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## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Two pitchers All-MIAA

Albion College's Alana Heikkinen, a senior pitcher from Farmington Hills (Farmington High School) was named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's all-conference first team in softball. Heikkinen finished the season with a school-record 18 wins and led the Britons to the MIAA tournament title. The former All-Observer pitcher made 33 appearances this year, started 26 games, completed 17 and was 18-7 with three saves, 93 strikeouts, 30 walks and a 1.33 earned run average. The Britons were third (9-5) in the MIAA regular season and finished second overall after winning the tournament. Albion's season record was 29-16.

Kalamazoo College's Zach Burton, a sophomore pitcher from Farmington Hills (Harrison), made the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's all-conference second team. Burton was 4-3 on the season with a 4.30 earned run average and 57 strikeouts. He was 2-2 in MIAA games with a 3.07 ERA, 31 strikeouts and only nine walks.

Burton was nominated for MIAA pitcher of the week (May 6-12) for his role in Kalamazoo's three-game series sweep against Albion College. He pitched a complete game in the opener, allowing four hits while striking out six and walking one.

Garry Penta (North Farmington) finished the season as Kalamazoo's leading hitter with a .356 average. He also hit three home runs, had 16 RBI and scored 14 runs. A first-year player and transfer from Grand Rapids Community College, Penta went 5-for-12 with five RBI and pitched 3 1/3 innings in the Albion series.

Penta also played the outfield and had 35 putouts for the Hornets, who finished 8-10 in the MIAA (fourth place) and 12-22 overall.

### Suns capture AAU title

The Oakland Suns, an under-11 girls basketball team, won the AAU state championship May 13 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

The Suns players are Cassie Beller, Emma Petersen and Toshi Samuels of Farmington Hills, Emerald Burnett, Kayla Cooper, Cheryl Scott, Kiara Smith, Erica Solomon and Chelsea Stowers, Detroit; Ebony Conners and Taylor Lockridge, Oak Park; Kara Trowell-Muhammad, Grosse Pointe Farms; and Courtney Whalen, Redford.

The Suns will compete for the AAU national championship this summer in Kenner, La.

The team will be fundraising and seeking corporate sponsors for its trip. Anyone wishing to donate should call Louise Beller at (248) 848-9509 or Michele Samuels at (248) 443-1903.

### Optimist golf tourney

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club and Metrobank will co-sponsor a junior golf tournament on Friday, June 15, at Glen Oaks Golf Course.

The event is a qualifying tournament for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Boys and girls will compete separately in the following age groups: 11-13, 14-16 and 16-18.

The winners will advance to the state tournament, June 27, with a chance to qualify for the national event in Florida.

The tournament is limited to 144 golfers. Registration closes June 8 or when full. The fee is \$28 for 18 holes of golf, lunch and awards.

The event begins with a shotgun start at 7 a.m. Check-in is at 6:30 a.m. Parents are needed to help as observers.

For more information or to register call Scott Franklin at (248) 856-4949

# Raiders win another regional title



North Farmington will be making a return trip to the state finals in boys tennis after defending its regional championship Friday at Northville. The Division II state tourney will be played in two weeks in Kalamazoo.

By DAN O'MEARA  
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The championship streak has been extended to four in a row by the North Farmington boys tennis team.

The Raiders have won that many consecutive regional titles after besting host Northville again in a Division II tournament Friday.

"I've been talking to these guys all year about how tough it is to replace much of your lineup and still come back and win," North coach Mark Shenton said, adding Northville played 10 seniors.

"I could not be more happy with the way these guys have stepped up and

answered the bell. They've won very tough matches along the way in dual meets and again today."

As is usually the case, the regional boiled down to a dual meet between the Raiders and Mustangs, with those teams meeting in every flight final.

North won five of those eight matches, just as it had in the regular-season meeting a week earlier, although some of the results were reversed.

One such match was at No. 1 singles where North's Jay Berman defeated Dean Conway rather easily after losing a three-setter in the dual, 6-3, 6-0.

"Jay was on fire today," Shenton said. "I think the loss did help to motivate him a little, but but he came pre-

pared to play and brought out his A game today."

Chris Copeland repeated his victory at No. 2 singles over Northville's Mark Thompson, although he needed three sets this time, 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-3.

