



## Sidelines

### Hockey deals

For a pair of draft picks, the Plymouth Whalers added a pair of experienced over-age players on Tuesday. The Whalers traded a fourth-round pick in 2003 and a seventh-round choice in 2004 to the Peterborough Petes for left wing Matt Armstrong and left wing-center Jimmy Gagnon.

"We are very happy to be able to get both of these players," Whalers general manager/coach Mike Vellucci said. "Both of these guys bring a lot of experience, and we are looking forward to having them in the lineup."

Armstrong finished with 17 goals and 21 assists in 65 games for the Petes last season; he also had 59 minutes in penalties. Gagnon played in 60 games, scoring five goals and adding 16 assists.

### Intramural hoops

Registration for the 2002 St. Fabian Intramural basketball program will take place 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, in the school lobby.

All St. Fabian boys and girls in grades five through eight are encouraged to sign up. The program is intended for kids of all skill levels.

Volunteer coaches, referees and scorekeepers are needed and may sign up during registration. The five-week season begins Saturday, Sept. 14, and ends Saturday, Oct. 19.

For more information call Bob Cipriano at 248-478-3070.

### New prep show

The Farmington Harrison-Birmingham Brother Rice football game will be one of 10 prep contests featured on State Champs, a new weekly TV show on WDIV Channel 4. The show is devoted to high school sports in southeast Michigan and 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 station's nine-county viewing area.

State Champs is also seeking to audition high school correspondents the weeks of Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 at live shopping malls throughout the metro area.

For more information, visit [www.statechamps.tv](http://www.statechamps.tv).

### Featured speaker

ESPN SportsCenter anchor Linda Cohn will be the featured guest speaker at the Women's Economic Club Thursday, Sept. 12, at the new home of the Detroit Lions, Ford Field.

Tickets are \$50 for members and \$55 for guests.

The program includes a strolling gourmet dinner and football 101, a humorous synopsis of the game, which will precede a tour of the new home of the Lions.

For more information or reservations, call (313) 963-5088 or visit [www.womeneconomicclub.org](http://www.womeneconomicclub.org).

# Prep gridders set for 2002 kickoff

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

The high school football season begins tonight with great anticipation and much promise for Farmington Public Schools' three teams.

For the first time since the Northwest Suburban League disbanded in the mid 1980s and North Farmington joined her sister schools in the Western Lakes Activities Association, they'll be in a new

league. Kickoff for Farmington and North Farmington is tonight in a pair of Oakland Activities Association crossover games.

The OAA Division III numbers are on the road playing at Division IV opponents.

The Raiders will be at Bloomfield Hills Andover while Clawson plays host to the Falcons.

The biggest difference between the WLAA and the new divisional setup in

the OAA will be the numerical size of teams and the physical size of players, according to North coach Rich Burrell.

"We've always had enough skill guys to make the game exciting," said Burrell, a former North player who begins his fifth year at his alma mater. "But we've never been able to match up in the past with the offensive and defensive lines of other schools."

"In the Western Lakes, there were always 50 kids on the other sideline.

We'd be there with 30 to 32 with a number of them going both ways. It catches up to you in the fourth quarter."

"We've changed leagues and now we're in that position. Now we have the advantage in the fourth quarter."

The Raiders had an increase in their numbers and are planning to play two-platoon football this year.

"Ten juniors went back to the JV; so we're back to about 50," he said.

PLEASE SEE GRID, D4

## Marlins deal with setbacks

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy might still have a good year in girls basketball, but the outlook isn't as positive as it was for the Marlins.

With a senior-dominated team, Mercy was expected to be a Catholic League contender, but a number of setbacks in the personnel department have dropped the Marlins a couple notches.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

"We were looking so good it was scary," Mercy coach Kristin Guinn said. "Everything was looking so great, and then it was just one thing after the other."

