

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Begin the year with a run

The Lake Orion Downtown Developmental Authority is still accepting registrations for the inaugural New Year's Resolution Run, which will take place on Jan. 1, 2002 in Lake Orion. The race, set for a 10 a.m. start, is a charity event for Orion area resident Brian Thomas, who will be making a run for his charity, Cerebral Palsy, when he leaves from Lake Orion to St. Augustine, Fla., early next year. Cost is \$16 per runner and that includes a free T-shirt. The race is a 5k run that will feature 2 laps around downtown Lake Orion and Orion Township.

To pre-register, call (248) 693-9742, or stop by the DDA office, located at 22 W. Flint in Lake Orion.

Hockey players needed

The Farmington Hills Adults Hockey Association needs additional players for the current season on all three age groups — 18-and-over, over-30, and over-40.

The association has enough goals; no more are needed. For more information call the FFAHA at 471-6004 and leave a voice-mail message.

Suburban Hockey is holding several clinics for young hockey players over the holidays.

The clinics, for ages 6-14, will be held Dec. 26-29 at the Suburban Training Center, located at 23996 Freeway Park Drive in Farmington Hills. The clinics will also be offered on the same days at the Eddy Edgar Arena in Livonia and Rochester Ice Arena in Rochester.

The three-day clinics will be split up into three different age groups:

- Mite power skating and puck handling, for ages 6-8, will focus on individual skill development, and teach stickhandling and puck control. Classes run from 9-10:50 a.m.
- Squirt power skating and stick skills, for ages 9-10, will develop each player's skating skills with a focus on control, power, acceleration and speed, as well as stickhandling skills. Classes run 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.
- Pee Wee/Bantam checking and scoring, for ages 11-14, will enhance offensive and defensive skills. Classes run 1-2:50 p.m.

There is limited class space. In addition, the Suburban Training Center will hold a 10-week intermediate power skating class for ages 9 and older of Fridays from 4-4:50 p.m. beginning Jan. 11. Instructor Geoff Bennetts will teach proper skating techniques. Full equipment is required, and skaters must know how to stop in both directions and have experience with forward crossovers to take this class.

For more information, call Suburban at (248) 478-1600 or visit its Web site at www.suburbanhockey.com.

Pitching/Hitting camp

The Michigan All-Star Pitching and Hitting Camp is set to start Sunday, Jan. 20 at Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills campus gymnasium, located at 2900 Featherstone in Auburn Hills. The following three sessions will be Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10.

The hitting camp, featuring Bruce Fields, will teach the fundamentals of hitting, with individual drills, swing mechanics, tee work, live hitting and soft toss. The pitching camp, featuring Jeff Jones and Dave Maroon, will center on pre-season preparation, pitching mechanics, pitch development and fielding for pitchers.

Cost is \$195 for either the hitting or pitching camp.

There will be three times offered for the hitting camp and two for the pitching camp. Hitting: noon-1:30 p.m., or 6-6:30 p.m., or 8:40-9:10 p.m.; pitching: 1:40-3:10 p.m. or 3:20-4:50 p.m. Those who are interested can attend both camps for \$325, with sessions from noon-3:10 p.m. or 3:20-4:50 p.m.

Included in the price is a Michigan All-Star Pitching and Hitting camp T-shirt.

Space is limited. For more information, call Dave Maroon at (734) 421-5734 or Jeff Jones at (734) 285-8288.

FPS seeks coaches

Farmington Public Schools has need for coaches in the following areas: girls track, girls soccer and boys diving. Anyone interested in the positions should contact Athletic Director Brian Swinehart's office at (248) 489-3352.

To submit items to the Sports Scene, write 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI, 48150, or send via fax to (734) 591-7279, attn: Dan O'Meara.

www.observerandcentric.com

Harrison falters in home opener



Going up: Harrison's Dave Condini heads for a basket despite pressure from Kettering's Matt Bowen. Condini led the Hawks with 14 points in the losing effort.

By KURT KUBAN
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Farmington Harrison coach Dave Turnquist would have rather left the third quarter of his team's home opening loss somewhere out on the road.

