

Varsity soccer prospers at Farmington High

By C.J. RISAK

Ten years ago, the game was just beginning to catch on as a varsity sport in Class A schools around the state.

Previous to that, it was offered mainly at Class C or D schools, who couldn't afford the luxury or expense of a football program.

Now, the sport—soccer—is becoming increasingly popular, and that popularity is snowballing every year as more and more schools add it to their varsity program.

Farmington High is one of these schools. The Falcons started their boys' soccer team this season, the first Farmington public high school to have a male soccer team.

Farmington did have a team last year, but it was more on a club level; it was not considered a varsity sport and there was no official schedule.

This season, the Falcons have a schedule and a varsity team. In fact, they are part of the Northwest Suburban Soccer League, which is consid-

ered to be one of the toughest conferences in the state.

Now, a team in its first varsity year, in what is supposed to be a very competitive league, should not be expected to do very well. But, the first-year Falcons are off to a fast start, as they have posted a 5-2-2 overall record and a 3-1-1 league mark.

A NUMBER of reasons can be cited for the surprising success of the Farmington team, not the least of which is the development of talent. While soccer is new to the Farmington area, The Farmington parks and Recreation Department offers soccer programs for the community's youngsters, and the formation of the Bonanza-Detroit Express soccer league, which helps develop the local talent, has proved to be a big asset to some of the Farmington players.

"The guys have played in the Farmington summer soccer league," Farmington coach Dave Neher said. "They have a lot of experience."

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

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To play and be successful in the NSL, a team needs both experience and talent. Some of the schools are recent additions, like Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, and Livonia Bentley. But others have had soccer for years: Cranbrook, Birmingham Groves, Birmingham Seaholm, Bloomfield Andover, Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Country Day, Ferndale, West Bloomfield.

The Livonia schools along with Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Green Hills, Livonia Stevenson and Farmington are members of the

West Division of the NSL. The other schools make up the East Division of the league.

FARMINGTON'S experience and talent center on three players—center forward Todd Kamstra, who Neher refers to as the "best assist man in the league", and center fullback Dave Bruce and goalie Roger Becker, who both played for the Bonanza-Express soccer league over the past summer.

"Bruce is the key to our defense," Neher stated. "If the other team can get the ball by him, they have a good

chance to score.

"But that is very hard to do."

The Falcon defense has been tough to beat so far this year. Goalie Becker has two shutouts to his credit, with only 13 goals against thus far this season.

But Farmington's strength, according to Neher, is in its offense. In nine the team's front liners have put the ball in the net 17 times.

Kamstra is tied for the team lead in goals with five. Joining him on the front line is sophomore Mark Bartram at one of the wing positions, with senior Luigi Milani at the other wing. Bartram has five goals this season and Milani has four.

Playing third, top post or striker position is Mark McCormick, a senior and in only his second year playing soccer. He has accounted for three goals.

Starting halfbacks, or midfielders, are senior Jack McKelvey at center half, sophomore Mike McKinnon at right half, and senior Carter Richards at left half.

Senior Antonio Puche, a transfer stu-

dent from Columbia, usually starts at right fullback, with Bruce at the center position and senior Jim Booby at the left fullback.

Seniors Dave Latwinski and Pat McElroy also see extensive duty at fullback, with Puche often seeing action at halfback.

The Falcons are currently tied for second place, a half-game out of first place. "While the team strengths appear to be in an experienced defense and a solid offense, Neher feels it is the midfielders who hold the key to the team's success."

"If our halfbacks can't make the transition from defense to offense, the team will have problems," he said. "They have to control the game in the center of the field."

Neher isn't a coach with a deep background in coaching soccer. He played intramurally for four years at Calvin College and coached the Harrison High girls team last spring, a position he will assume again this spring.

HHS netter makes finals

By TOM BAER

Things went about as expected last Saturday at the state Class A girls' tennis regional in Southfield.

Birmingham Groves, co-champions of the Metro Suburban Association with Bloomfield Hills Lahser, won the 15-school regional with 23 points, and Northville High was second with 16.

As the top two teams in the regional, Groves and Northville advance to the Class A state finals on Friday (Oct. 20) at the Community Tennis Center in Midland.

