

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gaines has double-double

Trevor Gaines (Farmington) posted yet another double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds Wednesday in the University of Vermont's 86-71 victory over Binghamton (N.Y.) in men's basketball.

It was his 13th of the season and 10th in 13 league games. Gaines is third all-time at Vermont in rebounds with 824 and 15th in scoring with 1,169 career points. The America East Conference leader, he is 10th in the nation in rebounds.

The win improved the first-place Catamounts to 11-2 in the league and 18-6 overall. The 11 league wins tie a school record while the 18 victories are one shy of the Vermont record set in 1946-47 when the Catamounts compiled a record of 19-3.

Lady Raiders rally to win

Oakland Community College rallied in the second half Wednesday to defeat visiting Macomb in women's basketball, 81-78.

The Lady Raiders trailed at half-time, 42-35, but outscored the Monarchs in the second half, 46-38.

Debbie Wess's 31-point effort for OCC was overshadowed by a 43-point performance by Macomb's Ryan Vanderhagen.

Wess made 10 of 15 field goals, including three of six triples, and eight of 12 free throws. Vanderhagen made nine of 14 three-point shots while shooting 15-of-21 from the floor and 4-of-8 at the line.

Ashlee Larsen added 18 points and Carrie Morrow 13 for the Lady Raiders, who are 5-6 in the MCAA Eastern Conference and 12-11 overall. Wess also had 10 rebounds.

Lindsay Fecteau tossed in 12 points for the Monarchs (1-11, 4-18), who had a 48-37 rebounding advantage.

Macomb was 14-of-24 shooting the three, but OCC was 22-of-31 on free throws. OCC was 3-of-16 behind the arc and Macomb 10-of-17 at the line.

Macomb cagers top OCC

William Motley had a big game for the Oakland Community College men's basketball team Wednesday, scoring a game-high 28 points.

But visiting Macomb overcame his individual effort with five players in double figures for an 85-75 victory.

Motley made nine of 12 field goals and 10 of 13 free throws. Lonnie Jones was the only other double-digit scorer for OCC with 19 points. Eddie Thomas added nine.

Antoine Wilcox scored 22 to lead Macomb (6-6 MCAA Eastern Conference, 14-10). Martell Summers added 19, William Harris 15 and two others tossed in 10.

Jones was the game's top rebounder with 11. The Raiders are 0-11 in the conference and 6-19 overall.

Rockets grid registration

The Farmington Rockets will register football players and cheerleaders for the 2002 season on Saturday, March 2, in the Shannon Room of the William Costick Center.

Returning players and cheerleaders will register from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be an open enrollment session on a first-come, first-serve basis from noon to 3 p.m.

The fee is \$200 to cover the cost of equipment, trophies, team banquet and \$100 in fundraising tickets.

Each registrant must have a copy of his/her birth certificate, health insurance information and cash or check made payable to the Farmington Rockets.

For more information call Kevin Maly (president) at (248) 426-7380 or Dick Heist (registrar) at (248) 478-9341.

Skate with Whalers

Season ticket holders for the Plymouth Whalers will have the opportunity to skate with the Whalers from 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

To participate, season ticket holders only need bring their season ticket holder ID card (located in the front of the season ticket book) and present it at the skate rental booth located in the lower level of the arena.

Complimentary skates are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call (734) 463-8400 for more information.

Regional ski competition



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRACKER

Mixed results: Farmington Hills Mercy's Liz Kujala placed second in the girls slalom Thursday in a Class A regional ski meet at Alpine Valley, and she qualified as an individual to compete in the state meet. Teammate Nicole Zaleski qualified in the slalom and giant slalom. But the Marlins, champions of the Mount Brighton Ski League, failed to qualify as a team. The top three teams in each regional advance to the state meet, but Mercy missed third place by one hundredth of a point. See complete results inside the Observer sports section.

Flyers coast to win

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Unified players shook off a disappointing loss two days earlier and came back ready to play hockey Friday afternoon.

The Flyers started fast and their early momentum carried them to a 10-3 victory over visiting Walled Lake Central at Suburban Training Center.

