

# SPORTS



MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1993

## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### North wins 4th in row

Don't be surprised if Livonia Churchill basketball coach Tom Lang posts the following advertisement in the school's hallways next week: "Wanted: Top gun. Player(s) capable of contributing 15 to 17 points on a consistent basis."

"The kids play hard all the time," said Lang after his Chargers succumbed to North Farmington 48-39 Friday. "I just can't get anybody to step forward and be a scorer for us — and I play every body."

Mark Rutherford's 12 points kept Churchill close for 3/4 quarters. In fact, Churchill got within five points midway through the final quarter before North led the victory with free throws.

North hit 16 of its 31 free throws, including six of seven in the final minutes by John Pennala. Churchill hit just five of 12 from the stripe. Doug Dolak had 13 points and Evan Ellis 10 for the Raiders, 2-0 in the W.L.A.A. 4-3 overall. Churchill falls to 0-2 and 1-5.

### Madonna women tumble

Reality set in for Madonna University's women's basketball team Thursday. The Lady Crusaders visited Spring Arbor College for a game against the pre-season pick to win the NAIA District 23. They took with them a perfect record (2-0) in district play.

That record did not remain that way for long. The Crusaders rolled to a 49-25 lead by halftime and coasted to a 90-60 triumph, a win that raised their district record to 2-1 and made them 7-10 overall. Madonna slipped to 2-1 in the district, 8-10 overall.

Mary Blentewicz (from Farmington Hills Mercy) and Cheri Sangregorio each scored 12 points for Madonna. Stephanie Niebauer added 10, while April Blanton grabbed seven rebounds.

Turnovers spelled the difference. The Crusaders had 34 in the game, many forced by Spring Arbor's pressure defense.

### Gymnasts have fine start

It's not unusual for North Farmington, a school rich in gymnastics tradition, to be undefeated in dual meets.

But the Raiders are 6-0 so far this season without their top gymnast, sophomore Annie Jud, who is sidelined with a chronic back ailment. She qualified for state finals last year but didn't compete because of the injury.

"She's doing a lot of rehabilitation, and we're playing it by ear now," said North coach Jeff Dwyer, adding Jud might return. "(Her loss) hurts but we're doing pretty well."

"We should be averaging in the mid-120s by the end of the season, which is a decent team. We don't have a fantastic team but we're solid."

The Raiders are led by juniors Michelle Tsai and Elyse Turner. Tsai has been the team's top gymnast this year, winning every event in three meets.

"She worked hard in the off season, and it's paying off," Dwyer said. "I have high expectations for her."

"(Turner) is a good athlete and is just coming around right now after competing in diving last fall. "She's consistent and a tough competitor."

North was helped by the addition of sophomore Jenny Japenga from Harrison. She was a club gymnast until last year.

"She didn't work out in the summer, so she lost some strength," Dwyer said, "but she definitely has some talent. It's all up to her — how hard she wants to work for it. But she's good."

The Raiders will count on senior Stephanie Wagner, a self-made gymnast who never had any formal club training.

"She didn't have any experience when she started as a freshman and now competes all around," Dwyer said. "Some of the girls look at her as a role model, because she's done it all herself."

Other gymnasts who figure to help the Raiders are freshman Hillary Lum and a pair of sophomores from Harrison, Marla Pinsky and Amanda Quirola.

North must again contend with Western Lakes Activities Association rivals Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Canton — two of the top-rated teams in the state. The Raiders are in a different regional, but it still won't be easy to qualify for state as a team.

"We're lucky they aren't in our region, but it might be easier to be the third school in their region," Dwyer said. "Six or seven teams are going to be able to score in the high 120s."

### Penalties hinder CC

Redford Catholic Central hockey coach Jack Gumbleton has implored his players to stay on the ice and out of the penalty box.

His words apparently fell on deaf ears. Perhaps actions will speak louder than his words.

Wednesday night, the Shamrocks were eloped with 28 minutes of penalties which Allen Park Cabrini converted into three power-play goals and a 4-3 victory over No. 2-ranked CC at the Allen Park Ice Arena.

Cabrini, ranked No. 4 in Class B, got three power-play goals and a short-handed goal in the first two periods.

CC (7-1-2) countered with three power-play markers of its own, as Cabrini earned 20 minutes worth of penalties.

## Farmington coach calls it career



Jerry Young, who coached runners at Farmington High School for 27 years, is ready to retire. He led the Falcons to several track and cross country championships. "It's been my life," Young said of his job.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Young, once an outstanding runner who used to train alongside the boys he coached at Farmington High, has crossed the finish line of a long-running career.

Having achieved an outstanding record and led his cross country and track teams to numerous championships, Young has retired from coaching after 27 years with the Falcons.

"I enjoyed it immensely; it's been my life," Young said. "I'm not sure how it's going to be the next couple years, but I'm looking forward to doing some other things."

