

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/953-2139 night line: 591-2312

INSIDE:
Travel, page 6

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(F1C)

Falcons, Mercy still among top teams

By Dan O'Meara
and Ray Setlock
staff writers

Farmington and Farmington Hills Mercy had two of the best girls soccer teams in the state last year, and that could be the case again this year.

Both teams return enough veteran players to possibly rank among the top teams in Observerland at least.

Farmington has 10 holdovers from a team that ranked No. 1 in the state, won the Western Lakes Activities Association title and was 13-2-1. The Falcons were upset by Mercy in the district final.

The Marlinas have 11 players back after reaching the Class A semifinals and finishing 13-2-4. Mercy was the runner-up in the Catholic League but avenged that defeat by beating Birmingham Marian in the regional final.

FARM MERCY

The Marlinas have one of the most

soccer

experienced and talented front lines in the area with senior Dana Lehmkuhl, junior Tanla Macioce and senior Kathryn Dudley at the forwards.

"Dana (second-team all-area) has a wicked shot that I'd heard about and have seen, and we're definitely going to get her the opportunity to use it," first-year coach Deepak Shivraman said. He replaces Henry Klimes, who resigned at the end of last year.

"The thing I'm most happy with is they've accepted the new system where they have to wait for the ball a little bit. They're going to be sharing the ball with the halfbacks and, in the case of trouble, turning around to use the support from teammates and run into a better space."

Mercy boasts an outstanding goal-

keeper in senior Renee Larabell, who was the first-team, all-area player at her position last year. She made 180 saves, recorded seven shutouts and had a 1.24 goals-against average.

"After looking at her in a couple of scrimmages, she definitely has the skills and the vision," Shivraman said. "She's very mature on the field."

The Marlinas will have an experienced defense in front of Larabell, too.

Junior Shannon Gibbons, senior Ann Duxard and sophomore Beth Zlobro either started or had plenty of playing time at the fullbacks, and senior Colleen O'Connor returns to play stopper. Shivraman has been impressed by the play of freshman Theresa Clisco, also.

"They definitely have the skill," Shivraman said, "but one thing I've noticed — and we're trying to correct — is they clear the ball right away instead of controlling it and trying to make a play. We're trying to get them more involved in the game instead of just receiving the ball and kicking it down field."

Mercy is less experienced in the midfield, but the Marlinas will build around sophomore Carrie Dziadosz, a returning starter at center half-back.

"She is very solid in the middle and very skilled," Shivraman said. "I'm expecting a lot out of her."

Shivraman will rotate players at the wings while he observes a while longer and decides on a regular lineup.

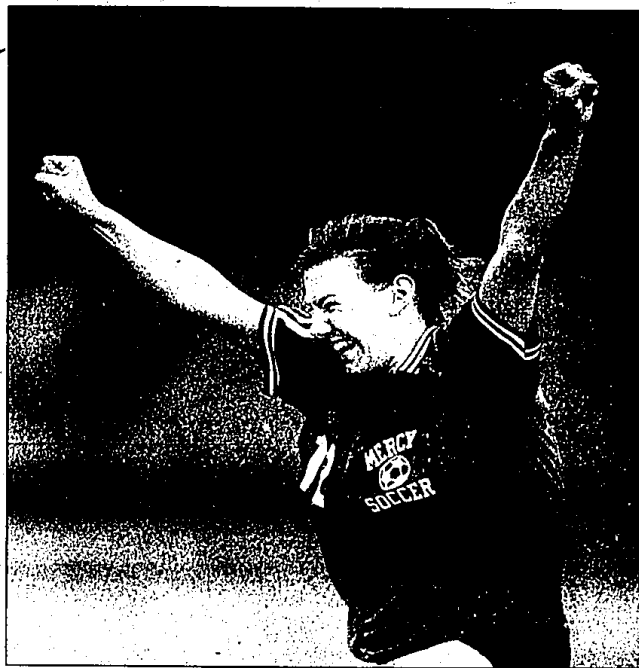
Senior returnee Courtenay Lyons will alternate with freshmen Meghan Leadbetter and Anita Wilhelm at right halfback, and senior returnee Laurie Chapp will battle junior Leslie Santiago and senior Gina DeAngelis for the left-side position. Freshman Flannery Campbell will play in the midfield, too.