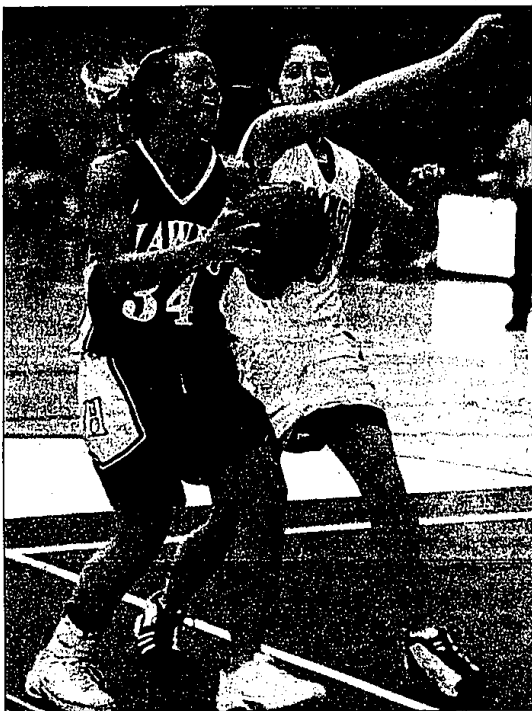
Tessa Kuykendall, a 6-foot-2 senior who had started at center for two years, decided to forego basketball and concentrate on volleyball in which she is a nationally-recruited college prospect.

Senior guard Alexandria Marshall also decided not to play basketball, so she can focus on academic pursuits and a promising future in track.

Marshall, a gifted student with interests in debate and public speaking, Guinn said, suffered a knee injury last spring but was able to run one event in the state meet.

Senior forward Deidre Jones, who was an all-division player and one of Mercy's top scorers, and junior Kaitlyn Risk had surgery to repair torn knee ligaments this

PLEASE SEE MARLINS, D6



Farmington's Maggie Conden makes a move to the basket Tuesday night while Rachel Heinrich of Farmington tries to impede her progress.

## Tourney final: It's all Hawks

BY MARTY BUDNER  
STAFF WRITER

It will be all Hawks in the championship basketball game of Third Annual Eccentric Newspapers Girls Tip-Off Classic at Troy Athens High School.

The Farmington Harrison Hawks, newcomers this fall to the Oakland Activities Association, will take on the host Athens Red Hawks in the finals slated for 8 p.m. today. In Tuesday's semifinal games, Athens defeated Auburn Hills Avondale, 47-36, and Harrison stopped district rival Farmington, 38-20.

Athens will play in the championship game for the second time in the tournament's brief three-year history. The Red Hawks have never won the tournament title.

This is Harrison's first tournament appearance.

"It's nice to get back into the finals, and with a new team - Farmington Harrison - it's welcome to the OAA," said Athens veteran head coach Joe Clinton.

"They've been very successful in their former league (Western Lakes Activities Association), so it's a nice introduction prior to league play."

"(Head coach) Pete (Mantyla) does a great job over there. He's got a nice program and he's excited about playing (in the OAA). What a nice way to tune-up for the OAA."

"We're looking forward to it. We match up real well," he said. "They have a strong inside-outside game,

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, D3

## 4-0 Falcons take tourney title

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High is undefeated through four games of the 2002 boys soccer season after winning the Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day tournament and its first game in the Oakland Activities Association.

"We're very happy with what has happened so far, and we look forward to the other challenges," coach Luke Juncaj said.

The Falcons, who were runners-up a year ago, won the tournament for the first time by defeating Birmingham Seaholm Saturday night, 2-0.

Aaron Helisek scored the deciding goal midway in the first half. Matt Konopinski crossed the ball in front of the goal, and Matt Okopy "served a great one-touch ball to Helisek, who put it in the right corner of the goal, away from the keeper," Juncaj said.

"We had another five or six chances to score, but our forwards were a little too anxious and we failed to get another goal in the first half."

Not to worry. Farmington's defense passed the test, and Konopinski added an insurance goal with a minute left in the game.

Konopinski took a through ball

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, D6



Farmington's Kacey Lopeta lines up a shot that resulted in a goal Monday while Mott's Matt Williams gives chase and teammate Matt Okopy watches the play develop.

## Farmingtons hope to serve OAA wins

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Its former Western Lakes Activities Association opponents would no doubt like to wish the North Farmington girls tennis team well in its new league.

### GIRLS TENNIS

They must be glad the Raiders left the WLAA to join the Oakland Activities Association.

North, long a power in the WLAA, dominated the circuit in recent years and won the championship the last two.

The Raiders have another strong team but will face a lot of good competition in the OAA Division I, which includes Adams, Athens, Clarkston, Groves, Lahser, Seaholm and Troy.

"We'd like to win it the first year, but we know it's going to take an awful lot of hard work to get to that point," first-year Raiders coach Mark Shenton said.

"There are some very tough teams in

PLEASE SEE TENNIS, D2

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