"Golf is an interest of mine, so I think I'll substitute some golf outings for a few track meets."

The 52-year-old Young, who will continue to teach history at Farmington High, is the third long-serving Observerland coach to retire in the past couple months.

He joins Plymouth Canton's Fred Crissay (baseball) and Livonia Franklin's Armand Vigna (football) in retirement.

Young coached track for 31 years, having spent one year at Edwardsburg, where he began his career, and two more at Jackson High before arriving in Farmington.

Farmington boys cross country

teams amassed a 203-55 record in dual meets under Young's leadership, his track teams achieved more than 100 wins.

He coached the Farmington girls track team for five years in the early 1980s and won the Western Lakes Activities Association in 1984. The League boys track title five times between 1967 and 1972.

Young's cross country teams were league champions 13 times — eight in the Inter-Lakes and for five consecutive years (1984-88) in the W.L.A.A.

"We certainly had a lot of success and a lot of championships," Young said. "Those things are important, but we had a lot of good kids. I enjoy it when many of them come back to say hello to the old coach."

"It's always the kids who keep you in it. But I've been there a long time, and I thought it was time to pass the baton to someone else. I think I'll turn into a spectator and let someone else do it."

Young doesn't plan to fade from the scene, however. He has worked closely with Dave Catherman in track, alternating the head coaching assignment, and girls cross country coach John Barrett. Young thanked both for their longtime support and will offer his help where needed.

"I'll work at some of the meets," he said. "I have a lot of coaching friends I want to keep track of."

"I'll be up in the stands watching and doing some timing, but I won't have to worry about who's running in the next event, filling a relay, injuries or all the paper work."

Among the highlights during Young's career was a three-year stretch from 1970 to 1972 when the Falcons were undefeated and won 30 straight dual meets in track.

"Those dual-meet teams were probably good as there was in the state of Michigan," Young said. "We had some real donnybrooks with (former coach) John McKenzie and his teams at Redford Union."

Young also coached many outstanding athletes. Mike McGuire, twice a state runner-up in cross country and a Big Ten champion at the University of Michigan, was "probably the best we ever had," Young said. McGuire now coaches the U-M women's team.

Larry and Gary Williams, Mike McGlothlin, Steve Kemp and Al Van Meter were among the standouts who ran for Young in earlier years.

Larry Williams was the 1969 state champion in cross country, and Kemp won the 1980 Canadian Olympic Trials in the decathlon but never competed because of the United States-led boycott.

Nat Durham was the first 16-foot high school pole vaulter in Michigan and was the 1972 state champ. He later vaulted 18 feet while competing for Eastern Michigan.

In recent years, Young's stars in-



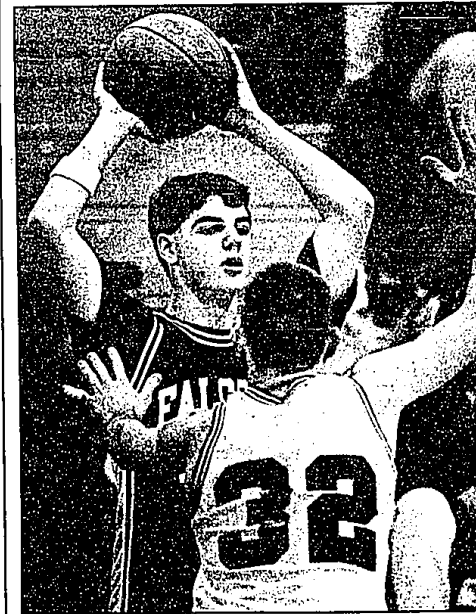
Jerry Young

cluded future college athletes Chris Inch (Illinois), Al Stebbins (Tennessee), Brandon London (EMU) and Ben Goba (Tennessee). Inch, Stebbins, London combined with Ben Smedley to win the 3,000-meter relay at the Class A track championships in 1987.

Young was an outstanding runner himself. He was a two-time state champion at Berkley High School (1956-57) and three-time Big Ten champ at Michigan State — twice in track (two mile) and once in cross country.

He also was a member of the MSU team that won the Big Ten cross-country title in 1960 and twice earned All-American honors.

## Falcons prevail over Warriors in OT



Falcons soar: Senior guard Matt April looks for a teammate to take a pass during Farmington's overtime win.

BY BILL PARKER  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington coach Denny Mikel isn't particularly thrilled when the Falcons play overtime basketball games, but his team certainly responds.

The Falcons picked up their second overtime victory in four wins Friday with a 74-69 triumph at Walled Lake Western. On Dec. 17, Farmington beat Birmingham Seaholm 55-54 in overtime.

The win lifts the Falcons to 4-3 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Western falls to 3-4 and 0-2.

