

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Local runners win

Runners throughout the Observer & Eccentric area recently visited Birmingham for the 24th annual Birmingham Lions Leader Dog Run for the Visually Impaired.

The event, which consisted of 10- and five-kilometer runs and a one-mile walk over a protected course through downtown Birmingham and surrounding residential areas, was held this past Sunday.

Monica Czerwinski of Farmington Hills won the women's division of the 5K with a time of 20:47.

Male 5K age-group champions included David Shuman of Farmington (25:29, 19:58) and Isadore King of Farmington Hills (20:49, 27:49).

Female 5K age-group champions included Cynthia Wade of Farmington Hills (40:44, 27:00).

Densmore All-MIAA

Lindsey Densmore of Albion, a Farmington Hills Mercy product, was one of three Briton golfers to earn All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association status.

Hope College's women's golf team came from 20 strokes down Saturday on the second day of the Division III Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship to defeat the winner of the last two years, Albion College, by two strokes at Brookwood Golf Club in Niles, Mich.

Sophomore Densmore shot a 94 Saturday to finish with a two-day total of 185.

Ex-Hawks star

Former Farmington Harrison stars Zach Burton and Brett Foster played key roles Saturday in Kalamazoo College's 38-13 victory over Colorado College, making the Britons 4-0 for the first time since 1982.

Junior tight end Burton caught a 9-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bryan Gnyb at the end of the first quarter to give Kalamazoo a 17-7 lead.

Sophomore Foster had one tackle for a loss from his defensive end position.

Other Farmington Hills natives on the Britons' football team include senior offensive lineman Brian Lewis (Harrison), junior defensive back Tim Muir (North Farmington) and freshman quarterback Brett Brown (Farmington).

Double-threat Chris

Freshman running back Chris Roberson (Farmington Harrison) was a double offensive threat for Eastern Michigan on Saturday in the Eagles' 31-10 loss to Western Michigan.

Roberson ran for 118 yards on 21 carries to lead the Eastern Michigan running attack and also tied for the lead in pass receptions.

Roberson caught four passes for 18 yards.

OLS honorees

Six students from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish have received a 2001 CYO Fall Scholar-Athlete Award.

They are: A. J. Heger and Colleen Maxwell from Our Lady of Sorrows School, Claire Kenney from Spiritus Sanctus Academy, Steve Maiorana from the University of Detroit-Jesuit, Rachel Staran of O. E. Dunekel Middle School and Kenneth Zonzini of East Middle School.

The CYO Scholar-Athlete Award is given to one boy and one girl per school with a grade point average of 3.0 or better who have shown good citizenship and leadership abilities both in school and on their athletic teams.

Marlins swimming

Farmington Mercy's swim team finished second Saturday in the Plymouth Salem Invitational.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won with 320 points while Mercy was next with 274. Livonia Stevenson was third at 223 and host Salem fourth among the six teams with 141 points.

Leslie Banas was a double winner, taking the backstroke and 200 IM. Sarah Schuchardt and Carrie Roble each won a 50-meter freestyle heat while Laura MacKay and Emily Gariepy both took a heat in the 100 butterfly. Jackie Smith won the 100 backstroke.

The Marlins also captured heats in four relays. They won the 200 medley (Smith, Elena Milewski, Annette Merchant, Gariepy), the 200 freestyle relay (Moira Croghan, MacKay, Rochelle Hughes, Kaitlin Jackson) plus two 400 freestyle relay heats (Coen, Margaret Ready, Becca Hallin, Leslie Banas and Merchant, Roble, Smith, Eloise Page).

Marlin field hockey on the rise

By RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Mercy field hockey coach Kim Norton has good vision — she can see the present and the future at the same time.

Norton has her eye on what's happening to her Marlins at the current moment.

After defeating visiting Dearborn Edsel Ford, 5-0, Monday, Mercy improved to 7-2 overall and 6-2 in the league composed entirely of the state's 13 schools fielding field hockey teams.

"They're clicking well together," Norton said. "This is a good season for them."

"I'm looking forward to placing in the top four before heading into states. We've never placed in the top four before. I think this team can do it."

If it can, that would allow the Marlins a better seeding for the state tournament. Home grass advantage is nothing to be sneezed at.

But while Norton wants the absolute best for her team today, she also wants an even better Mercy field hockey program in the future.

There are lots of ways to do this but the biggest would be increased popularity of the sport at the grass roots level.

Getting girls exposed to field hockey before they enter high school helps. There isn't much Norton can do in that regard because she doesn't know who her freshmen are until they've been accepted for enrollment.

Some areas, such as nearby Ann Arbor, have city recreation programs for youngsters at the middle school level or below.

And because most of those girls wind up in Ann Arbor area schools, that gives their high school programs a distinct advantage.

Freshmen entering those schools have already been exposed to the sport's basics,

whereas Mercy's incoming freshmen often don't see their first field hockey stick until shortly before it whacks them on the shins on the opening day of practice.

"It's hard not having that feed-in program," Norton said. "But on the other hand, we've got a lot of good athletes here."

One thing Norton does to play catch-up is take her squad to clinics and keep them working and playing together between varsity seasons.

This is the Marlins' eighth season of field hockey and the level of the program keeps constantly going up.

Norton felt the win over Edsel Ford was a nice illustration of how her squad has grown together.

Mercy controlled play, not allowing Edsel Ford a shot on goal while getting 13 of its own. Goalkeeper Stephanie Yuhaz recorded her fifth shutout.

