



## Sidelines

### Whalers win, 3-1

Third-period goals by Nate Kiser and Martin Cizek propelled the Plymouth Whalers to a 3-1 triumph over the Brampton Battalion in an Ontario Hockey League game Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The win also helped the Whalers, now 5-3 on the season, quickly forget the 5-4 loss on Friday night at London. In that game, Plymouth let a 4-1 lead get away thanks to some power-play aid provided to the Knights.

The Whalers never trailed against Brampton. Brent Mahon gave them a 1-0 lead in the first period, with assists going to Kiser and Matt Armstrong. The Battalion's Ryan Oulahan tied it seven minutes later, and that's the way it stayed until the third period.

Kiser broke the 1-1 deadlock at 2:01 of the third, with assists from Cole Jarrett and Chad LaRoche. Cizek gave the Whalers an insurance goal on the power play, with John Mitchell and Kiser picking up the assists. Kiser getting his third point of the game.

Paul Drew had 20 saves in goal for the Whalers. Kevin Couture had 31 stops for Brampton (now 6-5 following a 4-3 win over Sudbury Monday).

The Whalers host the Windsor Spitfires at 7:30 p.m. Friday, then play at the new Saginaw Spirit franchise Saturday.

### Player acquisition

In a move meant to add depth to the forward positions, the Whalers acquired center/right wing Mike Nelson from the Saginaw Spirit for future considerations.

The 6-foot-1 and 185-pound Nelson started last season with the Erie Otters before being sent to the North Bay Centennials (which became the Saginaw Spirit) for Jeff Boyle. Nelson had one goal and three assists in 42 games for both teams.

"Mike can play both the center and right wing positions, and he can be a contributor on this team if he continues to work hard on and off the ice," said Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' coach and general manager.

### Hockey program

Farmington Hills Hockey Association, in conjunction with USA Hockey and Tim Hortons, has announced a new Learn-to-Play Hockey Program to run from Oct. 19 through March 22, 2003, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Children ages 4 through 13 are eligible to join. The program will take place 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Saturdays. All children must have full hockey equipment designed for ice hockey. The cost is \$125 for non-residents and \$100 for residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Registration forms can be obtained at the front desk of the ice arena. Registration forms must be turned in to Myra Zolynsky's mail box at the ice arena no later than Friday, Oct. 25. More information can be obtained by calling FHHA at (248) 478-8193 or visiting the FHHA Web site at [www.fhhahockey.org](http://www.fhhahockey.org).

# Hawks' success isn't a surprise to coach

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Unlike the casual observer, coach Bill Spencer isn't all that surprised his Farmington Hills Hawks golf team is making a return trip to the Division II state tournament.

The Hawks qualified to compete Friday — and possibly Saturday, too — at Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing

## GOLF

with a third-place finish in regional play last week.

"The season has gone pretty much the way I predicted it would," Spencer said. "A lot of people asked me how life after Matt Lee would be."

"I thought we could be just as good, maybe a little more balanced. We won't

have that real low score, although Dave Koch has lived up to that billing."

Koch has played very well and has had some excellent rounds of late. He shot 73 to lead the Hawks in the regional at Huron Meadows Friday.

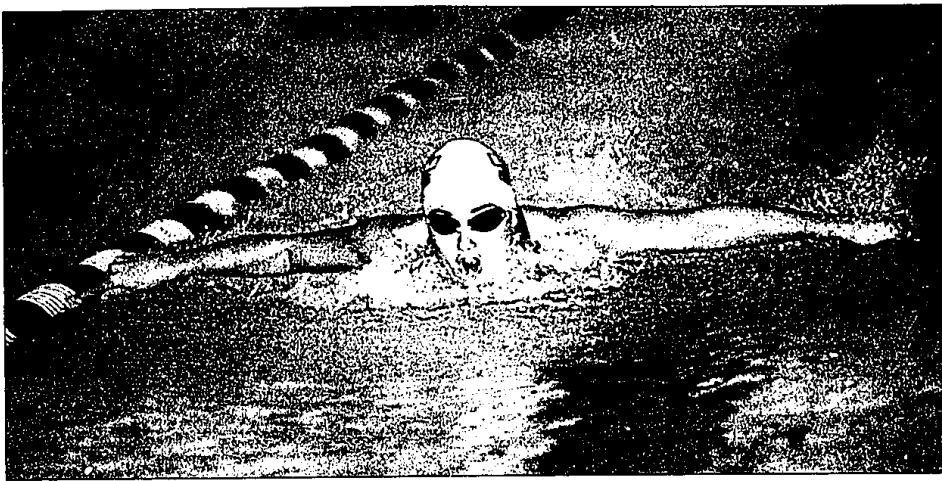
He followed that performance with a one-under-par 71 Tuesday at Bald Mountain to earn medalist honors in the Oakland Activities Association Division II tournament.

