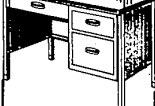


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FALCON HOPES -- The success of Farmington's basketball season rests on the shoulders on these three returning lettermen. With Falcon Coach Ray Boyle are (from left) Jeff

Baker, Tom Kempf and Dan Lakovich. Farmington opens its season Friday against Bentley. (Observer photo)

Defeats Hillsdale 7-2

OCC Skating Hard

Oakland Community College maintained its undefeated record in Midwest College Hockey Association competition by defeating

Hillsdale College 7-2. The Raiders took control at right winger Bob Blackmore scored on a pass from teammate Ray Johnson. It was Blackmore's first goal as a collector.

Hillsdale scored its first goal in the second period, when Barry Rose beat goalie Craig Wojay with 11:38 remaining.

OCC then proceeded to take complete control of the scoring with goals by Dave Balagna, Jim Blanchard, Mark Marasco, and Tom Zarb, giving the Raiders a convincing 5-1 second period lead.

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FARMINGTON'S Tim Audeite collected an assist on the third Raider score by Jim

Blanchard; the goal which later proved to be the winning margin for OCC. The Oakland advantage was increased with 13:37 left to play in the third period, when Mark Santoni beat Hillsdale goalie Pat Quinn. The final period saw a total of seventeen penalties called, including a game disqualification to Hillsdale defenseman Tim Lockerbie, for deliberately trying to injure.

The final Oakland goal was tallied with 2:16 remaining in the game by freshman Barry Drangin, on a pass from Dennis Chouinard, who collected two assists in the contest. Drangin's final period tally marked his first goal as a college hockey player. OCC outshot Hillsdale 44-25, with Raider goalie Craig

Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Leon Slavin, president and general manager of the Jackson-Northville Trotting Meeting, is seeking the answer to a vexing problem. The problem: why is it that Jackson-Northville has the best pacers and trotters ever, has an excellent glass enclosed grandstand with a capacity of more than 5,000 and an ultra-modern enclosed, heated grandstand, yet is only even with Windsor in the head-to-head battle for the bettors' dollars?

SLAVIN IS forgetting quite a few things. The wagering at Windsor is way down from that of two years ago when it had no competition...and the reason is Jackson-Northville.

Perhaps the Tartan track does have something to do with the difference, and if so, then it's time for the Northville Downs operators to start thinking. There's a winter meeting coming up at the 'Downs in February, and the story may be the same. Time will tell.

HE HASN'T been able to come up with any suitable answers with the exception that Windsor has the artificial Tartan track that insures good racing conditions at all times and Northville Downs has an all-weather dirt strip that is no better or worse than the weather conditions.

"We have a better class of horses," says Slavin. "We are putting on the best winter racing ever in Michigan, but we can't beat Windsor. On the last weekend, the Canadian operation beat us in handle and attendance on Friday and Saturday for the first time of the meeting."

"Our business is ahead of figures for a year ago for the same number of nights, but it could be better, and we should be beating our competition every night of the week...but we aren't."

"I have a belief that the Tartan track does make a difference especially on rainy and snowy nights. It must, because we have Windsor beat in facilities. Our clubhouse dining room serves better meals; we have excellent service. It isn't far to the mutual windows. We have plenty of parking and yet we don't appear to have the drawing power."

Slavin's ambition this meeting was to beat the pants off the competition. He still hopes to do it before his season ends in late January (provided he receives the January dates from the state racing commissioner.)

"Our pacing series has been tremendous, so popular that we have had to divide it into two heats each Saturday. On the same night, Windsor only has five or six in its invitational, while we have 14 to 16 in the two divisions," he points out.

"For instance Thimble, a great horse from Ohio, has won three legs of the series and appears to be one of the top pacers competing in the Midwest at this time. Every one of the races has been a thriller, and those in attendance marvel at the horses on the grounds."

"But when the turnstile count and the mutual handle figures come in, we're just a bit short of Windsor. I just can't understand it."

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Smeltzer Chosen MVP At Harrison Banquet

Barry Smeltzer was honored as most valuable player at the football awards banquet held recently by Harrison High School.

Coach John Herrington congratulated his players at the banquet for winning the Western Six championship in the school's second year of competition with its first team to have seniors.

Special awards went to: Dave Manos, outstanding back; Larry Shaheen, outstanding lineman; Tom Erkert, Slick Award; and Chris Pagnucco, most improved player.

Also receiving special recognition were Harrison's Western Six All-League

Selections: defensive team, End Paul Bey and Linebacker, Tom Erkert; offensive team, Guard Fred Deschoff; Tackle, Larry Shaheen; Tackle Barry Smeltzer; Back Dennis Thibodeau; and Back Dave Manos.

Honorable Mention were: Dave Norton, monster; Chris Pagnucco, quarterback; Bill Herpich, safety; and Mark Bentivolio, noseguard. Players receiving their second football letters were: Chris Pagnucco, Bill Herpich, Dan McConeghy, Dennis Thibodeau, Tom Erkert, Craig Perkins, Tom Young, Paul

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HAPPY HUNTER -- Catherine Simon, of 18894 Milburn, Livonia, proudly displays the nine - point buck she bagged on her recent hunting trip. This is the second deer she has shot in her seven years of hunting. Site of the kill was three miles outside Bellaire, Mich. (Observer photo by Maurie Walker)