

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Wade on all-area team

Farmington High School freshman Bettie Wade's photo was inadvertently omitted from the June 9 edition of the Observer that included the 2002 all-area girls track and field team.

Wade made the All-Observer first team in the high jump. She was tied for first place among area athletes with Bettie Wade Lutheran Westland's Karen Abramczyk for the best jump at 5 feet, 5 inches.

Wade also excelled in the sprint events. She just missed qualifying for the Division I state meet, finishing third in the high jump and the 400-meter dash at the West Bloomfield regional.

Volleyball state champs

Farmington coaches and players won a pair of Michigan AAU volleyball state championships last weekend.

Farmington High School varsity coach Alex Perrin coached the Farmington Juniors to the 15-and-under title.

Farmington residents Kristen Lowe of Birmingham Marian High School and Mallory Annarino of Farmington High are members of the team. Motor City won the 18-and-under championship with Ed Ruhl (Mercy High School) as its coach and middle hitter Tessa Kuykendall (Mercy) as one of its top players.

It was the first AAU state titles for Perrin and Ruhl.

A Farmington Juniors sister team finished fifth in the 15-and-under tournament. The team is coached by Karen Quinn, the Farmington High freshman coach. The players include Farmington residents Ellen Doty (Marian), Laura Proven (Power Middle), Alicia Rinke (Marian) and Abby Velting (Farmington High).

Blacha wins MVP honor

Senior defensive specialist Erin Blacha was named the most valuable player of the Farmington United girls lacrosse team.

Blacha also was selected Division C MVP in the Michigan Women's Scholastic Lacrosse Association. Blacha was the Farmington defensive MVP and senior Stephanie Yacoub the offensive MVP.

Yacoub led the team in scoring with 44 goals; senior Katie Ellis had 38, senior Stephanie Ford 26 and junior Lindsey Hirzel 20.

Blacha and Yacoub made the all-state team while Hirzel and Ford were honorable mentions. Senior Abbey Robinson was named Farmington's most improved player.

Farmington finished the season with a 14-7 record following a 9-7 loss to Flint Powers in the semifinals of the Division C playoffs.

Hirzel, junior Jen Adams and junior Kristy Boskey were chosen captains of the 2003 Farmington team.

Summer hockey tryouts

The Farmington Flyers varsity hockey team will have summer tryouts 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, June 14, and 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at Suburban Training Center.

The fee is \$10 per skate. The tryouts are open to any Farmington Public Schools students in the ninth through 12th grades. For more information call coach Mark Vellucci at (248) 730-2233.

Vikes need cheerleaders

The NFVB Vikings organization still has positions available for cheerleaders (ages 8-13) at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels.

The participation fee is \$130, plus limited fundraising. For more information call Doreen Frederick at (248) 626-6001.

Summer sports to begin

The Farmington YMCA will begin its summer youth sports programs the week of June 17. Sports include T-ball, soccer for ages 3-7, basketball clinics for ages 8-12 and gymnastics for all ages. To request a registration form call the YMCA at (248) 653-4020.

Seventh heaven

Marlins rally in last inning to advance to Final Four

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
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Farmington Hills Mercy's softball team waited until the last possible minute to generate offense in its state quarterfinal game Tuesday. But once the Marlins got going, there was no stopping them.

After missing chance after chance to score in the first six innings, Mercy scored all four of its runs in the top of the seventh inning to beat Harper Woods Regina 4-1 and earn a trip to the state semifinals for the third straight year.

The Marlins, 34-7 overall, will face Flushing 6 p.m. Friday at Bailey Park in Battle Creek. Regina, the Catholic League champion ends the season with a 25-15 record.

Mercy was a frustrated team through six innings, getting runners in scoring position four times without scoring.

Three times runners were called out at home, including a controversial call in the top of the sixth in which the runner appeared to slide under the tag of the catcher but was called out anyway.

"We got runners in good position; we just couldn't get one in," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "Once we tied the score, I knew the pressure would be off."

I thought, "If we just get the leadoff runner on, we'll win the game." Indeed, the leadoff hitter did get on base in the seventh when senior Lindsey Fediuk reached second on an error. After a strikeout, the rally started.

Junior Carly Tracey smacked a double to center to put runners on second and third with one out. The Marlins couldn't get the second hit to score runs in this situation earlier in the game, but junior Anna Schneider changed all that.

