

# SPORTS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992

## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Marlins win tennis title

After five consecutive years as runner-up to rival Birmingham Marian, Farmington Hills Mercy regained the Catholic League championship Saturday.

The Marlins, who won the title in 1986, reached the finals at every flight and won championships in four.

Mercy scored 58 points in the 10-team tournament, the Mustangs 48 and Livonia Ladywood 38.

"Our team is a little better than usual, and their team is not quite as good as usual," said Mercy coach Jim Kervin of the difference between the Marlins and Marian. "Our girls were up on that particular day when playing Marian."

"The important thing is it was a team effort. For everyone to reach the finals — win or lose — the process of getting there is what did it for us. The balance of singles and doubles is what pleased me."

Mercy was especially strong in doubles competition. Dawn Green and Anjali Thakur were first at number two doubles, Michelle Uller and Dana Fischioni at three, Susan Milas and Maryann Miller at four.

Miles and Miller were undefeated with a 16-0 record but won't get to play in the regional since Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments have only three flights of doubles.

Peggy Mueller won the four singles title. Kristen Kiuska (1), Amy Modica (2) and Jackie Rajkovich (3) were runners-up as were the first doubles team of Julie Zimmerman and Katie Emery.

### Buha regional champ

Farmington High senior Jason Buha will be one of the favorites for individual honors this weekend in the Class A golf finals at Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing.

Buha, who tied for second place last year, won the regional title Friday at Oak Point in Brighton when he shot a one-over-par 72.

"I wanted the team to make it," Buha said. The Falcons qualified as a team two years ago. "I knew if I played decent, I'd make it as an individual, but I wanted the team to go."

"I went up there by myself last year, and it just wasn't the same. It's more enjoyable having the whole team up there."

The state final will be a two-day tournament this year, beginning Friday. For Buha, playing in his last final, it's better late than never.

"I'm happy it came around before I graduated," he said. "The idea of a two-day tournament is to find the better golfer. In a one-day tournament, one mistake can cost you the tournament. A two-day gives you time to make up for a mistake you made earlier."

Buha, recognized as one of the best young golfers in the country, is confident heading into his final high school competition.

"If I play well and win great," he said. "If I play well and get beat by somebody who plays better, there's not much you can do about it. If I win I'll be happy. If I don't, it's not something so important to me that I'll be depressed."

### Falcons city champions

Farmington High repeated as city champion in boys soccer Monday when it defeated Harrison 4-0.

Mike Giese scored two goals, giving him a team-leading season total of 26. Aaron Bormarist and Brian Staley had one goal and one assist each.

It was the first goal in high school competition for Staley, a senior. Giese and Jamie Burton also had one assist apiece.

The Falcons, who led 2-0 at halftime, outshot Harrison 16-7. Goalkeepers John Comal and Steve Scanio combined for Farmington's fifth shutout as each played a half.

Farmington finished 5-3-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and was 9-5-2 overall going into the WLAA championship game Wednesday at Livonia Franklin.

## WLAA verdict hangs in balance



The surprise finalists in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys soccer championship could not complete action Wednesday because of thunderstorms and heavy rain. Franklin held a 3-2 lead against Farmington when play was suspended.

By BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin hopes lightning strikes twice, but Farmington High believes it still has some unfinished business left in the suspended Western Lakes Activities Association boys soccer championship.

Even more ironic than the two surprise finalists was what transpired during a bizarre 60 minutes of play early Wednesday evening with host Franklin leading 3-2.

It was supposed to be a day in the sun for two area upstarts, each vying for its first-ever WLAA championship in perhaps the state's toughest league, but the game was postponed under a dark cloud of confusion, partially due to a late 5 p.m. start and compounded by dangerous skies.

Play was finally halted for a second time with 19:48 remaining, an official game under Michigan High School Athletic Association standards.

"We want to play 80 minutes of soccer and see the best team win," Franklin coach Frantz Lamarre said. "We're in good position to win, but right now it's undecided. We still have the lead, but we still have to hold them and outscore them."

According to the athletic directors at both schools, play will resume 3 p.m. Friday at Franklin.

The go-ahead goal with 26:02 to go, a header by Dave Steinert off a corner kick from Richard Burnette, occurred immediately after a 20-minute delay.

"We know we had a corner kick coming when we came back so we pushed eight players inside the penalty area," Lamarre explained. "We pushed a lot of people in there. It was the first time we did it all year be-

cause I don't like to leave our defenders vulnerable. It was a gamble and fortunately it worked. It was getting dark and we had to take advantage."

The goal enraged Farmington coach Luke Juncaj, who claimed play should not have been resumed by head official Jerry Gibbons because several bolts of lightning were still visible in the vicinity.

"Three of our players saw lightning just before play started again," Juncaj said. "The linesman acknowledged it, but the referee didn't."

"Our players got distracted. It should not have been a goal. It should not be 3-2."

Juncaj was so enraged that he ran onto the middle of the field, protesting to Gibbons, as play was about to continue on.

As for the first half, things were a lot brighter and calmer. Franklin struck first with 22:17 left when Scott Barnes scored on a short cross from Burnette.

