

FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

## Jones is top athlete

Lauren Jones of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) was named the Most Outstanding Senior Female Athlete at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Jones, who is captain of the women's tennis team, finished the year with 23 victories playing No. 1 singles and doubles.

She will lead the Brewers into the 26-team NCAA Division III tournament when they play Tufts in the opening round Saturday in Williamstown, Mass.

Vassar will meet the Williamstown-Trinity (Conn.) winner Sunday for the right to advance to the national championships May 18 in San Antonio, Texas.

The Brewers, who are the No. 6 seed in the Northeast Region, finished the dual-meet season with an 18-5 record.

In 1991, Vassar made its first appearance in the tournament and finished fifth in the 12-team field. The Brewers are ranked No. 4 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association East Region and No. 16 nationally.

## Vikings grid signup

The NFWB Vikings will conduct open registration for its 2001 flag and tackle football programs, as well as its cheerleading teams.

Flag football is for ages 6-8. The tackle program consists of three teams for ages 8-13. Teams are determined by age and weight.

Eight-year-olds are given the choice of playing in either the flag or tackle programs. Cheerleading is for girls ages 8-13.

Registration will take place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 3, at the William Costick Center at 28600 11 Mile Rd. (northeast corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads).

For more information call Charlie Fleetham at (500) 701-8203.

## OCC splits twinbill

Tammie Davis pitched a three-hitter to lead Oakland Community College to a 10-2 victory over St. Clair CCC in the first game of a women's softball doubleheader May 3.

Leanna Peters and Katie Snyder had three hits apiece to pace a 13-hit attack for the host Lady Raiders.

Jenna Little had two hits and four RBI, and Davis helped her cause by driving in two runs.

OCC couldn't contain St. Clair in the second game and lost, 11-3.

Rachel Racicki pitched six innings and took the loss. Both teams had 11 hits. Theresa Flowers and Becca Robertson were 3-for-4 for OCC.

The split left OCC 17-7 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 25-16 overall.

## Baseball fundraiser

Farmington High School baseball players will be collecting cans and bottles in a fundraising effort on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area.

Anyone wanting to donate and requesting prompt pick up of cans should call Jan Hippler at 474-8993.

## Rockets grid signup

The Farmington Rockets football program will register returning players for the 2001 season 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 12.

There will be an open enrollment session 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 2. Youths between the ages of 8 and 14 are eligible.

The fee is \$180 per individual. Registration will take place at the blue equipment shed next to the Farmington High School football field.

For more information, call either Rockets president Gary Cline at (248) 477-7871 or registrar Vince Dow at (248) 478-8229.

## Whitworth to appear

Saturday will be Demo Day at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia — no, not demolition day, with an opportunity to destroy all those old, frustrating clubs. Rather, it's demonstration day, with different golf suppliers on hand to display their different wares.

The session runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free. LPGA standout Kathy Whitworth will make an appearance from 1-4 p.m.

## First-place Falcons edge Raiders, 4-3

Farmington retains  
Lakes Division lead

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington was on the winning side of a baseball game decided by one run Monday when it defeated visiting North Farmington, 4-3.

The result was in contrast to a 16-15 loss the Falcons suffered Friday while playing at Plymouth Salem.

Farmington's win, coupled with a Livonia Stevenson loss to Walled Lake Central Monday, gives the first-place Falcons a one-game lead in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Falcons are 5-1 and the Spartans 4-2.

Ian Pardonnet (4-0) pitched the first five innings to earn the victory Monday. The Raiders had six hits off Pardonnet, who struck out four and walked two.

Bob Houchins took over with nobody out in the sixth and pitched the last two innings, holding North to one hit while fanning four and walking none.

## BASEBALL

North starter Pat O'Connell held Farmington scoreless until the fourth, when the Falcons got four runs and was relieved in the fifth after Preston Picard hit a leadoff, opposite-field homer for the eventual winning run.

With two out and Kyle Burcar on second in the Farmington fourth, Houchins walked, Pardonnet drove in the first run with a base hit and Brian Boaler followed with a two-run single.

Jason Berthiaume and O'Connell went 2-for-3 for the Raiders. Berthiaume hit a solo homer and O'Connell a double. Aaron Drury added an RBI single.

The Falcons, who were 7-2 in the WLAA and 14-5 overall, had just four hits.

"(North) hit the ball, we didn't hit the ball through three innings," Farmington coach Pete Finn said. "We're just not being as aggressive at the plate as I'd like."

