

Sidelines

■ S'craft field set

Twenty-four teams will converge Saturday on Schoecraft College for the 30th Annual High School Invitational Volleyball Tournament, including two top-10 ranked teams in Division I, defending champion East Kentwood and Temperance Bedford.

Pool play begins at 9 a.m. with the elimination round set to start at approximately 4:30 p.m. Scheduled to play in the West Main Gym on Court No. 1 is Livonia Churchill, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Mercy and Grand Blanc (Pool A), on Court No. 2 is Livonia Ladywood, Monroe, Flak Rock, Woodhaven and Northville.

Scheduled to play in the East Main Gym on Court No. 3 is Birmingham Marian, Dearborn, Fenton and Dearborn Divine Child; on Court No. 4 is East Kentwood, Walled Lake Central, Holly and Westland John Glenn.

In the Auxiliary Gym on Court No. 5 is Bedford, Milford, Garden City and Livonia Stevens; on Court No. 6 is Plymouth Salem, Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Grosse Pointe North and Novi. The top two teams from each pool qualify for the gold single-elimination bracket, while the third- and fourth-place teams play in the silver bracket.

■ Prep ski results

The Mercy and Catholic Central ski teams finished second in a pair of giant slalom meets Tuesday at Mount Brighton.

Mercy trailed Birmingham Groves, 39-43, with South Lyon in third place with 59 points. Mercy's Nicole Zaleski was the girls' top finisher in 31.09. Marjol Spera was 10th (33.13), Rachelle Beazley 11th (33.16), Elizabeth Aufferburg 21st (35.84), Bridget Hunt 23rd (37.05) and Nikki Cwikla 24th (37.06).

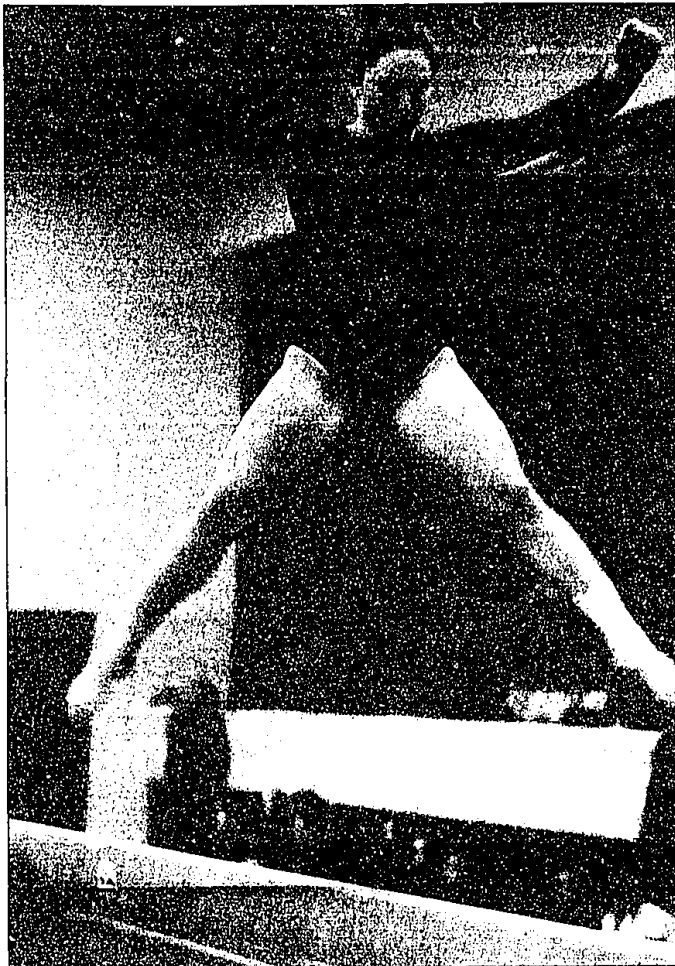
CC's Pat Repasky tied for first with Brighton's Dan Hazen with a combined time of 28.93. Che Martinez was third (29.40), Eric Kasprowicz 13th (31.08), Craig Camden 14th (31.17), Eric Cizilian 20th (32.22) and Mike McClain 37th (34.23). Brighton won the meet with 28.5 points; CC was a close second at 31.5.

■ College hoops

Matt Mikel of Farmington scored 13 points and had six assists Tuesday as Concordia University of Ann Arbor defeated Tri-State University in men's basketball, 88-82. The Cardinals trailed at halftime, 32-31, but outscored the Thunder in the second half, 57-50. Concordia is 2-5 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and 6-15 overall.

■ OAA cheerleading

West Bloomfield High School will be the site of the 2003 Oakland Activities Association cheerleading championships Saturday. Division I (four schools) and Division II (five schools) will compete in competitive cheer with three rounds of competition. The remaining 22 schools are split between the divisions III and IV with the sideline cheer format (two rounds). Farmington will compete in Division II. Harrison and North Farmington in Division III.



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tri-Farmington's Clara Seymour earned first place in the balance beam competition and tied for the Division I all-around title Saturday in the annual Farmington Invitational.

