

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Marlins' field day

Farmington Mercy's field hockey team notched a pair of shutouts during the week, besting Birmingham Detroit Country Day, 2-0, on Thursday after blanking Livonia Ladywood, 3-0, on Tuesday.

Juniors Justin Hughes and Kelly Bayer scored the goals against the Yellowjackets with seniors Rachael Holland and Molly O'Malley gaining the assists.

Country Day eliminated Mercy in the semifinals of last year's MHSFHA playoffs last year.

Senior goalie Stephanie Yuhaz ran her shutout total for the season to five with the two whitewashes. The Marlins are 7-2.

Tie-break heartbreak

Westland John Glenn defeated Farmington Harrison in a tie-breaker Thursday when the two teams were deadlocked at 154 in their Western Lakes Activities Association golf match at San Marino.

The top four scorers for each team count this season with a fifth shooter counting if the squads post identical totals.

Glenn's Dan Schenk shot 44 to the 45 posted by Harrison's John Kluka to break the tie.

Jason Lang of Westland and Junichi Miura of Harrison each shot par of 36 to share medalist honors for the match.

Other scorers for John Glenn (5-1, 4-1 WLA) were Rich Sudak at 37, Jeremy Fendeleit with a 39 and Keith Fukuda at 42. Nick Macika also shot a non-scoring 46.

Other scorers for Harrison (2-4 overall and WLA) were Matt Lee with a 37, Matt Kjolhede at 38 and Dave Koch at 43. Non-scorer Joey Graves recorded a 47.

Baseball tryouts

The South Farmington Blues 11-under team, champions of their Little Caesars division last season, are holding tryouts from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, on Field 3 at Founders Sports Park.

For more information, call (248) 476-8908.

Concealed Security is forming a baseball team for 13-year-olds and will hold tryouts on Sept. 23.

For more information, call (248) 471-1748 or (313) 537-3449.

The South Farmington Blues will hold tryouts for its 14-under travel baseball team on Sept. 29.

For more information call (248) 477-3523.

STC sessions

The Suburban Training Center will hold a power skating class for beginners ages seven and up on Fridays starting Oct. 5. Pre-registration is required.

The 10-week session will be taught by instructor Geoff Bennetts. He will teach proper technique for forward and backward skating, crossovers, body positioning, balance, agility and use of inside and outside skate edges.

Full equipment is required. Skaters must know how to stop in both directions and have experience with forward crossovers to enroll in the class.

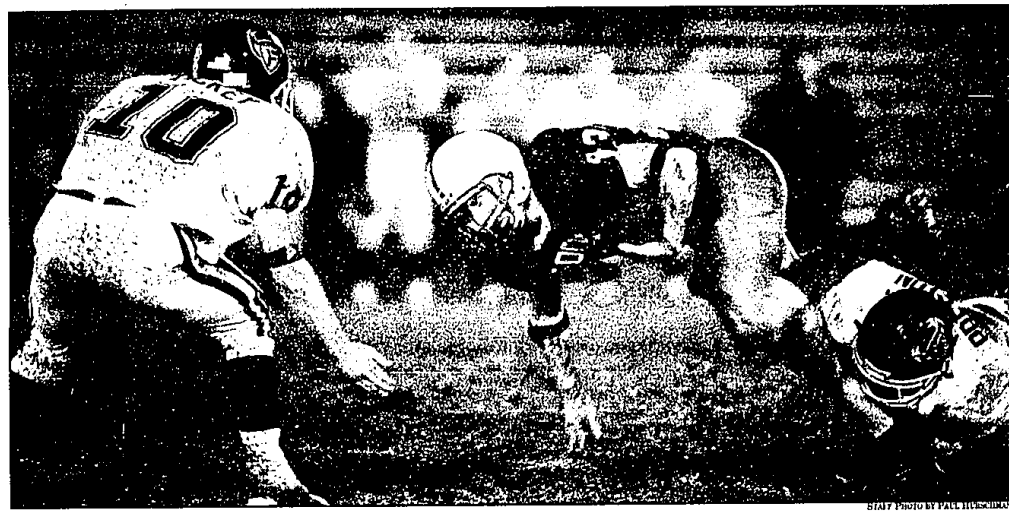
For more information on the class or any other Skate Great Training Program, call the Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400.

