



## Sidelines

### Gymnasts excel

Livonia's Rachael Fuller, a sixth grader at Grant Elementary School and member of Conrad's Gymnastics Academy of Farmington Hills, won a gold medal in the vault with a score of 9.325 at the Level 5 Girls Silver State Gymnastics meet May 4 at Eastern Michigan University.

In her first year of competition, Fuller placed 10th in the all-around (34.025) for 11 year-olds in a field of 34. She also posted scores of 8.35 (vault), 8.15 (beam) and 8.2 (floor).

Amy Ancona of Farmington Hills and Conrad's Academy placed seventh in the all-around for 13-year-olds at the Level 6 Gold State Meet April 26 at Mills Gym in Southfield after recording scores of 8.9 (vault), 8.25 (bars), 8.85 (beam) and 8.625 (floor).

At the same meet, Amanda Downs (How) placed 14 in the all-around for 9-year-olds with a score of 35.325. Among her scores included an 8.75 on vault; 8.35, bars; 9.1, beam; 9.125, floor.

### JV coach sought

Livonia's Clarenceville is seeking a junior varsity boys basketball coach.

The deadline for application is June 15. Those interested can fax a resume to (248) 476-8051 or call varsity coach Kevin Murphy during school hours at (248) 473-8926.

### Football camps

The NFIB Football Skills Camp for high school students will be 2-6 p.m. June 16-19 at North Farmington High School and is open to any interested athlete. The fee is \$55.

The same camp for middle school students entering grades six, seven or eight will be 9 a.m. to noon June 18-19 at North Farmington High School. The fee is \$45.

A strength and conditioning camp for high school students will be 8-11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at North Farmington High School. The fee is \$40.

The NFIB Football Kicking Camp for junior and senior high school students will be June 20-21 at North Farmington High School.

A camp for punters will be 9 a.m. to noon and place kickers 1-4 p.m. each day. The fee is \$100 for one camp and \$175 for both.

For more information or to register for any of the camps, call North Farmington varsity football coach Rich Burrell at (248) 785-2005.

### Hockey tryouts

Tryouts for the Farmington Unified high school summer hockey team will be 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, and Friday, June 20, at Suburban Training Center.

Athletes entering the ninth through 12th grades at one of Farmington's three public high schools are eligible to participate.

For more information, call coach Mark Vellucci at (248) 730-2233.



LAWRENCE WICKER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brother Rice junior Steve Antonioti of Farmington Hills slides into third base Friday during a state semifinal game against Portage Central. Rice won, 5-1. Other players on the Rice roster from either Farmington Hills or Farmington include Max Kelmiglan, Tim Kalczynski, Matt Pelry, Dan Lentz and Vinnie Sarafa.

## Rice answers challenge with 5-1 win

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Brother Rice doesn't like to be challenged, especially if it threatens the Warriors' bid for a Division I state baseball championship. Such a challenge was brought during a semifinal game at C. O. Brown Stadium in Battle Creek Friday.

Holding a slim, 1-0 lead, Portage Central had runners at first and third with just one out in the top of the fourth.

Warriors' senior pitcher Mike Kirschenheiter toed

the rubber, hitched up his gray baseball pants and kicked up his competitive edge a notch.

He fanned Nate Beverwyk and then Chris Gates, the latter caught looking on a wicked fastball that shaved the outer edge of the plate.

Brother Rice (36-3) then went to work on offense in the bottom of the fourth, scoring four runs on six hits to lead the way to a 5-1 victory.

The Warriors were scheduled to face Holland West Ottawa (30-4) Saturday for the state title. The game was played after this issue of the

**"Don't leave your tank full. That way, you can never question yourself. If you've given it everything you've got, there's nothing more you can say, win or lose."**

Bob Riker  
Warrior's head coach

Observer went to press. "That's what you have to do," said Warriors' head coach Bob Riker, about how

batters took the lead after Kirschenheiter stood up to the opposition's challenge.

"By shutting them down, that's momentum in our (favor). And when you get a big two-out hit by (Cody) Nolen, that's a big, big swing in momentum."