A wild pitch brought the tying run

home; then Schneider slammed a single down the left-field line that scored another run, giving Mercy a 2-1 lead.

Seniors Holly Van Cleave and Molly O'Malley loaded the bases on back-to-back errors by Regina, and Kalie Blanchard provided the insurance runs with a two-run single to left.

Schneider said the single was the biggest hit of her career, but she quickly added a "so far" to her statement.

"It was such a relief when we finally scored," she said. "We've been a clutch-hitting team all year, and we've pulled through every time we've needed it."

Falvo said he knew he could count on

Schneider, his No. 3 hitter, to deliver in crunch time.

"Anna isn't the type of player to be satisfied with just a little hit," he said. "She wants to hammer it."

Senior Megan Fediuk pitched brilliantly in the final five innings. She

Please see MERCY, D2

Marlins have much to celebrate



The winning team: Farmington Hills Mercy softball players show their excitement after scoring two runs in the top of the ninth inning Saturday to defeat Livonia Churchill in a regional championship game. The Marlins added a state quarterfinal victory Tuesday and will play in the Division I semifinals Friday in Battle Creek.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Mercy takes regional title in 2-0 win over Churchill

BY BRAD EMIGGS
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It was unconventional move, but it resulted in a third straight regional girls softball title Saturday for Farmington Hills Mercy and coach Jack Falvo.

Carly Tracey's successful bunt, dropped just in front of home plate with two outs in the top of the ninth inning, brought home Lindsey Fediuk from third base with the game-winning run.

The Marlins added an insurance run to outlast Livonia Churchill for the Division I championship at Lincoln Park, 2-0.

"We just wanted to put the ball in play and hope something would happen," said Falvo, who

SOFTBALL

also watched Tammi Karagiosian race all the way around from second base on the same play to put the game away against Churchill and ace Meghan Miskak.

Churchill catcher Ashley Crawley, who had played a flawless game behind the plate by throwing out four Mercy base stealers, picked up the bunt by Tracey and hesitated for a split second.

With Fediuk just steps away from being tagged out, Crawley fired the ball toward teammate Natalie Krieger at first base.

But the ball glanced away into right field as the Mercy runner simultaneously hit the bag.

"We didn't expect the suicide

squeeze bunt with two outs," admitted Churchill coach Dana Hardwidge. "It caused some confusion. We called first (base) from the bench. I thought the ball got there ahead of the runner."

"On a play like that, all you're worried about is making the out," Falvo said. "You focus on the play at first base, and the play just broke down for them. I thought they did the right thing."

Mercy pitcher Megan Fediuk, who allowed just two hits and struck out 15, closed out the game in the bottom of the ninth with a pair of strikeouts and a game-ending come-backer to the mound.

Mercy (33-7) moved on to Tuesday's quarterfinal against

Please see REGIONAL, D2

Hustling: Farmington Hills Mercy's Carly Tracey put down a bunt in the ninth inning to force the throw to first by Livonia Churchill catcher Ashley Crawley. Two runs scored as Mercy held on to a 2-0 win.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Jefferson nips Harrison in 8 innings, 1-0

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Few pitchers were able to contain Farmington Harrison's potent array of hitters this season, but Matt Ely got the job done Tuesday in a Division II state quarterfinal game.

Ely tossed a two-hit shutout and knocked in the only run as Monroe Jefferson claimed a 1-0 victory in eight innings at Saline High School.

BASEBALL

The right-hand senior wasn't overpowering and had just two strikeouts. But he walked only one batter and had the Hawks hitting the ball on the ground most of the game.

"He had Harrison off balance," Jefferson coach Dave Sontag said. "They're a team that likes to hit the fastball. The reports we had on their team said they go up and get their whiffs."

Ely throws 40 percent curveballs, and they were all down around the knees. He's probably the best athlete on the team, so you want him to have the ball in his hands."

Apparently, Ely isn't the ace of the Jefferson staff; however, he looked the part Tuesday, leading by the way he handcuffed the Harrison hitters, who had merited 16 teams this year.

Please see BASEBALL, D3



He's out at the plate: Harrison catcher Bill Richeson makes the play and puts the tag on Jefferson's A.J. Eppler for an inning-ending double play in the fourth.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRUMLEY