

Sports

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Post-polio
Symptoms can return to
plague victims after
cure. C6

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Sidelines

OAA golf winners

Farmington High won the Oakland Activities Association Division III pre-season boys golf tournament last week at Kensington Golf Course. The Falcons shot a 313 team score. The order of finish included Royal Oak Kimball (321), Rochester Stoney Creek (321), Berkley (322), North Farmington (323), Royal Oak Dondoro (334) and Ferndale (383). Farmington's Mike Schuyler (74) finished third and Keith Hay (77) sixth, and both received medals. Brad Cregar and Joe Stefan shot 81 each for the Falcons; Jason Welch had 89 and Adam Ellis 91.

New prep show

State Champs, a new weekly TV show on WDIV Channel 4 devoted to high school sports in southeast Michigan, will air at noon each Sunday, beginning Sept. 1. The show, hosted by Fred McLeod of WDIV, is scheduled to broadcast 42 shows featuring boys and girls high school sports in the state's nine-county viewing. State Champs is also seeking to audition high school correspondents the weeks of Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at five shopping malls throughout the metro area. For more information, visit www.statechamps.tv.

Cruisers go 27-6

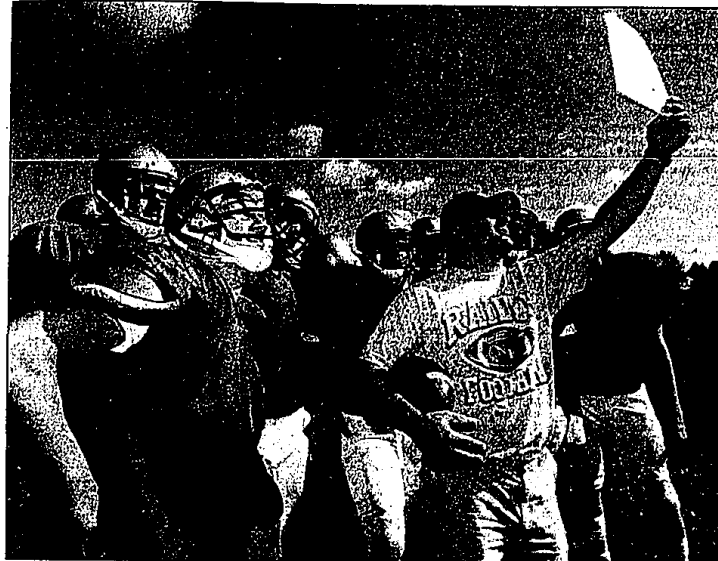
The Livonia Cruisers senior softball team wrapped up a 27-6 season by winning the Canton Softball Center's A Division and playoff title in a league that consists of four teams from Windsor and seven from western Wayne County.

They also went undefeated in a double-elimination tournament earlier this month in Dorchester, Ontario, the largest senior softball tournament in Canada.

The Cruisers include former area prep coaches Roger Frayer, Brian Gillies, Chuck Hebestreit and Ron Heiler, along with current Redford Catholic Central baseball assistant and ex-New York Met Al Moran. Frank Vellucci of Farmington, the father of Plymouth Walers coach and general manager Mike Vellucci, is also a member along with John Avallone, Bob Dellgaw, Ken Johnson, Gerald Kanopsky, Mike Malack, Bob Mullins, Jim Ranszewski, Jack Schroeder, Jesse Solo, George Stirling, Pete Woodard, Bud Welcher, Leonard Zundel and Dave Racer.

The Cruisers represent cities Livonia, Westland, Plymouth, Redford, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Detroit and Windsor.

Many of the Cruisers will compete in the Senior World Series this week in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Huntsman World Senior Games in October in St. George, Utah (where they captured a gold medal last year in the 60-and-over division).



BOB BRESELER/OBSERVER

North Farmington coach Rich Burrell goes over the game plan with his players during football practice. Everything is looking up for the Raiders, who start competition in the Oakland Activities Association Thursday.

Raiders ready for OAA action

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The timing could not have been better for the North Farmington football program.

The Raiders are well prepared for the move to the Oakland Activities Association this fall, according to coach Rich Burrell.

"It happens to be a nice coincidence," he said, "We're going into the OAA with one of the best teams we've had since I've been here."

North expects to be more competitive against comparable teams in Division III of the OAA than it was in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Raiders were 3-6 last year and weren't that bad when you consider they

were in every game but the first two with Northville and Plymouth Canton.

North returns 14 players with starting experience, and a large squad of 60-plus members will enable it to play two-plate football.

