

Sports

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ OUTDOORS

Success

North Farmington
seeks edge in
track and field. D3



Sidelines

Coaches award

Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington was the recipient of the 2003 Jim Crowley Award earlier this year at a Michigan High School Football Coaches Association clinic in Battle Creek.

The award is named for the late Jim Crowley, the former coach at Jackson Lumen Christi, and is given to MHSFCA members who demonstrate a dedication to the game and to teaching young men.

Herrington, the longtime chairman of the MHSFCA Public Relations Committee, has a 307-61-1 record after 33 years at Harrison. His teams have won 12 state championships and been in the state finals 15 times.

All-star gridders

Farmington Harrison senior tailback Marcus Woods will be among the area players participating in the 23rd Annual Michigan High School All-Star Football Game Saturday, July 26, at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

Woods, who is going to play college ball at the University of Missouri, is Harrison's all-time leading rusher.

Woods will play for the East team along with Brother Rice wide receiver Anthony Jackson, Redford Catholic Central defensive tackle Patrick Clark, Lake Orion wide receiver Joel Makkasen, Waterford Mott defensive lineman Kenny Schmidt, Royal Oak Kimball center Mike Sheldon, Country Day wide receiver Steve Thompson, Walled Lake Western fullback Steve Van Norwick and Southfield quarterback Dajuan Warren.

The East team will be coached by Wayne Memorial's Floyd Carter. Two of his five assistant coaches will be Adam Korzenewski and Rick Corona, both of Brother Rice.

OCC wins pair

Oakland Community College swept a softball doubleheader from host Mott Tuesday at Whaley Park in Flint, 6-1 and 17-4. Kelly Wilson (4-2) pitched a one-hitter through five innings of the first game to get the victory. She struck out nine and walked none.

The Lady Raiders outlit the Bears, 11-5. Kasey BeSutter, Julie Hall, Emily Bell and Jamie Seaman chipped in two hits apiece. Hall also had two RBI. The Lady Raiders are 2-0 in the first inning of the second game, which ended after five.

Kristi Marzalec (5-1) worked three innings and was the winning pitcher. She allowed three hits and one run.

Bell went 4-for-4, scored three runs and had five RBI. Hall had two hits, two runs and two RBI; Victoria Kaiser had two hits and scored twice. OCC outlived Mott, 16-8.

The Lady Raiders are 2-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 11-4 overall. The Bears are 0-2 and 9-5-1.



BILL BREMER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

North Farmington's Ashley Lynch sends the ball up field between Mott players Kasey Slater (left) and Kristen Kelly. The Raiders came from behind to win the OAA game, 3-2.

Raiders rally to remain unbeaten

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington players had to bear down and play hard in the second half Tuesday to remain unbeaten in girls soccer. The Raiders trailed 1-0 at halftime and then 2-1 in the second half before staging

a comeback that resulted in a 3-2 victory over visiting Waterford Mott. It was the Oakland Activities Association Division III opener for the Raiders, who are 3-0 overall. "The great thing is the girls rallied," North coach Tim Russell said. Annie Gabriel scored the winning goal

on a cross from Michele Boothroyd with 1:15 left in the game. The Raiders didn't tie the score until four minutes remained to be played. Ashley Lynch made it 2-2 with the assist going to Kristin Hogan.

PLEASE SEE RAIDERS, D4

Farmington gymnasts receive all-area kudos

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

Just when you think area high school gymnasts and their teams might have reached their peak, up jump even greater accomplishments that truly have these local programs ensconced among the best ever.

Led by two-time state champion Rochester Adams, the 2003 girls gymnastics scene produced a bevy of record-setting performances and personal triumphs that culminated with locals being crowned champions on the final day of competition.

Individual state champs Jaime Balardi (Rochester) and Gwen McConkie (Troy Athens) lead the Observer & Eccentric's 2003 All-Area First Team Division I that totals nine honorees. Joining the duo are Amanda Barterian, Cheryl DeGrandchamp, Megan Oulmet and Shannon MacDonnell, all of Adams, Sarah Houchins and Clara Seymour, both of Tri-Farmington, and Ravin Raleigh of Athens.

Those selected to the Division I First Team include Kasia deStelger, Katie McGill, Sheila Ousey and Kasey Puffer, all from Adams, Meghan Gleason of Rochester and Lindsay Smith of Tri-Farmington.

Second Team honorees include Julie Dzwicki (Athens), Tileen Najarian (Troy), Natalie Olekso (Tri-Farmington), Henther Schaeffer (Athens) and Rachel Wasson (Tri-Farmington).

