

Thursday, July 11, 2002

FARMINGTON —  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

## Young earns scholarship

All-Observer senior shortstop Meghan Young of Farmington High School has been selected by Tennessee Tech University to join its softball program this fall.

Tennessee Tech led the NCAA Division I Ohio Valley Conference this past season with an overall record of 44-20.

"I'm so excited to have the opportunity to play for coach Tony Acheson and Tennessee Tech next season," Young said. "I am extremely impressed with where their program is going and the importance TTU places on a well-rounded educational experience."

"I also like the fact that coach Acheson seems to have a strong desire to recruit quality people and not just good ballplayers."

Young, a four-year varsity standout, batted .437 for Farmington and led the Falcons in 12 categories this season, including batting average, on-base and slugging percentages, stolen bases, triples, home runs, and assists.

She previously played two seasons for the Compware 16-and-under travel program and has spent the last two seasons playing 18-and-under travel ball for the SparksFastpitch of Grand Blanc.

Young began her softball career in the South Farmington slow-pitch program at age 9. She is the first Farmington High School softball player to be signed by an NCAA Division I college.

Young, who also played volleyball and earned seven letters in high school, plans to teach after earning her degree in elementary education.

She also was named to all-region second team, all-district first team and all-WLAA Lakes Division team.

## Diamonds maintain lead

The Farmington Hills Diamonds continue to lead the Girls Incredible Fastpitch Softball League with a 9-1 record following a tie and a win Tuesday in a doubleheader with the Northville Broncos.

Diamonds pitcher Beth Danielewicz threw a one-hitter and struck out 19 batters in the first game, which ended in a 1-1 draw at North Farmington High School.

Northville had its lone hit in the seventh inning, which led to the Broncos scoring the tying run.

The Diamonds had three hits — one each by Amy Berke, Danielewicz and Suzanne Johns. Carolyn Bergstrom, who was pinch-running for Danielewicz in the fourth inning, scored on the base hit by Johns.

Northville pitcher Jamie Kruszezski walked six and struck out 11. Danielewicz didn't walk anybody.

The Diamonds won the second game in six innings, 9-6. Rachel Abruzzo pitched five-plus innings and was the winner, striking out two and walking none while allowing six hits. Johns, the catcher, threw out two runners attempting to steal second base.

Katie Harris had three hits, including a triple, scored three runs and had two RBI. Berke had two hits and two RBI; Bergstrom and Danielewicz had one RBI each with a walk and a groundout, respectively.

## Woodson fires hole-in-one

Farmington resident John Woodson Saturday sank a hole-in-one at San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills.

Woodson used a seven iron to tee off on the 167-yard third hole for his first-ever hole-in-one, course spokesman Jim Cole said. The achievement helped Woodson shoot a 55 for nine holes.

## Farmington soccer sign up

Youth soccer players have until Monday, July 15, to sign up with the Farmington Soccer Club for the fall season. There are openings in all age groups.

Players should call the club registrar at (248) 426-7146 to sign up. Girls age 15 and under are needed to fill an under-15 select team. Call the same number if interested.

## NFWB tourney showcases talent

By TIM SMITH  
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A lot of good baseball players and teams will converge on the communities of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield this weekend.

And the Eighth Annual Summer Classic baseball tournament could provide a great opportunity for a spotlight to shine down on the region.

That's the view of North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball tournament director Tony Agosta, a longtime coach of the 18-year-old NFWB Cobras travel team.

"What I'm trying to do is make this the premiere tournament in the Midwest," said Agosta, a Farmington Hills resident.

At this year's Summer Classic, slated to take place Friday through Sunday, about 100 teams in various

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age brackets (8-to-18) will compete in hopes of landing — if they win — automatic berths at the United States Specialty Sports Association World Series.

When Agosta took over the USSSA-sanctioned tournament five years ago, only 40 teams took the field.

"This is the first time we've ever hit 100 teams," he said.

Teams from Canada, as well as Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and even New York state will play at one of seven sites in Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.

Agosta said games will be staged at Drake Sports Park, Founders Field and Pioneer Park in Farmington Hills and four high schools — West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Harrison and North Farm-

ington.

Eighteen of the teams play in the NFWB organization, which Agosta estimates has about 1,200 players.

According to Agosta, whose son Zack is an outfielder on the 18-year-old Cobras team, the Summer Classic site gives college and pro scouts an opportunity to check many of the up-and-coming players.

