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Thursday, September 13, 2001

SPORTS

Terrorist acts put athletics on hold

A national emergency resulting from terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in the nation's capital forced cancellation of all area sporting events Tuesday. Observerland schools resumed a regular schedule of competition Wednesday.

By PAUL BEAUDRY
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As with every other aspect of American life on Tuesday, the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington forced changes in athletic competition. Nearly every local high school and college cancelled athletic competition and practice on Tuesday as events unfolded in the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

By Wednesday, things were back to normal for almost every area team. The Plymouth Whalers did postpone Thursday's game at Windsor. And Red-

ford St. Agatha cancelled practice for football and girls basketball, but that was due to delays in most of their athletes returning from a field trip to Canada.

The Farmington-North Farmington varsity and JV boys soccer games postponed from Tuesday will be played at 7 and 6:30 tonight, respectively.

The games, however, have been moved from North to Farmington High since the stadium facility at North was already scheduled for use.

On Tuesday, however, holding practices and games were the exception rather than the rule. Schoolcraft Col-

lege played its volleyball match at Macomb Community College on Tuesday night.

Redford Thurston cancelled its games - a girls basketball game against Taylor Kennedy and a swim meet with Livonia Franklin - but left practices to the discretion of coaches.

"We left it up to them," said Thurston athletic director Al Chambo. "The students who chose not to go could do so without a problem. The coaches were sensitive to this."

Only a handful of coaches chose to practice, including the girls tennis team - which spent more time sorting through the events of what was happening than hitting the ball.

"I wanted to be able to talk to the kids about what happened," said tennis coach Rich Bacolor, whose team spent 30 of its 45-minute practice discussing the day's events. "When something like

this happens, it's good to talk about it - talk about what was going on and what their reactions were. It was good for them to process the whole thing and they had some good questions."

For the Eagles, it was also a chance to get closer to themselves and the people around them.

"I wanted to be sure to remind the kids that there's more important things than tennis and how important their relationships with people are at times like this," said Bacolor. "We went through this last year (with the death of freshman cross country runner Diana Bastien) and the kids need to know that there are more important things."

The sentiment was shared across the area as schools - public and private, from Farmington to Wayne, from Plymouth to Redford - cancelled events.

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Senior star sets pace for North girls

SWIMMING

By DAN O'MEARA
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Not only is senior Lindsay McErlan back for one more season, the North Farmington swimmer is healthy this year.

A broken arm caused her to miss most of last season, but McErlan still managed to qualify for the state meet and score in two events.

McErlan's specialties are the backstroke and individual medley, but she had to swim the 100 freestyle and breaststroke in the Class A finals due to the injury.

As a sophomore, she took fifth place in the backstroke and IM at the state meet, and North coach Pat Duthie hopes McErlan ends her prep career with a big finish in November.

"She's looking pretty strong; fortunately, the injury from last year didn't carry over," Duthie said. "She made a great comeback last year and had lifetime bests in both events she was able to swim."

"They were off events, she couldn't swim the backstroke with her arm, and that took her out of the IM. She wasn't in top shape, but she had a real nice personal accomplishment."

"She demonstrated a lot of character to come back and do what she did. She's a real hard worker; she has nice talent and uses it well."

McErlan already is swimming under 2:11 in the IM and has her time down to 1:00.1 in the backstroke. The expectation is she'll swim those events again at the state meet.

"What place she gets is dependent on what the competition is," Duthie said. "I think she's looking to see what she can accomplish time-wise and see where those times take her."

"If she has a good year training and working hard, I believe she'll be just fine when it comes to the state meet, and things will fall into place pretty well for her."

With a talent like McErlan heading a strong senior class, the Raiders hope to have another good year in girls swimming and diving.

North was third in the Western Lakes Activities Association and returns 19 swimmers who scored points in last year's league meet.

The Raiders also finished third Saturday in the annual WLAA Relays



Senior leader: A broken arm kept North Farmington senior Lindsay McErlan from having the kind of season she hoped to have last year, but she's completely recovered and ready for the 2001 season.

behind Livonia Stevenson and Northville, which were first and second, respectively, in the 2000 championship meet.

McErlan is one of four senior captains with Susan Doty (diving), Sarah Puske (freestyle) and Alissa Melvin (breaststroke).

Puske went to state in the 500 freestyle and just missed qualifying in the 200. In the league meet, she was

third in both events; she'll also be a key relay swimmer.

The other seniors are Abby Johnson, Stephanie Karros, Melissa Nava, Sarah Reading, Alex Rosenhaus, Katie Ryan, Lindsey Taub and Kristin Ulewicz.

Nava, who was eighth in the 200 freestyle and 10th in the 100 at the WLAA meet, could be another individual.

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

GLIAC honors Wayne

Stephen Wayne of Farmington was named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's Special Tennis Player of the Week after he kicked the winning field goal Saturday for Wayne State University.

Wayne's 33-yard field goal with three seconds remaining gave the Warriors a 19-16 victory over host Ashland University at Community Stadium in Ashland, Ohio.

Ashland called a timeout with four seconds left in an unsuccessful attempt to tie Wayne, who also booted a 20-yard field goal in the second quarter.

"It was real exciting," said Wayne, who was mobbed by his teammates afterward. "I've been in that situation, and I've made it and missed it; so I know how it feels to do both. It feels much better to make it."

"When they called the timeout, I went to talk to my coach, and he said to just follow through. He said it was just a game-winner; it was no big deal."

