

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Girls lacrosse victory

Farmington Unified evened its record at 1-1 in girls lacrosse Friday by defeating Huron Valley, 7-5.

Stephanie Ford scored four goals; Lindsey Hirzel accounted for two and Stephanie Yacoub one. Farmington had a 4-3 lead at halftime.

The stars of the game for Farmington were Ford, Hirzel and defender Rebecca York, according to coach Mike Mehall.

"It was a well-played game in which the girls worked the field efficiently and were able to control the flow of the game," he said.

Farmington lost its season opener Wednesday at Rochester, 14-9. Yacoub scored five goals. Ford two, Chrissy Baker and Chrissy Hague one each.

"(Yacoub) controlled the crease area and was a thorn in the side of their goalie," Mehall said. "She's a left-handed player, and she circled around and was dropping them into the goal pretty efficiently."

Yacoub was one of Farmington's MVPs with Baker and goalie Wendy Bakken, who kept the team in the game, according to Mehall, who was more upbeat after the win Friday.

"We really turned it around and played an exceptionally good game with strong passing and ball control," he said.

### Mercy golfers 2nd

Farmington Hills Mercy golfers were runners-up to Livonia Stevenson in the Dearborn Invitational Friday at Warren Valley.

Stevenson led the 12-school field with 192 strokes followed by Mercy, 198; Dearborn Divine Child, 206; Farmington Unified, 214; Dearborn and Ann Arbor Huron, 226; Temperance Bedford, 239; Belle Isle, 257; Dearborn Edsel Ford, 259; Taylor Truman, 299; and Taylor Kennedy, 327.

Four of Mercy's six varsity players — seniors Erin Borowiec, Maureen McFawn and Katie Plasmore and sophomore Christina Gibraro — didn't compete due to a limitation on the number of playing dates.

Varsity players Kim Warzyneec and Jackie Shinnery shot rounds of 46 each and tied for fourth place. Tiffany Graham had 53, Monica Pilzner and Courtney Meyer 54.

Farmington Unified's Sarah Laird shot 51, Chrissy Dwyer 53, Jennifer Barrick 64 and Karolyn Knutson 56.

Stevenson's Kristen Polanski and Katie Carlson tied for runner-up honors with 45 each. Sarah Zientark and Megan McLeod added 50 and 52, respectively.

### Ambassadors at home

The North American Hockey League playoffs will get under way Friday, and the Compuware Ambassadors have earned the home-ice advantage for the best-of-three games first round by finishing second in the East Division.

The Ambassadors will host either the Capital Centre Pride or Cleveland Barons at Compuware Arena. Games will be at 6:35 p.m. Friday, 3:05 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (if necessary).

The No. 1 seed in the East, and overall, are the Soo Kewadin Casino Indians. Depending upon the final standings, they will host either the Pride or the Barons.

The Texas Tornado are the No. 1 seed in the West Division. They'll host the Springfield Jr. Blues, while defending the NAHL champ Danville Wings host the Chicago Freeze.

Last Tuesday, the Ambassadors visited the U.S. Nationals and came away with a 5-4 victory. Jason Paige led Compuware with two goals and an assist, while Ryan Levesque contributed a goal and two assists.

Andrew Bozolan got the game-winning goal in the third period; Christopher Sad also scored.

Jeff Lantz was in goal, stopping 21 of 25 shots for the Ambassadors, who improved to 31-21-3 with the victory.

# Marlins depend on talented twosome



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARKER

All-Observer athlete: Mercy senior Judy Telford is a two-time member of the girls all-area team in the discus event.



Farmington Hills Mercy's Judy Telford and Alexandria Marshall are two of the best female track-and-field athletes in the area. Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington high schools have their standouts, too.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Coach Gary Servais has a lot of unanswered questions regarding the potential of many athletes on his Farmington Hills Mercy girls track-and-field team.

But there are two he doesn't have to wonder or worry about. He knows well what senior Judy Telford and sophomore Alexandria Marshall can do.

Telford is one of the most outstanding throwers in the state and is a two-time, All-Observer selection in the discus.

She broke her own school records in the shot put and discus last year with throws of 38-3/4 and 126-7, respectively.

Telford finished fifth in the Class A championships in the discus, and she was the Catholic League champ in both events. In the regional, she won the discus and was fourth in the shot put.

Marshall had a big freshman season, ranking among the top area sprinters in the 100, 200 and 400 dashes.

At the West Bloomfield regional, she finished fourth in the 400 and 200, and she placed fifth in the 200.

"Telford and Marshall, as long as they stay healthy and keep working like they have been, are all-area material," Servais said, "and then it's just a question of how the others take to the sport and if we can find events for them."

Other than Telford and Marshall, the Marlins, who were fourth in the league and fifth in the regional, are an unknown quantity with many new and unproven team members.

Former coach Tony Vitale has

returned to work with the throwers, who include returnees Samantha Foglio, sophomore; and Hillary Murray, junior. Servais hopes sophomores Dore Jones and Anne Roosevelt will help in those events.

"(Vitale) really seems to be getting them going, so we're expecting a lot from those girls in the shot put and discus to support Telford," Servais said.

Mercy lost an outstanding all-around athlete when Kristy Ramsey graduated. She was all-area in the high jump and also excelled in the long jump and throwing events.

