

## Sports

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## Falcons capture Lakes wrestling title

## Dual victory ends Salem title reign

By Dan O'Meara  
Staff writer

The site was the Plymouth Salem gymnasium and not Buckingham Palace, but a changing of the guard took place nonetheless Thursday night.

In a showdown for the Lakes Division dual-meet wrestling title, Farmington defeated Plymouth Salem 42-26 and ended Salem's nine-year reign.

"It's the first time since I've been coach (five years) that we've beaten Salem," Farmington coach Al Beyer said, sharing credit with assistants Barry Walsh and Dave Denny. "It's a big shot in the arm, a big boost."

The Falcons finished with a 5-0 record in Lakes duals and improved to 12-1 overall. Salem, the three-time defending Western Lakes Activities Association champ, is 4-1 and 6-7.

Beyer couldn't yet commit Farmington to the kind of long-term success the Rocks have enjoyed, but the Falcons clearly are having a great season, which includes winning the first Observerland tournament.

"THIS IS just an exceptional group of kids we have at Farmington," Beyer said, adding nine of the 13 wrestlers in the lineup Thursday were seniors.

"We've got some good people coming back next year, but we won't have the senior depth we have this year. Some of them have been together since the sixth grade and it's their year."

Salem took an 18-4 lead after four matches on consecutive pins by Brian Harrell, Scott Martin and Dan Bonnett; however, the Falcons won seven of the last nine bouts to run away with the victory.

The Rocks led 24-20 after Jeff Shumate pinned (2:57) Jason Hurliday in the 145-pound contest, but Farmington had two superior decisions, two pins and a draw in the remaining five weight classes.

"We don't have enough firepower," Salem coach Ron Krueger said. "We got to 152 and we knew there was not another win left. We were kinda hoping but it didn't happen."

"The only bright spot of the evening was at 112. Harrell is a freshman and that was his first varsity match. He did a nice job."

FARMINGTON'S Dave Monge (152) defeated Pete TenBroeck 9-0 to tie the score at 24. Pins by Mike Palo (160) over Doug Wind (426) and Ryan Adams (171) over Tally Sny (3:58) all but clinched the win as the Falcons led 36-24.

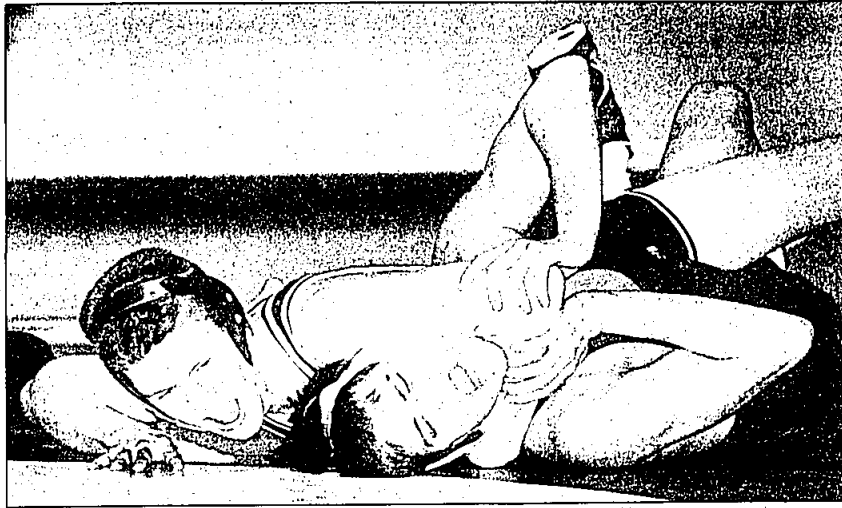
Farmington's Rob Cavagnoli, the Observerland champion at 189, and Phil Haynes battled to a 3-3 tie after the Salem wrestler rallied for three points in the last period, the third coming on an escape with 18 seconds left.

That assured the Falcons of the win, and heavyweight Matt Siskosky finished with an 11-0 decision over Jamie Breithaupt.

(The upper weights are) one of our strong points," Beyer said. "It was just a question of whether we could get some pins up there."

"The Salem kids always do a good job. They fight the entire match. They can come back at any time and score points or get a stick. They're known for that."

Farmington's John Economy (103) started by pinning Scott Hughes (1:30) before the Rocks surged behind pins by Harrell, 4:31 over Chris Darnell;



SHERIE BUZZBY/staff photographer

Matt Smith of Farmington has a firm headlock on Salem's Dan Phillips en route to a 20-3 win at 130 pounds Thursday. Smith

won by technical fall in the 42-26 victory, which gave Farmington the division title.