Farmington tied it right before the half, just moments after 26-goal scorer Mike Giese limped off to the bench with a sore ankle. Chris Meller pumped a shot past Jason Emery after a scramble in front of the Franklin net to tie it at 1-1.

"Meller has a nose for goals and it didn't surprise me he scored because he had a few scoring chances earlier," Juncaj said.

Just 4:12 into the second half, the 6-foot-2 Todd Freeman used his height to loop a header over the outstretched arms of Farmington goalie John Comal.

The goal came on a sideline throw-in from Steinert to give Franklin a 2-1 advantage.



Head games: Farmington's Mike Giese (front) and Livonia Franklin's Andrew Hokett go airborne to contest this ball in Wednesday's WLAA final.

But only 2 1/2 minutes later, Farmington's Kris Wiljansen answered when he drilled a 20-yard shot through Franklin's defensive wall off a restart.

"Kris had the best-looking goal we've had all year," Juncaj said. "It was great he scored the tying goal because he was playing a terrific game. He was winning the ball most of the time at midfield."

It was a wide-open game for the most part.

"Both teams were playing attack, there were chances on both sides," said Juncaj, whose team is 9-5-2 overall. "Defensively we were doing a good job, but we had a few slips."

"The boys had never played for the conference title and they were a little nervous."

## Adams, Milford runners best in county

Rochester Adams has an experienced boys cross-country team and a young girls squad, but both were successful in Saturday's Oakland County Cross Country championships, held at Marshbank Park in West Bloomfield.

The Adams boys won the meet while the girls placed second.

Highlanders coach Bud Cicciarelli expected the boys to compete for the championship. But, "the real surprise was the girls' team," he said. "We didn't expect them to take second. We thought, realistically, top five — maybe."

Adams had a tough dual meet against West Bloomfield last Thursday, just two days before the Oakland County meet. Cicciarelli was concerned that his team wouldn't be able to bounce back by Saturday.

The boys, in particular, "thought they could do better," Saturday, he said. "They were emotionally drained from the Thursday race."

The boys, led by six seniors, had 73 points. Lakeland was second at 91.

"Rochester Adams ran real well," said Birmingham Brother Rice coach

Bob Stark. "Seventy-three points is an impressive finish."

Adams was led by Jeff Doyle, who placed fourth with a time of 16:33. He was 15.4 seconds behind race winner Clint Verran of Lake Orion.

Doyle "has been coming on all year," Cicciarelli said.

Jeff Kowalak was ninth for Adams, finishing in 16:44.5. Other Highlanders' finishers included Mike Vagnetti in 17th (16:56.2), Brett Hamilton in 20th (17:01.7) and Mike Callaghan in 23rd (17:05).

Cicciarelli had hoped to have five runners in the top 20. "We came close to it," he said.

Other area teams in the top 10 included Brother Rice in sixth (249), Rochester in seventh (294), Walled Lake Western in eighth (300) and Troy in 10th (344).

For Stark, the Warriors' sixth-place finish was a major improvement over their previous performances this season.

"It was our best race of the year," he said. "Our kids performed quite well. We beat several teams that have

beaten us pretty regularly. So we're pretty proud."

Western coach Dennis Keeney was less pleased with Western's eighth place. Western's girls were third.

"We didn't run as well as we hoped to, either way," he said. "We thought that we'd be much more competitive than we were."

In the past, Keeney explained, Western's strategy has been for its runners to pace themselves. Since that strategy hasn't worked, Keeney wanted the Warriors to start fast Saturday, to avoid being caught up in the huge middle packs caused by the more than 200 runners who start each race.

Unfortunately, Keeney said, Western may have started too fast on Saturday.

"We ended up going a little too hard with some of our guys, and fading as the race went on," said Keeney.

Milford won the girls' race with 106 points. Adams edged Western for second, 153-155. Troy, led by race winner Wendy Robertson, was fifth with 161 points. Area girls teams in the top 10 included Walled Lake Central in

sixth (240) and Rochester in seventh (241).

Although Keeney hoped for a higher finish from his girls, who hadn't lost a dual meet or an invitational this season, he called their performance "a good day." Jenny led the Warriors, finishing with a time of 19:53.5. Ray ran with eventual winner Robertson for most of the race, but couldn't keep the pace.

"The girl from Troy really ran a strong race," Keeney said. "The Troy girl was the fresher of the two, even early on."

Other Western finishers included Bridget Byrne in ninth (20:20.7), Stacy Duff in 39th (21:30.5), Brendy Halibozek in 42nd (21:37.2) and Kristen Heib in 62nd (22:19.6).

Adams' victory in the boys race may lift the Highlanders in the state rankings. The Highlanders haven't been ranked higher than sixth this year. Although Cicciarelli doesn't put much stock in the ratings, he says, "We're better than what people say, right now. . . But we've still got our work cut out."

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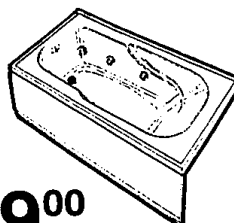
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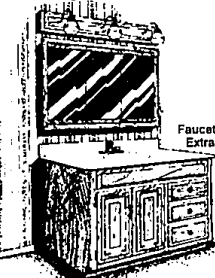
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