Playing only its second game of the season, Harrison showed its rust by scoring a miserable three points in the third quarter of its 55-51 loss Thursday to visiting Waterford Kettering.

Senior forward Dave Condini led the Hawks (1-1) with a game-high 14 points, while seniors Ralph Plumley and Matt Elsey both chipped in 8 points.

Adam Hull and Caleb Combs led Kettering (3-2) with 12 points apiece.

Trailing 10-9 at the end of one quarter, the Hawks, with the help of two 3-pointers by Jeff Ross, needed just one minute of the second to double its total. Although the team improved its offensive rhythm in the quarter, it had a difficult time stopping Kettering, which took a 25-23 halftime lead.

Turnquist probably wishes his team didn't come out after the half, because nothing went right for Harrison in a sloppy third quarter. With the exception of a Steven (Joe) McElroy layup and a Condini free throw, the team couldn't muster anything on offense.

Kettering, led by five different third quarter scorers, took advantage of Harrison's poor shooting and turnovers to take a 41-26 lead into the fourth.

Kettering continued to control the game through the first half of the final quarter, attaining its biggest lead, 49-34, with 4:30 remaining.

With the help of Plumley, who scored all his points in the final quarter, Harrison made a torrid comeback, scoring 17 points in the final four minutes. When Plumley hit a 3-pointer with :10 seconds on the clock, Harrison trailed by just two points, 53-51. Kettering beat Harrison's defensive trap, however, and Chris Reeves led the game with a layup at the buzzer.

"I thought we played very com-

placent basketball. We settled for quick, easy shots on offense. And we let them do whatever they wanted to when we were on defense," Turnquist said.

"For us to win games, we need to come out and dictate the pace of the game. But they did an excellent job of slowing down the pace. The bottom line is they got more out of their possessions than we did."

BASKETBALL

Turnquist was particularly unhappy about his team's sloppy play, which included 19 turnovers.

"We're not a great shooting team, so we need to value every possession a little more than we did tonight," Turnquist said.

Harrison's play did have some bright spots. Led by senior center McElroy's 10 rebounds, Harrison controlled the glass, outrebounding Kettering 39-29. McElroy also

Please see FALTERS, D2



Looking for a rebound: Hawk Jeff Ross reaches up for the basket followed by Kettering's Matt Bowen. Ralph Plumley, who scored eight points in the fourth quarter, looks for a rebound.

Victory completes Farmington's sweep of Livonia Stevenson foes

By KURT KUBAN
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For the first time in its short history, the Farmington Unified hockey team has defeated all three of its Livonia conference rivals in the same season.

The Flyers completed the task with a 4-3 victory over Stevenson Wednesday at Livonia's Edgar Arena. The team defeated Churchill last week, 2-1, and also beat Franklin in an early season matchup.

Farmington (4-2 in Western Lakes Activities Association play, and 6-2-1 overall) got two goals from senior Brad Heraghty, and a huge short-handed goal from Marc Rauth early in the second period.

Trailing 1-0 after the first period, Stevenson started the second on a power play and was looking to get the equalizer, when Rauth took the

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puck and scored unassisted :57 seconds into the period. It was Rauth's first goal of the season.

"Marc always works so hard for us; but never gets much recognition. His goal really gave us a lift," said Farmington coach Mike Harris.

Minutes after Stevenson got a power play goal from Jamison Messer at the 8:57 mark of the second period to make the score 2-1, Heraghty scored his second goal of the night.

The score remained 3-1 until late in the game, when Stevenson's Jared Gaudet, assisted by Jonathan O'Neill and Thomas Zagata, scored at the 13:30 mark of the final period. However, with Stevenson's net empty, Farmington's Keith Hay won the face-off and scored from center ice, making it 4-2.

O'Neill scored for Stevenson with less than a minute to play, but it wasn't enough.

"I was really happy with our discipline. The team played with a lot of heart," Harris said.

The Flyers, who also got assists from Brian Baran, Mike Colombo, and Matt Lee, outshot the Spartans 28-21.

Harris, who resigned as Stevenson's head coach two seasons ago, said the victories over the Livonia teams will provide a tremendous confidence boost for his team.

