



Challenge

Writer works to lose weight
and invites others along, C5.

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Sidelines

Blues win again

The South Farmington Blues finished their season on a winning note — by capturing their third-straight tournament title, the Madison Heights Invitational July 19-20.

It wasn't all that easy for the Blues. After pounding the Ipswich Americans 16-0, Brian Grewe and Dan Tamaraglio combined to pitch a mercy rule four-inning one-hitter, and John Miller, Cameron Fowler and John Bezak had two hits apiece — the Blues got pounded themselves, 16-3 by the Coughlin Cubs.

The Blues regrouped and beat the Saline Slingers 9-4 in their next game, with Steven Pelletier, Tyler Mitchell, Heath Parling and Fowler getting two hits each.

That set up a rematch with Coughlin, and this time South Farmington prevailed, 8-0. Fowler tossed a one-hitter, striking out two and walking one. Scoreless after three innings, the Blues put four runs on the board in the fourth and four more in the fifth, with Miller collecting two hits and four runs batted in. Jacob Gudeman and Grewe added two hits apiece.

The Blues finished their season 34-11, winning the Eastern Division of the Little Caesars American Baseball Federation, the USSSA state championship and the Chelsea Midsummer Classic.

Pelletier led the team with a .577 batting average, 79 hits, 19 doubles and seven triples, and he tied Parling for the team lead in home runs. Gudeman batted .374, Grewe had an 11-pitching record and led the team in innings pitched and strikeouts, and Fowler was 9-1 and topped the team in earned run average and saves.

The Blues are coached by Steve Pelletier, Andy Grewe and Stu Rose.

Taeekwondo honor

Several local taekwondo students were recognized recently at the 22nd Annual Junior Olympic Taekwondo Championships in Minneapolis.

Observant participants included: Ronald Gamble, Benjamin Kil, Hana Kil, Katie Potter, Nick Potter, Daniel Sigman, Sarah Walsh and Ethan Walsh, all from Canton, and Kusal Matthew of Farmington.

This group combined to win 16 medals, including three silvers, at the national competition.

Tennis champs

Several Observant youngsters took home trophies at the recent Judd Kingsbury Memorial Tournament, held July 19-21 at the Livonia YMCA.

Ashley Moccia of Livonia won the girls 16s title with a 6-0, 6-4 win. Chole Karoub of Farmington Hills was the runner-up in the girls 12s division. Mihai Mihalcescu of Canton was the winner in the boys 12s division with a 7-6, 6-0 victory in the finals. Vivek Behara of Farmington Hills won a marathon final over Adam Williams of West Bloomfield, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. In the boys 18s division, Jason Beydoun of Westland and Redford Catholic Central High School won with a 7-5, 6-1 victory.

Bucks shock Menace to reach conference finals

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

A lot of teams would have been intimidated. The Mid-Michigan Bucks weren't. Going up against the Premier Development League's top-ranked team nationwide, the Bucks played near flawless soccer in registering a huge 3-1 upset over the Des Moines (Iowa) Menace in the Central Conference semifinals played Friday in Des Moines.

The Bucks met the Boulder (Colo.)

PLAYOFF SOCCER

Rapid Reserve, which upset the Chicago Fire Reserve 2-1 in the first semifinal match, for the conference title in Des Moines last night. Results will appear in Thursday's Observer.

"Definitely, we were solid," said Bucks' co-owner Dan Duggan of his team's effort. "(Keeper) Eric Pogue was the player of the game, no question about it. He made about seven great saves."

Mid-Michigan improved to 12-5-2 overall. For Des Moines, it was its first loss of the season; they finish at 15-1-3, after becoming only the third PDL team to go through a regular season unbeaten.

For much of the season, the Bucks were forced to play catch up against their opponent, the result of surrendering an early goal. In the last few games, however, they've seemingly solved that problem.

At the 15-minute mark of Friday's match, Pat Noonan — the game's offen-

sive star, he figured in all three Bucks' goals — fielded a pass from Paul Snape (from Oakland University) at the 18-yard mark and drilled a perfect shot into the upper corner of the net to give the Bucks a 1-0 lead.

"Noonan came, ready to play," said Duggan.

It stayed that way throughout the first half, an accomplishment for the Bucks in itself. Des Moines boasted the PDL's

PLEASE SEE BUCKS, C2



Brother Rice coach Bob Riker goes over the fundamentals of batting with Scott Bateman, Jake Keeley and Jared Terrill.

Baseball camp teaches, but it's still fun

BY GREG MCGLIORE
STAFF WRITER

In some sports, players can get away without knowing the fundamental skills.

Baseball is not one of them. Former University of Michigan shortstop Brian Kalczynski is trying to make sure young players know the basics of the game by teaching them through games and competitive drills at his "Keeping the Fun in Fundamentals" camps.

"We try to emphasize the proper techniques," he said. "The competition is enforcing the fundamentals more than the rules."

His most recent camp was last week at Founders Park with about 10 kids between the ages of eight and 14. Bob Riker, the coach at Birmingham Brother Rice, assists Kalczynski.

"We try to keep the coach-to-player ratio small so they can stay active," Kalczynski said.

The camp runs for about two

hours, but the kids usually arrive early to play catch and warm up. That's fun when they want to be here as much as I do," Kalczynski said.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARROLL / OBSERVER
Eight-year-old Scott Bateman of Farmington, gets his turn at bat during a "Fundamentally Fun" baseball camp at Founders Park.

