

## GOLF

FROM PAGE C1

Right now I'd say Paul, Danny and Eddie will be it. Some others are a little more seasoned."

Other returning players are sophomore Adam Schiff, junior Ian Chornoby and senior Eric Zalkin. Sophomore Ryan Modreski and freshman Chris Hunsinger are first-year players who round out the team.

Harrison will compete in Division II of the Oakland Activities Association, and Spencer expects to face tough competition from Andover, Athens, Groves, Kettering, Scholm and West Bloomfield. "It's going to be interesting," he said. "The way I look at it, if you play tough courses and tough teams, it's going to make you better. It will make you tournament-ready and, hopefully, will pay off at the end of the year."

"It's going to be very, very tough. There should be some very close matches. We'll give it the best shot we can."

Spencer, the 2001 Observerland Coach of the Year, thinks the Hawks have the potential to do well and qualify again for the state tournament.

"I believe our first six players are going to develop, and I think they'll be tournament-tested," he said.

"We play nine tournaments this year. We have a lot of 18-hole rounds. We should be pretty well prepared."

The Hawks, who have just four home dual meets at San Marino Golf Course, have the OAA Division II tournament Tuesday at Heather Highlands and the Farmington Invitational Wednesday at Kensington.

## FARMINGTON

The Falcons have a new coach in Dennis Zaleski, who teaches technology at Farmington High and has been on staff there for 29 years. Zaleski said, jokingly, he has waived that to coach the golf team.

The school has had only two coaches in that time - Gene Schoeneich and Jim Miner, who had the job for the last 12 years and has retired to Colorado.

Farmington lost All-Observer player Bryan Proven to graduation, but it returns senior Keith Hay, who was an all-area selection two years ago.

"He definitely has leadership qualities," Zaleski said of Hay. "I've already seen him pushing other players to pick up the pace. He's a quality individual."

"One day he had a seven, which we all do when we play golf, and he was able to still finish with a one-over-37. That shows he has the mental toughness."

Hay also is one of six hockey players on the team. "It does seem the hand-to-eye coordination is there," Zaleski said.

Senior Brad Cregar, junior Mike Schuyler and sophomore Eddie Weinger also return and will be among the top five players along with freshman Joe Stefan.

Stefan has great composure and didn't flinch when placed in varsity competition Wednesday, according to Zaleski.

The sixth varsity spot is open to competition "to give everybody some experience in the game," Zaleski said. "As JV players shoot good scores, they'll get opportunities."

"Golf is a game of getting hot and cold. If you're hot, you'll have an opportunity."

Other returning players are junior Andrew Bernicki, sophomore Mike Welsh and seniors Steve Bratcher and Adam Ellis.

The list of newcomers includes junior Kyle Bojan, sophomores Chris Benbe, Kyle Schauer and Devin Fossen and freshman Wayne Pollard.

Farmington will play in the OAA Division III meet Monday at Kensington and the Farmington Invitational Wednesday at Huron Meadows.

"At the end of that, we'll know what we have," Zaleski said.

"I think we're going to hold our own. We're going to get better as the season goes on."

"We're looking forward to competing in the OAA. I think we'll have some success. Our young players are up to the task."

## NORTH FARMINGTON

Three of the team's top five players - Randy Yu, Brian Bober and Alex Yerkey - either

graduated or moved, but the Raiders return half of their varsity lineup.

Senior co-captains Tony Rea and Jeff Patterson and junior Vince McKeon are back to lead the team this year. Rea averaged 42 strokes per nine-hole match, Patterson 43.8 and McKeon 43.4.

"Hopefully, the ones coming back are going to step in and fill the big shoes they need to fill for us to be competitive this year," North coach Bruce Sutton said.

Senior Scott Weintraub and juniors Eric Sweidan and John Noble had a fair amount of match experience last year, too.

Freshman Mychal Coker, who shot 87 in the city meet, is one of the top newcomers.

"I'm carrying four freshmen this year and, hopefully, the next two or three years they'll be big contributors to the program," Sutton said.

Completing this year's team are junior Erik Behrmann, sophomores Joe McKeon and Doug Coursen and freshmen Ross Kennedy, Aaron Russ and Anindh Penumetcha.

Sutton is hopeful the Raiders, who won three matches last year, will be much improved, especially since they're now playing in the OAA Division III.

"We're very excited about being in the new league," he said. "With us it's a different situation. We were put in this really tough division."

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## SHAMROCKS

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enters the 2002 season after a summer that saw him play top courses around the country and the world, including fabled St. Andrews in Scotland.

Hayes predicted first-team All-Observer pick would finish the season as one of the top golfers in the state, and will use his experience and skill to help the Shamrocks to the top of the Catholic League.

"He really hits the ball long and is excellent off the tee," Hayes said.

"He's represented the U.S. and Michigan at various competitions and didn't lose a match."

"It may be a tough transition for him, because all summer he's just been playing as an

individual, and now he's part of a team. But we've got quite a few players who aren't that far from him."

One player Hayes talked quite a bit about was freshman Adam Hogue, who's made quite an impression on his coaches and teammates in his short time with the program.