Sophomore Whitney Johnson and Jones will try to pick up the slack in the high jump, and freshman Carrie Roble is the leading candidate in the long jump.

"We have some pretty talented people," Servais said. "I don't know if there's enough time to teach them everything."

"I'm really impressed with the crop of new people, and I'm hoping, by the time the season gets going, we can develop some people in those areas."

In addition to Marshall, the Marlins look to Roble, sophomore Erika Branch and freshman Danielle Underwood to help in the sprints.

Returning senior Linda Skalski also runs the 400, and Mercy has returning senior Katherine Storch and first-year senior Lauren Yagiela as its top runners in the 800.

Johnson and sophomore Sharifa Crawford are the team's best hurdlers, and the Marlins have a lot of new runners in the distance events.

"We're pretty young," Servais said.

Please see **GIRLS TRACK, B3**

# Hawks still team with many positives

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Despite some major graduation losses, Farmington Harrison has enough leftover talent to produce another championship team in boys track and field.

The Hawks, who won city, Western Lakes Activities Association and Division II regional titles, lost four first-team, all-area athletes in Derek Leskewski (pole vault), Nick Hall (hurdles) and relay runners Kevin Woods and Jason Scarborough.

But Harrison returns many of its top sprinters and has capable people spread across the spectrum of events to still be a formidable team.

Senior Chris Roberson, junior Agim Shabal and sophomore Marcus Woods comprise three quarters of the 400 and 800 relay teams that qualified for the state meet.

Roberson is about 95 percent recovered from a broken ankle that caused him to miss the entire football and basketball seasons.

"His doctor said he can start running full out right after Easter," coach John



Chris Roberson  
Farmington Harrison senior



Agim Shabal  
Farmington Harrison junior



Marcus Woods  
Farm. Harrison sophomore

Reed said. "We'll have him when we start getting into the big meets. It was a long process, but it's amazing he's back."

The replacement for Kevin Woods on the sprint relays could be either junior Terrill Mayberry or one of two sophomores, Charles Pickett or Nikita Sanchez.

"From those five, we're trying to put together our relays," Reed said. "If we get Chris back and we keep working, we could be as good if not better, because the kids are bigger and faster this year."

In addition to Sanchez, the new sprinters are senior Chris Rosemary and freshmen Robert McCall, Brian

## BOYS TRACK

Zeigler and Kevin Barberi.

Mayberry also is the top 400 runner, having finished fourth in the WLAA and made the all-area third team. Other quarter-milers are juniors Martez Glass, Joey Babikowitz and Ramon Otero and freshman Charlie Gass.

Harrison has some experienced distance runners in sophomore Brian Coates, juniors John Keller, Greg Ardisani and Dan Coates and sophomore Wayne Wright.

Also helping in those events are sophomores Eric Lachowski, Matt Drew, Andrew Singer and Furman Tate and freshman Scott McElmurry.

"We have to keep improving in the 800, because we're going to miss Jason Scarborough," Reed said. "Overall, we have more kids who are better; so I think we're stronger."

The Hawks have plenty of prospects in the throwing events led by junior Jason Reed and senior Will Pyant, both

Please see **BOYS TRACK, B4**

# Teams have sweet success in openers

Farmington Harrison and Farmington High started a new season in girls soccer Friday night with a pair of road victories, and Farmington Hills Mercy was a winner in its debut Thursday.

Abby Adams scored two goals as Harrison defeated host Milford, 4-1. Danielle Strickland had a goal and two assists, and Alex Ciceri converted a penalty kick for the other goal. Abby Houser also had an assist.

The Hawks had just a 1-0 lead at halftime but poured it on in the second half when the Redskins changed goalies.

"(The Milford starter) was a pretty good field player, and they did get a score," Harrison coach Greg Strickland said. "Their other goalie wasn't up to par, but we did have good play from our midfielders and forwards."

"Dianna Platt had some beautiful through balls to the forwards, and Abby Adams got two in that way."

## GIRLS SOCCER

Coach Strickland was pleased with the team performance, adding the Hawks showed a lot of spirit. "Defensively, we were solid with Emily Houser playing sweeper," he said. "She controlled the whole back, and Jenny Blashfield worked well with Emily."

Our new keeper, Jakkie Waldecker, did a great job. She came out and played great; she played tough. The one goal against her was a great shot; I don't think anybody could've stopped that.

"Other than that, she stopped everything, and we're real happy with her. She hadn't played in two years, either."

Taylor Wong played a greater share of the game as a defensive replacement when Michelle White was hurt, Strickland added.

"Everybody played well; the seniors made sure of that," he said. "Lauren Liebowitz played her heart out, as she does every game."

"At halftime, she told the team, 'We can't back down now.' She was a real go-getter, making sure everybody was ready to go."

### Falcons edge Lions in close game

Erica Ross scored the winning goal with seven minutes remaining Friday as Farmington defeated host South Lyon, 2-1.

Farmington's Beth Kolacki netted the first goal of the game unassisted, but South Lyon managed to tie the score.

"Beth took the ball up the sideline, had a good shot and took it," Falcons coach Steve Montgomery said. Leading to the winning goal, Farmington centered

Please see **SOCCER, B3**

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