

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Catamounts win again

Senior Trevor Gaines had 10 points and 12 rebounds Monday afternoon when the University of Vermont men's basketball team won its American East Conference opener over visiting Albany, 71-43.

It was the sixth straight win for the Catamounts, who were 6-0 in December and are 8-3 overall. Vermont's winning streak is the longest since 1977-78.

A monster dunk by Gaines, who recorded his second double-double of the season, gave Vermont a 38-21 lead at halftime. The co-captain now has 653 career rebounds and moved past Craig Peper (2000) into seventh place on the all-time list. Gaines also is 27 points shy of becoming the 24th Catamount to score 1,000 for his career. It was the conference debut for Albany (2-8). Vermont continued America East play Wednesday by hosting another conference newcomer, Stony Brook.

MU men's cagers fall

Matt Traylor scored 21 points to power Taylor University (Ind.) to a 62-50 victory over Madonna University in the consolation final of the Russ DeVette Holiday Classic men's basketball tournament Saturday at the Holland Civic Center.

Madonna, which dropped its 11th straight game, is 3-12 overall. Taylor, ranked sixth in the latest NAIA Division II poll, improved to 13-3.

The Trojans led from start to finish, going up 35-25 at halftime on a layup by Matt Beiling with 52 seconds left.

The Fighting Crusaders got as close as eight, 56-48, on a basket by Steve Horn with 2:54 remaining, but Traylor answered with a pair of free throws 14 seconds left to push the margin back up to 10.

Beiling contributed 12 points, while Matt Lettinga grabbed 10 rebounds and contributed nine points.

Noel Emmerhiser, a 6-foot-5 freshman from Monroeville, Ind., led MU with 21 points on 8-of-13 shooting from the floor. He hit five 3-pointers in nine attempts. Emmerhiser, who scored 15 points in Friday's 80-67 first-round loss to host Hope College, was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week.

No other Crusader scored in double figures. Tony Jancevski, a 6-9 center from Plymouth Salem High School and Schoolcraft College, had a team-high nine rebounds.

Ballplayers wanted

Westland Federation, a competitive travel baseball team, is seeking 14-and-under players for the upcoming season. Those interested should call Shawn Dunford at (734) 695-1092 or Mike Grant at (734) 326-5626.

Youth hoop tourney

The Toledo (Ohio) Hoop Basketball Center will be staging a youth tournament for boys and girls (grades 3-8) Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13. For more information, call Eric Bullis at (419) 726-0597.

MU girls softball clinic

Madonna University will be conducting a girls fast-pitch softball clinic four consecutive weeks from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26; Feb. 2, 9 and 16; also 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at the school's Activities Building.

The cost is \$85 for four weeks or \$20 per session. Pre-registration is required (maximum 30 girls per session). The camp consists of all phases of fast-pitch softball including hitting, bunting, infield-outfield, base running, pitching, catching and defensive positions. For more information, call MU head coach Al White at (734) 432-5783 or (734) 495-3719; also assistant coach Curt White at (734) 728-3074.

Power skating class

Suburban Training Center will have an intermediate power skating class for ages 9 and older on Fridays from 4-5:30 p.m., beginning Jan. 11.

The 10-week session will teach skaters the proper technique for forward and backward skating, crossovers, stride, transitional skating, body positioning, balance, coordination and agility.

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

For more information, call (248) 888-1400.

Football was just fun for Lewis

Former Hawk focuses on post-college career

BY DAN O'MEARA
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With his football career now concluded, Brian Lewis has set a new goal — one that is common to all college students — finding a job!

Playing for Kalamazoo College at the Division III level, Lewis was a throwback to an earlier era of the true student-athlete who played not with the hope of future personal gain but for the game itself.

But now it's time to move forward,

FOOTBALL

and the former Farmington Harrison all-star is ready for a professional career away from the athletic field.

"Football has always been something I loved to do but, like most small college players, I don't rely on it," Lewis said.

"I'm hoping it pays off, that I went to a school like Kalamazoo. That's why I picked it, because of its good academics and I could play football and contribute."

Lewis, who will graduate in June with a degree in economics, is interested in a career in banking.

"I'm just worried about finding anything right now," he said. "A lot of places aren't hiring because of the

economy."

The opportunity to play football beyond high school was reward in itself for Lewis, who started for four years for the Hornets, the last two at center.

"All in all, it was just great to continue playing football," he said, adding many of his former Harrison teammates didn't have that chance.

"I had a lot of fun playing. It was a different experience than high school, because you grow up with so many of your teammates in high school. But it was a real positive experience."

Lewis (6-1, 280) was the center on Harrison's undefeated, 1997 team that won the Class A state championship — the first of five straight for the Hawks.

