

# SPORTS & RECREATION

B-1  
Hockey B4  
Sunday, November 25, 2001

## Flyers settle for tie in home opener

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### HOCKEY

Looks like the renewal of the Birmingham-Farmington hockey rivalry is off to a good start.

Birmingham Unified scored with six seconds to play Wednesday night to complete a comeback from a 5-3 deficit and salvage a 5-5 tie with the Farmington Flyers in a non-conference preview of what will be a conference game next season.

Birmingham is a member of the Oakland Activities Association (Division I), which Farmington will join next year when it leaves the Western Lakes Activities Association. Both schools also played in the old Suburban High School Hockey League.

out as Farmington was trying to stave the opposition off.

"We let one get away," Harris said. "But my main concern is that this is the second game in a row. We were fortunate to win a two-overtime game in the other one. We had a 3-1 lead in that one. Here, we were up, 5-3."

"We've got to get in better shape. We made a lot of bad mistakes and the reason we have to be concerned with that is our conditioning."

Duvo Patterson brought Birmingham within a goal with 5:53 to play, converting a passout from behind the net by Khorntal Delvecchio.

The third period started 3-3, but Farmington scored two of its three power-play goals to get out in front.

Laird split the middle, deked goalie Ryan Stein and slipped the puck into the left side of an open net with 13:06 to play, just 16 seconds into a power play.

Laird scored again with 6:57 left, 43 seconds into a power play,



Tourney champs: Members of the Farmington Flyers hockey team presented FPS Athletic Director Brian Swinehart with the trophy they received for winning the Redford Unified Invitational. Pictured left to right are Matt Lee, assistant coach Mark Vellucci, Brad Heraghy, assistant coach Jay Johnson, Swinehart, Keith Hay and head coach Mike Harris.

"Mike (Harris) and I have coached against each other for years," Birmingham coach Bill Reopmeyer said. "They fit right into our league."

"They used to be in our old league, the Suburban," Farmington coach Mike Harris said. "I'm glad to have them on our schedule this year."

"They did us a favor. They beat us here last year, 7-4, and agreed to play us here again."

Farmington (2-0-1) got a natural hat trick from Keith Hay and two goals from Brett Laird while Birmingham (0-1-1) had five different players score goals.

Brent Sarcone tallied the tying goal with six seconds left and Birmingham's goalie off the ice. He scored from the left side as the result of a 3-on-1 break-

when he batted the puck into the net from the left side.

Farmington had a slight upper hand in the first period, but Birmingham controlled play most of the second and had a slight edge in the third.

"We've started that way in both our games," Reopmeyer said. "At the end, we really poured it on. Our kids just have to learn how to play that way a whole game."

"I think we're going to be real strong this year. We had to play whole games like we played that last five minutes."

"It's going to take a little time to meld. We've got 11 returning players and 13 new."

Hay scored from a scramble out in front with 9:59 left in the opening period and gave his team a 2-1 lead on a power play marker with 7:57 to play in



Hockey action: Farmington's Marc Rauth controls the puck Wednesday night while Matt Losey of Birmingham gives chase.

the second.

Miko Hand carried the puck across the blue line, veered to the middle and passed to Hay, who scored from the left faceoff circle.

Birmingham's Brian Svik tied it, 2-2, just 11 seconds later, scoring from in front of Farmington netminder Aaron Allor.

Mark Cromar had scored Birmingham's first goal from the right faceoff circle into the far left corner on a power play at 9:45 of the second period.

Hay gave Farmington a 3-2 lead from the left faceoff circle with 1:22 left in the second period, but Birmingham scored with seven seconds left in the

middle period to create the 3-3 tie. Chris Hebert lobbed a short shot by Allor from close range.

"I thought we'd play a little better," Harris said. "Hay's line played well. And we got a good game from (sophomore) Laird."

"But we didn't get the goaltending you need at this level. And I'm concerned about that. We need to do a better job of preparing Allor for these games. But he'll get better. We need to bring everybody's play up a level."

"This was a good, hard-fought, well-played game," Reopmeyer said. "You hope all the games are that competitive."

### FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### Cheerleading record

Farmington Harrison's football team isn't the only one setting records this year. Two varsity cheerleaders have set one, too.

Seniors Angela Fodor and Jacqui Smylie are the only cheerleaders to have cheered four consecutive years for the Hawks in the Silverdome.

They're four-year members of the varsity squad and have cheered for the Hawks in the state finals each year, including Saturday night in the 2001 final against Fruitport.

Fodor and Smylie are likely to be the only ones in school history to have that distinction since a change in the rules no longer permits freshmen cheerleaders to be on the varsity.

Smylie and Fodor are tri-captains of the varsity cheerleading squad along with Amy Dewar, who joined the team as a sophomore.

#### Sarnia whips Whalers

For only the fourth time this season, the Plymouth Whalers lost in regulation play as the Sarnia Sting came away with a 5-2 victory Wednesday at Compuware Arena.

The loss dropped the Whalers to 17-4-3 in the Ontario Hockey League, while Sarnia is 14-11-1-1.

Sarnia scored three times in the opening period, including a Kris Newbury goal just 16 seconds into the game from Juris Stals and Ryan Delmonte.

Stals scored again off a feed from Matt Barnann at 9:04, and Dusty Jamieson made it 3-0 at 13:40 from Newbury and Barnann.

The Whalers charged goalie after the third Sting goal as Paul Drew replaced Jason Benschuh.