"This was a perfect example of a gut-check. Our seniors have never beaten Stevenson. And here we are just before Christmas, and our kids have beaten all three Livonia teams," he said.

"The kids are just so proud of themselves. This is going to give us a big lift for the rest of the season."

Please see VICTORY, D4

WRESTLING RESULTS

OBSERVERLAND
WRESTLING RANKINGS

Team: 1. Redford Catholic Central; 2. Livonia Churchill; 3. Westland John Glenn; 4. Plymouth Salem and 5. Plymouth Canton.

103 pounds: Nick Naber (John Glenn); Matt Steintrager (Redford Catholic Central); Dan McAuliffe (Livonia Stevenson); Ryan Stump (Plymouth Salem); Steve Hogg (Plymouth Canton).

112: Ramis Bejrami (North Farmington); Gent Abdulal (Livonia Clarenceville); Jacob Davis (Garden City); Drew Conner (John Glenn); Matt Kozlarski (Redford CC).

119: Kefentse Mandisa (John Glenn); Dan Clement (Livonia Clarenceville); Peter Bobbee (Plymouth Salem); Craig LeBaron (RT); Ray Strata (Livonia Franklin).

125: Mike Goethe (Plymouth Salem); Brian Clement (Livonia Clarenceville); Harry Leipsitz (North Farmington); Sean Parker (John Glenn); Chris Hopkins (Redford Union).

130: Doy Demick (Plymouth Canton); Jason Fisher (Livonia Stevenson).

Please see RESULTS, D4

Shamrocks contain River Rats

By BRAD EWING
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BASKETBALL

After winning its first two games on the road, Redford Catholic Central's basketball team returned Friday to the friendly confines of Breakfast Drive.

And the Shamrocks didn't disappoint the home fans as they disposed of Ann Arbor Huron, 66-53.

CC is 3-0 overall, while Huron dropped to 3-2.

It was not an artistic victory for the Shamrocks, who won despite shooting 33.8 percent from the floor (23-of-68) and committing 17 turnovers.

"We're still a relatively inexperienced club," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "We have a lot of seniors who play on this team, but only two who really played a lot of minutes last year."

"We like to run, but in certain situa-

tions we rushed our shots. Some shots were better than others. We have shown more poise offensively. But I like the fact that we continued to play hard and we were able to play through it. We also rebounded the ball fairly well."

CC fell behind 11-6 midway through the first quarter, but rallied to take a 19-15 lead at the end of the period on a three-pointer by Jim Cash followed a shot inside by Ryan Clark in the final 1:03.

The Shamrocks led 33-26 at halftime, but Huron caught fire in the third quarter, taking a brief 39-38 lead with 3:19 left on a short banker by Eddie Andrae.

CC then regrouped, going on a 10-0 run capped by Cash's basket with 13.8

seconds left to make it 49-39.

Huron never got closer than eight in the final period as CC made 11 of 15 free throws to put it away.

Senior guard Ryan Wroblewski led a balanced CC scoring attack with 17 points, including three treys. Senior forward Jeff Niemiec added 12.

Ryan Clark contributed nine points and 11 rebounds, while 6-9 sophomore Dan Waterstradt came off the bench to score eight.

"Dan played well and then picked up a couple of fouls and I had to sit him down," Coratti said. "We wanted to give him more time because that's as good as he's played for us so far. We'll get him more minutes as the season goes along."

Huron guard Keith Newman finished with 15, while Andrae added 11. Jeff Jenkins and Donald Hamilton each scored eight.

The River Rats made only 37.5 percent of their shots (24 of 64) from the floor. Three-year varsity player Andrae Martin, a 6-4 senior, struggled throughout the game and was 1-of-13 from the floor.

As a team, Huron was only 3-of-12 from the foul line and committed 17 turnovers.

"The game was played in runs, and they (CC) were able to sustain their runs longer than we did," Huron coach Cameron Smiley said. "CC is good at dribble penetration and kicking it out. They space the floor really well and that led to our demise."

If there was one telling statistic, it was how each team shot beyond the arc.

CC made six 3-pointers on the night compared to two for the River Rats.

"We didn't do a good job of defending the three," Smiley said. "If you can't defend the three, you're dead meat."

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