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Thursday, March 1, 2001

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Figure skaters to state

The Farmington Unified figure skating team has qualified to go to the state high school championship competition Saturday in Birmingham.

The team finished its season Feb. 15 by placing third in Level B low events at the district meet in Ann Arbor. The team will compete against eight other high school teams for top state honors.

Elizabeth Brooks, Melissa Maxwell and Kelly Womack from Farmington High School and Kiersten Cummings, Ai Kawashima and Samantha Lehto from North Farmington High School make up the team.

Maxwell, Womack, Kawashima and Lehto have also qualified to compete for top state honors in individual, solo skating events to be held on Saturday, too.

Twenty-three high school teams, divided into three districts (Downriver, Northern Suburbs and Western Suburbs) vied for placement for state-final competition.

Divided into high and low divisions by figure skating test levels, teams performed four spins, four jumps and four footwork combinations. Team members acquired points to determine team placements. The top three teams in each level (high and low) from each district will advance to the championship event.

The individual event took place at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center Jan. 13. Skaters competed at their test level individually against skaters in their district. The top two skaters in each level, from each district, advanced to the championship event in Birmingham.

All Farmington team members who have met the requirements will receive a school letter. Even though only Farmington and North Farmington high schools are represented on the team, interested skaters from Harrison are encouraged to come out for the team next year. Each school will be given information about the team in September.

All events are sanctioned by the United States Figure Skating Association and are hosted by the Detroit Metro Skating Council.

Youth soccer champs

The Green Dragons, an under-12 girls soccer team, recently captured the Blue Division championship (winter season) at the SoccerZone in Novi.

The Dragons, coached by Mike Butler and Rick Bridenbaugh, have compiled a 12-1-4 record through two seasons.

Members of the Dragons include Lauren Bridenbaugh, Christina Butler, Adrienne Greenslade, Emily Herman, Mary-Care Higgins-Luthman and Megan Muzzell, of Livonia; Rachel Koelzer and Abbey Skrzypczak, both of Canton; Landria Penceck, Farmington Hills; Kristin Lee, Northville; Kristen Crawford, Farmington Hills; Gatt, Aditi Hardikar, Stephanie Jirasek and Katrina Rieger, all of Novi.

Gymnasts 3rd in Ohio

The level-five competitive gymnastics team, representing the Sports Club of West Bloomfield, took third place at the Feb. 17 Buckeye Classic in Columbus, Ohio.

Leading the way was West Bloomfield's Shayna Danto with a 9.4 on bars, 9.1 on beam and 9.55 on floor. Those scores enabled Danto to finish with a first-place overall score of 36.8 in the 9-year-old division.

Kacey Cummings received a 9.2 on beam and 9.225 on floor. Alison Sante scored a 9.425 on bars and 9.4 on floor, enabling her to place third (35.425) in the 11-year-old division.

Marianna Rosenberg placed first (36.8) in the 12-and-over category with a 9.325 on bars, 9.5 on floor and 9.075 on vault.

Veronica Perrera also finished third in the 12-and-over category; she was third (35.525) with a 9.325 on bars, 9.075 on beam and 9.425 on floor.

The team is coached by Jeanne Norwood and Dean Smarjesse.

Pre-athletic screening

Pre-athletic screening will be done Wednesday, June 6, at North Farmington High School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 (cash only).

Any physical for the 2001-02 school year must be dated April 15, 2001, or later. For more information call the athletic department at (248) 489-3352.

(Sports fax number: 734-591-7279.)

Spartans have Flyers' number again



Season finale: Farmington Unified forward Brian Marion was one of six seniors who played his last game Tuesday for the Flyers, who lost to Livonia Stevenson in a regional tournament game.

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
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Livonia Stevenson's hockey team had Farmington's number all season.

The number was zero.

The Spartans blanked the Flyers, 6-0, Tuesday at Redford Ice Arena to advance to tonight's regional semifinal in the hockey tournament against co-host Redford Unified.

"We just can't score on them," Farmington coach Mike Harris said after his team completed its set of games against Stevenson with losses of 4-0, 6-0 and 6-0.

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"We felt really good down a goal after the first period. Our forechecking system was working. We just couldn't get the puck past them."