Tri-Farmington gymnasts 2nd at their invite

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The Tri-Farmington gymnastics team is making progress but isn't quite on a par with top-ranked Rochester Adams just yet.

Coach Jeff Dwyer's team finished second Saturday in its own invitational behind Adams, which had a 147.2 score. Farmington had its highest total of the season at 145.7.

"The first time we went against Adams they beat us by three points," Dwyer said. "We had a talk the next day about what it would take (to match Adams) — throwing more difficult tricks and doing more difficult combinations."

"That's what we've been working on the last couple weeks, and it's helping because we only lost by one and a half points this meet."

"I don't think they're unbeatable but, for our team to beat them, we're going to have to start getting the difficulty that Adams does. They have six or seven girls who can score 9.5 in every event."

"We're getting there. Caidin McPherson is starting to fine-tune her routine. Alyse Quinn and Natalie Olesko are doing the same thing."

"You have to have six solid scores to compete for those top four, because Adams is very tough that way. That's why they're the defending state champs and are ranked No. 1 now."

"But competition is a good thing. It pushes you more and more forward, and 145 is a pretty good score for any team. I'll take that score any day."

"I think we're heading in the right direction. We just have to keep fighting for what we can get and see what happens come state-meet time."

Tri-Farmington's Clara Seymour won the Division I beam competition and tied Adams' Shannon MacDonald for the all-around title. Both scored 37.40 overall.

Tri-Farmington's Sara Houchins was first in floor exercise and was second in the all-around at 36.10. MacDonald was the vault and bars winner.

Seymour was making a comeback from a back injury she suffered as a result of a fall from the beam that caused her to miss three weeks of the season.

"She was struggling for a bit, because she couldn't do all four events in practice," Dwyer said. "This was good for her. I think she was getting a little down, it being her senior year and not being able to practice."

"But she's tough. This was the first meet she threw her all-around since the injury, and this is what she did."

McPherson was fifth (36.05) and Quinn eighth (35.55) in the Division I all-around. Tri-Farmington's Dayna Warheit and Natalie Olesko were third and

PLEASE SEE GYMNASTICS, D3

Farmington, North claim crucial wins

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High maintained a slant of the Oakland Activities Association Division IV lead Tuesday

night by defeating host Hazel Park in boys basketball, 54-34. It was the fourth straight win for the Falcons, who are 4-1 in the division and 5-6 overall. The Vikings are 1-4 and 2-9.

Farmington, which shares the division lead with two other teams, plays four of its next five games at home — all of them against division foes.

"We need to take advantage of the schedule right now," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said.

"Teams that play for championships take advantage of opportunities, and having four of five at home is a great opportunity to put ourselves in a position for the home stretch."

"This league is very competitive, and it's going to come down to the last couple games to determine who is going to win the championship."

Farmington overcame a 12-11

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, D6

Flyers rally to gain record-tying 17th win

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Unified hockey team found itself in an unfamiliar situation Saturday night. The Flyers were on the losing end of the score.

That was in the first period, however, and it didn't stay that way for long.

Farmington overcame the one-goal deficit and buried visiting Troy Unified to maintain its unbeaten record with a 6-1

HOCKEY

victory. The Flyers are 7-0 in the Oakland Activities Association Division I and 17-0 overall going into a game tonight with West Bloomfield.

Playing in front of a nearly-packed house at Farmington Hills Ice Arena, Troy took the early lead on a goal by Chris Fichter at 5:14 in the first period.

"That really lit a fire under the boys," Farmington coach Mark Vellucci said. "That's the first time we've been down in any game."

"We had a good turnout from the student body, and I know the boys noticed it, especially after (Troy) scored. That's when they said, 'Let's get it going.'"

The Flyers brought the crowd to its feet when Ian Chornoby tied the score with 1:56 remaining in the opening

period with assists from Adam Chernoby and Mike Hand.

After controlling the puck in the Troy end for most of the first period, the Flyers finally started to see some results in the second.

Keith Hay, who hit the post twice in the first period, gave Farmington the lead with a goal and another assist by Hand just 50 seconds into the middle period.

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, D4

Hawks get back on track in Division III

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison rebounded from its only division loss last week to post a 15-11, 15-7 victory Monday over visiting Madison in girls volleyball.

The Hawks are 5-1 in the Oakland Activities Association's Division III and 32-13 in all games. The Eagles are the defending division champs.

"They were definitely one of the strongest teams we've played,"

Harrison coach Kevin Lashbrook said. "It was a nice win for us. Madison was a very hard-hitting team. We seemed to deal with it very well. We either dug or blocked their hits."

"It was nice to rebound (from the loss to Waterford Kettering), to play a better team and see a better result."

Cassy Fetters had six kills out of seven attacks to lead the Hawks, who were still without senior

PLEASE SEE SPIKERS, D5



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Harrison's Cate Ross (left to right), Diana Platt, Jessica Conderi and Alex Ciceri focus on the flight of the volleyball and prepare to make a play Monday during a match with Madison.

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