They were the last players on the court, and Copeland's win clinched the regional title, giving the Raiders 29 total points while the Mustangs finished with 27.

"We had to have that one," Shenton said, adding the teams would have tied if Thompson had won. "In the third set, Chris stepped up and played with a lot of poise and confidence. When it came down to it, his experience and being a senior really shined through."

Northville's Kyle Dehne defeated Andre Zelikov to win the No. 3 singles championship, 6-0, 6-3.

"Dehne is a very powerful player," Shenton said. "Their singles are so deep he could probably play No. 1 or 2 on another team."

The Mustangs earned a split in the

singles finals as Steve Mills avenged a loss to Rob Frankel with a 6-4, 7-5 win in the fourth spot.

"They're very even," Shenton said. "Both are looking forward to finishing their best-of-three series Tuesday at the conference (tournament) if both make it to the finals."

The No. 1 doubles title again was decided in two sets, with a tiebreaker in the second, but it was North's team of Steve Jaffe and Greg Boothroyd winning this time.

They turned the table on Scott Eiler and Chris Gerleik, giving the Northville duo its first loss of the season, 6-4, 7-6 (12-10).

"That was an incredible match by a pair of outstanding senior leaders," Shenton said. "They wanted revenge for their loss last week. They knew they could do it and went out there and executed."

The Raiders' Dan Carlson and Dan

Please see REGIONAL TENNIS, B4

## Intra-city girls lacrosse game



Staff photos by Bill Decker  
Mercy defeats Farmington: Former teammates were on opposing sides Friday afternoon when Farmington Hills Mercy met Farmington United in a girls lacrosse game. Players from Farmington's four high schools used to play under a unified banner until last year. Mercy's Barb Maczka (left) is pursued by Stefanie Willemsen as she rushes toward the Farmington United goal. Ashley Lake (above) scored a goal for Farmington United, but Mercy won the game.

# Marlins earn shot at league crown again

By DAN O'MEARA  
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## SOFTBALL

Couch Jack Falvo hopes to lose the label of perennial bridesmaid Monday when his Farmington Hills Mercy softball team plays for the Catholic League title.

It will be the third consecutive appearance for the Marlins and fourth overall under Falvo, who has yet to be on the winning side.

"That's why my family calls me the Bud Grant and Mary Levy of the Catholic League," Falvo said. "My luck as a coach has not been very good."

Mercy (25-0) will face Central Division rival Livonia Ladywood (19-9) in the championship game at King Boring Field in Dearborn. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The teams exchanged doubleheader sweeps during the regular season and are 2-2 against each other this year.

The Blazers took two from the Marlins in early April, 3-2 and 4-2, but Mercy avenged the score the first week of May with 6-0 and 6-1 victories.

"I expect Ladywood to be very prepared to come at us," Falvo said. "With my record in the Catholic League final, anything is possible."

"The four games were fairly competitive, and either team can win this game. It's just a matter of who makes fewer mistakes."

The Marlins were runners-up to Harper Woods Regina in 1998 and '99 and Windsor (Ontario) St. Thomas Vil-

leva last year. Mercy's only league title was won in 1991, prior to Falvo becoming the coach.

Following the losses to perennial champion Regina, Mercy was focused on winning the title last year with a veteran team, but errors and baserunning mistakes proved costly in a 4-2 loss.

In the sixth inning of the 2000 final, the Marlins put two runners aboard with no outs but were retired in order after that.

They loaded the bases with two outs in the seventh and scored one run, but a final strikeout meant Falvo would have to wait at least another year for a winner.

Falvo said the Marlins won't be trying to make up for past failures Monday night. In fact, he has taken a low-

key approach to this year's game.

"It's a great honor to be there, and we're not looking at it as anything more than another game in our season," Falvo said.

"Last year we had a disappointing game, but it served as motivation for us to make it to the final four in the state (tournament)."

"You can't really look at it as far as what's gone on in the past. If we play our game, we'll be OK. We're really not looking at this game as anything one way or the other."

Mercy reached the final game again with a 1-0 semifinal victory Thursday over Riverview Gabriel Richard. Ladywood got there by beating Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 6-3.

The Pioneers had six hits off Mercy

Please see SOFTBALL, B2

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