

Sports

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Unbeaten Falcons win 3rd straight

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The fact Farmington's offense never got in the end zone Friday night didn't really matter.

The Falcons still managed to defeat visiting Oak Park in their Oakland Activities Association Division III opener, 13-7.

Farmington used a big play by Phillip Champion, the leg of kicker Kacey Lopata and a tough second-half defense to win the game.

The Falcons are 3-0 for the first time since 1994 and unbeaten in their first three games for the fourth time since 1964.

"It beats the hell out of the alternative," Farmington coach John Bechtel

said regarding the team's perfect record. "The kids are fighting to be successful, and we're growing up every week."

The Knights (1-2, 0-1) scored first following an interception by Kenneth Wynn that gave Oak Park the ball at the Farmington 17-yard line.

On third down, Larry Perryman passed 17 yards to Delvon Nickson for the touchdown, and the Knights had a 7-

0 lead with 6:09 remaining in the first quarter.

But the Falcons responded with the equalizer just 12 seconds later when Champion returned the kickoff 80 yards for a TD that electrified the home crowd and gave Farmington new life.

"I sensed our kids could play with

PLEASE SEE FALCONS, C5



ELIZABETH CARNEGIE | OBSERVER

Marcus Woods runs through a maze of Colts en route to a 184-yard game Friday night. He scored two second-half touchdowns in the Hawks' 22-0 victory.

Harrison wins 22-0 over Troy

Marcus Woods showed why he's considered one of the best running backs in the state Friday night.

The senior tailback rushed for 184 yards and a pair of second-half touchdowns as host Farmington Harrison blanked Troy, 22-0.

The Hawks are 2-0 in Division I of the Oakland Activities Association, the Colts 1-1. Both teams are 2-1 overall.

The first half was mostly a defensive struggle, but Harrison used three field goals by Chris Kollias to take a 9-0 half-time lead.

Troy had the ball on Harrison's side of the 50 for much of the first quarter, due in part to Harrison penalties (12 for 85 yards overall).

In the second quarter, the Hawks drove from their 20 to the Colts' 14 in 17 plays. The drive ended with Kollias kicking a 32-yard field goal.

Following short punts that gave Harrison the ball at the Troy 28 and 47, the Hawks settled for field goals of 45 and 48 yards by Kollias.

PLEASE SEE HARRISON, C5

Konopinski, Okopny propel Farmington past Clarkston

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Matt Konopinski scored two goals Thursday night to spark Farmington High to a 3-1 victory over host Clarkston in boys soccer.

Matt Okopny gave the Falcons a 1-0 halftime lead with an unassisted goal. He took possession in the midfield, dribbled through five defenders and beat the goalie in the 35th minute.

Matt O'Brien made a long throw-in to the front of the Clarkston net, and Konopinski headed the ball into the goal 10 minutes into the second half.

Konopinski's second goal on a breakaway with 15 minutes remaining made it 3-0. The Wolves were applying offensive pressure when the Falcons counter-attacked. Okopny sent a cross to the front of the net, and Konopinski headed the ball home. Okopny was the team's leading scorer with six goals heading into a Saturday game with Rochester Adams. Konopinski was next with five.

Clarkston avoided a shutout with a goal by Matt Smitty in the 74th minute. The Falcons, who are 6-2 overall and 2-2 in the Oakland Activities Association Division II, outshot the Wolves, 10-6.

"We were the better team all 80 minutes, but they were a pretty decent team as well," Farmington coach Luke Juncos said. "It was not an easy game for us."

"The top players on our team really

PLEASE SEE FARMINGTON, C4

Hawks, Raiders coast to dual-meet swim victories

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The new Oakland Activities Association schedule has been a good deal for the Farmington Harrison girls swim team thus far.

The Hawks have won two of three dual meets, the latest being a 114-71 triumph over host Madison Heights Lamphere Thursday.

Harrison has yet to swim an OAA Division III meet, however.

Its two victories were against D-IV teams, including a 107-78 win over Auburn Hills Avondale in the opener. Harrison lost to OAA D-II member West Bloomfield Tuesday, 118-67.

Katie Steff contributed to wins in four events versus Lamphere and made a state cut in the 500-yard freestyle with a first-place time of 6:52.27.

"It was a good win for us," Harrison coach Ross Bandy said, adding he was a little disappointed because the Lamphere pool didn't have starting blocks.

