



North Farmington swimmers head to the state finals at Oakland University this weekend. D3

Dan O'Meara, editor
(734) 953-2141
Fax: (734) 591-7279
domeara@homecomm.net

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Sidelines

■ OCC wins state

Oakland Community College won the Michigan Community College Athletic Association women's basketball tournament Saturday by defeating Grand Rapids CC in Kalamazoo, 66-65. The Lady Raiders were 23-6 overall going into the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II District II tournament Wednesday in Toledo. OCC played the winner of a first-round game between Kirtland and St. Clair. The district tournament continues through Saturday. The winner advances to the NJCAA Division II national tournament, March 19-22 in Hagerstown, Md.

■ Carbo managing

Former Livonia Clarenceville baseball coach Bernie Carbo was recently signed to manage the Peninsula (Fla.) Pelicans of the Southeastern League.

Carbo, who played sports at Livonia Franklin High School, is a former Major League outfielder who had playing stints with the Cincinnati Reds and Boston Red Sox.

■ Mach enters Hall

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame Banquet is set for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor, and one of the 21 coaches being inducted is a familiar name. Redford-Detroit Catholic Central's Tom Mach - coach of the two-time defending Division I champs - will be one of the inductees at the banquet. The guest speaker will be University of Michigan head coach Lloyd Carr. The public is invited to attend. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be ordered by sending a check and self-addressed envelope to Ike Mullenkamp, 2100 Lakeview Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085. Checks should be made payable to "Hall of Fame Banquet."

■ College softball

Sophomore Erin Carson of Farmington (Mercy High



School) helped the Alma College women's softball team post a 9-1 record during its spring trip. The Fighting Scots ended their appearance in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic last week with two victories - 2-0 over Mercyhurst (Pa.) and 7-0 over State University of New York-Potsdam.

■ St. Patrick's party

Our Lady Of Sorrows will have a St. Patrick's party for the benefit of its athletic programs at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8, in the lower hall at Sorrows. There will be a buffet dinner, Irish entertainment and raffle. Call (248) 476-5252 or send an email to dmdoye@peoplepc.com for ticket information.



JERRY DEWINSKI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington volleyball players celebrate after their win over Mercy in a district tournament game Saturday. The Falcons had to regroup and play Southfield in the final - a match they also won to capture their second district title in three years.

Falcons upset Marlins, win district

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It's often said success in athletics is as much psychological as it is physical. Farmington High volleyball players had to conquer challenges on both levels Saturday to win a Class A district tournament on their own court. The Falcons had to first convince themselves they could beat favored Southfield in the city and defending district champion.

They did that, coming from behind after losing the first game, 10-15, to win the next two in a semifinal match, 15-12 and 15-10. That sparked a joyous celebration among the Farmington players. They were on Cloud Nine but had to bring themselves back to earth in short order. Farmington had to get ready mentally to play Southfield in the championship match. After struggling through the first game, the Falcons eventually overcame that obstacle, too, and won, 15-11, 15-5.

It was the second district title in three years for Farmington (19-21-2), which faces Catholic League champion Birmingham Marian in a regional tournament Saturday at Troy High School. Shortly after the Mercy match, Farmington coach Alex Ferrin gathered his players in a huddle and prepared them for the next challenge. He said: "I told the girls, 'If we beat Mercy, Southfield is no pushover. We

PLEASE SEE DISTRICT, D2

Shamrocks dump Bulldogs

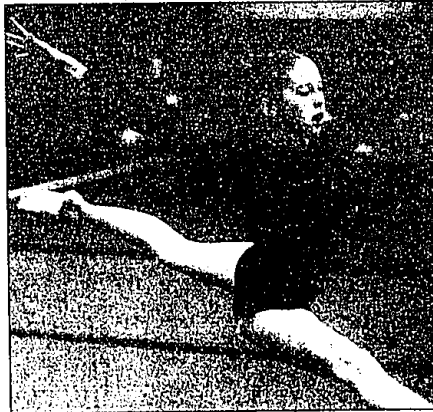
BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER

Is it possible for a hockey team to get caught off-guard by its opponent and still come away with a 5-1 win? You bet it is, and Catholic Central proved it Wednesday in its Division I quarterfinal win over Brighton at Redford Arena. The Bulldogs went toe-to-toe with the four-time, defending state champs and might have actually won were it not for a quick, two-goal lead that CC hung on them and the white-hot goaltending of Jimmy Blanchard. "In the four games we've played in the tournament, they were the best team we played so far," CC coach Todd Johnson said. "They were big; they were strong; they were fast, and they passed great. They were every bit as good as Farmington. I knew they were

HOCKEY

good, but I think they surprised us a bit." The Shamrocks (24-3) advance to play Marquette, a 7-1 winner Wednesday over Grand Traverse Bay, in Friday's 6 p.m. semifinal game at Compuware Arena. But if it wasn't for Blanchard, especially in a long stretch of the first period, it could have been the Bulldogs (22-4-2) playing Friday. "I don't think they did anything we didn't expect," Brighton coach Paul Moggach said. "Their goaltender was the best one in the state. He was the difference. Other than that, I thought we outplayed them outside the crease." It didn't start out that way. The

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, D6



BILL BRESSLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tri-Farmington gymnast Kelly Patrick is a state qualifier on the bars, beam and floor. The state finals are Friday and Saturday at Plymouth High School.

Farmington gymnasts retain regional crown

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Tri-Farmington is headed to the state finals again after winning a gymnastics regional championship for the second year in a row. The team posted a season-best score of 146.25 to finish first in its own regional meet Saturday at the Farmington Training Center. Tri-Farmington's team total was the second highest in the state. Only defending state champ Rochester Adams, which won the Troy Athens regional with a 150.80, fared better. Runner-up Brighton (145.175)

and third-place Hartland (143.65), a pair of perennial state powers, also qualified for the finals from the Farmington regional. Tri-Farmington was penalized a team point, because it didn't remove the springboard used to mount the balance beam soon enough. That allowed Brighton to narrow the point difference to .70 with Tri-Farmington going to bars in the final rotation. "It's in the rules," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "I feel sick to my

PLEASE SEE GYMNASTICS, D5



BILL BRESSLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

District hoops
Farmington's Danny Preston looks to score against West Bloomfield Monday. The Falcons lost, 62-30. See page D5 for details.

Lakers surge past Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

What goes up not only comes down but, in the case of the West Bloomfield basketball team, also goes in the hoop. The host Lakers used a hot-shooting second quarter to pull away from North Farmington en route to a 78-59 victory in a Class A boys district tournament game Wednesday. Everything the West Bloomfield players put up seemed to go in the basket as the Lakers made nine of 11 field goals in the second quarter. It was a close game after one period with the Raiders trailing by just four points, 18-14, but the Lakers had pulled ahead at halftime, 41-26. West Bloomfield center Ed Richardson

PLEASE SEE LAKERS, D5

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You have a second chance to make Thursday's edition, if you call us by noon on Wednesday we'll put your ad in a special mini-directory, "Too late to Classified," which appears in Arto & Entertainment. Call 1-800-579-SELL (preferably by deadline) to place your ad.