Martin, 2:41 over John Lane; and Bonnett, 5:56 over Jon Duff, at the next three weights.

The Falcons chipped away at the Salem lead as Matt Smith (130) scored a 20-3, technical fall over Dan Phillips and Steve Lemieux (135) pinned J.J. Hurl in 1:57. Farmington took a 20-18 lead with Mike Prough's 15-10 win over Chris Rapson at 140.

ECONOMY AND Darnell are freshmen, Lane a junior and Prough a sophomore. The others in the Farmington lineup were seniors.

The Falcons will wrestle Walled Lake Western, the WLAA Western Division dual-meet champion, in a crossover match Thursday at Farmington. The WLAA meet will take place Saturday.

"If we wrestle as well as we did at Observerland, we should do well," Beyer said.

Salem has won the WLAA title the last three years, but Farmington — as well as Westland John Glenn, Western and Plymouth Canton — is expected to post a serious challenge. Canton was second and Glenn third in the Observerland tournament.

"Now we'll all go to the show and see what happens," Krueger said. "We got thumped here tonight, but at Observerland I was really impressed by how well John Glenn has come on. They didn't win Observerland but they didn't get the win at 152 that they'll probably get."

Glenn lost considerable points when Mike Reeves, the top-seeded wrestler at 152, was disqualified for using an illegal move in a semifinal match and was subsequently pulled from the tournament by Glenn coach Dave Hill.

"Nobody gave Canton respect before and here they come again," Krueger said. "They have good kids all the way through, and they're going to be able to do something, too."

## Knipper returns in style

Swimming your fastest can be like writing a novel. It can take a long time before one sees the result of his labor.

Two Michigan Stingray swimmers proved that at the Circle City Classic in Indianapolis in late January.

Howard Ruby of West Bloomfield and Danny Knipper of Farmington Hills placed second and sixth in the championship heat of the men's 50-yard freestyle with respective life-time bests of 21.8 and 22.4.

Ruby, a graduate of West Bloomfield High and Indiana University in 1991, began swimming as a high school junior but didn't compete in college.

Knipper enrolled at Oakland Community College after graduating from North Farmington in 1990 and has been involved with the sport since 1978.

"THESE MEN each had a payday meet," Stingrays coach Jeff Cooper said. "Their times in the 50 and their other events are great testimony to the value of hard work and patience. They are good role models for our whole team."

Ruby and Knipper approached Cooper last fall and said they had some unfinished business from their high school days, specifically to swim their fastest.

Both also placed in the 100 freestyle, Ruby at 47.85 and Knipper at 48.05. Knipper equaled his best breaststroke time at 1:01 while Ruby went 54.0 in the butterfly.

The meet took place at the Indiana-Purdue University Natatorium, site of the upcoming U.S. Olympic "Time Trials." The pool is recognized as one of the finest in the world and annually attracts 1,000 swimmers from the Midwest to this meet. The Stingrays have participated since the mid 1980s.

"We go because of the pool, the good competition and the opportunity for swimmers and families to have a good time," Cooper said. "We had 57 swimmers entered and nearly all had quality swims."



Danny Knipper (left) and Howard Ruby (right) The two returned to competitive swimming are pictured with Stingrays coach Jeff Cooper, and had lifetime bests recently.

cluded Dave Stegman, 1:01.57 and 2:17.32 in the 100 and 200 butterfly; Miriam Schreiber, 1:00.27 in the 100 butterfly; Melissa and Stacy Axner, Barb and Kelly Burns and Jessica Canosa.

FARMINGTON HILLS residents with lifetime bests included Amy Finkel, Jason Speer and Dana and Pat Dizon.

Finkel, a budding breaststroker, went 1:16.35 and 2:52.48 in the 100 and 200 events. Speer, who returned from London last year where his father worked, made several A times in his events — 1:08 in the 100 butterfly, 1:05 in the 100 backstroke and 25.85 in the 50 freestyle.

Pat Dizon clocked a 2:47 in the 200 breaststroke while Dana went 2:27.8 in the 50 freestyle. Another Hills resident, state-record holder Karl Pawliewicz, had quality swims, including a fast 55.99 in the 100 freestyle, good for second place.

Also entered in the meet was 13-year-old Dee Brown from St. Louis. Brown is nationally ranked and showed why with her meet-record 1:52.91 in the 200 freestyle and 24.33 in the 50 freestyle.

Cooper said many of his national swimmers were at mid-season form in their training, but several still "all had quality swims."

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## Raiders register another success

North Farmington took another easy victory over a Western Lakes Activities Association opponent in boys swimming Thursday, winning 124-55 over host Westland John Glenn.