"I'm concerned about that area," Shivraman said. "Carrie Dziadosz is the strongest player in the midfield. With the others, the experience is not there, but the attitude and skills are. If we can work with them and season them, I think they will rise to the occasion and play well."

While the Marlinas have the potential for a fine season, Shivraman isn't concerned about anything but the first game, which takes place Tuesday, April 9, at Livonia Ladywood.

"It's important they get no pressure at this time, like they have to do this or finish here," he said. "It's a long way to the playoffs. We're looking to each game and finishing each one successfully."

"(The players) are eager about this season. We have to fortify the midfield and make that a little



Carrie Dziadosz celebrates after scoring a goal during a shootout in the regional final with Birmingham Marian last year. Dziadosz is a sophomore and returning starter at halfback. Mercy was a state semifinalist a year ago.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

stronger. Other than that, we're ready to go."

FARMINGTON

The Falcons lost only four players to graduation, but all of them were vital to Farmington's success.

Carrie Maler, Amy Trunk and Margaret Martin continued their playing days fall at Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Michigan State, respectively. Jody Perris was the fourth player.

"We can't fill their shoes, but we definitely can groom new people to do what they did for the team's sake," Farmington coach Cathy Kamsman said. "They were great

role models for all the returning and new players. The kids who are returning know what is expected of them to keep the program alive."

Senior Monika Kurzer started at forward last year alongside Trunk and was named the most improved player. She scored 12 goals and had seven assists and will more than likely start again, but Kamsman is still experimenting with different lineups.

Senior returnee Eileen Mombland, sophomore Jill McCluskey and freshmen Maggie Frump and Jessica Viller are the other forwards. The challenge is for the Falcons to maintain their offensive efficiency without Trunk and Maler.

"Other teams might think that (will decrease) because of the production we had in the past from those talented individuals," Kamsman said. "We're going to try our best to score goals and take every opportunity to make that happen."

Farmington's strength is its defense where juniors Kim Poppy and Julie Dugan return. The Falcons have to replace Perris at fullback and possibly junior Sue Gibson if she stays at midfield.

Poppy, a tri-captain along with Dugan and Gibson, will play fullback again so Farmington can utilize her talent in marking the opponent's

Please turn to Page 2



Observer photo

Kim Poppy begins her third year as a starting fullback on the Farmington soccer team. She is also a tri-captain.

Smith earns repeat honor

By Brad Emons
and Dan O'Meara
staff writers

all-area boys basketball

PUTTING TOGETHER the ideal All-area boys basketball team?

This year's crop offers a little bit of everything — a shot blocking and rebounding pivotman; power forward; swingman; big point guard; small playmaker; small shooting forward and shooting guard.

They may not be quite ready for the 1992 Olympics, but in their own right, this group will produce some fine small college, junior college, Division II, Division III and Division I players.

Not to be outdone are the coaches. The Observer sports staff would like to salute two coaches.

Plymouth Canton's Dave Van Wagoner and Redford Thurston's Mike Schuette share the Coach of the Year honors.

Van Wagoner, back in his second stint as Canton coach, led the Chiefs to the Class A regional final at Wyandotte before losing to Belleville.

Canton finished 16-9 after posting three tough district victories, including a stunning 88-65 triumph in the final over state-ranked neighbor Plymouth Salem.

VAN WAGONER, a native of Plymouth and Central Michigan graduate, teaches physical education at Canton.

The 1983-84 Observerland Coach of the Year, Van Wagoner sports a six-year varsity mark of 70-51.

The future also looks bright as several of Canton's top players return next season.

Schuette, meanwhile, led Thurston to a 16-5 overall record and its first Tri-River League crown since 1982-83.

The Eagles, despite a small cast with no player over 6-foot-2, battled eventual state Class B champion Detroit Country Day evenly through three quarters before losing in their district opener.

"This team had a lot of heart, a lot of toughness," said Schuette, who has led Thurston to four straight 15-plus win seasons. "From the first to the 13th player, there was a lot of camaraderie. They all had the same goal — to win."

Schuette, a math teacher at Marshall Junior High (Wayne-Westland Schools), also coaches the Thurston girls team, which won a district title last fall.