Allison Barlinghins (Adams), Mandy Hamilton (Troy), Krystal Karun (Troy),



JOHN STORVING/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2003 Eccentric All-Area Girls Gymnastics First Team Division I includes (bottom, left to right) Ravin Raleigh, Gwen McConkie, Shannon MacDonnell, (top, left to right) Clara Seymour, Sarah Houchins, Megan Oulmet, Cheryl DeGrandchamp and Jaime Balardi.

Ellen Kenne (Adams), Andrea Klotz (Troy), Paige Procter (Birmingham Groves) and Dayna Warhelt (Tri-Farmington) earned Third Team accolades.

Following is a brief profile of each gymnast as selected by a panel of area coaches.

FIRST TEAM - DIVISION I

JAIME BALARDI, Rochester: The Falcons' senior co-captain wrapped up a stellar two-year varsity career by claiming the state championship on bars. Her 9.79 on that event set a school record and tied the state mark.

"She's an amazing hard worker and she just wanted it (the state title)," Rochester coach Michelle Woods said. "She works hard, but things seem to come easy to her. She's a natural."

AMANDA BARTERIAN, Adams: What a one-year acquisition Barterian was to the Highlanders' overall success. A senior, Barterian chose to return to the competitive level after a two-year lay-off and easily missed a routine. Her top finish at the individual state finals was a tie for sixth place on balance beam. During the season, she recorded top scores of 9.7 on vault, 9.6 on parallel bars, 9.7 on beam and 9.85 on floor exercise.

"Amanda has more talent than anybody I have ever coached," Adams coach Sue Mussat said. "My goal was to get her back into the sport and have her enjoy it. She has the biggest heart and love for the sport."

CHERYL DEGRANDCHAMP, Adams: Earning a second straight spot on the First Team is this Highlander junior, who provided depth and stability in each event. In her third season of varsity competition, DeGrandchamp notched top efforts of 9.2 on vault, 9.5 on bars, 9.35 on beam and 9.55 on floor. She earned a tie for 10th place on bars and tie for 14th on floor at the finals.

"This year she came in with a new attitude and a new desire," Mussat said. "She has loads of natural talent and was driven this year to put it all together."

SARAH HOUCHINS, Tri-Farmington: A junior competing in her third varsity campaign, Houchins was instrumental in her team's third-place finish. She came back one day later to place third all-around in individual action. During the season, Houchins worked hard to overcome injuries and post top scores of 9.3 on vault, 9.35 on bars, 9.6 on beam and 9.65 on floor.

"She's been part of this team's success the past three years," Tri-Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She got tougher this year. She matured as far as being a competitor."

SHANNON MACDONNELL, Adams: MacDonnell was nearly crowned all-around state champion for a second consecutive year, but came up just short in her bid to repeat. Her 38.200 secured second behind Breanne Workman of Grand Leage. Consistency again produced top scores of 9.65 on vault, 9.7 on both bars and beam, and 9.725 on floor.

She has been a huge part of this team's success the last three years and her numbers were up even from last year," Mussat said. "Her goals were always about the team and she also has the drive and desire to challenge herself."

GWEN MCCONKIE, Athens: Earning a second consecutive spot on the First Team, the Red Hawk junior culminated a stellar season of competition by winning the state championship on vault with a 9.725. Outstanding efforts on the other three events enabled the three-year performer to place fifth all-around.

"She has a lot of natural talent and an incredible attitude," Athens coach Deanna Fakhouri said of McConkie. "She's extremely dedicated and very motivated. She set the goal at the beginning of the year that she would win vault and went ahead and did it."

PLEASE SEE ALL-AREA, D6

WLAA champions plan to be contenders in new league

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

With the best pitcher in school history leading the way, North Farmington prospects for another successful softball season are very good.

Senior Beth Danielewicz holds all of the school pitching records, and also enters the season with a career record of

66-27, a 0.63 earned run average, 757 strikeouts and just 69 walks in 621 innings.

"When you have a star pitcher like Beth Danielewicz, you look at the season with a rosy outlook," North coach Dave Brubaker said.

"Pitching is one of those things, when you get a good one, good things are going to happen for you, because that's the

name of fastpitch.

"If everything goes according to the plan, she's going to be a four-time MVP at North Farmington."

Brubaker added Danielewicz, a three-time, all-area player, swings a mean bat, too. She has a career average of .334 with 43 RBI and 20 doubles.

The Raiders, who were 24-15 and won the Western Lakes Activities Association

title, will compete in what Brubaker calls the toughest league in the state - Division I of the Oakland Activities Association.

North starts Friday at home against the defending champion, Lake Orion. The other division members are Clarkston, Troy, Athens, Groves,

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL, D5

If it's important to you,
it's important to us.



For totally local news,

Read D1.