"This is a super win for us. This makes us 2-0 in the league which is exactly where we wanted to be after this game," Mikel said. "We've been playing pretty well at home, but we've had our problems on the road."

It appeared Farmington would again have problems on the road as the Falcons struggled to shoot 54-percent (19-of-35) from the free throw line in regulation. But with the pressure on in OT, Farmington nailed nine-of-10 from the line to earn their first win of the season on the road.

Farmington took the lead for good, 62-60, on the first basket of overtime when Scott Messner (14 points) found Bill Hayes under the basket with a no-look pass from the top of the key and Hayes laid in the easy bucket. Stanley Lewis (22 points) and Matt April (16 points) took charge down the stretch, sinking four free throws in four attempts each in the final minute of overtime.

In a game slowed by 66 fouls, Farmington won the battle at the stripe netting 28 points in 45 attempts compared to 21-of-33 for the Warriors.

"During one of our time outs I told

the kids this game was going to be won at the free throw line and that we were going to have to step up and make those shots. That was the difference in the game," Mikel said. "It was nice to hit them at the end. In the games we've lost this year we haven't done that."

Farmington scored on seven of nine possessions in the three minute overtime period, a trend that didn't sit well with Western coach Pat Adams. "Lack of defense," summed up the second-year Western coach. "We didn't get a stop in the entire second half, at half court or full court."

"The kids play as hard as they can. I'm not faulting their effort. They give 100 percent when they attempt to create what I say, but sometimes they fall short."

The Warriors were hot from the perimeter in the early going and hit six of their first seven shots from the floor. Brent Mackowiak (eight points) bombed in three three-pointers and Ryan Bolton (10 points) added one from long range as the Warriors stormed out to a quick 14-2 lead.

"I was kind of concerned when we got into such a big hole so early, but the kids didn't panic," Mikel said. "We slowly battled back into the ball game."

Western maintained the lead throughout the first half, although Farmington cut the gap to four on three occasions. The Warriors scored the final five points of the half to secure a 33-22 lead.

After Matt Engott (six points) pushed Western's lead to 35-22 with a layup at the start of the third quarter the tide turned in Farmington's favor. With starters Mackowiak, Engott and Bolton resting on the bench with four

See FALCONS, 2C

## Hawks impressive in 1st hoop victory

Farmington Hills Harrison's first victory of the boys basketball season was an eye-opener Friday night.

After losing their first six games, the host Hawks came to life in a big way, routing a good Livonia Stevenson team 72-41.

"It was nice to hear some people singing in the shower tonight," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Having been in a lot of close games, (the players) had to start questioning themselves."

"There was some finger-pointing, but we finally got through to them that it was only a little hummy we had to get over. I think they were pretty happy with themselves tonight."

The Spartans (3-3) played without Chris Chichina, one of their top players, who is sidelined with knee injury. Teachman attributed the lopsided score in part to his absence.

"He's a big part of their team," he said. "I think they were kind of in shock, coming into a game without him. I'm sure that threw some of the things they do out of sync."

The other reason was Harrison's third-quarter

defense. The Hawks led 28-25 at halftime and outscored the Spartans 23-5 in the next eight minutes and owned a 59-30 lead.

"We got in the passing lanes and got the ball down to the other end," Teachman said, adding the Hawks shot 12 free throws and made 11 in that period. "We were taking the ball to the hole. We were getting turnovers and converting them."

Calvin Pruitt scored 16 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Harrison. Don Bryant, Ryan Cahill and Keye Smith added 11 points apiece. Jeremy Teachman had seven assists and no turnovers.

Stevenson got 11 points from Brad Morgan, who made three triples, and 10 from Adam Roy.

Both teams are 1-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

■ REDFORD CC 60, RICE 55: Redford Catholic Central rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat arch-rival Birmingham Brother Rice in a Catholic League basketball game Friday night.

The Shamrocks are 1-2 in the Central Division and 3-5 overall, the Warriors 2-1 and 5-3.

CC trailed 42-38 entering the fourth quarter, in which it outscored Rice 22-13.

The Shamrocks sank 10 of 13 free throws in the last period, and senior forward Jeff Gutt scored nine of his game-high 17 points in that quarter.

"We went to the basket a lot better than we did earlier in the game, and they were fouling," CC assistant coach Joe Chops said.

"We rebounded the ball better late, and we drew a lot of fouls on rebounds. We hit our free throws, which we haven't been doing."

The Shamrocks also got 16 points from senior forward Brian Paluk. Gutt scored 15 of his points in the second half.

Rice's D.J. MacAlone scored all of his 15 points in the second half on five three-point field goals. Brian Kalczynski chipped in 12.

CC led 12-2 early in the game; however, the Warriors rallied with a 19-4 run. The Shamrocks reclaimed the lead at halftime (25-23) only to be outscored by Rice again in the third period 19-13.