"Our team has been playing very well together," Norton said. "They don't just try to do it by themselves. That's why they're successful."

"Most of our goals have been assisted. We're maneuvering the ball around their opponents because of our teamwork. They work very well together."

"We've got a lot of seniors on our team but the underclassmen have been a major part, too. A lot of them start."

Mercy got two goals in the first half against Edsel Ford, both by Molly O'Malley. Erin Gruley drew an assist on the first goal.

In the second half, Gruley scored with an assist by Justine Hughes, then Jackie Shinn and Caitlyn Hayes set one another up for scores, both coming out of the corner.

"Both were perfect corner goals," Norton said. Now the stretch run begins.



I'll take that: Captain Molly O'Malley of Farmington Mercy is poised to take command. She scored twice to get the Marlins going against Edsel Ford.

The Marlins are gearing up for the Catholic schools' tournament Saturday at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills.

Mercy also has to face rugged Ann Arbor Pioneer and tough Grosse Pointe University Liggett as part of its regular season.

Then comes the state tournament, which begins Oct. 20, another measuring stick for the Marlins' program. Could be fun.

Falcons, Hawks, Raiders bring home wins



Synchronized soccer: Harrison's Brett Laird (4), who scored against Southfield Lathrup, and Chris Diehl (1) are shown in action earlier this season against Redford Union. The Hawks broke from a 1-1 halftime tie Monday to thrash Lathrup, 7-1.

It was a win-win situation as far as Farmington High School soccer was concerned.

Farmington beat visiting Northville, 2-1, Monday after defeating host Walled Lake Central, 4-0, on Saturday. The victories left the Falcons 10-2-1 overall and 2-2 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Falcons took command some three minutes into their match against the Mustangs.

A long throw from Nick Ramirez to Matt Konopinski in front of goal resulted in the forward heading home the score.

Then, with about 10 minutes left in the first half, Konopinski got his second goal on a long pass from Adam Lidgely.

Konopinski took on two defenders and beat them, putting the ball over the Northville goalkeeper to make it 2-0 at the half.

Northville had control of the ball more but the quality scoring opportunities belonged to Farmington.

"They controlled midfield," Coach Luke Juncj of the Falcons said, "but we had better counterattacks. The second half was an even game."

Northville managed to get on the scoreboard with 12 minutes left in the game.

Farmington also had a penalty kick with two minutes to play but Northville's goalkeeper made the stop.

"There was no doubt that we deserved to win," Juncj said. "We had

the better chances. We had a lot more chances and shots on goal."

"It was a big game. Northville is ranked in Division I and we are No. 2 in Division II."

"I was really happy to come out on top. Those were two great teams playing."

Andrew Martin was in goal for Farmington, which had a 14-12 edge in shots on goal.

In Saturday's match, Matt Kopny, Nick Ramirez, Michael Batkie and Joe Russo scored the four Farmington goals while Martin recorded the shutout.

Konopinski had two assists and Batkie one as the Falcons had a 16-4 edge in shots. They led, 2-0, at the half.

"I thought our defense played a great game," Juncj said. "Our goalkeeper had a solid game. So did Kasey Lopata and so did Matt Cave, Eric Gaughn and Chris McDonnell."

"Our midfield also had a decent game. Konopinski and Kopny worked very well together. Northville's defense had a very hard time containing them. They were able to create a lot of chances for each other."

Hawks take one

The Hawks breezed to a nice victory Monday at Southfield Lathrup.

Farmington Harrison broke from a 1-1 halftime tie with six unanswered goals and half goals to earn a 7-1 non-conference win.

Please See SOCCER, D4

Falcons get to run away with a win

GIRLS HOOPS

There's nothing like a little positive reinforcement to get a lesson across.

And in basketball, positive reinforcement is winning games.

Host Farmington knocked off visiting Birmingham Groves, 67-53, Tuesday night to reinforce some of the lessons Coach Scott Lowe has been trying to impress on his Falcon girls basketball team.

"Our front line, that's what makes our guards go," Lowe said. "Our guards are our top two scorers but it's our forwards getting the ball out that make it go."

Julie Kimmel scored a career high 20 points and also had 22 rebounds for

Farmington (6-3). Brittany Coleman scored 19 while Randin Brown hit 14 with eight assists. Jaria Atkins scored a dozen and also had 15 rebounds. "Kimmel and Atkins got the ball out to our guards, Coleman and Brown," Lowe said. "And I'd also like to cite Lindsay Abbott, Kelsey Guisbert and Deanna Guier. They came in, filled their spots and played very well."

The Falcons broke from a 14-14 tie after one period to take a 31-22 halftime lead. They added three points to

the margin in the third quarter.

Farmington went 17-for-27 from the free throw line while Groves (3-6) was 9-for-23. Candace Procter led Groves with 15 points while Candice Williams added 12.

"Groves is a pretty good basketball team," Lowe said. "They have some height, go inside well and have a girl who drills it from the outside pretty well."

"Our kids are doing what we ask them to do. They play tough on defense."

"We're giving up some points, but we push the ball up so we'll give up points. Right now the kids are doing what they

have to.

"The key to our game is the forwards getting the ball and getting it out to our guards."

"We also preach desire, dedication and discipline. If we do all those things, we'll be all right."

Raiders play overtime

Time is a fickle commodity in sports. Sometimes there's too much; other times not enough.

It was a little of both Tuesday night for North Farmington as the Raiders pushed Walled Lake Western past the

Please See HOOPS, D6