

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Girls softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Farmington Motor City Madness girls' fastpitch softball teams will be Saturday, Sept. 8, at Shiawassee Park in Farmington. Tryouts for the 10-, 12- and 14-and-under teams will be 10 a.m. to noon. Tryouts for the 16- and 18-and-under teams will be noon to 2 p.m. In the event of rain, make-up tryouts will take place on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the same location and times. Ages are determined as of Jan. 1, 2002. Players are to arrive a half hour early for registration. Players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and cleats. For more information call Bill McNeil at (248) 471-4953.

Lions topple Twisters

The Michigan Twisters had handled most of their opposition this year in the Lake Shore Football League with relative ease, rolling to four straight wins. But Saturday's game against the Central Ohio Lions, in Columbus wasn't against an easy opponent.

The Lions were winners of the last two LSFL championships, and they played like it against the Twisters, rolling to a 22-16 victory.

The Lions are 5-0 and in first place in the LSFL's Southern Division; the Twisters are 4-1 and still in first place in the Northern Division.

Twisters quarterback Rob Elswick was ineffective in this game, completing just nine of 31 passes for 125 yards and one touchdown while throwing four interceptions.

Elswick, playing behind an offensive line missing four key players, was pressured throughout the game and was sacked twice.

The loss ended the Twisters' string of 14 straight regular-season victories. They are idle until Sept. 8, when they host the Glass City Grizzlies out of Toledo at Willow Run's Devil Stadium. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for students under 18, seniors over 60 and children 10-and-under (accompanied by an adult) are admitted free.

JCC triathlon planned

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit will host the Triathlon for Hope to raise money for breast-cancer research Sunday, Oct. 14, at its West Bloomfield campus.

The triathlon will include a half hour each of running, swimming and biking. The event will take place in two sessions, the first 9-10:30 a.m. and the second 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Proceeds will go toward research and treatment at City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute. A minimum of \$40 is required to participate. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. for Session I and 11 a.m. for Session II.

The registration deadline is Oct. 7. Those who register before the early-bird deadline of Sept. 30 will receive a \$5 discount. Checks should be made payable to City of Hope.

To register call Miami Stone at the JCC Health Club (248-432-5427) or Krysta Spann Ivey at City of Hope (1-800-732-7170).

Stingray registration

The Farmington Family YMCA-Stingray swim team will be conducting registration for its short-course season.

The competitive swim program runs from September through March. An informational meeting for parents will be 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4, at the Farmington YMCA.

The team is open to anyone between the ages of 6 and 18. Depending on ability, participants will swim either at the YMCA or one of the local high school pools.

For more information, call Cathy Warnick at (248) 553-0276 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Adult hockey sign up

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is in need of goalies, primarily in the over-40 age group, for the upcoming season.

But the FHAHA is still accepting team entries for its 18-and-over division, and it has player openings in the over-30 and over-40 leagues.

The season starts Sept. 4. The team fee for the 18-and-over bracket is \$3,750 for 22 games and playoffs. For players in the older age groups, the fee is \$650 for 44 games and playoffs.

To register call the FHAHA at 471-6004 and leave a voice-mail message.

North wins for new coach in his debut



It took the North Farmington girls basketball team a little extra time and effort Tuesday, but the Raiders made Tim Carruthers' debut as varsity head coach a success. Host North beat Southfield-Lathrup in overtime, 49-45.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington had to go to overtime Tuesday to make first-year coach Tim Carruthers a winner in his varsity debut.

The Raiders outscored visiting Southfield-Lathrup in the extra session, 7-3, to begin a new season in girls basketball with a 49-45 victory.

The Chargers stole the ball with five seconds left in regulation time, misfired on a three-point attempt but got

the rebound and scored on a putback.

That tied the score at 42 and sent the game into overtime, but the Raiders regrouped and stayed the course in pursuit of the win.

"I was a little concerned that was going to deflate us," Carruthers said. "But it didn't. The kids laid it on the line in the overtime."

"To their credit, they just kept playing. They took the lead in OT and didn't give it up. They showed a lot of poise at that point."

Senior Meghan Callahan scored a

career-high 18 points to lead North in scoring. The Raiders had a balanced effort as junior Christy Stockton added eight points, and senior Jennifer Jary, senior Catherine Audette and junior Johan Hinds tossed in seven apiece.

"That's how it's going to be this year," Carruthers said. "I think we're going to have to be like that. I never know going in who our scorers are going to be. All these kids really contributed."

Audette led the Raiders in rebounding with eight; Callahan also had six rebounds, and Hinds had seven steals.

North's balanced scoring is a good sign since the Raiders don't have all-star Samantha McComb and her 27 points per game any more.