Suburban Hockey is still accepting registrations for its Breakfast Club and Prime Time Program — a pair of weekly skills and conditioning sessions for adult hockey players of all ability levels.

There will be two 10-week sessions (October-December and January-March) of the Breakfast Club at four locations in the Metro Detroit area, including Novi Ice Arena and Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

For more information on any Suburban Hockey program, call (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com on the internet.

Rocks, mud keep Falcons winless



Enjoy your trip: Salem quarterback Scott Hewitt is tripped up by Farmington's Danny Preston (right) as the Falcons' Bryan Dickey (10) gets ready just in case. The Rocks ended up on top, 18-12, Friday night in the battle of winless teams.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Playing on a field only a "mudder" could love, Plymouth Salem's Myron Covington kept his footing Friday night while everyone around him seemed to be slipping and sliding.

The senior running back high-stepped over Salem's rain-slicked field and through Farmington High's off-balance defense for 182 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Rocks to an 18-12 victory over winless Farmington.

The win was a career first for Salem coach Bob Cummings following four season-opening setbacks.

"It was a long time coming," a smiling Cummings said as he reflected on his milestone. "I feel great for the team more than anything. They've worked very hard all season and during the off-season, and they deserve a night like this, especially since it's homecoming."

"Myron had a great game on a very muddy field, but I was proud of the entire team tonight. When the defense faltered, the offense stepped up. When

the offense couldn't get anything going, the defense would make a big play."

Farmington coach John Bechtel said Salem adjusted to the less-than-ideal field better than the Falcons.

"We run a lot of perimeter plays on offense that we couldn't run effectively tonight because of the conditions," Bechtel said. "But give Salem credit — they had to play on the same field and they were successful."

"(Covington) hurt our defense up the middle tonight. It's the first time a team has been able to run on the interior of our line this season. We just couldn't get any footing up front."

Salem took full advantage of three key Farmington miscues — a fumble, an interception and a high snap on a punt. Two of the mistakes, the fumble and the high snap, led directly to touchdowns, while the interception put the kids on a potential game-tying drive late in the game.

Salem resembled anything but an 0-4 team on the game's opening drive. Led by powerful, between-the-tackle runs

and excellent offensive line play, the Rocks drove 63 yards on 14 plays before scoring on Mike Kerul's 8-yard dash up the middle.

Covington set the early tone by rushing seven times for 45 yards on the opening drive, which did not include a single pass.

Farmington (0-5) tied the game at 6-6 on the final play of the first quarter when quarterback Brad Walsh and senior running back Anthony Lutman hooked up on a 6-yard TD pass. The score was set up two plays earlier when Falcon running back Preston Picard caught a pass in the flat and sprinted 58 yards to the Rock 6-yard line.

Both team's defenses buckled down in the second quarter, which featured three punts and an interception by Falcon safety Danny Preston on the final play of the half.

Despite running 28 offensive plays to Farmington's 16, the Rocks managed to compile just six more yards — 96-90 — than the Falcons in the first half.

Salem defensive tackle David Hull

turned in the first big defensive play of the night for the Rocks when he recovered a fumble on the Farmington 16 with 7:49 left in the third quarter. Three plays later, Covington busted into the end zone from 9 yards out to put Salem up 12-6.

After the Falcons' next drive fizzled, the long snap to the punter sailed over Picard's head. He managed to recover, but Salem had the ball anyway on the Farmington 15.

The opportunistic Rocks capitalized immediately, scoring three plays later on a 14-yard off-tackle run by Covington to make it 18-6 with 1:54 left in the third quarter.

Undaunted, Farmington bounced back with a six-play, 70-yard touchdown drive on its next possession to cut its deficit to 18-12 with 11:54 to go in the game. The drive was climaxed by a perfect 26-yard touchdown pass from Walsh to Bobby Houchins. Salem's John Dellapelle sacked Walsh on the two-point conversion attempt.

Please See FOOTBALL, B2

Hawks rely
on return of
Richmond

A "welcome back" led to a welcome win for Farmington Harrison's girls basketball team.