Chris Fitzgerald and Paul Mazanka shot rounds of 80 and Matt Kjolhede 84 for the Hawks, who finished third. In the regional, Fitzgerald shot 77, Kjolhede 78 and Eddie Bellamy 88.

Birmingham Groves won the OAA meet with 307 strokes; Waterford Kettering had 309 and Harrison 315, two less than Bloomfield Hills Andover.

"When we started the season, we had a

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, D4



BILL ARSLER / OBSERVER

Senior Caitlin Kelly has been a four-year standout on the Mercy High School swim team. She won the butterfly (above) to help the Marlins defeat Bishop Foley, 90-11, Tuesday on Senior Night at Mercy.

# Marlins sink Ventures for 9th straight dual victory

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

## SWIMMING

The Farmington Hills Mercy swim team celebrated Senior Night after first dispatching Madison Heights Bishop Foley in a dual meet Tuesday, 90-11.

The Marlins remained undefeated in such contests, improving their record to 5-0 in the Catholic League and 9-0 overall.

Mercury makes a major production of Senior Night, waiting until after the meet so the opposing team doesn't have

to wait through the 40-minute ceremony.

"This year's nine seniors paraded onto the pool deck underneath a canopy of raised arms formed by their teammates.

The girls received blankets and flowers as gifts, and underclassmen spoke or read a poem about each senior.

"It's kind of a tradition," Mercy coach Jim Downs said. "They play music and bring the kids out of the locker room.

It's a real production.

"It's worth spending the extra time as opposed to making it quick during the meet. So that was our focus tonight."

"I kinda sit back and let it go. They take care of everything. It's a part of growing up; it's a good experience for them."

As for the meet, there was never any doubt about that. The Marlins not only won every race; they took second place in each event, too.

"We practiced this afternoon and blended it right in to our warm-up for

the meet," Downs said. "To see some of these times was kind of amazing, actually."

The girls in the 500 all bettered their times by four to five seconds. It wasn't just a warm-up. We did actually practice. It was good to see them do that under those conditions."

Mercury has three relays qualified and a total of 22 swims involving 14 girls entered in the annual Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet Saturday at Eastern

PLEASE SEE SWIMMERS, D4

# Farmington girls record another win

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington avenged an earlier loss to Berkley and earned its second victory of the season in girls basketball Tuesday, 43-41.

The Falcons are 2-8 in the Oakland Activities Association Division III and 2-10 overall. Berkley, which won

## BASKETBALL

the first meeting by 13 points, is 5-5 and 5-7.

"It was a good, team effort," Farmington coach Greg Ambrose said. "It was everything we were looking for as far as everybody playing well and putting everything together."

"They've won some big games, so this was a good win for us," Ambrose said. "We beat a good team."

"We played very hard and did the things we needed to do. The girls

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, D3

# Marlins qualify for state finals again

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy is going to the state finals in girls tennis for the fifth consecutive year.

The Marlins earned the trip to Midland for the Division I tournament by finishing second in the Troy regional last week.

Mercury had its best-ever finish in state competition last year when it captured third place.

## TENNIS

The two-day tournament will be played Friday and Saturday at the Midland Community Tennis Center.

North Farmington and Farmington are set to compete in the Division II finals at Holland after placing one-two in regional play Friday.

Troy repeated as champion of its own regional, accumulating 24 team points. Mercury had 21 and Novi 20.

"We did better than people anticipated," Mercy coach Ken Stocker said, adding the Marlins were unseeded at two flights but still won three, as did the Colts.

"The two that were unseeded won their first matches and lost the second. Each got us a point, which is important."

"We beat Troy at four out of seven flights and Novi three out of four where we were head-up."

In a doubles match, Mercury was ahead

PLEASE SEE TENNIS, D7

# N. Farmington back on winning track

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

## SOCCER

North Farmington has a three-game winning streak after ending a five-game winless streak last week.

After defeating Waterford Kettering last week, the Raiders won back-to-back games over Lake Orion on Saturday and Tuesday, 2-1 and 1-0, respectively.

The teams completed a game that was suspended Sept. 19 due to lightning with eight minutes gone in the first half Saturday.

There was no score when play was

stopped, but the host Dragons were on the board first with 13:30 left in the first half.

Drew White scored when the Raiders were unable to clear the ball and he had an open shot at the net.

But it took less than a minute for the Raiders to tie. On a corner kick by Matt Holland, Greg Shumer tried to head the ball into the goal; the ball went off the goalie's fingers, and North's Scott Moscow headed it into the net. The score

stayed 1-1 through halftime.

"That was encouraging," North coach Ron Meteyer said. "Usually, when we give up the first goal, we have a really hard time coming back."

The Raiders got the winning goal from Holland with 4:44 remaining. Using the outside of his foot, Jon Parker flicked the ball to Holland, who beat the goalie one-on-one.

The rematch at North was scoreless Tuesday until there was just 9:09 left to play. Holland sent a corner kick to

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, D6

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