The Raiders are 4-0 in the league and 7-1 overall. North competes at Farmington on Thursday and has duals at defending WLAA champ Livonia Stevenson and always-strong Plymouth Salem on Feb. 20 and 27, respectively.

North's Karl Kozicki was a double winner in the 50-yard freestyle (24.05) and the butterfly (56.75), and teammate Mike Drilles made the state cut with a first-place time in the backstroke (57.58).

Chris Knoche and Keith Lee had one individual and one relay victory apiece. Lee won the 100 freestyle (53.28) and Knoche the breaststroke (1:06.77).

Brian Darold, Knoche, Jason Charnas and Matt Gregory won the 200 freestyle relay in 1:42.8. The winning 400 freestyle team consisted of Peter Guttenberg, Ryan McKelley, Charnas and Lee. The Raiders finished the race in 3:35.

Other North winners were Iral Zohar, 200 freestyle (2:02.69); Adam Kammer, individual medley (2:25.79); and Jonathan Kershaw, 500 freestyle (5:22.2).

FARMINGTON WON five events while losing a close meet Thursday at Plymouth Salem, 88-87.

The Falcons started with a victory in the 200 medley relay in which Scott Frump, Kevin Yoder, Mark Scario and Scott Brown combined for a 1:45.72 time.

Scario also won the individual medley (2:13.39), Frump the backstroke (57.91) and Yoder the breaststroke (1:05.51). Farmington's Don Boyer was first in the 100 freestyle (53.01) and Brandon Richardson was second in diving with 260.20 points.

## Pesci scores 19 to key Harrison WLAA runaway

Farmington Hills Harrison exploited a height advantage and used a sound defensive effort Friday to wallop visiting Walled Lake Western 83-45 in boys basketball.

The Hawks are 6-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 11-2 overall. Western dropped to 1-6 in the league.

Harrison raced to a 21-7 lead in the first quarter and increased the margin to 39-16 at halftime. The Hawks outscored the Warriors 44-29 in the second half.

"It was a great team game, and it stemmed from our defense," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "When we went to the half-court game, we got it inside and, with the rebounding advantage, we got a lot of fast breaks."

The taller Hawks dominated the boards 45-18. Senior center Paul Gilydis had 13 rebounds to complement his 15 points and three blocks. Senior forward Mike Pesci led Harrison with a game-high 19 points. Key Smith scored 10 of his 12 points and Ryan Cahill all 11 in the fourth quarter when the Hawks outscored Western 23-17.

Justin Romans followed Gilydis with seven rebounds. Dan Hight had six assists, Andy Fitzpatrick four assists and three blocks.

"We have to understand what our strengths are, and we have done a nice job of going to our strength," Teachman said, meaning Harrison's post-up game.

"In the last two games, we've played real well going to our strength. We probably only took two bad shots tonight."

The Hawks held Western's Brent Mackowiak to 16 points — six under his average. He had only nine through three quarters. Matt Engott scored 13. Both players are 6-2, but the other Western starters are 5-10.

STEVENSON 61, N.FARMINGTON 48: A defensive switch after the first quarter enabled the Spartans to pull away from visiting North Farmington Friday.

"It's a big win," Stevenson asst-

## basketball

ant coach Tim Newman said. "We both needed this one."

The two teams were tied at 24 in the WLAA, with a berth in the league tournament at stake. The Spartans are 7-5 overall, 3-4 in the WLAA; North fell to 4-8 and 2-5.

Stevenson switched from a zone defense, which North's Mark Tempale and Dean Pennala rattled for nine points apiece in the first quarter to give the Raiders a 20-14 lead, to a man-to-man. North scored just 28 points in the final three quarters.

"The whole key was the defense," said Newman. "We really shut them down (after the first quarter)."

Matt Grodzicki, who defended Tempale superbly after the switch, scored 18 points. Tony Stojiv added 14 and Brian Furkas, who covered Pennala, netted 12 — eight coming in Stevenson's 21-10 third-quarter run.

Temple led North with 20 points; Pennala totaled 18.

CENTRAL 76, FARMINGTON 58: It took a while for Chris MacFarlane to get on track Friday, but once the 6-foot-5 junior center found the groove there was no stopping him.

MacFarlane scored nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, leading host Walled Lake Central on a 24-7 run en route to its victory over Farmington.

The win lifts Central to 6-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 11-2 overall. The Falcons are 1-6 and 3-9.

"They were in a zone and we'd kick it out to the right, and they'd collapse right down on (MacFarlane)," Central coach Steve Emert said. "He missed a couple puppies early, but he started owning the boards and playing his game. He really came through for us in the final 10 minutes."

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