

### Sidelines

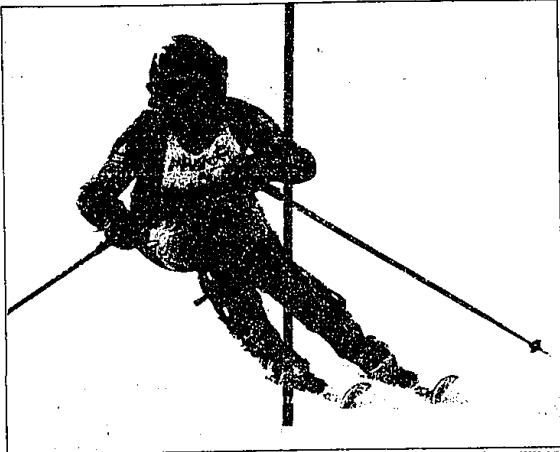
#### OCC cagers win

Oakland Community College ran its record to 16-6 in women's basketball Wednesday by defeating host Maromb CC, 64-51.

The Lady Raiders, who are 9-2 in the MCCA Eastern Conference, had balanced scoring with two players in double figures. Heaton Thornberry and Dana Millard scored 14 points apiece, Ashlee Larsen and Leah Antilla chipped in nine each, and Tiffany Burt added seven points.

OCC dominated the boards, 54-37. Thornberry and Jillyn Stork led the Lady Raiders with nine rebounds each; Burt had eight and Larsen seven. Ashley Wagner scored 17 points and Jackie Kondolka 14 for the Monarchs (4-7, 10-34).

The OCC men defeated Maromb, 65-4. Will Pendergrass scored 19 points, Michael Russell 15 and Craig Myre 14 for the Raiders (3-8, 5-19). Myre also had 11 rebounds. OCC led at halftime, 32-28.



BOB BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy junior Liz Kujala was the slalom winner Thursday in a regional meet at Mount Brighton. Led by Kujala, the Marlins qualified for the state finals Feb. 24 in Marquette.

## Mercy skiers qualify for state

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

The championship trophy went to Brighton, but Farmington Hills Mercy still qualified for the state finals in girls skiing Thursday. The Marlins finished second in the regional

meet at Mount Brighton, and that was good enough to send them to Marquette for the MHSAA championships on Monday, Feb. 24. Brighton, which trailed Mercy all season in the Mount Brighton Interscholastic Ski

PLEASE SEE SKIING, C2

## New AD ready to take charge in Farmington

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Dennis Noe brings 32 years of professional experience in the field of education to his new job as Farmington Public Schools athletic director.

The 55-year-old Noe, who has been an assistant principal at Harrison High School the last 5 1/2 years, assumes his new duties Monday.

Ron Holland, who was the AD from 1983-98, had been serving in the post on an interim basis since August when Brian Swinehart resigned.

With the exception of one semester at Lake Fenton, Noe spent 26 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Flushing School District. But he was looking for a new challenge and found it in Farmington, especially now in his role as athletic director, he said.

"Farmington was a great fit because it's very progressive and is doing a lot of things educationally," Noe said.

"I saw an opportunity (as the AD) that really suits me in terms of my strengths and the challenges I see in front of me. That's what motivates me in education - the challenge, whether it's teaching, coaching or administering. It's the challenge ahead."

One of the immediate challenges is to see that Farmington sports teams are placed in their "rightful positions" in the Oakland Activities Association's divisional setup to help ensure their success, Noe said.

"It's important to keep pursuing that, because it's a great learn-

PLEASE SEE NOE, C2

## Flyers nip Spartans for No. 22

Brett Laird's goal early in the third period Friday gave Farmington Unified a 2-1 win over host Livonia Stevenson in a non-league hockey game.

It was the 22nd consecutive victory for the unbeaten and No. 2-ranked Flyers. The Spartans are 12-9-1 overall.

Stevenson tied the score just 1:48 into the third period when Tom Zagata scored from Stu Miller and Matt Fortier.

Just under a minute later, Laird skated up the right side on a 2-on-1 break. He fired a low shot that hit the far post and bounced into the Stevenson net. Ian Chornoby assisted on the play.

Farmington had the lead for much of the game after Mike Hand (from Keith Hyn and Chris Frayne) scored at 4:58 in the first period.

Rob Thomas was in goal for the Spartans and LeeTal Levan for the Flyers.

"Farmington is a pretty good team," Stevenson coach Mike Humitz said. "They moved the puck well, and they had us on our heels in the first period."

Late in the game, Stevenson pulled Thomas in favor of an extra attacker, and a serum in front of the Farmington net resulted in several penalties, including a five-minute minor for roughing on Stevenson.

#### HOCKEY

In the upcoming Division I regional tournament at Redford Ice Arena, Farmington will play No. 1-ranked and defending state champion Redford Catholic Central in the first round Tuesday, Feb. 25. Stevenson plays Birmingham Unified on Monday, Feb. 24.

#### Shamrocks down Huskies

Redford Catholic Central finally shook off host Port Huron Northern on Thursday, scoring three times in the final period for a 6-3 win at McMoran Arena.

"They're a good team and they have three of the top players in the state," CC co-coach Todd Johnson said of the Huskies.

"We made a bad mistake in our offensive zone to give them a 2-on-1 to tie it up. But our guys kept fighting. It was a good win to get on the road."

The Huskies tied the score at 3-3 five minutes into the third period, but Travis Hamway gave CC (17-3) the lead for good with Brandon Naurato and Eric Giosa getting the assists.

Three minutes later, Kevin Horal made it 5-3

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, C2

## Raiders roll past rival Hawks

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington established a first-half lead and put away host Farmington Harrison in the fourth quarter of a 49-30 victory in boys basketball Friday.

The Raiders maintained at least a two-game lead in the Oakland Activities Association's Division III with a 9-1 record and improved to 11-5 overall.

North was ahead 29-16 at halftime; Harrison stayed within 11 after three quarters, 36-25, but the visitors were eight better in the finale, 31-5.

The Raiders were whistled for five illegal screens in the first half, and the Hawks cashed in at the free throw line.

Harrison was 13-of-18 at the line in the first half, but it made just one field goal - a three by Eric Zatkun.

"We had quite a bit of foul trouble in the first half, and I thought our kids did a great job off the bench," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

"Matt Leach and Robert White did a nice job for us, and AJ Kasapitis came in and gave us some key minutes in the first half. I think we went eight or nine players deep."

Gary Kennedy and Darrin Rawls scored 12 points apiece to lead the Raiders. Rawls also had eight rebounds and Kennedy seven.

Marcus McComb, Leach and White chipped in five points apiece. Leach had seven assists and McComb three steals.

Andy Wingert and Stefan Burbridge led the Hawks (0-10, 1-15) with five points each. Brandon Giles and Marques Thomas added four apiece.

Harrison was 16-of-24 at the line overall and North 19-of-17.

"(The Hawks) had a great game plan," Negoshian said. "Their kids executed it well and did a great job of rebounding and limiting us to one shot. (The Raiders had a single-digit lead in the second half), and all of a sudden some other kids stepped up and hit some shots."

#### Falcons stymie Cougars

Farmington's team goal is to hold opponents to 40 points, and the Falcons were right on target Friday night.

The Falcons stayed on the heels of first-place Madison in the OAA's Division IV by defeating Rochester Hills Stony Creek at Farmington, 47-40.

"We've always very pleased with a low-scoring game," Farmington coach Steve Nongrove said. "Even though we were down one at the half, it was 18-17 and we weren't playing well."

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, C3

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