In the Warriors' fourth-inning rally, the first pitch by starter Brian Craven was smacked to center by junior Steve Antonioti (2-3) and then Vytas Ray made an extra-base hit on the next offering. The long fly ball was hauled in near the

PLEASE SEE RICE, B3

## St. Mary's buries D-II opponent

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long for Orchard Lake St. Mary's head baseball coach Jeff Willis' game plan to swing into motion.

Literally. Mark Sisson, the first batter of Friday's Division II state semifinal game against Comstock Park, singled. The senior promptly stole second and scored on a line-drive single to center by Nick Brennan.

Before anyone at Morrison Stadium in Battle Creek knew it, the Eagles (21-11) had registered eight runs on eight hits and were well on their way

### BASEBALL

to a shocking 17-2 mercy win over the Panthers (26-8). The Eagles hit the ball hard against three pitchers, collecting 17 hits. Six players had multi-hit outings.

The rout set up Saturday's Division 2 championship contest against top-rated Grand Rapids Catholic Central, which took a 35-4 record into the final. (This issue of the Eccentric went to press before the game could be played.)

"We did a lot of homework and scouting over the phone the last couple days," said Willis, savoring the four-inning victory. "I told my guys, 'You get on first, don't stop until you get to third. Don't stop until you see me.'"

"There's no better way to get a team down than to get right after them in the first inning like that. Just attack them and make them shut you down."

After Sisson (4-4, 4 runs) and Brennan got things going, Brandon Larson (2-3, 3 RBI) singled to left to send Brennan to third. But Comstock

PLEASE SEE ST. MARY'S, B2

## Post 346 enjoys fast start to American Legion season

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington American Legion Post 346 began a new baseball season last week by winning its first three games — all from Clarkson.

Captain Wally Christensen's team won its third in a row Wednesday at Farmington High School, 7-6.

Clarkston led 6-0 after two innings, but Post 346 rallied with three runs in the third, one in the fifth and three in the sixth.

Chris Chesney, who went 3-for-4 and had three RBI, was hitting .750 (9-for-12)

### BASEBALL

through three games.

Chesney also had an RBI single in the third inning in which Bobby Houchins hit a two-run double.

Chesney doubled and scored a run in the fourth on a balk.

Dave Justice hit a bases-loaded single that drove in one run in the sixth, and Chesney followed with a two-run single to give Post 346 the lead.

Farmington had 11 hits, including two apiece by Justice and winning pitcher

Eric Zatklin. Zatklin pitched the last 6 2/3 innings, allowing only two hits and one walk while striking out six.

"He held us in there until we came back," Christensen said. "That's what we needed."

Farmington swept a doubleheader June 8 at Clarkson, 7-4 and 4-1.

Chesney went 4-for-4, knocked in two runs and scored a run in the first game.

Houchins, who was the winning pitcher in relief, was

PLEASE SEE BASEBALL, B2



TOM HARVEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior second baseman Carly Tracey scored Mercy's only run in a 2-1, eight-inning loss to Escanaba in a state semifinal softball game Friday.

## Marlins frustrated again in state semifinal defeat

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

It was another frustrating and disappointing experience in Battle Creek for the Farmington Hills Mercy softball team.

The Marlins lost a Division I semifinal game by a run for the third time in four years Friday and their second in eight innings.

But this year's outcome was especially bothersome since Escanaba claimed a 2-1 victory at Bailey Park as a result of a Mercy error.

"I'm starting to think we're snake-bit here," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "Wednesday (a 1-0

quarterfinal win over Catholic League rival Harper Woods Regina) took more out of us emotionally, maybe."

The Marlins had the lead for much of the game, holding a 1-0 advantage following Sarah Roman's RBI single in the first inning.

But the Eskymos (25-2) tied the score in the top of the sixth and won it in the eighth when a fly ball was dropped in the outfield.

Escanaba's Daniela Braun hit an RBI double in the sixth and the flyball that resulted in the eighth-inning error.

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL, B2

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