Here is a closer look at the All-Area squad:

FIRST TEAM

Jake Baker, Plymouth Salem: The 6-foot-5 senior was possibly the most versatile player in the area. He could play close to the basket, but he also shot the three and could help get the ball up court against a press.

Baker, who made the all-area team for the second year in a row, averaged 17 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two blocks. He made 55 percent of his three-point attempts (30 of 56), and he shot 48 percent from the floor overall (81-160). He made 75 percent of his free throws (83-110).

"He's a complete, well-rounded ballplayer," coach Bob Brode said. "He

has the ability to play inside and outside. He does anything you ask of him, and he's a winner, which is very important in a program."

In the three years Baker started on the varsity, Salem was 52-9. The Rocks also won two Western Lakes Activities Association titles, a district and one regional.

Baker, who signed early with Central Michigan, will be remembered as one of the finest players in Salem history. He is the all-time leader in rebounds with 726 and second in scoring with 1,122 points. Jim Elmhousen had 720 rebounds and 1,312 points during his career, 1973-76.

"He's the kind of kid you'll never forget," Brode said. "His work ethic might put him into some playing time (next year at CMU). It depends on Central's needs, but with his work ethic I think he can contribute in a college program."

K.C. Kirkpatrick, Plymouth Salem: The 6-6 senior post player complemented Baker and was another reason the Rocks were No. 1 in the area most of the season and 4-1-6 the last two years.

Kirkpatrick's forte was flying to the basket for a last-break layup or scoring off the rebound. He averaged 13 points, 10 rebounds and two assists. He shot 57 percent from the field (97-169) and 64 percent at the line (67-105).

Wayne State has offered Kirkpatrick a scholarship, according to Brode, and Auburn, Grand Valley and Western Michigan also are interested.

"He's a smooth ballplayer," Brode said. "He makes everything look so effortless."

"He helped us with his ability to run the floor. When you've got an inside player who runs the floor as well as he does, he's tough to guard. He also did well guarding



Andy Smith
Harrison



Bobby Kummer
Redford CC



Mike Baker
Salem



K.C. Kirkpatrick
Salem



Randy Calcaterra
Churchill



Derrick McDonald
Canton



Danny Pertulla
Thurston



Dave Van Wagoner
Co-coach of year



Mike Schuette
Co-coach of year

Please turn to Page 2

1990-91 ALL-AREA
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Jake Baker, Plymouth Salem
K.C. Kirkpatrick, Plymouth Salem
Andy Smith, Harrison
Randy Calcaterra, Churchill
Bobby Kummer, Redford CC
Derrick McDonald, Canton
Mike Baker, Salem

SECOND TEAM

Jim Elmhousen, Plymouth Salem
Chris Valiga, Redford CC
Chad Varga, Redford CC
Justin McEwen, Redford CC
Kevin Riser, Redford CC
Greg Hartman, Redford CC
Matt Grodzicki, Redford CC
Keith Roberts, Redford CC

THIRD TEAM

Clark Habbiz, Wayne Westland
Steve Gallagher, Farmington Hills
Rick Barnes, Farmington Hills
Paul Givens, Farmington Hills
Matt Gibbons, Farmington Hills
R. Shawn Sumner, Farmington Hills
Merton Stoudenter, Farmington Hills

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Dave Van Wagoner, Canton
Mike Schuette, Thurston

HONORABLE MENTION

Plymouth Salem: John Hoffmeyer, Carl Lee, Mike Miller, Plymouth Canton: Tony Corbitt, Mike Stafford, Kevin Holmes, Brett Towner, Redford Catholic Central: Jon Daniels, Redford Thurston: Jeremy Courvat, Rob Delyon, Jamal Mervin, Livonia Churchill: Mike Thomas, Scott Bowser, Wayne Memorial: Lee Williams, Livonia Stevenson: Phil Woods, Coon Station: Farmington Hills: Andy Fitzpatrick, Livonia Franklin: Steve McGee, Redford Bishop Borgess: Lamar Winkler, North Farmington: Bill Chavis, Wayne Westland: Chris Muka, Garden City: Rick Martin, Livonia Clarendonville: Kendrick Harrison, Frank Juncal, Plymouth Canton: Marvin Nandori, Ramon McCants, Livonia Westland: David Galloway