

Sports

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(F10)

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Arctic-cold Falcons fall

Some nights the ball falls, other nights it doesn't. Farmington's girls basketball team suffered through the latter Tuesday night in a 34-21 non-league loss to Fernald.

"The other night offense wasn't the problem; tonight we couldn't put the ball in the basket to save our lives," said Farmington coach Diana Fair. "The ball must have went in and out 50 times."

To make matters worse, Farmington was soundly outbounded.

"They were getting three and four shots a crack, and we would maybe get one," Fair said.

Becky Philip, who scored 31 points in the season-opener at Redford Union, led the Falcons with six Tuesday. She pulled in 11 rebounds. Karen Jenkins had five points and nine rebounds.

Farmington falls to 0-2.

WATERFORD MOTT 39, N. FARMINGTON 28: Greg Capling is still waiting.

Waiting for his first victory as

girls basketball

head coach of the North Farmington girls basketball team. And he's getting impatient.

"We didn't do too much right tonight," Capling said. "I'm kind of disappointed, but we'll come back."

Mott broke open an 18-14 game with a 14-3 spurt in the third quarter.

"They pressed us, and we turned the ball over quite a bit. We lost our poise," said Capling. "We had some easy shots early in the game that we missed, and it kind of escalated from there. We finally got it going in the fourth quarter, but it was too late."

Suzi Butcher had eight points and eight rebounds and Mo O'Brien added eight points for the Raiders (0-2). Kim Koening scored 10 for Mott.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Becky Philip has led Farmington's scorers in both games this season, but the contrast between the two is blatant. Philip scored 31 in a tough overtime loss to RU last week. She scored six Tuesday in a loss against Fernald as none of the Farmington shooters could find the range.

— Chris McCosky

Mercy tourney goes international

This is the year the Farmington Hills Mercy Hoops Classic goes international.

Mercy basketball coach Larry Baker has invited Sarnia St. Patrick's, Ontario Canada's 1985 Provincial champion, along with Waterford Kettering (22-1 last season) and Utica Eisenhower (11-9).

Sarnia St. Patrick's, 49-3 last season, will open the tournament at 6:15 Thursday night. Mercy will play Eisenhower at 8 p.m. The consolation and championship games will be played Saturday night at 6 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., respectively.

Last year's Mercy Hoops Classic attracted more than 40 college scouts. Much of the same is expected this season. Here's who they'll be coming to see:

• Yvette Malsion and Adrienne Clark from Mercy, Maine, are touted as the best guard in the state this season, and her early season performances have reinforced the claim. Clark, a junior, scored 20 points in Mercy's season opener at Plymouth Canton last week.

• KRISTI LYONS, Kelli Kraft and Kris Davis from Kettering. The

trio helped Kettering establish itself as an Oakland County power last year. Lyons, a speedy guard, handles the basketball extremely well and is also adept shooting and passing it. Kraft, another speedster, plays at the off-guard position. Davis, a 5-10 junior, provides Kettering's inside threat.

• Lisa Lisella, Claudine Sandrin and Heather Spero from St. Pat's. Lisella, senior forward, averaged 12 points a game last season. Spero, senior guard, tallied eight points and five rebounds per game. Both are versatile athletes. Sandrin, a junior guard, is a threat from the perimeter. She averaged eight points and six assists per game last season.

• Lisa Bade, Michelle Harrington and Jamie Klinger from Eisenhower. All juniors, this trio is expected to elevate the Uticans back into statewide prominence in the next two seasons. Bade and Klinger, both 5-11, give Eisenhower great inside play, while Harrington is the team's perimeter sharpshooter.

Mercy High School is a 111 Mile Road at Middlebelt.

Scramble is on

Largest field ever in O&E tourney

By C.J. Risak staff writer

The stage is set, the starring roles are now being determined, and the cast might well resemble that of a Cecil B. De Mille movie.

Well, OK. There won't be "a cast of thousands" competing in the Observer & Eccentric-Whisper Willows Men's Golf Tournament this weekend, but it will be the largest field ever.

The entry scroll bulged with 294 names Monday, with another 30 on a waiting list hoping for cancellations. Which left tournament director Gary Whitener, the golf pro at Whispering Willows, with one rather obvious comment:

"Are we ever packed."

Last year, 188 played for the men's 36-hole title. A change in format to a shotgun start has made room for additional entries.

TEE OFF TIMES will be easier, anyway. Players will start at either 8 a.m. or 1 p.m.

The list of hopefuls is extensive, but it won't include defending O&E champion Gerry Thomas of Livonia, who is currently teaching golf and is therefore ineligible. That makes a clean sweep of 1985 O&E champs; last year's women's winner, Gerilyn Repasky, also started teaching this year and was ineligible.

But there are plenty of other top names. Like John Van Vleck of Farmington Hills, a three-time champ who last won in 1983, and Nunzio Marino of Westland, who took the 1984 O&E title.

In fact, the field is so large that the division between flights is rather tight. Championship flight, for in-

golf

stance, includes those with eight handicaps and below. First flight includes 9-14 handicaps, second flight is 15-21 and third flight is 22 and over.

Golf certificates and plaques will be awarded to low gross and low net scorers in each flight.

But what can the golfers expect from Whispering Willows' par-71, 6,205 yards? Here's a short hole-by-hole synopsis:

No. 1 (475 yards, par 5) — This hole's a spoiler. It's a delicate birdie chance, wide open and fairly flat. The biggest problem it represents is it could generate overconfidence. That feeling won't last long.

No. 2 (403 yards, par 4) — Without question the toughest hole on the course. A straight drive is a necessity on this dogleg left; trees line both sides of a narrow fairway. The second shot must clear a pond, with the green 30 yards beyond that. Could be trouble for a lot of players.