"Last year I guess (the Warriors) lost on a last-second field goal to Ashland. So it was kinda the same situation - deja vu for everybody."

Wayne also made a touchdown-saving tackle on a kickoff Saturday.

"That made it all the more exciting," he said.

Wayne also kicks extra points for the Warriors (1-1), who lost their first game to Northern Iowa.

Afferbaugh wins race

Carol Afferbaugh of Farmington Hills placed first in her age bracket at the Mackinac Island 8 Mile Road Race on Saturday.

Her race-walk time was 1:41:04, which was a 12:38 pace per mile. Afferbaugh bested the other 25 runners in her bracket and finished 23 out of 278 in all age brackets.

This was the 31st year of the race, which is hosted by the St. Ignace Kivania Club.

Falcons win golf meet

A sixth-man tiebreaker was needed Friday to determine the winner in an all-Farmington, tri-meet golf event at Glen Oaks Golf Course.

Farmington was the winner on that basis, edging Farmington Harrison. Both teams were tied at 162 after four scores were counted.

The fifth-man tiebreaker didn't settle anything since Farmington's Jeff Tosoin and Harrison's Randy Yu shot 44 each.

Jason Welsh's 61 won it for Farmington. Harrison's sixth man, Matt Lee, usually its best golfer, withdrew due to injury.

FARMINGTON GOLF TRI-MEET Sept. 7 at Glen Oaks Golf Course

Farmington (162): Keith May, 40; Drew Mortons, 40; Bryan Proven, 41; Mike Schuyler, 41; Jeff Tosoin, 44; Jason Welsh, 51.

Harrison (162): Dave Koch, 39; Chris Fitzgerald, 40; Joey Grimes, 41; John Kuka, 42; Danny Dalg, 44.

N. Farmington (167): Brian Bober, 39; Bob Turkovich, 42; Alex Yerkes, 43; Justin Niechiz, 43; Randy Yu, 44; Tony Rea, 46.

Chevy soccer festival

The Chevrolet Soccer Festival and Tournament is coming to Farmington Hills on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 6 and 7, at Founders Sports Park.

Admission to the festival is free and teams wishing to participate in the tournament must contact the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association office at (248) 557-8220 or visit the www.maysa.net Web site.

The festival will include games, interactive activities and giveaways. There will be a memorabilia expo displaying jerseys and equipment from past U.S. national teams, a U.S. soccer history wall and a video that relives some of the exciting moments in soccer history.

Parent-child golf event

The Milford Police Athletic League is sponsoring a parent-child golf outing Sunday, Oct. 14, at Mytic Creek Golf Course. There will be a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

Teams will be flighted by the child's age. The divisions are 8-under, 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and senior.

The cost is \$60 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, buffet dinner and trophies to the top two teams in each division. For more information call Rick Sharpe at (248) 684-1322.

Marlins look forward to another good year

By DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy is working toward another winning season in girls field hockey, and nine returning players will have a key role in determining if the Marlins reach that goal.

Mercy was 6-3-3 in the 13-school Michigan High School Field Hockey Association and 9-5-4 overall last year.

"As long as we keep our focus and stay together as a team like we're doing now, I think we can have a very good season," Mercy coach Kim Norton said.

"It's a very good group. They get along together and work hard together. It's just a real nice bunch of girls to work with."

"A key player for the Marlins, who are 2-2 thus far in 2001, will be senior forward Molly O'Malley, who

FIELD HOCKEY

plays left inner. She earned all-state honors while leading Mercy in scoring with six goals and two assists.

Senior right inner Rachel Holland also returns. Sophomore Erin Griley will play left wing and junior Justine Hughes right wing.

Seniors Jackie Shinney, Angie Trudeau and Theresa Lawrence return to the midfield and will share the three starting positions with junior Elyse Corneille.

"The midfield is probably our strongest line," Norton said. "They're really able to maneuver the ball and switch sides of the field very well."

The Marlins have a veteran goal-keeper in senior Stephanie Yuhana, who stopped 60 of 82 shots last year.

Please see **FIELD HOCKEY, D6**

Raiders notch victories over Rockets, Captains

By DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington scored three goals in the first 17 minutes Monday and coasted to a 3-1 victory over host Westland John Glenn in boys soccer.

Sermet Alver knocked in a corner kick by Matt Holland nine minutes into the game for the first North goal.

Jeff Shumer sent a pass to Holland up the middle; Holland beat two defenders and put a low shot past the Glenn keeper for a 2-0 score.

The opposing goalie stopped a shot by Shumer, but the ball caromed to North's Greg Pekarsky, who fired the rebound into the net from 12 yards for his sixth goal of the season.

With 10 minutes left in the first half, Glenn sophomore Kyle Giamondi split two North defenders, causing them to collide, and scored his team's goal.

The Raiders had an 18-6 advantage in shots taken and a 5-1 edge in corner kicks.

"We got all the players in; everybody

SOCCER

played both halves," North coach Ron Meteyer said. "Everybody got playing time; that was our goal."

Raiders defeat Captains

A pair of second-half goals Saturday cemented North Farmington's 5-3 victory over host Waterford Kettering.

Like the Glenn game, the Raiders built a 3-0 lead in the first half and led 3-1 at halftime.

Nathan Miller brought down Holland's corner kick and one-touched the ball to the far post for the first goal at 30:36.

Two minutes later Holland made the Kettering goalie dive to his left, but he put the ball off the right post and into the net.

Mohammed Bachrouche received a pass from Steve Denton with his back to the goal, turned and shot it from 8

Please see **SOCCER, D3**