

'02 could be big year for Falcons

Farmington girls squad has 9 returning starters

BY DAN O'MEARA
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SOCCER

If coach Steve Montgomery's preseason hopes come to fruition, opponents had better watch out for the Farmington High girls soccer team this year.

The Falcons, who were 15-6 and won a district title last season, have nine starters returning and expect to do even better in the upcoming campaign.

"I think it could be the best team since I've been here," Montgomery said. "Last year I thought we were pretty good, and this year I think we'll be even better."

"On paper, we look really good; we looked good in a scrimmage last week. I think we're going to have an outstanding year."

Leading the team will be senior tri-captains Julie Goettlicher, Molly Jud and Shanna Barkume. All three will be four-year starters.

Goettlicher began her career as a defender, switched to the midfield last year and will have a greater offensive role this year at forward. She had nine goals and a half dozen assists.

"We're putting her under some pressure to do well," Montgomery said. "We expect her to do a lot for us, and we're hoping she can fill the shoes of (All-Observer player) Lorianne (DeDomenico)."

Jud and Barkume anchor an experienced, solid defense. Jud moves from marking back to sweeper, while Barkume goes from sweeper to stopper.

"Molly has good speed and a good work ethic," Montgomery said. "She's a very important player for us. This year we thought we'd give her a try at sweeper and so far she's doing great."

"Shanna has a lot of ball skills, knowledge and trapping ability. She distributes the ball to the midfield well. We wanted to play her at a position where she could use her ball-handling skills."

The other defenders will be sophomores and returning varsity players Kristen

Pietila and Maggie Vaillancourt.

Pietila, who was a forward, "is extremely fast, tough and goes to the ball very hard," according to Montgomery, and Vaillancourt played a lot on the outside last year.

Starting alongside Goettlicher at forward is freshman Joyce Rose, who has the skills and composure needed to be a very good varsity player, Montgomery said.

Other forwards are juniors Jackie Andrusiak, who was a defender; Libby Bohme, who begins her first year on the varsity, and Meghan Stewart, who was on the varsity as a freshman but didn't play last year.

The Falcons are solid in the midfield, too, with junior Erica Rose leading the group. She had 12 goals and 12 assists and was named to the Division II all-state team.

"She's a very good player; she really understands the game," Montgomery said. "She's one of the team leaders, too. She, basically, controls the midfield and tries to set up our offense."

Sophomore Erin Deroo goes from being the starter at stopper to playing the midfield, giving the Falcons more experience there.

"She can play almost any position," Montgomery said. "She's another very talented, important player."

Senior Stephanie Arnold is a four-year varsity player who anchors one side of the midfield as a returning starter.

The other outside mid is sophomore Katie Johnson, who was the goalie last year and had 12 shutouts. She's a good field player but agreed to play keeper to fill a need, Montgomery said.

"She wasn't a goalie; I just saw her playing volleyball and noticed what a



FILE PHOTO BY BILL DEWESE

Girls soccer: Stephanie Arnold, a four-year varsity player, is one of nine returning starters on the Farmington High team.

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Stamboulou earns honor

Wayne State University sophomore Charlie Stamboulou of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) was named to the NCAA Division II cross country academic All-America team.

To qualify athletes must be in the top 30 percent of the runners in the nation and carry a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better through at least 24 credit hours at the university they represent.

Stamboulou, a secondary education major, carried a 3.98 GPA. He placed 28th in the NCAA Great Lakes Region last fall, helping WSU qualify for the national championships for the first time in school history, where it placed 11th.

Devereux a Falcon, too

Due to an error and oversight on the Observer's part, the name of St. Fabian basketball player Ashley Devereux was inadvertently omitted from a story in the Thursday edition about the Falcons winning the girls CYO championship. Devereux was a starter and key player in the team's march to the citywide title.

College recruiting event

The athletic departments at Berkley, Royal Oak Dendro, Ferndale and Oak Park high schools will present "The Realities of College Recruiting" with Jack Ronkens at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the Berkley High School auditorium.

The program is free for all student-athletes and their parents.

The program is designed to assist every family with student-athletes in grades 9-12 with responsibility, preparation, participation, opportunities, finances and the truths and myths about the college recruiting process.

Whalers hold off Knights, 3-2

BY C.J. RISAK
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HOCKEY

It took awhile — about a period, to be exact — for the Plymouth Whalers to adjust to the kind of game their first-round opponent in the Ontario Hockey League playoffs, the London Knights, planned on playing.

Very chippy.

A bit of reorganization between periods did wonders for the Whalers. Trailing 1-0 after a period, they tied it a minute into the second and then scored twice more before the period ended,

enough to gain a 3-2 victory in the first game of the best-of-seven series which opened at Plymouth's Compuware Arena Friday.

Game Two is at 2 p.m. today in London, with Game Three returning to Compuware at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Stephen Weiss, the Whalers' leading scorer during the season, scored what proved to be the game-winning goal and assisted on another. Chad LaRose and

John Mitchell also scored for Plymouth.

"It got a little bit carried away in the first period," said Weiss. "There were too many penalties, both ways. If we keep taking penalties, they're going to score."

And even though during the season London had converted on just 1-of-40 power-play chances against them, Plymouth could not afford to keep giving the Knights man-advantage opportunities. They did in that opening period; the Whalers had 11 penalties, the Knights had eight.

Please see WHALERS, C3

North American soccer champs



Magic formula: Previously known as the Farmington Furries, the Michigan Magic over-30 women's soccer team recently captured the North American Indoor Championship. The Magic scored with just 59 seconds left to beat Cincinnati (Ohio), 3-2, for the title. Four different players scored as the Magic upended defending champion Indianapolis (Ind.), 7-5. The Magic are coached by WJR Radio newscaster and former Farmington Hills Mercy High School coach Gene Fogel. Many of the team's players started in the Farmington Youth Soccer League. The team was put together by Jorge Pacheco, a member of the Michigan Soccer Hall of Fame. His daughters, Sue and Julie, are members of the Magic, while another team member, Cathy Kansman, formerly coached girls and boys soccer at Farmington and North Farmington high schools. Team members include (back row, from left) Cheryl Becker, Trish Machemer, Amanda Thornton (not pictured in empty shirt), Kansman, coach Fogel, Mimi Ford, Kim Ritter, Sue Pacheco; (front row, from left) Kathy Whitehead, Jenny Wilkin, Lisa Sasaki, Kathy Mineau, Julie Pacheco; (on floor) goalkeeper Julie Campbell.

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