Coach Ed Shepler's Stevenson team wasted little time scoring — Dave Westerman wristing in a shot as he cruised in on right wing 1:16 into the contest — but wasn't quite clicking until late in the second period.

"We were a little nervous," Shepler said. "We've got so many young kids. This is the first year on the varsity for a lot of them."

"But, as the game went on, they settled down. In the second period, we got a little more disciplined."

"We need to be disciplined to succeed. When we play undisciplined, we have no chance."

The Spartans (19-1-4) began asserting themselves about a third of the way through the second period.

Sophomore Tommy Zagata flicked in a rebound of a shot by his senior brother Bobby with four minutes to play to give Stevenson a 2-0 lead.

Matt Calus drew the assist on Westerman's goal, while Jon O'Neill had the second assist on Tommy Zagata's tally.

"In the second period, we had two power plays and couldn't score," Harris said. "But, as the game wore on, the momentum shifted."

The Flyers (10-12-3) outshot the Spartans, 12-9, in the opening period and 15-11 in the second, "and we felt good about that," Harris said. "But

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Raiders, Falcon going to state finals

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Three wrestlers from Farmington high schools are headed to the Division 2 state finals March 8-10 at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

North Farmington's Dan Canvasser and Ramis Bajrami and Farmington's Mike Murland qualified for the next level Saturday in regional competition.

Murland was second at 160 pounds in the individual tournament at Birmingham Groves; Bajrami was second at 112 and Canvasser fourth at 103.

In his first two bouts, Murland won by decision over St. Clair Shores Lakeview's David Vaughn, 12-0, and Marine City's Jason Dunn, 4-3.

He lost a 5-0 decision to Brad Martin

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of Center Line, who was a district champion as was Murland, in the final.

"He had a real good day," Farmington coach Al Beyar said of Murland. "He just made a couple mistakes in the championship match. He realizes every match is a little tougher than the last one."

"That round where you qualify is usually the best wrestling of the day, whether it's in the consolation bracket or the semifinals."

Beyar is confident Murland, a senior with a 29-9 record, will do well at the state finals and place among the top eight.

"I think he should be able to place," he said. "How high just depends on what kind of day he has. I think he's definitely capable of placing there."

"Anybody on any given day at this level can be beaten. It doesn't matter what his record is. Most of the wrestling is determined above the shoulders. It depends what your mindset is."

Farmington's Aaron Turk lost his first bout at 135 but stayed alive with a 4-0 win over Birmingham Seaholm's Tony Cooper. He was eliminated from state-meet contention by Ferndale's Matt Swazey, who won in overtime, 9-7.

Teammate Brett Brown lost his first bout to a Warren Lincoln opponent and his second to Marine City's Robert

Hildebrand in overtime, 12-10.

Brown was ahead, 8-5, going into the third period, during which he injured his ribs due to a seasons hold. Hildebrand rallied to tie, 10-10, and force overtime.

"(Brown) had a real good year, not having wrestled since middle school," Beyar said. "Getting that far was quite an accomplishment, and he was definitely a big asset to our team."

The same thing for Aaron. He was a second away from going (to state); that's how close his match was."

Bajrami, a junior with a 14-6 record, won his first two regional bouts, but he lost to Lincoln's Mitchell Skover in the final, 16-8.

(Skover) hit him with about five cr-

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Rocks league champs 9th year in row



League champion: North Farmington senior Adam Farber was a double winner in the 100-yard butterfly and breaststroke (meet record) at the Western Lakes Activities Association swim finals.

BY C.J. RISAK
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Championship day is supposed to be on a Saturday for Western Lakes Activities Association swimming, the day of the conference finals. In reality, the title is determined on the preceding Thursday — during the conference preliminaries.

The theory is simple: Swim well enough on Thursday and you'll qualify lots of folks in a lot of events, guaran-

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teeing at least some points.

That approach worked for the two teams at the top of the pack Saturday at Plymouth Salem. The Rocks finished first by more than 100 points, gaining their ninth consecutive WLAA championship — which surprised no one.

Placing second was Plymouth Canton, scoring 447 points (Salem totaled 547.5) — 41 more than third-place Northville, a margin certainly more comfortable than anticipated.

Livonia Stevenson was fourth, followed by North Farmington, Walled Lake Central, Livonia Churchill, Westland John Glenn, Farmington Harrison Farmington and Livonia Franklin.

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