"It's their chance to do it," Carruthers said, adding the Raiders also

lost Christina Colombo and Staci Russell to graduation. "They were three-year starters, too."

"It's really opened the door for competition. They're fighting for those spots and minutes, and they're pushing each other in practice."

"Obviously, we miss Sam but they're seeing the opportunity and enjoying that opportunity."

Lathrup led 10-8 after one quarter, but North rallied to tie the score at halftime, 22-22. The Chargers pulled ahead after three quarters, 35-31, but the Raiders outscored them in the fourth, 11-7.

"The kids did everything I asked them to do," Carruthers said, adding the team still has room for improvement. "We just need to keep getting

Please see HOOP, D7

Falcons start swim season



Farmington winner: Erin Lennon won the 100-yard butterfly Tuesday to help host Farmington High begin a new season in girls swimming and diving. The Falcons lost the meet, however, to West Bloomfield, 121-66. Please see Page D2 for complete results.

Mercy still among state's best teams

BY DAN O'MEARA
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SWIMMING

With five all-area swimmers returning, Farmington Hills Mercy has one of the top teams in the state once again and will be favored to repeat as the Catholic League champion.

The Marlins were fourth in the Class A state meet last season after winning the title in 1998 and finishing second two years ago.

"Ann Arbor Pioneer is going to run away with it," Downs said, adding the Pioneers were made even better by a first-rate swimmer who moved from New York.

"Grosse Pointe North and Grand Haven will be good again. Then it's up for grabs. That's the (fourth) spot we're looking for, so we can bring home a trophy."

Mercy will be in a position to challenge, however, with a team built around seniors Kristin Loidas and Katie Benedict, juniors Elizabeth Garlow and Caitlin Kelly and sophomore Katie Naglick.

Loidas was 13th in the 500 freestyle at the state meet and missed scoring by two 10ths of a second; she also was on the All-America 400 free relay team.

"She'll be back in the money this year," Downs said. "She's much stronger than last year. She did some serious work over the summer. I think her 50 on up looks good."

"At the banquet last year, I told her she would be the barometer for this year, and she took it to heart."

Benedict, who was sixth in the 100 freestyle after being seeded 22nd, also has improved. She was an All-America in two relays.

"We should see her do something; she oughta be tough," Downs said. "She should be able to score in two open events. They'll score 16 places at state as opposed to 12."

"We can pick and choose whether we use her in three relays as we did last year. It's early to play that game. She'll help us wherever we need her. She's a good team player."

Garlow was fourth in Class A in the breaststroke and was part of the medley and 200 freestyle relays at state.

"She's another one who could swim three relays," Downs said. "She's been a veteran since she was a freshman. We could put her in the IM, and I think she could score in the 50 free, too."

Kelly is a sprint freestyler who was All-America in two relays. Her times for the 50 and 100 this summer were very good, according to Downs, who thinks Kelly will score at state, too.

Katie Naglick finished 11th in the butterfly and is much better this year,

Please see SWIMMING, D2



Jim Downs



Kristin Loidas



Katie Benedict



Elizabeth Garlow



Caitlin Kelly



Katie Naglick

Raiders start season by defeating Lakers

Greg Pekarsky's two second-half goals helped ensure a 4-2 victory host West Bloomfield in North Farmington's season opener Saturday in boys soccer.

The Raiders had the game under control with a 4-0 lead until the Lakers scored twice late in the game and nearly added a third goal.

"I got a little tense there," North coach Ron Meteyer said of the situation prior to North goalie Alex Lubyansky turning away a penalty kick that could've made the score 4-3.

North led 2-0 at halftime on goals by Matt Holland and Andrew Mourainie.

Following an offside call, the opposing keeper kicked the ball right to Holland, who tried to put a shot under the goalie, who made the stop.

BOYS SOCCER

But the rebound went to Holland, and he made sure the ball went in the net this time.

Mohamed Bachrouche crossed the ball in front to Pekarsky, who deflected it Mourainie, who one-touched it from 10 yards into the net.

"We felt, if we kept trying to make the goalie move around, we would expose his weakness," Meteyer said. "We tried to make him move laterally as much as we could, and it paid off."

Less than five minutes into the second half, Jeff Shumer was fouled outside the box, resulting in a

direct kick. His shot bounced off the keeper to Pekarsky, who connected on the rebound to make it 3-0.

Pekarsky scored his second goal 10 minutes later, maneuvering around a defender and drawing the keeper from the goal to cut down the angle. Pekarsky lifted the ball over the goalie from 35 yards.

West Bloomfield scored off a corner kick with 22 minutes remaining, and Noah Stern cut the deficit in half by converting a penalty kick three minutes later.

The Lakers were awarded another penalty kick shortly after that, but Lubyansky denied Stern a second goal.

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