"I've never been more excited about going into a football season," Burrell said.

PLEASE SEE RAIDERS, C3

N. Farmington plans to be in contention for OAA title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

By any reasonable standard, North Farmington had a successful season in boys soccer last year, winning twice as many games as it lost.

The Raiders, who were 12-6-2, are hoping to do even better now that they're competing in the Oakland Activities Association.

North will be playing a number of teams in Division II of the OAA it met previously in non-league games and against whom it had success.

"We're looking forward to some good play," North coach Ron Meteyer said. "We've done well against teams there. In this league, I figure we can compete very successfully."

"Everybody warned us we were going to have to travel far, but we really don't have to do that much. A lot of schools are relatively close."

"We're not displeased at all. We feel we'll be in every game, not when we had to play Stevenson, Canton and Salem. It was an

PLEASE SEE TITLE, C2

CC needs to boost offensive output to achieve more wins

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

Scoring goals last year for Redford-Detroit Catholic Central's boys soccer team was about as easy as trying to squeeze water out of a rock.

The Shamrocks had trouble scoring all season against the tough Catholic League competition, and finished the 2001 season with just one win — against Livonia Franklin in the first round of district play.

This year, new coach Joe Nora hopes to boost the team's offensive output while maintaining its blue-collar style of play. CC went 1-10-2 last season before losing to the eventual state champion U-D Jesuit in the district semifinals.

"We're a very hard working team," Nora said. "The kids are hungry for victories, especially after last year."

Without a doubt, the soccer team will be

eager to prove its worth, after watching their classmates on the cross country and football teams bring home Division I state championships last fall. But like any other sport, the Catholic League won't be easy to navigate.

U-D won the soccer state title a year ago and figures to be rock solid once again. Warren DeLaSalle has been a traditional power, both in Macomb County and the CHSL, while the matchup with Brother Rice always promises to be interesting.

Nora, who previously coached the girls team at Plymouth Salem and the boys squad at Walled Lake Western, said the strength of the team will be its defense.

Junior John Shaw takes over the key center-midfield position for the Shamrocks and will control the middle of the field effectively. Senior Todd Tindall

PLEASE SEE CENTRAL, C2

Farmington set to start '02 season

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

If someone steps forward and fills the void left by Julie Kimmel, the Farmington High girls basketball team should be in good shape for the 2002 season.

Kimmel, who led the Falcons in scoring and rebounding and averaged in double figures for both, was one of several key graduation losses.

Farmington, which opened Tuesday against Farmington Harrison in a tournament at Troy Athens, returns two starters from last year's 8-12 team.

Brittney Coleman is a 5-foot-9 junior who will play the point and be the floor leader.

"She seems to be a lot more composed on the floor and has really matured," new coach Greg Ambrose said, adding Coleman benefitted from attending the All-State Basketball Camp this summer.

"We're looking for a lot from her. She's a good ball handler and she penetrates well. We're working with her on kicking it out and finding the open persons."

The other returning starter is 6-foot senior Deanna Gauer, who was elected a team captain along with senior Karla Stricker.

"Kimmel was the go-to person, and somebody has to step up," Ambrose said, adding he'd like to see Gauer pick up some of the rebounding slack.

"We're hoping she's ready to step up and assume that responsibility. She's been pretty aggressive at getting after the ball, but we can be better."

Junior Jessica Leach (5-10) was on the varsity at the end of last season

PLEASE SEE FARMINGTON, C4



SHARON LEWELLYN/OBSERVER

Harrison's Brett Laird (left), a key returning player, tries to get a leg up on the competition in a game last year with Redford Union.

Harrison anticipates increase in victories

DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison's five wins last year in boys soccer was more than it had in the previous five years combined.

The numbers might be even better for the Hawks, who think they could double their victory total with a more equitable arrangement this year.

It's conceivable Harrison could go from perennial doormat in the Western Lakes Activities Association to a division champion in its new league, the Oakland Activities Association.

Instead of facing some of the best teams in the state in the WLAA, the Hawks will be in Division III of the

OAA with Lamphere, Dondoro, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Avondale and Stoney Creek.

"We're definitely going to get more victories," Harrison coach Tim Russell said. "We're going to battle and try to win the division."

The biggest reason will be we have some tremendous upperclassmen leading us. Our captains are very dedicated and keeping the other guys on the ball.

"They're teaching the freshmen and sophomores the kinda program we want to have. I'm proud of the upperclassmen and the tone they're setting."

The captains and team leaders are

PLEASE SEE HARRISON, C2

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