However, he and the Hornets were never able to duplicate that kind of success at Kalamazoo, which was 4-5 and 3-6 in Lewis' first two seasons.

"As a competitor, I didn't like losing; it was something I had to deal with," he said. "It did take some time. I also realized what other teams we had played had been tasting for so long."

Kalamazoo started 4-0 last fall, defeating the College of Wooster, Mount St. Joseph, Rose-Hulman and Colorado College while averaging 38 points per game.

But the Hornets lost four of their last

Please see LEWIS, D3

Whalers settle for 3-3, overtime tie with Attack

Goaltender Paul Drew made six saves in overtime Tuesday as the Plymouth Whalers battled to a 3-3 draw with host Owen Sound in an Ontario Hockey League New Year's Day matinee game before 2,559.

Facing a 3-2 deficit, the Whalers' Nate Kiser scored the game-tying goal from Jared Newmann with only 57 seconds left in regulation to force overtime.

Plymouth, leading the Western Conference and West Division of the OHL, is 24-6-7-1. The Attack is 14-14-7-2. Agri Savels put the Attack on top

1-0 on a goal from Richard Colwill at 8:08 of the opening period.

But the Whalers tied it on Karl Stewart's goal from Rob McBride and Josh Mitchell at 18:59 of the same period.

The Attack led 3-1 on goals by Dan Sullivan (from Savels at 0:12) and Michael Jacobson (a power-play from Ryan Courtney and Richard Power at 2:28).

But the Whalers pulled to within one, 3-2, on John Mitchell's goal from Jonas Fiedler and David Liffiton at 4:50 of the second period.

Owen Sound netminder Justin Day made 30 saves, while Drew turned away 27.

■ WHALERS 3, STORM 2: Canton's James Wisniewski thrilled a Saturday night home crowd of 3,693 at Compuware Sports Arena by scoring the game-winning goal in overtime at the host Plymouth Whalers beat the Guelph Storm, 3-2.

The defenseman tallied the game-winner with just 46.5 seconds left in OT.

Karl Stewart's power-play goal with only 25.7 seconds left in regulation forced the extra session.

The win improved Plymouth's record in the

Ontario Hockey League to 24-6-6-1. The Whalers lead both the Western Conference and West Division of the OHL.

Dan Sullivan scored Plymouth's first goal at the 24-second mark of the opening period from David Liffiton.

The Storm tied it at 18:29 of the same period on Kevin Dallman's 16th of the season.

Guelph pulled ahead 2-1 on Martin St. Pierre goal from Dallman at 1:46 of the second period. The scored stayed that way until late in the third period when Guelph's Derek Hennessey took a roughing penalty with 1:30 left.

Please see WHALERS, D3



Vipers strike: In a style reminiscent of the Detroit Red Wings' Stanley Cup victory, the Farmington Hills Vipers (photo above) strike a pose with their Regional Silver Stick Tournament trophy. They defeated Belle Tire in 16 overtimes.



Heads high: The Vipers team captains (from right to left) Tony Swarthout, assistant captain, Jim Nawrocki, captain, and Sean Sachau, assistant captain, hoist the banner as the 2001-2002 Bantam AA Champions. It's the fourth year in a row the team has taken the title.

Vipers get regional win after 16 OTs

The Farmington Hills Vipers, a bantam AA hockey team, defeated Belle Tire in 16 overtimes to win the Regional Silver Stick Tournament for the fourth year in a row, 1-0.

The game, played Dec. 16 at St. Clair Shores Civic Arena, started at 5:30 p.m. and ended just before 9 p.m. when captain Jim Nawrocki scored from Scott Johnston at 1:12 of the 19th period to give the Vipers the victory.

The ice was re-surfaced only once, before the fifth period, leaving each team without a break for 14 periods; however, both teams still managed to get quality chances in every period.

The game would have ended earlier if not for goalie Shane Trexler of the Vipers, who was named the tournament MVP, and Justin Sand.

To get to the final, the Vipers beat Belle Tire (2-1), Grosse Pointe (4-1), Mount Clemens (7-3) and Rochester (4-1). The Vipers move on to the 40th Annual Silver Stick Finals in Port Huron Jan. 24-27.

The members of the Vipers team are John Maurer, Scott Johnston, Craig Dulman, Chris Barczuk, Asher Hirschberg, Adam Stonor, Kevin Horal, Jeff Palson, Mike Moriarty, Shane Trexler, Brett Storm, Chris Fairbanks, Mike Dziewit, Garrett Radford, Tony Swarthout, Jim Nawrocki and Sean Sachau.

The coaching staff includes Pat Fairbanks, Doug Blansy, Mike Dziewit, Kevin Fairbanks and manager Jim Radford. The Vipers are sponsored by Ace Sports Shop and play their games at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.