of weeks. The boys put it to them

Please see SKI, B3

Farmington, North look toward playoffs

Farmington and North Farmington head into the Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball playoffs with momentum on their side following victories Friday.

The second-place Falcons defeated visiting Westland John Glenn, 55-44, to finish a game out of first.

Walled Lake Central clinched the regular-season title with a 67-47 win over Livonia Stevenson.

North knocked off visiting Plymouth Salem in an exciting WLAA round-robin finale, winning in overtime, 63-79.

In the first round of the playoffs Tuesday, Farmington entertains No. 7-seed Northville, and No. 6 North will be host to No. 3 Walled Lake Western.

Stevenson is at No. 1 Central for a rematch and No. 4 Canton goes to No. 5 Salem in the other quarterfinal contests.

The Falcons (9-2, 13-4) outscored the Rockets in

BOYS BASKETBALL

the middle quarters, 33-17, to erase a 12-7 deficit after one quarter and take a 40-29 lead in the final period.

Farmington's Mike Griffe scored 11 of his game-high 19 points in the second quarter, and Jeremy Mazes sparked the Falcons in the third with 10 of his 13 points.

The Falcons, who were 21-of-27 shooting free throws, led 21-20 at halftime and outscored the Rockets in the third quarter, 19-9.

Matt Mikal added nine points for Farmington, which was 44-of-61 at the line in its last two games.

Mike Gorce scored 14 points and Brent Bogle 10 for Glenn (3-8, 4-13). The Rockets were 5-of-10 at the line.

North (6-5, 9-8) outscored Salem in overtime, 12-8, after the Rocks had rallied to tie at the end of regulation play, 71-71, by outscoring the Raiders in the fourth quarter, 16-7.

Mike Patterson and Mike Leach scored 17 points apiece to lead North. Jason Neal had 15, Marcus McComb 12 and Blair Weiss 10.

The Raiders took advantage of their chances at the free-throw line, sinking 36 of 44 shots for a 23-point margin over the Rocks, who were 13-of-19.

Leach had 12 points in the first half, making 10 of 12 free throws, to spark North to a 45-40 halftime lead. Leach was 13-of-16 at the line overall.

North's lead grew to 64-55 after three quarters before Salem rallied in the fourth.

Dave Hoskins scored 25 points to pace the Rocks.

Please see BASKETBALL, B4

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