

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1992

SPORTS



DAN O'MEARA

Mercy event homecoming for Mallon

As a successful and popular member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, Meg Mallon is very much in demand for celebrity appearances these days.

Mallon participates in 15 to 20 charity golf events a year, but none is closer to her heart than the one Tuesday at Edgewood Country Club on Commerce Road.

The Second Annual Meg Mallon Golf Outing and Tribute Dinner exceeded its fund-raising goal of \$50,000 on behalf of Mercy High School, her alma mater.

"I get asked to do a lot of charity events throughout the year, and there aren't too many I can personalize," Mallon said. "But this is one I love coming to because Mercy meant so much to me."

Old friends remain

One of her high school friends, Marcy (McGarrigle) Smith and her young son, used the opportunity to travel all the way from North Carolina to attend the event and visit Meg.

"Some of my fondest memories are of high school," Mallon said. "I decided to go to a school where I didn't know anybody, and it ended up being a great decision. The friends I made in high school are the friends I still keep now."

Playing golf were former Detroit Lion and local businessman Mel Farr and Michigan State University Athletic Director Merrily Dean Baker, both of whom were honored that evening for their contributions to sport and community.

Farr is an old family friend of the Mallons. Meg's father (John) helped Farr get started in the auto dealership business, and Farr later sponsored Meg when she

started on the pro tour.

"Mel has done so much for the community," Mallon said. "The greatest thing he showed us is there is life after sports. He's been a great role model."

Golf not always No. 1

Mallon, who didn't play Tuesday but hit a ball from a par-3 tee with each foursome, began playing golf at an early age, took lessons from Edgewood pro Paul Van Loosen and pushed for a golf team at Mercy.

"But it wasn't until she was nearly done with high school that she entertained thoughts of a golf future."

"I wanted to get more experience and competition. That's why I wanted to start a golf program at Mercy," Mallon said. "I had no plans to go on after school."

"Basketball was my first love, and golf was a nice thing to be able to play on weekends with my parents. But I hadn't gotten any taller or any better in basketball as the years went on, so I thought I should take this golf thing more seriously."

"It wasn't until my junior year in college that I really thought about (trying to play professionally). I saw some of my peers going out and trying it and I thought maybe I should, too."

No frowns in '92

Mallon emerged as one of the top pros last year when she won four tournaments, including the Women's U.S. Open and LPGA, and earned more than a half-million dollars.

"She hasn't won this year, but that shouldn't be the criteria by which to judge a season, she said.

"Ninety-one was no good; that was one dream season," said Mallon, who also did a fund-raiser Monday at another alma mater, Ohio State University.

"But, personally, I feel I'm having just as good a year or better as far as consistency."

"Last year I'd have a good tournament, and then I'd have a let down and finish 40th. I've finished out of the top 10 only three times this year."

"I can't be disappointed. It's so difficult to win any way, so I can't base my season on that. It's a great feeling but it took me five years to win one. I have to remember that."

Falcons hope to build on success

The Farmington Falcons are coming off one of their most successful seasons in recent years and hoping to improve on it in 1992.

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



Farmington High had its best football season in six years when it finished 4-5 and, with a break here or there, could have been above .500 last season.

The Falcons hope to do even better this year but must replace a lot of graduated talent and rely on sophomores in many instances.

Farmington has 16 seniors on its 50-man roster, and sophomores comprise nearly half. The Falcons will field only freshman and varsity teams this fall.

"We decided to go with a freshman team and, hopefully, start getting them with the idea they can win," said third-year coach Bernie Call.

"When the sophomores get up there, we'll be tough, but we have to take care of the present now. It still boils down to our seniors. They have to do the job; they have to carry the load."

Call believes the Farmington strengths are its offensive and defensive lines, giving the Falcons a more confident rushing game and solid run defense.

Senior center Mike Raffle (6-0, 172) is a returning starter and possibly the best offensive lineman.

The guards are seniors Brandon Dixon (5-11, 175) and Scott Holliday (5-9, 205), and the tackles are seniors Simon Vulaj (6-3, 240) and Shawn Mykolaitis (5-10, 204).

Dixon is a returning starter. Holliday was a regular on defense. Vulaj saw action last year and Mykolaitis is playing his first year of high school football.

Sophomores Corey Noble (5-9, 216) and Curt Katsis (5-6, 169) are backups at guards.

"We feel we can run against people this year, right up inside," Call said. "We don't feel we have to go outside so much. We can but we're going to establish the power game. We have the size and experience to be able to control the line."

See FALCONS, 3B



Flying Falcons: Senior Matt April will send the ball airborne with his passing arm and run the offense as quarterback of the Farmington football team.

Farmington in final; North rallies to win

Farmington High has only eight players on its girls basketball team and on Tuesday night the Falcons needed every one of them.

The Falcons lost three players to foul trouble in the fourth quarter but hung on to defeat Warren Lincoln 45-39 in a first-round game at the Troy High Tournament. The win sends Farmington into Thursday's 8 p.m. championship game against Troy Athens, a 39-27 winner over Clawson.