"We were trying to see if we could get a couple state cuts. Katie Steff swam very well from a push (start), so we were happy with that."

Steff also won the individual medley (2:30.24). She and Liz Stieber combined with Jessie and Jakki Waldecker to win the medley relay (2:13.42) and with Beth Leeb and Kim Nordhoff to win the 400

freestyle relay (4:20.80).

Stieber won the backstroke (1:10.60), Jakki Waldecker the breaststroke (1:16.31), Leeb the 200 freestyle (2:19.52) and Satomi Wagner the butterfly (1:23.46).

Nordhoff had two second places in the 200 freestyle (2:20.11) and backstroke (1:11.70).

Jessie Waldecker was second in the breaststroke (1:20.35), Jonny Musick the 500 freestyle (6:46.41), Leeb the 100 freestyle (1:06.16), Laura Miller the butterfly (1:28.70), Jakki Waldecker the 50 freestyle (29.66) and Stieber the individual medley (2:38.62).

PLEASE SEE DUAL, C4

Dearborn tourney champions

The 13-year-old Farmington Flash girls soccer team won the Dearborn Invitational Aug. 25.

In the championship game, the Flash defeated the Saline Stampede, 2-1, following two 10-minute, sudden-death over-

times and a shootout. The team members are (bottom row, left to right) Lindsay Coursen, Erica Hayworth, Emily Novas, Janell Carter, Sam Sanders, Melissa Clay, Alexa Buckley, (standing, left to right) coach Kim Wong, Kara Hammer, Katie Crossman, Cassie Beller, Hanna Abou-el-Seoud, Gina Gandoli, coach Bruce Wong, (top row) Rachel Kay, Kelly Avery, Cassy Ayres, Emma Petersen, Kendall Wong and Tiffany Pope.



Sidelines

Farmington wins

Farmington defeated host Farmington Harrison in girls tennis Thursday, 7-1.

The Falcons swept first place in singles competition, although the second sets of the Nos. 1 and 4 matches were close.

Renli Surma posted a 6-3, 7-5 win over Diana Platt in one singles, and Allison Lyon won a tiebreaker from Mary Bresnahan at four singles, 6-1, 7-6.

Farmington's Brittany Nuccitelli defeated Laura Glynn at two singles, 6-1, 6-0, and Kristie Boskey defeated Michelle White at three singles, 6-2, 6-1.

Three of the four doubles matches went three sets. Harrison's lone point was earned at one doubles with Abbey Cleland and Lindsey Branch beating Monica Ramsey and Morgan Walter, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Ellie Harding and Michelle Harrison defeated Whitney Rosen and Kristen Glynn, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4; Megan O'Hara and Ashley Buckley defeated Jodi Bachrach and Mikki Miller, 6-3, 6-2; and Jill Alsapach and Courtney Kramer defeated Megan Saxe and Stacey Polyrkus, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Farmington's dual-meet record is 4-2-1.

Densmore stars

Lindsey Densmore's best golf round of 77 (one behind the medalist) helped Albion College post its lowest team score in school history, 315, and win the Jon Speils Tournament for the second consecutive year at Ironwood Golf Club in Wauseon, Ohio.

It was the second straight win for the Brilions, who won their first MAAA jamboree of the year at the Pine River Country Club in Alma with a team score of 330.

Cross country

Birmingham Graves edged Farmington in a girls cross country dual meet Tuesday at Oakland Community College, 27-29.

Farmington's top runner was Rachael Bullon in third place with a 21:52 time. Claire Czaplicki was fourth (22:31), Emma Czaplicki sixth (23:27), Janell Lindman seventh (23:32), Magalie Anthouard ninth (24:46) and Amanda Glass 10th (24:49).

Titan Invitational

University of Michigan junior Andrea Parker (Livonia Stevenson) was third overall in the third round of the University of Detroit Mercy Invitational women's cross country meet Sept. 7 at Cass Beaton Park.

Briana Shook of Toledo posted the third fastest time in meet history at 17:36. UDM's Kim Hemstreet ran 17:58 and Parker 18:17. Michigan won the meet with 32 points. Schoolcraft's top finisher was Megan Annarino (Farmington) in 59th (21:20).

In the men's race, Oakland edged Wayne State, 58-61. Area finishers included Wayne State's Charlie Stamboulis (North Farmington), who was 34th (22:50).

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