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Thursday, April 5, 2001

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Marlins sweep games

Not bad for openers! Actually, it was rather awesome what the Farmington Hills Mercy softball team did Tuesday in its first competition of the 2001 season. Megan Feduk and Molly O'Malley pitched a pair of shutouts without issuing a walk as the Marlins defeated host Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 2-0 and 8-0.

Feduk struck out 16 and tossed a two-hitter in the first game. Lindsay Feduk was 3-for-4 and scored both runs on a pair of hits by Holly Van Cleave, who had two RBI.

O'Malley allowed just three hits in the second game while striking out four.

Chloe Kraft slugged two triples and Carly Tracey also had two hits. Both players had two RBI.

The Marlins, who were Division 1 state semifinalists last year, will be host for a four-team tournament Saturday involving Trenton, Fenton and defending Catholic League champion Windsor Villanova.

OCC women triumph

Oakland Community College swept a women's softball doubleheader from visiting Delta College Tuesday at Highland Lakes Field in Waterford, 3-2 and 9-0.

Rachel Racicki allowed just three hits over seven innings in the opener while walking four and striking out three.

The Lady Raiders had just five hits themselves, two by Theresa Flowers. Tammie Davis and Carrie Sugden and Courtney Sisk had one RBI each.

Davis threw a one-hitter in the nightcap, shortened to 4½ innings. She fanned six and walked two.

Mandi Harrison and Becca Robertson had two hits and four RBI apiece. Leanna Peters had two hits and Jenna Little one RBI.

OCC is 2-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 5-8 overall.

Hawks focus on 3rd straight title



Farmington Harrison has won two Western Lakes Activities Association baseball titles in a row, and it hopes to make it three straight this year. Farmington High opened Monday with a 6-5 win over state champ DeLaSalle.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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As two-time defending league champion, Farmington Harrison appears to have the players and talent needed to make a run at another title.

The Hawks have won four of the last six Western Lakes Activities Association championships and could very well add to that number late next month.

"Possibly, we could be the early favorite, but (Plymouth) Canton will be very strong," coach John Herrington said.

"Potentially, we could challenge for the championship again. If the pitching comes through, then we have a chance."

Harrison, which finished 20-4 last season — its third straight with 20 or more victories, returns some quality players and has made a key addition.

The top returnee is senior Tim Doig,

an All-Observer player at first base who has recovered from foot surgery to repair an injury incurred playing football last year.

Doig led the Hawks in doubles (eight), home runs (five) and RBI (30). He was second only to Lou Hadley in hits (34), runs scored (31) and batting average (.425).

"Having to sit out the basketball season, he's itching to get going," Herrington said.

Senior Marcus Mencotti, like Doig an All-Observer football player, returns to play center field and keep the Hawks strong up the middle.

He hit .291 with 12 RBI, but his greatest asset is his defense and the range of territory he can cover.

"One of the things we're trying to figure out is who to put around him," Herrington said. "We're more experienced elsewhere, but Mencotti can make up

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Falcons ground Pilots

Winning the season opener is always good. That goes without saying. But, when you come from behind to defeat the defending state champion, that tells you two things about your baseball team.

One, you're players are willing to fight to the finish. The second is you probably have a good team there.

Farmington High coach Pete Finn had a positive impression of his 2001 Falcons after they rallied Monday to edge visiting Warren DeLaSalle, 6-5.

The Pilots, who beat Redford Catholic Central in the Division 1 state final last June, grabbed a 6-0 lead after two innings.

The Falcons had just four hits but made them count. Tony Luttmann hit a two-run double and Kyle Burear a two-run single as Farmington evened the score at 5-5.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Brad Barenie doubled off the outfield fence, advanced on a flyout and scored the winning run on a passed ball.

Bernie Brown had the other hit for the Falcons. Brian Molloy hit a two-run homer for the Pilots, who also made their season debut.

Farmington's Bob Houchins pitched six innings and got the win, throwing 100 pitches, striking out three and walking five. DeLaSalle had eight hits and three earned runs.

All-Observer player: Tim Doig makes a throw from the outfield in practice, but he will play first base and pitcher for the Hawks.

Falcons ready to jump into action

BY DAN O'MEARA
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The high jump, sprints and distance races are the events in which the Farmington High boys track and field team is expected to do well this year.

The Falcons lost quite a few quality athletes to graduation, but they bring back enough good ones to still have a positive outlook.

Farmington has two of the area's best high jumpers in seniors Jeremy Mazes, who was a state qualifier, and Layne Bodily.

Mazes tied for second place in the regional and was fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association. He was on the All-Observer second team and Bodily third team.

"That should be one of our best events," said coach Kevin Afterbaugh, who replaces Chip Bridges, who is on sabbatical leave at Central Michigan University.

BOYS TRACK

"Those guys are two of the best in the conference. Both are seniors and have lots of experience."

Mazes, who was seventh in the 60-meter dash at the recent Huron Relays, will also help in the sprints.

Senior captain Jawoin Spinks is the lone returning member of the 400 and 800 relay teams that won regional championships.

Seniors Andrew Buck, Mike Griffie and David Peterson will make the sprint relay teams strong again and provide depth in the 100 and 200 dashes.

"We're hoping we can take one of the sprint relays to the state meet," Afterbaugh said.

The Falcons won a regional title in cross country and will rely on many of those runners to make the 1,600 and 3,200 events a team strength.

Seniors Chris Toba (pneumonia) and Pat Lockhart (bronchi-

tis) are sidelined until they recover their health, but they will join forces with junior captain Tom Eason and senior Bryan Giglio in the distance runs.

Sophomores Andrew Martin and Andrew Amis could help in those events, too.

"I think our distance team will get better as the year progresses as we get everyone healthy," Afterbaugh said. "By the end of the year, I think they'll be caught up to where the sprinters are right now."

Spinks is also a standout in the long jump, having placed fifth in the regional and sixth in the WLAA meets.

Junior Delano Turner returns to lead the Falcons in the throwing events with backup from sophomore Jason Albrecht.

Seniors Trevor Moore and Drew Martens, another captain, are the team's leading pole vaulters.

"I think the field events will be

Please see TRACK, D8



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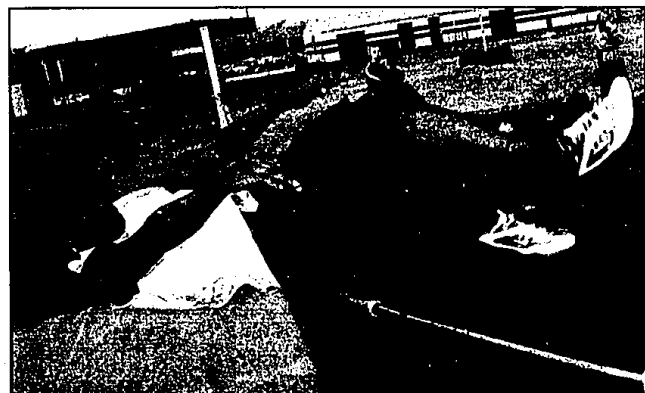
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Standout high jumper: Farmington senior Jeremy Mazes was second-team, all-area in the high jump last year and is one of the top returning athletes in Observerland.