Farmington Harrison's Nancy Green also advances to the finals on the strength of her showing in the No. 1 singles flight. Green, a junior, made the flight finals before losing to Groves' Marianne Ring, 6-0, 6-4.

Green, who beat Northville's Holly Sindt, 6-3, 6-4, in the semifinals, has an impressive 15-1 match record this season.

"Nancy plays a well-

balanced game," said Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein. "She's not afraid to come to the net—many girls are—and that gives her a good advantage. And her serve is very strong."

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, which has flight champions in No. 4 singles and No. 1 doubles, finished third in the regional with 14 points.

Berkley High had 12 points, host Southfield-Lathrup 10, North Farmington four, Harrison four, Southfield High and Ferndale High three each, Highland Park, Detroit Mumford and Clarkston one each, and Detroit Southeastern and Detroit Henry Ford none.

GROVES HAD players in the championship matches of all seven flights.

Groves' Wendy Allen lost to Northville's Lynn Herald, 6-3, 6-0, in the No. 2 singles final. Allen beat North Farmington's Kelly O'Dell, 6-2, 6-0, in the semis.

In the No. 3 singles final, Liz Fuller of Groves beat Northville's Eve Engelmeyer, 6-1, 6-0. In the semifinals, Fuller stopped Marianne Hodges of Groves, 6-1, 6-0, and Engelmeyer downed Lathrup's Julie Bach, 6-1, 6-1.

Mercy's Kathy Mullen needed three sets to get past Groves' Monica Stuck in the No. 4 singles final, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. In the semis, Mullen beat Berkley's Denise Franklin, 2-6, 6-1, 6-1.

The No. 1 doubles championship went to Berkley's Julie Wasson and Gail Cohen, who beat Groves' Krista Richey and Lynn Walker, 6-4, 6-3. Richey and Walker whipped Mercy's Annette Isom and Patty Hildebrand, 7-6, 6-2, in one semifinal.

Lathrup's Laura Williams and Sherry Smythe lost to Wasson and Cohen, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, in the other semi.

Mercy's No. 2 doubles team of Beth Hackett

and Roseanna Lubinski finished off Groves' Virginia Petry and Linda Huff, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, in the finals. Hackett and Lubinski overcame Lathrup's Helene Brodsky and Dina Nori in one of the semifinals, 6-2, 6-2.

NORTHVILLE'S NO. 3 doubles team of Lisa Friel and Debbie Spade whipped Groves' Jun Heywood and Liz Lipgett, 6-2, 6-0, in the finals.

Regional tennis summary

CLASS A REGIONAL—AT LATHRUP

TEAM FINISH: 1. Birmingham Groves, 23 points; 2. Northville High, 16; 3. Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, 14; 4. Berkley High, 12; 5. Southfield-Lathrup, 10; 6. Host North Farmington and Farmington Harrison, 4 each; 7. Farmington High, 4; 8. Host Ferndale High and Southfield High, 3 each; 9. Host Highland Park, Detroit Mumford and Clarkston High, 1 each; 10. Detroit Southeastern and Detroit Henry Ford, each.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

NO. 1 SINGLES—Marianne Ring (Groves) defeated Nancy Green (Harrison), 6-0, 6-4; Ring Green defeated Holly Sindt (Northville), 6-3, 6-4.
NO. 2 SINGLES—Lynn Herald (Northville) defeated Wendy Allen (Groves), 6-3, 6-0; Allen defeated Kelly O'Dell (North Farmington), 6-2, 6-0; Herald defeated Julie Bach (Berkley), 7-6, 7-4.
NO. 3 SINGLES—Liz Fuller (Groves) defeated Eve Engelmeyer (Northville), 6-1, 6-0; Fuller defeated

Marianne Hodges (Mercy), 6-1, 6-0; Engelmeyer defeated Julie Bach (Lathrup), 6-1, 6-1.
NO. 4 SINGLES—Kathy Mullen (Mercy) defeated Monica Stuck (Groves), 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Mullen defeated Denise Franklin (Berkley), 2-6, 6-1, 6-1; Stuck NO. 1 DOUBLES—Julie Wasson and Gail Cohen (Berkley) defeated Krista Richey and Lynn Walker (Groves), 6-4, 6-3; Wasson and Cohen defeated Laura Williams and Sherry Smythe (Lathrup), 6-0, 4-6, 6-1; Williams and Sherry Smythe (Lathrup), 6-0, 4-6, 6-1; Williams and Sherry Smythe (Lathrup) and Patty Hildebrand (Mercy), 7-6, 6-2.