"He's unbelievable," Hayes said with an admiring chuckle. "He's not influenced by any other player, no matter what course he's playing, he does things the same way and always hits it to the middle of the fairway."

"He's the only freshman I've had play at the varsity level. He's just amazing."

Standing 5-foot-2 inches, Hogue still tackles any course with equal skill, Hayes said.

"His game is together, and he won't get rattled."

But there's more to the Shamrocks than their bookend (by age) players.

Seniors Andy Soley, Jared Henderson and Jack Kelly give the team consistent play and good leadership.

Juniors Chris Eliason, Mike King and Jimmy Burns make up the rest of the starting team, with Soley and Burns among the top early scorers for CC.

Hayes said he will keep upwards of 16 players on varsity this season, among players who will participate in match play or in tournaments. He said this team has excellent depth.

"Out of the 16 we've got, 12 will consistently shoot below 80," he said.

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## FALCONS

FROM PAGE C1

have to play each division opponent twice.

"I don't think there are many schools that want to be in Division I of the OAA, because it's very tough to do well there," he said. "Our schedule is going to be tough, but we're ready for it."

Juncaj still thinks the OAA move was the right thing to do for the long term.

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be adjusted, according to MHSAA spokesman John Johnson. Once a school is notified in writing of its classification, there can be no downward adjustment, however.

Johnson said all schools were notified of their classification (A-B-C-D) in a letter dated March 20 of this year and their division assignment April 1.

He said it wasn't until May 31 when Farmington reported an error in its figures.

"In this instance, it was weeks after the fact, after they were notified," Johnson said. "Nearly two months passed. Had that been caught in early March, there may have been an opportunity to correct things."

"The only party that is going to catch an error is the school itself. We take the numbers submitted by the school and work with the school."

Johnson said that rule has been applied consistently in previous cases and to do otherwise in the case of Farmington would be unfair.

Juncaj said he questioned the Division I placement when he saw it on the MHSAA website in March and called the MHSAA. Johnson said he didn't think the district assignments for fall sports had been posted that early.

"It's possible there was telephone contact by somebody who is not an administrator," Johnson said, reiterating the first administrative contact and request for reconsideration was May 31.

Farmington was given an opportunity to appeal and pleaded its case before the MHSAA on Aug. 9. The school was represented by FHS principal John Barrett, FPS athletic director Brian Swinehart and John O'Brien, president of the

## Farmington Soccer Backers.

The school was informed Tuesday its appeal was denied. Johnson said the MHSAA's decision was not necessarily a foregone conclusion.

"Every rule in the MHSAA handbook except the age rule is appealable," he said. "The association is bound to provide an opportunity for an appeal to be heard."

"But, again, the rule was applied and interpreted consistently as it has been in the past. All schools have to play by the same rules. Those are the rules (Farmington) agreed to when it joined the association."

Juncaj disagrees with the MHSAA's decision and is unhappy with its refusal to allow a mistake to be corrected.

"It reminds me of the communists in Yugoslavia where I grew up," Juncaj said.

"Once something was done, it was done. There was no way to change."

"We caught this mistake quite early; so we had plenty of time to do a correction, but they were extremely stubborn about it."

Unfortunately for the Falcons, who return a lot of good players, they had expected to contend for the Division II state title again.

"I'm not that upset about (the OAA)," Juncaj said. "Good competition during the regular season is going to make us better. It's going to get us ready for the state tournament."

"This thing with the MHSAA is not fair at all. Our kids are the ones who are going to suffer because of the way the MHSAA dealt with this."

"Anybody can make a mistake like that. In America, we should be able to correct a mistake like that."

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## HAWKS

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The medalist was Lake Orion's Jeff Beier with a 71. Troy's Chris Fichter and Waterford Mott's Jake Crane shot 74 each, and David Saatchi of Troy matched Kock's 75.

North Farmington was sixth with a 326 team total. Tony Rea shot 78, Vince McKeon 80, Mychal Coker 83 and Scott Weintraub 85.

Farmington had a 333 for 10th place. Joe Stefan led the Falcons with a 78; Keith Hay and Brad Cregar finished with 84s and Eddie Weinger 87.

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city tournament. Kock shot 35, the front nine at Huron Meadows in Brighton and 37 on the back. Kjolhede was the runner-up with a solid 76.

The Hawks had a 319 team total with Fitzgerald shooting 85 and Mazanka 86.

Farmington was second with 325 and North Farmington third with 337.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Spencer said. "I can't say it came out of nowhere, but you go into the first one not really knowing."

"Now I'll have a little better handle on where we stand and how to pick the top six players."

Spencer added he thinks the Hawks are capable of scoring better than they did Wednesday.

"The other ones have to get into the low 80s," he said. "If they get it down to around 81, 83 to complement the other scores, we'll be competitive."

Schuyler led the Falcons with a 78; Hay shot 80, Cregar 81 and Stefan 86. Rea was low man for North with an 80. The Raiders demonstrated team balance as McKeon and Eric Sweidan shot 85 each and Weintraub 87.

The four next-best scores for each team counted toward a JV tournament, which North won in a fifth-man tiebreaker over Farmington.

Both teams finished with 357 totals after four scores. Joe McKeon shot 92 for the Raiders while the Falcons had two golfers at 93.

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