

Sports

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ HEALTH

Weight loss success

Discover tips for fitness. C6

Sidelines

Buha joins tour

Former Farmington Hills resident and Farmington High School golfer Jason Buha has qualified to compete on the PGA Tour again next season. Buha, who was the Class A state champion in 1991, did so by finishing among the top 15 players on the BuysCom Tour money list this year. He was 11th with earnings of \$204,938.

Buha played on the PGA Tour in 2000 but finished 175th, which meant he had to give up his PGA card. PGA players must be in the top 125 to remain on the tour. Buha, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., won the Dayton Open in July with a 23-under-par performance. He was tied for third place at the Richmond Open in five other tournaments, he tied for sixth twice, seventh twice and ninth once.

Buha tied for seventh at the BuysCom Tour Championship Oct. 27, which secured a place for him among the top 15 players.

Hockey tourney

The Farmington Unified Flyers hockey team will compete in the first Metro High School Invitational Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23, at Novi Ice Arena. In addition to the host school, the competition will include defending Division III state champion Dearborn Divine Child and Livonia Churchill.

Farmington will play Divine Child in the tournament opener at 6 p.m. Nov. 22, followed by the Novi-Churchill game at 8:30 p.m.

The Friday losers will play at 5 p.m. Saturday, and the winners will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the championship game. Tournament passes are on sale at Novi Ice Arena for \$10. One-day tickets will be sold at the door for \$6. For more information call the ice arena at (248) 347-1010.

Elks hoop shoot

The 2002 Elks Hoop Shoot contest, sponsored by the Livonia Elks Lodge and Livonia Parks and Recreation, will be 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Livonia Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt (between Seven and Eight Mile roads).

Registration is from 9-9:30 a.m. Separate boys and girls age divisions are 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Age will be determined as of April 1, 2003. Trophies will be awarded to the champions and runners-up in each division. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Whaler honored

James Wisniewski, a defenseman for the Plymouth Whalers, was named the Canadian Hockey League's Player of the Week for the week ending Nov. 3. Wisniewski was an offensive force last week, recording five goals and three assists in just three games. He has racked up nine points this season.

A draft pick of the Chicago Blackhawks, Wisniewski's week was highlighted by a five-point performance Nov. 2 against the London Knights, the team that knocked the Whalers out of the OHL playoffs last spring.



Mercy's Whitney Johnson protects the basketball from the reach of Livonia Ladywood's Amber Willoughby during a semifinal game in the Catholic League tournament Wednesday at Schoolcraft College. Ladywood won, 42-38.

Blazers edge Marlins in tourney semi

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood will get a chance to play for the Catholic League Central-AA girls basketball title game today at the University of Detroit-Mercy's Caliban Hall.

The Blazers, who have not won the coveted crown since 1984, turned back a determined Farmington Hills Mercy squad for the third time this season, 42-38, in the semifinals Wednesday night at Schoolcraft College.

Junior guard Amber Willoughby nailed five of six free throws in the final 32 seconds to preserve the victory.

Ladywood takes a 15-3 record into the

4 p.m. final against 11-7 Birmingham Marian, which defeated Dearborn Divine Child in the second game, 60-58.

"They've been talking about putting up a 2002 (Catholic League) championship banner since the first day of team camp," said Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski, whose team last played in the final in 1999.

"They've been focused on it every day, and now we're glad we finally get a chance to play for it. This group really wants it bad."

Mercy, which suffered 55-41 and 41-38 setbacks to the Blazers during the Central Division season, offset Ladywood's size advantage inside with quickness to gain a 19-14 halftime lead.

Ladywood managed to hit only four of 22 shots from the floor in the opening half (18 percent).

But the Blazers switched from a 1-3-1 zone defense to a man-to-man in the second half to give Mercy a different look.

"We missed outside shots, layups and free throws," Gorski said. "We're generally a better shooting team but, thankfully, our defense kept us in the game. We held them to only 19 points for the half and, typically, they score 60 in a game."

"The man-to-man defense gave us some movement and momentum. It got us going on offense."

PLEASE SEE MERCY, C4

Vellucci to coach unified Farmington hockey team

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Having been involved in hockey for 26 years, Mark Vellucci believes he's more than ready to be the head coach of the Farmington Flyers.

Vellucci served as an assistant coach the last two seasons under Mike

HOCKEY

Harris, whom he replaces as the man in charge of the unified high school team.

"I'm ready to do it; we're going to have a heckuva team," he said. "Sadly, we can only keep 20 players. There's a good 27 we could keep if we could."