NO. 2 DOUBLES—Beth Hackett and Roseanna Lubinski (Berkley) defeated Virginia Petry and Linda Huff (Groves), 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Hackett and Lubinski defeated Helene Brodsky and Dina Nori (Lathrup), 6-2, 6-2; Petry and Huff defeated Ann Penberth and Chris Shaw (Ferndale), 6-2, 6-0.
NO. 3 DOUBLES—Lisa Friel and Debbie Spade (Northville) defeated Jun Heywood and Liz Lipgett (Groves), 6-2, 6-0; Heywood and Lipgett defeated Friel and Spade (Northville), 7-6, 2-6, 6-4; Friel and Spade defeated Judy Kane and Denise Bark (Lathrup), 7-5, 6-4.



Farmington High's Anne Looke hits the ball during a regional match. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Hawk golfers advance

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison's golf team has a date in Battle Creek next Saturday morning.

Harrison earned a berth in the state Class A high school golf championship Saturday by finishing third in the regional Oct. 13 at Burroughs Farms Golf Course in Brighton.

The top three teams from each regional advance to the state meet. Harrison and Battle Creek Lakeview tied for third with 319 each, but Harrison beat Lakeview by six strokes in a playoff for third place. Jackson Parkside won the regional with 307, and East Lansing was second with 308.

"This'll be our first time at state since 1975, so we feel pretty good about it," said Harrison coach Bill Spencer.

East Lansing's Mike Fagan, Walled Lake Central's Jamie Younggren and Walled Lake Westem's Randy Dixon tied for medalist honors with three-over-par 74s at the regional.

Bruce Trout, a senior, recorded Harrison's lowest score, a four-over 75. Dave Hawthorne, a Harrison junior, shot a 78, and teammates Ted Kaligren and Bob Weir each carded an 83.

That four-man Harrison team advances to the state finals beginning at 9 a.m. at Binder Park Golf Course in Battle Creek.

"I'm trying to find out something about Binder Park," Spencer said. "We'll probably go down there this week to look it over."

SPENCER IS enthusiastic about Hawthorne's chances in the state tournament.

"Dave's a super golfer," Spencer said. "He's been consistently under 80 this season, and that's

what it takes. He was second in the Michigan Junior Amateur this past summer, so he's tournament-tested. He's become one of the best high school golfers in Michigan."

Harrison finished third in the Western Six League meet last Monday at Hartland Glen Golf Course. Northville won the meet with 402 points, Waterford Mott was second with 405, and Harrison had 406.

Western's Dixon was medalist with a two-over 74. Mott's Brad Rosier had a 75, Hawthorne 76. Livonia Churchill's Jim Manchovecski 77, Northville's Todd Mack 77, and Plymouth Canton's Dave Visser 77.

The Western Six League all conference team: Hawthorne, with an average score of 37.1; Rosier, 37.4; Dixon, 37.6; Northville's Bob Stephens, 37.7; Mack, 38.9, and Mott's Matt Adamczyk, 39.3.

North Farmington's golf team finished too low-tied for fifth place with Grand Ledge with 322—to advance to the state tournament, but the Riders can boast of winning the Northwest Suburban League meet last Monday with 405 points at Kensington Park.

Redford Union was second with 425, Redford Thurston had 430, Livonia Franklin 435, Westland John Glenn 439 and Garden City East 465.

North's Tim Potter, a senior, was the league meet medalist with a four-over 75. He was four over on the front nine. North's George Stroh and RU's Pat Brazzi each shot 79, North's Gary Laurin had an 82, and Franklin's Charles LeFlier, Thurston's Al Petrucci and North's Ken Smith came in with 83.

North's regional scores: Laurin, 77; Stroh, 80; Potter, 82; and Brian Grad 83.

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