The Falcons took a 40-27 lead into the fourth quarter but had to survive some anxious moments down the stretch. Nicole Blingamen fouled out with seven minutes remaining and Andrea Salyer and Tammy Allen received their fifth fouls minutes later to leave the Falcons with five players who didn't play on the varsity last year.

"Our three top players were sitting next to me but the girls on the floor sucked it up and pulled it off," Farmington coach Brian Swinehart said. "Our goal was to win (the tournament) and we're not happy if we don't. We got the first step done."

Kim Washnock, a freshman forward, made a glorious debut with a team-high 16 points and 11 rebounds. Lincoln pulled to within three points with less than a minute remaining but Washnock made two free throws and teammate Jennie Neu made a steal and one free throw to ice the victory.

Washnock and Neu were joined on the court at the end by Bridget Fleet, Stefanie Rennie and Stephanie Timcocks.

Washnock's performance was praised by Swinehart.

"You couldn't ask for anything more," Swinehart said. "She's a hard worker and was a recipient of nice passes from other girls like Andrea, Tammy and Bridget."

The Falcons jumped out to a 12-7 lead after one quarter and led 30-16 at halftime. Salyer scored all 11 of her points in the first half and Allen had six points — all in the first quarter.

North rallies to win

It took most of the first half, but North Farmington regrouped in time to beat visiting West Bloomfield 59-57 in the Raiders' season opener Tuesday.

North surrendered four points in the final 10 seconds of the first quarter and trailed 24-15 entering the second quarter.

"I think the girls were excited about it being the first game and we got caught up in the excitement," North coach Lance Davis said. "We gave up a lot of easy baskets early. We fell behind and had to play catch up the whole way."

The Raiders cut the halftime deficit to six and it was down to three entering the final quarter. North outscored the Lakers 11-6 in the final quarter.

The comeback was led by junior forward Carey Perkins, who scored a career-high 28 points. Her output was the third highest in Raider history.

Perkins accounted for 13 of the North's 17 points in the third quarter and added another seven in the fourth quarter. Perkins kept the Lakers at bay by converting eight of her nine free throw attempts.

"We were able to get the ball inside more in the second half and Carey really came through for us," Davis said. "In the fourth quarter, we went to a man-to-man defense. West Bloomfield started standing around, so we intensified our defense and got some steals."

Junior guard Allison Stein added eight points for the Raiders, who also received six pieces from freshman Carrie May and junior Kerry Richards.

Senior forward Merrilee Manawager and junior guard Kellie Conover tallied 15 points each for the Lakers (0-2).

See BASKETBALL, 3B

Panthers edge Hawks

Jenny Markham scored nine of her 12 points in the fourth quarter Tuesday as Redford Union defeated host Farmington Hills Harrison 44-41 in a non-league game.

Defending champ Hawks still talented

By NEAL ZIPSER
AND DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITERS

Farmington Hills Harrison's accomplishments in boys cross country last year was impressive. The Hawks finished 13th in Class B and 9-1 in dual meets to become the most successful team in school history.

This year's Hawks have their sights set on improving last season's feats.

"The team is focused to have a good year, and they are really emphasizing that," fourth-year coach John Reed said. "This year we move from Class B to Class A and realize it will be tougher."

It will also be tough because the Hawks lost their two top runners from last year. Jason Zlyrski, who was unbeaten in dual meets last season, runs at the University of Michigan, and Mike Deans, who finished 37th in the state meet, has graduated.

Harrison deserves no sympathy, because it does return sophomore Todd Haney and senior Justin Dreyer.

"Both are talented runners, and I believe by the end of the year, both will be as good or better than (Zlyrski and Deans)," Reed said. "Haney was the top freshman in the area last year and finished second in the conference in the two-mile during track season."

Two seniors and co-captains are fighting it out for the third spot. Tim Blason, one of the area's top half-mile runners, is competing with Steve Quarterman.

"Steve was one of the slowest runners on the team when he started, but he has improved and will surprise a lot of people this year," Reed said. "I think making him a captain really motivated him, and he has taken it upon himself to improve."

Sophomore identical twins Chad and Justin Koocer resemble each other on and off the track.

"I've had trouble telling them apart, but I can now," Reed said. "They are almost exactly the same runners and run almost the exact times. They might have been the best two freshmen in the area last year if it wasn't for Todd."

Seniors Steve Swartz, Aaron Harl and Brian Anstandig and juniors Roger Stadler, Doug Bacon, Scott Turner and Dan Passerman are dueling for the remaining spots.

"I have an interesting team," Reed said. "I know who my top two runners are, but there is a pack of 10 runners fighting for the three through 10 spots and that is good. I know I have a lot of depth."

Harrison's goals for this season are simple: qualify for the state meet and avenge its only dual meet loss last season to Walled Lake Central. The Hawks face Central in the second meet.

"We usually start the season off slow," Reed said. "We start slow because we choose to. We want our best meet to be late in the season at the regional and at the state meet."

FARMINGTON

Being an average team doesn't fit Farmington coach Jerry Young right.

See CROSS COUNTRY, 2B