"For summer tryouts, we had 40 guys out. A lot of them were freshmen and sophomores, and it gave me a good look at what was up and coming."

Vellucci, 30, is a native of Farmington and a 1990 graduate of Farmington High School. He was a power-hitting first baseman on the Falcons' baseball team and remains an avid softball player. But hockey was always a favorite for Vellucci, who's the younger brother of Plymouth Whalers head coach and general manager, Mike Vellucci.

"He's around the rink so much (Mike) doesn't like

PLEASE SEE VELLUCCI, C4

Oakland CC's 2nd-half rally falls short in loss to Lorain

Oakland Community College had a near-miss in its men's basketball season opener Friday night.

The Raiders dropped a 78-76 decision to Lorain County (Ohio) in the OCC Pre-Thanksgiving Classic, spoiling the debut of first-year coach Frank Russell.

OCC nearly made up a 10-point halftime deficit by outscoring the Commodores in the second half, 42-34.

Adam Collins scored a game-high 20 points to lead the Raiders. Michael Russell netted 14 and Robert Clayton 10.

Will Pendegraas added

nine points, Kyle Caraway and Romel Murray eight apiece.

"The Raiders were outbounded, 56-36. Murray had 10 rebounds to lead OCC, but no one else had more than five."

Lorain County (2-0) had five players in double figures. Neil Barrett and Jeff Chambers tallied 16 points each, Kenny Gilbert 15, Jason Moore 13 and Tim Gill 10.

Moore, who plays center for the Commodores, also had 16 rebounds, forwards Barrett and Gill nine apiece.

Pendegraas also had six

assists and Russell four steals for the Raiders, who played Sinclair (Ohio) in a second tournament game Saturday afternoon.

Lorain County made 28 of 66 field goals and 19 of 38 free throws; OCC was 31-of-71 and 10-of-19, respectively. The Commodores hit three three-point shots, the Raiders four.

OCC returned just three players from last year's team, which finished 0-13 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference and 5-21

PLEASE SEE OCC, C3

Hawks lose close game to Huskies

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison has played a lot of close games this year only to be on the short end of the score in girls basketball.

The Hawks had another such experience Thursday, losing to Pontiac Northern in an Oakland Activities Association tournament consolation game, 57-63.

"I think we've played well lately and given ourselves a chance to win some

BASKETBALL

games against real good teams, but we can't quite get over the hump," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said.

The Hawks had the lead at the end of every quarter except the last - 14-15, 26-23, 38-34 - but were outscored by eight in the fourth, 23-15. Harrison's biggest lead was nine points.

"We were right there at the end," Mantyla said. "We're working hard to knock somebody off that people don't think we can."

"That's one of our goals, to beat somebody this year that we're not expected to. We're getting closer, but we haven't quite gotten it done."

Senior Maggie Condeni scored a career-high 28 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Hawks. She made 10 field goals and eight of 11 free throws.

Kayla Condeni and Karen Ternes added eight points apiece. Harrison was 11-of-16 at the line.

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, C5



Anaheim Angels pitcher Scot Shields, his wife, Jaime, and daughter, Kayla, enjoy their off-season home in Livonia.

World champion pitcher makes his home in area

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Anaheim Angels pitcher Scot Shields makes his off-season home in Livonia with his wife Jaime and his newborn daughter Kayla.

There's only one slight problem. "I'm really not a fan of the weather; I don't try to go outside much," admitted the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) native. "When I'm inside, I turn the heat way up."

But after a whirlwind season with the World Champion Angels, enduring the cold - in his new home away from home - is a small sacrifice to make.

Just being around his family feels like heaven.

"It's been fun, the ups-and-downs are well worth it, especially now," said Shields, a 27-year-old right-hander who made one World Series appearance. "My dad (Mike) played minor league ball and he told me

there'd be ups-and-downs, but to just stick with it."

For the final three months of the regular season, Jaime stayed with her mother (Debbie Hill), unable to travel during the final stages of her pregnancy.

Scot, however, did make it home for one day (Aug. 5) when the Angels were in for a make-up game against the Tigers.

Last March, Shields broke spring training in Tempe, Ariz., assigned to Salt Lake City (Utah), the Angels' AAA affiliate.

But on July 6, he got recalled to the Majors as the Angels were in the midst of a divisional playoff chase.

And the 6-foot-1, 175-pound sinkerballer did not disappoint in 29 appearances. Used primarily as a

PLEASE SEE PITCHER, C4

Find a home for your horse.

Rocking horse, household things, whatever...call today and sell them quickly with a classified ad—1-800-579-SELL.