The kids did fielding drills that taught how to handle ground balls cleanly. They also learned throwing techniques, like how to grip a ball properly to get the right spin.

Brooks Tuyn, a 13-year-old from Farmington Hills, said he learned a lot and improved his fielding.

"I learned some drills that helped me warm up," he said.

He said he will take what he learned and use it when he plays for St. Fabian's team next year.

The drills seemed to work. Even the youngest kids were using proper mechanics and throwing straight.

The coaches were enthusiastic, cheering for good plays with cries of "atta baby." They also were sticklers for details, noticing when kids would sling the ball sideways instead of using the proper over-the-top motion.

Players also worked on hitting line drives with level swings and base running.

PLEASE SEE CAMP, C5

New faces bring hope to Ocelots

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

It's never a "rebuilding time" for Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team.

So what if coach Bill Tolstedt lost 10 of his 18 players to graduation, from a team that went 18-2-5 and finished fifth in the NJCAA, their second-straight trip to the national tournament? Dwelling on past accomplishments is the road to ruin.

RECRUITING

Instead of examining his roster and remembering those who were there, wondering how he will replace them, Tolstedt sees opportunities for the players he's bringing in.

And of course, he has more talent now than ever before.

"It's been a real bonus year for me," the SC coach said in describing his recruiting efforts. "We've got a huge group."

"They're faster, more athletic and more technically and tactically sound (than their predecessors). The only thing they don't have is (collegiate) experience."

It is the biggest group of recruits Tolstedt has brought in, with 10 true freshmen and two transfers.

The transfers are indeed notable. Amanda Marsonnek, a 2001 Plymouth Salem graduate, attended Madonna University but an injury prevented her from playing last season. A midfielder/defender, Marsonnek will retain her freshman status.

"She's got speed and aggressiveness to play outside mid, and she's experienced enough to play inside," said Tolstedt. "I'm nothing but impressed with her."

Pam Dybowski, a keeper from Rochester, attended Siena Heights last year but did not play. "In my opinion, she's the best goalkeeper technically I've ever seen," Tolstedt said. "She could be an All-American."

Both Marsonnek and Dybowski were all-state players in high school. In fact, nearly all the players Tolstedt is bringing in have a similar designation.

There was no single star Tolstedt was trying to strengthen — he brought in players of all types.

The forwards are Kelly Bush from Taylor Kennedy ("She's tough on top. She's willing to take a chance and

PLEASE SEE RECRUITS, C2

Hills' girl collects top tourney honors

Brittany Nuccitelli of Farmington Hills and Gary Bubar of Livonia were both double-winners at the Motor City Junior Golf Championships Wednesday at Whispering Willows.

Nuccitelli shot a 94 on the 5,400-yard, par-72 course to finish first in the girls 15-17 division. She also had the closest to the pin shot for girls at No. 17, getting to within 47-feet, 3-inches.

Bubar had the best score of the day, winning the boys 15-17 division with a 78 on the 6,100-yard, par-70 course, and he was closest to the pin for boys at No. 17, coming within 15-feet, 7-inches.

Other age division winners in the Motor City Juniors, sponsored by Caddyshack, were Andrea Warzyniec of Livonia in the girls 13-14 division with a 101; Mike Dolmetsch of Livonia in the boys 13-14 division with an 83; and Greg Killen of Livonia in the boys 11-12 division with a 92.

Lauren Mack of Livonia was the girls

winner in the closest to the pin competition at No. 7, coming with 10-feet, 5-inches, and Matt Molnar of Livonia was the closest to the pin for boys at No. 7, landing his shot eight inches away from the cup.

Other scorers in the 15-17 boys division were: Paul Mazanka of Farmington Hills, 80; Matt Lewicki of Northville, 83; Steve Robinson of Livonia, 85; Nick Dahlstrom of Livonia, 94; Nicholas Vandergast of Roseville, 94; Jeff Burda of Livonia, 95; Jordan Brown of Plymouth, 100; Kenneth Haas of Livonia, 103; Jesse Predhomme of Plymouth, 105; and Tim Wilson of Livonia, 108.

In the boys 13-14 division, Joshua Pappalardo of Farmington Hills was second with an 84, followed by Matt Robinson of Livonia, 85; Patrick Alger of Livonia, 90; Paul Seguin of Livonia, 90; Richard Wyman of Livonia, 94; Steve South of Westland, 99; Matt Antrobious, 103;

Molnar, 105; Rob Rothamel, 105; Brian Dabish, 107; Scott Malinowski of Northville, 107; Robert Forte of Farmington Hills, 108; Drew Herron of Livonia, 111; Donald Hunt of Livonia, 112; Jonathon Zenner of Livonia, 121; Jacob Mikula of Livonia, 122; Steven Laudicina, 128; Mike McClintock of Livonia, 134; and Randy Kerr of Livonia, 177.

In the girls 15-17 division, Marie Palalan of Farmington Hills was second with a 96, followed by Emily Laird of Farmington Hills, 100; Shannon Lewicki of Northville, 102; Erica Jamrog of Novi, 104; Jessica Jeter of Livonia, 110; Lauren Mack of Livonia, 115; Natalie Pappalardo of Farmington Hills, 115; and Cathleen Kowalski of Livonia, 124.

In the girls 13-14 division, Angela Jamrog of Novi was second to Warzyniec with a 104. A total of 51 junior golfers played in Wednesday's tournament.



Brittany Nuccitelli of Farmington Hills shot a 94, winning her division at the Motor City Junior Golf Championships.

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