It was a makeup game that had been postponed from Jan. 31 due to snow.

HOCKEY

Farmington, which dropped a 4-3 game Wednesday to Livonia Churchill, is 10-4 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 14-7-1 overall.

The Flyers established a 6-0 lead in the first period and coasted from there Friday. Brett Laird had a hat trick and two assists, and Brad Heraghty scored two goals and had three assists.

"We really came out flying in the first period," Farmington coach Mike Harris said. "We had a difficult loss the other night, and we felt we played Churchill to a tie game."

"The first goal (Wednesday) was a questionable offside that didn't go our way, and we couldn't put the puck in the net on a power play at the end of the game."

"So the players came to the rink (Friday) determined to show people they're for real."

Laird scored the first two goals at 14:19 from Heraghty and again at 6:32 from Jeff Tosoin and Heraghty.

The Flyers all but wrapped up the win with three quick goals at the end of the period.

Heraghty scored at 2:12 from Marc Rauth and Sean Ellis. Rauth at 1:45 from Laird and Heraghty and Tosoin at 0:47 unassisted on a slapshot from the point.

"We played at the rink where we practice, and the kids really like the ice there," Harris said. "They used it to their advantage. They know it well; they know how to use the boards and move the puck."

"We had a lot going for us offensively, and it was just a pleasant sight. There was no selfish play. We were moving the puck from end to end."

Harris added Central goalie Tom

Please see FLYERS, C4

Marian downs Mercy to win another title

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Winning the Catholic League volleyball championship is not a new experience for Anne Vondracek, but the latest win was indeed a special occasion for her.

In her first season as head coach, she guided Birmingham Marian to the title Thursday with a 16-10, 15-9 victory over Farmington Hills Mercy at Madonna University.

It was the second straight for the Mustangs but No. 6 overall for Vondracek, who played on four champi-

VOLLEYBALL

onship teams at Livonia Ladywood and was an assistant to Stephanie Storen at Marian last year. "I expect nothing less," Vondracek said. "I couldn't be happier. I thought it was entirely a team effort. Everyone came with one goal in mind and gave 100 percent — all of them."

It also marked the fifth consecutive time this season Marian (30-4) has defeated its Central Division rival. Three of the previous meetings went three games, but this one wasn't that close.

"I really don't know what our edge is," said Vondracek, who graduated from Ladywood in 1995 and played volleyball at the University of Michigan.

"My focus is always on what is happening on our side of the court. I want our players to consider (the opponent) to be Mercy or (Temperance) Bedford every game."

There were a lot of sideouts in the first game, but the Mustangs were more efficient, gradually building their lead to 8-2 and then 11-4.

Marian was led by 6-foot senior middle blocker/outside hitter Katie Henry, who seemed to make every

Please see WIN, C5

Panthers halt Falcons' string of district titles

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Redford Union's wrestling team finally had its day in the sun Wednesday, winning the first team district championship in school history.

The Panthers defeated host Farmington High School in the final to win a Division II tournament title, 49-30.

RU, which beat Redford Thurston in a semifinal match earlier the same day, 43-29, advances to the regional at Trenton later this week to wrestle Southgate Anderson.

"I'm really happy, especially with the younger kids wrestling well," RU coach Jim Carlin said, adding the Panthers have a lot of them with no seniors and only five juniors on the team.

"We accomplished our first big goal, and that was to win a team district.

WRESTLING

We're going there (Trenton) to try to win and get to state. We won't be content with a happy-to-be-here attitude." While RU is a first-time winner, it ended perennial-champion Farmington's claim to the district title.

The Falcons, although they weren't in the same district with the Panthers (19-10) last year, had won three in a row and five in six years.

"We'll just have to try to get it going again next year," Farmington coach Al Beyer said after his team finished with a 4-11 record.

"A lot of young wrestlers saw what it's going to take to win one, so I think they'll be hungry next year."

Please see PANTHERS, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY SHAWN LEBLANC

District tourney: Farmington's Rob Easterday (right) won a decision over Harrison's Tom Zak in a district match Wednesday.