In the second period, Damian Sarna scored an unassisted, short-handed goal at 5:16, but the Sting returned the favor at 11:18 on an Eric Himelfarb goal.

Newbury scored again at 1:05 of the third on a power play. The Whalers got a short-handed goal at 3:55 from Gregory Campbell with assists by Brad Yeo and James Wisniewski.

#### Warriors 11th in NCAA

The Wayne State University men's cross country team placed 11th at the NCAA Division II Championships Nov. 17 in Slippery Rock, Pa.

Junior Nick Allen (Plymouth Salem) led the Warriors, finishing the 10,000-meter race in 19th place with a time of 32:37.8, earning All-American honors.

Miko Buslepp was 61st (33:57.3), Brian Goodwin 73rd (34:17.0), Joe Verellen (Livonia Stevenson) 75th (34:19.6) and Charlie Stamboulion (North Farmington) 92nd (34:46.4).

WSU scored 320 points in its first appearance at the national meet. Western State College of Colorado won the team title with 38 points.

The Warriors finished ahead of Lewis University, the team that defeated them at an NCAA regional two weeks ago. Lewis placed 12th at the championships with 321 points.

#### Adult hockey players

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association needs additional players for the current season in the over-30 and over-40 age groups. Players of all skill levels are needed; however, the association has a sufficient number of goalies. To inquire about playing, call the FFHAA at (248) 471-6004 and leave a voice-mail message.

#### AAU girls hoop tryouts

Open tryouts for the Michigan Motion AAU girls basketball club will be Dec. 8-9 at Novi Middle School, located at the corner of 11 Mile and Wilcox roads.

The tryout schedule for Saturday: Dec. 8, 14-and-under, 9:45-11:30 a.m.; 13-and-under, 11:16 a.m.-1 p.m.; 11- and 12-and-under, 12:45-2:30 p.m.; 16- and 17-under, 2:15-4 p.m.

The tryout schedule for Sunday, Dec. 9: 14- and 12-and-under, 9:45-11:30 a.m.; 13 and 11-and-under, 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m.; 16- and 17-and-under, 12:45-2:30 p.m.

A parent or guardian must sign participating players in. For more information, call Pat or Mike Puck from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at (248) 486-1516.

Tryouts for the Motor City Blazers, a 16-and-under AAU girls basketball club, will be 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

For more information, call Patrick



Area teams battle: Churchill's Derrick Lasecki (right) challenges Catholic Central's Jeff Frough for possession of the puck.

## Shamrocks survive rally by Chargers for 5-3 win

BY PAUL DEAUDRY  
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### HOCKEY

Watching Redford Catholic Central's hockey game with Livonia Churchill on Wednesday night was like watching the Detroit Lions-Green Bay Packers football game on Thanksgiving Day.

This is not, for a second, saying the Chargers are anything like the hapless Lions.

But the games shared the bond in that the team that was expected to win ran out to a big lead. And the team that wasn't expected to win, came back to make it very close.

In Wednesday's case, CC had a 5-1 lead midway through the third period before Churchill scored two late goals to cut the final margin to 5-3 at Eddie Edgar Arena.

"If you take away the first few minutes of the game, it was a 3-3 game," said CC coach Gordie St. John, as his team took its first win of the season in two starts. "We got off to a fast start, but I think both teams still need to work on their systems. It's early yet. You could tell that they wanted to slow the game down and that we wanted to take the play to them and go up-tempo. We wanted to pick up the pace. Our (defense) was open a lot."

The Shamrocks jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first two minutes taking the Chargers (0-1-1) out of the flow for the bulk of the period. With just 1:45 gone,

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### ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

## Area squad includes Harrison, North runners

BY BRAD ENONS  
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The Livonia Churchill girls cross country team was put to the test this season, and coach Sue Tatigian's Chargers once again received high marks.

Pushed by neighboring Livonia Stevenson, a perennial power in the area, Churchill came away with champion in five meets while placing four on the first-team, All-Observer squad.

"We showed a lot of resiliency to win our conference (the Western Lakes) for the second year in a row and improve our finish in the state meet (Division I) from 13th to ninth," said Tatigian, who was named Observerland Coach of the

Year for the second time. "It was one of my most enjoyable seasons coaching because it was fun to see the girls improve throughout the season."

Churchill also captured the Livonia Public Schools, Wayne County, New Boston Huron and Monroe-Jefferson invitationals.

Tatigian is a 1985 Stevenson grad who is a former All-Area runner who later competed in both track and cross country at Michigan State.

The 34-year-old Tatigian began her coaching career at Livonia Franklin before moving to Churchill in 1996 where she has guided the Chargers to four Western Division crowns and two WLAA titles. Regional champion Stevenson also made its presence



Christine Metry, Farmington Hills



Susan Barrows, North Farmington

known by placing three on the first team, introducing the 2001 All-Observer Girls Cross Country Team:

**ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM**  
Susan Duncan, senior, Churchill: The three-time All-Observer pick was the area's top finisher at the Division I state meet (16th) with a time of 19 minutes, 8 seconds, a personal best. Duncan also is a two-time Western Lakes Activities Association champion and set the league course record this year at Kensington Metropark in 19:28.

This fall, she also took firsts at the Livonia Public Schools, Monroe-Jefferson and Wayne County meets. She was runner-up at the regional and South Lyon Invitationals. The three-time state qualifier and two-year team captain also took first at New Boston Huron (19:43), seventh at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard (19:35) and eighth at West Bloomfield. She is a three-time Churchill MVP and has the fourth-fastest Charger time on the Cass Brenton Park course.

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, B2