



Sidelines

OCC in title game

Oakland Community College advanced to the championship game Saturday in the MCCA women's basketball tournament in Kalamazoo.

The Lady Raiders, who were 22-6 overall going into the title game with Grand Rapids CC, defeated Muskegon in a semifinal contest Friday, 73-67. In a quarterfinal game Wednesday, Oakland buried Delta College at the Highland Lakes Campus, 75-54.

Softball tryouts

The Farmington Motor City Madness girls fastpitch softball team will conduct tryouts for the 2003 spring season 12 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Power Middle School. Ages are determined as of Jan. 1, 2003. Players should arrive a half hour early for registration. Players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and gym shoes. For more information call Terry Gardner at (248) 553-1078 regarding the 12-and-under team and Bill McNeil at (248) 471-4953 for all other ages.

Oakland, Macomb grid coaches plan 1st all-star game

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

Let the turf war begin. Oakland County high schools and Macomb County high schools have regularly fielded highly-competitive football teams that have experienced a great deal of success and won championships on various levels.

And even though championships have not always come into play between county schools, bragging rights and disputes over their superiority surely have.

Well, the opportunity to back all that talk will come later this year when the counties' top graduating football players take

to the field in an all-star clash billed as The Border War. The inaugural contest will be played at South Lyon High School on Friday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Rosters will include 45 players from each county and will represent all four classes. The pool of schools from which to draw totals 33 in Macomb and 49 in Oakland.

"It's a great idea," beamed Bloomfield Hills Lahser varsity coach Dan Loria, who will serve as head coach of the Oakland County contingent. "I think there's always been this 'Our division (Oakland Activities Association) is better than yours

PLEASE SEE ALL-STAR, C2

Shamrocks crush Chargers in hockey

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

There was no overlooking its opponent Thursday as four-time defending Division I boys hockey champion Redford-Detroit Catholic Central connected on three first-period goals to capstall the Shamrocks to a 5-1 triumph over Livonia Churchill at Redford Ice Arena.

The win put CC (23-3) into Saturday's regional final against Royal Oak Unified, which edged Livonia Stevenson in the first game of a doubleheader at Redford Arena, 2-1, in overtime.

CC was coming off Tuesday's

PLEASE SEE SHAMROCKS, C3

Championship results mixed for hoop teams

Eagles nip Falcons in OAA showdown

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Turnovers and free throws are often two telling statistics in a basketball game.

Madison capitalized on both in the fourth quarter Friday to clinch a 48-47 victory over visiting Farmington and win the Oakland Activities Association Division IV championship.

Both teams were tied for first place going into the final regular-season game. Madison finishes 12-2 in the division and is 17-3 overall. Farmington is 11-3 and 12-8.

The Eagles, who didn't make a field goal in the fourth quarter — they were 0-for-5, forced the Falcons into seven turnovers and made eight of 16 foul shots.

"We didn't do a great job of taking care of the ball down the stretch," Farmington coach Steve Nongrovo said. "If we expect to win in the district, we have to take better care of the ball."

"Also, we have to give credit

to their defensive effort. They pressured our guards and forced turnovers. We know that's how they play; they get in your face and play hard."

Trailing 48-47 in the final minute, the Falcons still had chance to win the game. Following a Madison turnover, Farmington inbounded the ball at half court but committed a turnover with 17.8 seconds remaining without getting a shot off.

The Eagles missed two free throws, and Marcus Holman grabbed the rebound for the Falcons, who got the ball into the front court before Madison's Derone Harris made a steal with 6.5 seconds left.

Madison missed two more free throws, and Farmington's Danny Preston grabbed the rebound this time with 2.4 seconds on the clock. He fed Tim DePaulis, who fired a shot just inside the half-court line that banged off the rim as time expired.

"We've done a good job of finishing off games when we had the lead," Madison coach Jeff Evans said. "We made a couple mistakes, but our guys had heart and gutted it out. It did get sloppy at times, but the effort being put out on



PAUL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington senior guard Jeff McCullough scored 13 points, including three three-point field goals, Friday in the Division IV championship game. Watching as McCullough gets set to shoot are teammates Matt Okopy (20) and Danny Preston (34).

the floor was so high. When you're going all out and putting it on the line, you just give it all you've got."

The third of three three-point baskets by Farmington's Matt Okopy tied the score at 45 with 2:13 remaining in the

game. Madison's Marcus Jenkins made one free throw and D'Mario Curry two, putting the Eagles back on top, 48-45.

Holman scored on a putback

PLEASE SEE HOOP, C3

Clarenceville wins Metro Conference

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Jackie Gleason's favorite line was "How sweet it is." The same could be said for the Livonia Clarenceville boys basketball team, which celebrated its first Metro Conference title in school history Thursday night with a 50-47 win over Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

The Trojans, now 15-5 overall, are the winningest team in school history. Afterwards, Clarenceville players cut

BASKETBALL

down the nets and doused third-year coach Kevin Murphy with a water cooler.

"One of the main reasons I took over this job (from Bill Dyer) three years ago is that we had a great group of kids — I've been waiting for this night," said Murphy, whose team was seeded second in the conference playoffs.

Upset-minded Liggett, the fifth seed, was coming off a 68-63 upset victory over top seed Harper Woods. And the Knights put up quite a battle to the final horn. The game wasn't decided until Thomas Greer's three-point attempt was partially deflected and fell short just before the buzzer.

"Our kids played their butts off, it just came down to executing and hitting shots," said Liggett coach Dean Rietowski, whose team fell to 14-6 overall. "They hit three free throws, that's what it boiled down to. Hats off to Clarenceville. They played tough and they played together. The loose balls didn't go our way."

Both team's top players — 6-7 Glenn Garratt of Clarenceville and Leythorn Williams — were saddled with foul trouble. Both exited with five person-

PLEASE SEE CLARENCEVILLE, C3



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