Harrison, bolstered by the presence of Ayana Richmond for the first time this season, roared out to a 22-3 lead in the first quarter Thursday night and never looked back in a 65-36 scorching of Western Lakes Activities Association foe Westland John Glenn.

"It was great to have Ayana back," Hawks' coach Pete Mantyla said, "because she makes everybody better."

"Glenn was a little short-handed and had some girls who didn't play so I don't think they were as good as they would have been."

"We shot better from the free-throw line (16-of-27) and that's an area we put a lot of time into and have struggled with, so it's good to make progress."

"Our goal after the non-league season was to prepare for the league. I hope that we've done that."

The record doesn't reflect it, of course, but the Richmond might have been a blessing for

Please See HOOPS, B4

Raiders, Hawks run to wins

It was a long time coming.

North Farmington captured the city public school girls cross country championship Thursday while Farmington Harrison won the boys side in meets held concurrently at Cass Benton Park.

North Farmington edged Farmington for the girls title, 31-35, with Harrison a distant third at 61.

It was the first girls cross country city public school title for North Farmington since 1994 and snapped at least a three-year winning streak of Farmington's in the meet.

Harrison edged North Farmington, 34-39, for the boys championship with Farmington third at 55 points.

(Note: See Page B2 for the complete list of boys and girls finishes.)

"It was our first title in a while, but I can't remember exactly just when," Coach John Reed of the boys Hawks said. "We've won a few, but it's been at least 4-5 years."

"The big story for us is that we've got a lot of seniors on the team. And the interesting thing is these guys did not win a dual meet until the end of their junior season."

"We have 16 guys who have been together since freshman and sophomore years. They've paid their dues for at least three solid years."

"It was a big day for them. Winning the city championship was their goal since they've been together."

Coach Bill Pinnell was very pleased his North Farmington girls found the right stuff to beat Farmington.

Three years ago the Falcons edged the Raiders, 28-29, and in the back of

Pinnell's mind he was plotting to make sure there would be no repeats.

"I knew that we were going to have a very close meet with Farmington," Pinnell said, "because they have a pack of 4-5 girls who are within a minute of each other."

"I knew we had to break that up."

"We had to have Susan (Barrows) and Nicole (Moundros) in front of their pack."

Barrows ran a spiffy 19:49 to finish first overall while Moundros was third with a 20:56, just 14 ticks of the second half behind runnerup Christine Metry of Harrison.

"Metry had a good race for Harrison," Pinnell said. "Nicole ran a good race, too. She knew she had to finish up in front of the Farmington pack and she did."

"But probably the key to our win was Katie Milan. She ran a personal best time of 21:35 and was able to break up the Farmington pack."

"She ended up fifth overall and just ran an outstanding race."

"Either Katie or Kristen Stamboularian (ninth) had to break up their top five."

Which Milan did.

Farmington's Claire Czaplicki took fourth with Falcons taking places 6-8 (Megan Annarino, Kristin Balla, Rachael Button) and Shanna Barkume taking 10th.

"The ladies did a good job," Pinnell said. "They knew what we had to do and we got the job done. It was a big win for us."

Harrison's boys cross country team

boasted the individual winner in junior Brian Coats, who turned in a 17:29 to be North Farmington's Eugene Furman by five seconds.

"I felt we had a chance going in," Reed said. "I told the guys we had to have some of those fifth, sixth and seventh runners. We had to work and try to beat North's fourth man — and we did that. We knew it was going to be very close."

The Hawks' Greg Ardisana took sixth and Harrison solidified its position by taking spots 8-10 (Dan Coats, John Keller and Steve Sargol) plus Wayne Wright in 12th.

"Nothing really surprises me," Reed said, "but I'm really proud. What didn't surprise me is that they rose up and did it."

"They've been training for this meet for a long time. They've been healthy and ready to run for a long time. They were real solid."

Reed was pleased with the continuing development of Brian Coats.

"This is his second year of cross country. He's quietly and quickly establishing himself as a cross country runner. He's going to be a good one."

"We had great races by our two senior captains, Ardisana and Sargol. They both came through big for us."

"We have depth, and I think that's important. It's not necessarily running incredible times, but turning in solid times. As a team, that's what you need."

And as a team, that what both the North Farmington girls and Farmington Harrison boys both got.

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