No. 3 (443 yards, par 4) — Slight dogleg right, but generally not too tough. Flat. Trees don't provide much of an obstacle.

No. 4 (348 yards, par 4) — Plays longer because of a dogleg left. Corner can be cut. Fairway is open, but green is bordered.

No. 5 (205 yards, par 3) — Difficult little hole. Green is elevated high above the tee and slopes down. At times the pin cannot be seen from the tee.

No. 6 (388 yards, par 4) — Again, another hole that seems to play longer. Dogleg left, but generally an open fairway. Trees on the right are biggest problem. Corner can be cut.

No. 7 (155 yards, par 3) — Shortest hole on the course, with an elevated tee. Large green, but pin placement often takes a toll.

No. 8 (374 yards, par 4) — Straight tee shot that carries over the hill will be of most value here. Fence on left side is only real trouble.

No. 9 (380 yards, par 4) — A deceivably tough hole. A good drive will leave about 130 yards, but a ball in the fairway at that distance is on a downward slope. A drive that carries thirty yards further puts you in the water. Green is well bunkered, and trees can be a problem on both sides of the fairway.

No. 10 (475 yards, par 5) — This is very much like No. 1, with a slight bend to the right. Poses no real trouble.

No. 11 (356 yards, par 4) — A short par 4, but straight tee shot is essential through opening in trees, which surround the fairway. Really crank a drive and you could find yourself with a downhill lie for your second shot.

No. 12 (317 yards, par 4) — Plays longer. Tight dogleg left which mandates a strong tee shot. Trees are everywhere, but if you place your tee shot properly you can easily reach the green in two, making par no trouble.

No. 13 (305 yards, par 4) — Another shorty that is wide open. It bends right, but play it to that side and it can easily be birdied.

No. 14 (270 yards, par 4) — Fence on left, open to the right. A few bunkers and pin placement might make it difficult.

No. 15 (219 yards, par 3) — A good tee shot will keep you out of trouble, which surrounds this hole. Dense trees line both sides of the fairway, and if the pin is placed at the front of the green, it could be tough.

No. 16 (484 yards, par 5) — Longest hole on the course. Trees on right of the fairway, but they end after about 200 yards. Fence is on the left, but fairway is wide but rolling.

No. 17 (156 yards, par 3) — The easiest of the par threes, with no fairway obstacles for errant shooters. Sand traps on both sides of the green could be troublesome.

No. 18 (402 yards, par 4) — Not a difficult finisher. Fairway is open, with biggest problem the fence on the left. Again, traps around the green could be a problem, but big hitters should have no real trouble.



C.J. Risak

MSU to ride rapids with slow secondary

COME SATURDAY, all the hype, all the comparisons and charts and intricate graphs and minute details accumulated by dozens of so-called college football experts won't mean a thing.

Come Saturday, every team in America will have played at least one game. Which means all those experts will either be glowing with 1-1000-000 smiles pasted on their faces, or they'll be buried in a corner somewhere trying to refigure all their data.

That's what makes the game fun for fans. For players, it's a different story.

TAKE MICHIGAN STATE, for instance. The Spartans are touted as one of the top three teams in the Big Ten. A sure bowl game qualifier. A Rose Bowl possibility.

Why? Because MSU possesses the best running back in college football, Lorenzo White. The Spartan PR office has already been busy churning out tons of publicity about White in an effort to earn him the coveted Heisman Trophy.

But, despite what rabid Spartan fans might insist, White is not a god. He cannot carry MSU to the Rose Bowl alone.

Winning takes defense. And MSU's defense will be largely predicated on a secondary consisting of — well, basically, four safeties.

Paul Bobbitt, a senior from Southfield-Lathrup, plays free safety. Todd Krumm, a junior from West Bloomfield, is the right cornerback. John Miller, a sophomore from Farmington Harrison, is the left cornerback. And Dean Altobelli, a senior from Escanaba, is the strong safety.

THERE ARE common traits that run through the secondary. None of them is fast. Three of them — Krumm, Miller and Altobelli — are really better suited to play strong safety. The fourth, Bobbitt, played that position the last two seasons before moving to free safety this year.

So that you understand, in the

general scheme of defenses strong safety is the slowest of defensive backs.

"I'm definitely not fast enough to play corner," an honest John Miller says. Then he adds, "But that's where your head comes into it."

Aha. Now you know. Yes, MSU can win eight or nine or 10 games. But don't look for the key to their success in the volumes of press-season hype. Victory for the Spartans will depend heavily on how well their defensive gambles play off.

A YEAR AGO, Spartan coaches plopped an unproven sophomore in at the corner. Todd Krumm performed well, if not outstanding. "I held my own," he says. "Nothing flashy. I didn't get beat deep. I didn't make many mistakes."

He also came up with a team-high four interceptions, including one against All-American Chuck Long, then of Iowa. Krumm succeeded without great speed. He runs a 4.7 40-yard dash, slow in a world of wideouts who range 4.3 to 4.5.

"People say, 'You've got a world-class sprinter going against you,' but every play isn't a sprint to the goal line," Krumm explains. "A lot of it is technique, reading the receiver."

Krumm survived with smarts, which convinced MSU coaches that if it worked once, it could work again. So Miller was installed at the other corner.

"I have strong confidence in these corners," said Bobbitt, who, by the way, also runs a 4.7 40. "We play a lot of help defense, and besides, there are a lot of things a defensive back can do to break down a receiver's speed. You make him go a certain way, cut down the field and don't let him go where he wants to go."

Adds Miller, "Our whole defensive philosophy is not to give up the long ball. Give up the stuff underneath."

KRUMM MADE that strategy ... 's last year. Can it work again?

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