But, even more importantly, it brings many traveling baseball teams and their families to the West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills communities. Those people will be helping to pump up the area economy.

"I've got two hotels with 200 to 300 rooms rented for this weekend," Agosta said. "Plus, they have to get out every night" for dining and recreation.

Meanwhile, Agosta is confident that a successful Summer Classic, both on the field and economically, will bode well for future NFWB tournaments.

(See a complete list of tournament games with times and sites on Page D2.)



**Baseball champions:** The members of the Rays baseball team are (front row, left to right) Thomas Markey, Robbie Minielly, Keith Kornacki, (middle row) Zach Terzich, Garrett Pelouski, Alex Knox, Garriek Givens, Zach Montroy, Tony Goebel, (back row) assistant coach Ken Kornacki, head coach Ed Kornacki and assistant coach Jim Montroy. Not pictured are Alex George, Kyle Kottke, Jake Weimer and Steven Fernandez.

## Rays rally to win Mustang title

The South Farmington Rays made an incredible post-season run to capture the South Farmington Baseball Inc. Mustang Division tournament championship.

The Rays were just 2-13 during the regular season, but they got hot in

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the playoffs and did a complete turnaround.

Seeded 19th entering the tournament, the Rays defeated the No. 14

Giants, No. 3 Mets, No. 6 Royals and No. 2 Cardinals in the qualifying rounds to earn a berth in the championship game.

The Rays came from behind in the late innings to defeat the No. 9 Athletics in the tournament final and claim the crown.

Post 346  
rolls until  
last game

By DAN O'MEARA  
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Through four games of the Rose City Tournament in Jackson last week, the Farmington American Legion Post 346 baseball team was, well, The Big Green Machine.

Farmington rolled over its first four

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opponents with incredible ease while displaying some awesome offense. It scored 51 runs and had nearly 40 hits in those games.

But the engine driving the big machine coiled out before reaching the finish line as Post 346 dropped a 2-0 decision to Allen Park, a team it had merced previously, in the championship game.

"We were crowd pleasers," Farmington coach Wally Christensen said. "They were rooting for us, the locals were. They were starting to call us The Green Machine. With 50 runs in four games, what do you expect? But we spluttered in the last game."

In the tournament finale Sunday, Allen Park scored a run in the fourth on a double and an outfield error. It added an insurance run in the seventh with a walk, an error and another double.

Post 346 left the bases loaded in the sixth and two aboard in the first, as well as single runners in other innings.

Farmington had five hits by as many batters. Preston Picard pitched five innings and took the loss.

"We didn't get the clinching hits," Christensen said. "We had two on and nobody out in the sixth and couldn't get a run in. The guy we batted against was an excellent pitcher. He was red-shirted by Western Michigan (University)."

Please see LEGION, D8

Lakers record  
comeback win  
over Wildcats

Midway through the second period of their Metro Summer Hockey League game Monday at the Farmington Training Center, the Lakers were in trouble.

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The Wildcats, behind the one-two offensive punch of Mike Walsh (Farmington Hills) and Todd Bentley, had built a 7-4 lead. Bentley scoring four goals and Walsh three. But the game was just half over.

The Lakers rebounded, outscoring the Cats 11-1 the rest of the way en route to a 15-8 triumph.

The result allowed the Lakers to move past the Wildcats and into second place tie in the MSHL with a 4-2-1 record (nine points).

Bryan Marshall (Livonia) and Brian Jardine led the Laker attack. Marshall collecting three goals and three assists and Jardine contributing two goals and four assists. Sean Smith (Livonia) added three goals, Joe Pomaranski (Plymouth) had two goals and two assists. Nicholas Jardine had two goals and an assist. Matt Frick and Andy Howard each had a goal and two

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## Suburban soccer champions



**Fear wins title:** The Farmington Fear struck fear into its opponents during the Western Suburban Soccer League's spring season. The under-14 girls' team finished in first place with an 8-0 record. The Fear scored 46 goals while allowing only 19 shots and just one goal the entire season. The members of the team are (front) Ashley Buckley, (kneeling, left to right) Lauren Nassar, Laura Anne Mihalko, Carrie-Anne Stuart, Alison Martin, Courtney Lovio; (back row) Mary Bresnihan, Alex Brown, Jessica Cregar, Megan O'Hara, Emily Trinks, Teresa Kaban and Elise Call. Not pictured are Tina Ventura, Alaina Buzas and coaches Larry Mihalko and Fred Nassar.