"Outside of that, I think we're a little tired. We might give them a day off practice, because they're not looking like themselves. But we were fortunate to win, and North is certainly an improved team."

In the Salem game, Chris Chesney hit a three-run homer in the first inning, "and I thought that set us up; I thought we were on our way," Finn said.

Farmington had a 4-0 lead, but Salem went ahead, 14-5. The Falcons managed to score nine runs in the top of the seventh, tying the score on Burcar's three-run homer.

The Raiders eventually won the game with a bases-loaded walk. Tony Luttman suffered his first loss after three wins. Burcar, Chesney and Pardonnet had two hits apiece.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAKER

Lost cause: Realizing that it's a futile effort, Farmington's Tony Luttman is resigned to being tagged out by North Farmington catcher Matt Clark during a rundown Monday.

## Whalers rebound to tie OHL finals, 1-1

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER  
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

It was just where the Plymouth Whalers had envisioned being since last season's Game Seven disappointment against Barrie in the Ontario Hockey League championship series. A return trip to the OHL Finals — that's what the Whalers wanted. And when they beat the league's top team, the Erie Otters, in five games in the OHL semifinals, they got their wish.

That wish, however, got off to a

## HOCKEY

nightmarish start. Neither the home ice, nor a defense that had been ranked as the OHL's best, nor a proclivity towards protecting the lead, could save them in Saturday's Game One against the Ottawa 67's. A 2-0 lead disappeared by the second period, and three third-period goals saddled Plymouth with a 6-3 opening-game defeat.

The Importance of Game Two escalated. A second-straight loss on home

ice would all but ruin the Whalers' chances.

Diminishing their victory hopes further, leading scorer Stephen Weiss was sidelined by a concussion absorbed in a check by the 67's Jeremy Van Hoof midway through the opening period.

Van Hoof received a five-minute boarding major penalty and was tossed out of the game. Weiss went to the locker room, dazed and bloodied. After a couple of inconsequential shifts later in the game, Weiss was ruled out of action for the rest of Saturday's game and Sunday's as well.

Big loss. But the Whalers proved equal to the challenge, scoring the game's first four goals Sunday at Compuware Arena and then holding off Ottawa for a 4-2 win, evening the series at a game apiece.

Games Three and Four will be at Ottawa's Civic Centre, both at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Friday. Game Five will be at Compuware Arena at 3 p.m. Sunday.

"This was a must-win game for us at home," said Whalers' coach Pete

Please see WHALERS, D2

## Weighty matter: North Farmington's Brandon Kaploe competes in the shot put relay Saturday in the 31st Annual Observerland Relays at Redford Union's Kraft Field.

Harrison was third in the 19-team meet; North was eighth and Farmington 10th.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUCKMAN

## Canton remains champ of Observerland Relays

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER  
bemon@oe.homecomm.net

Plymouth Canton boys track coach Bob Richardson was uncomfortable going in as the favorite at the 31st Annual Observerland Relays.

But Richardson's team appears to enjoy the limelight as the Chiefs repeated as champions Saturday at Redford Union's Kraft Field.

Canton beat its closest competitor, Redford Catholic Central, 82-70, for the team title. Farmington Harrison edged Livonia Churchill for the third-place trophy, 52-47. Northville was fifth in the 19-school field with 44 points.

Canton took three firsts and added four seconds en route to its third Observerland triumph.

"I'm so pleased because it's a tribute to our seniors," said Richardson, who also guided Canton to area titles in 1986 and 2000. "Our seniors are our biggest class and they've been a strong group ever since their freshman year. CC is a tough team, no question, and we knew we had to perform well to win."

## BOYS TRACK

Senior Jerry Gaines, who returned to the lineup last week after a month-long bout of mononucleosis, was a welcome sight.

He was a part of Canton's first-place high jump relay and helped the Chiefs score points in four events.

"Jerry practiced for about a week and a half," Richardson said. "We just wanted him to run some short sprints, but tonight he runs his first 400 in a month, a 62.3 split, in our sprint medley team, which finished second, and that really helped."

Yale-bound Jordan Chapman of Canton figured in two firsts, the high jump and long jump relays, along with two seconds, the shuttle hurdle and pole vault relays. He cleared a meet-best 6 feet, 4 inches in the high jump and was second best among all competitors with 13-6 in the pole vault.

"Jordan really had a good meet," Richardson said. "He's scored points in this meet every year, and there's no

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