

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Hawks win mat dual

Farmington Harrison had a strong finish Thursday and defeated visiting Plymouth Canton 38-27 in dual-meet wrestling.

The Hawks jumped in front 23-0 after the first five bouts and, after Canton closed to within 23-21, claimed victory in three of the remaining four weight classes.

Harrison's Brian Atkinson (103) won by decision, 5-2; Matt Whitten (112) decision, 11-7; Brad Blaisdell (119) pin, 2:40; Derek Jagger (125) technical fall, 19-3; and Andrew Dzyngel (130) pin, 3:15.

The Chiefs rebounded by winning the next four bouts, three by pin and one by minor decision.

Harrison pulled away with wins by Joe Guttierrez (8-7), Jason Blumberg (3-15) and John Amayo (1:39) at 160, 171 and 189, respectively.

Farmington won two matches Thursday in a loss to visiting Walled Lake Central, 51-18. Mike Prough (140) pinned Doug Hare (3:31), and Scott Holliday (189) pinned Gary Whalen in 21 seconds. Matt Michalski (103) won by void.

"We weren't able to capitalize on our mistakes, and they capitalized on ours," Farmington coach Al Beyer said. "Three or four matches could have gone either way and, unfortunately, none went our way."

Falcons post swim win

Scott Brown won two events and helped Farmington win two relays Thursday as the Falcons (5-1) whipped host Dearborn Edsel Ford 65-28 in dual-meet swimming.

Brown had the best times in the 50-yard freestyle (23.78) and the backstroke (1:00.73).

Brown also was the lead swimmer on the medley relay team, which included Kevin Yoder, Danny Belanger and Don Beyer. Farmington won with a 1:48.27 time.

The Falcons claimed victory in the 400 freestyle relay, with Craig Mathie, Belanger, Brown and Chris Frump finishing in 3:44.34.

Mathie and Frump also combined with Steve Scanio and Beyer to give the Falcons first place in the 200 freestyle relay (1:37.55).

Scanio, Beyer and Yoder were individual winners, too. Scanio touched first in the 200 freestyle (1:59.31), Beyer the 100 freestyle (51.09) and Yoder the breaststroke (1:07.53).

Farmington's Dave Smith won the diving with 144.05 points. Rich Hammon the butterfly (1:01.43), and Jon Reed the 500 freestyle (5:09.89).

Harrison spikes Franklin

Farmington Harrison improved to 3-1 in Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball Wednesday with a four-game victory over Livonia Franklin (15-9, 15-6, 10-15, 15-4).

The Hawks are 3-0 in the Western Division and 11-4-3 overall.

"We're having a good season but it's early," Harrison coach Ron Shortt said. "We're going to meet some teams that are going to give us big challenges."

The Hawks dominated Franklin as senior Julie Heist recorded kills on half of her spikes (26 of 52) and had nine blocks. Amanda Ault had 21 assists and nine kills, and Ron Hubble led the defense with 25 digs.

Maggie Chavez was 14-of-16 attacking with seven kills, and she also had 11 assists. Shortt also cited the play of Krista Snow, who had two kills out of 13 attacks with only one error.

"It was one of the best nights we've had," Shortt said. "We appear to be very confident, and we had very few errors by any hitter. We kept the ball in play and put the pressure on Franklin."

Falcons drop match

Poor serving led to Farmington's downfall Wednesday in a volleyball match with visiting Plymouth Canton (9-15, 15-5, 15-17, 4-15).

The Falcons missed 16 serves and had only four aces. Farmington usually has four players with four aces apiece in each match, according to coach Julie Ingalls.

"You can get as many aces as you want, but if you don't get your serves over you're not going to score any points," she said.

Debbie Schroeder was 22-of-24 attacking with 13 kills. She also was 14-of-16 digging, 14-of-14 receiving serves and 15-of-16 passing.

Jenny Sever was 20-of-22 hitting and had seven kills. Maggie Frump added six kills (14-of-16) and six blocks, and Erin Phelps was 16-of-17 on passes.

The Falcons are 1-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 6-7-3 overall.

Raiders lose first dual

Plymouth Canton dealt visiting North Farmington its first dual-meet defeat in girls gymnastics Wednesday.

The No. 5-ranked Chiefs (5-1) scored 132.75 and the Raiders (6-1) finished with a 119.5 total.

Canton senior Kim Rennolds had the top score on vault (8.9), beam (8.35) and floor exercise (9.35). She was third on bars (7.75) and finished with the best all-around score of 34.85.

Canton's Jenny Tedesco (34.1) and North's Michelle Teal (32.3) were the next best all-arounders.

Teal was among the top gymnasts on vault, third (8.0); bars, second (8.55); and floor, fourth (8.15).

North's Elyse Turner tied for fourth on bars (7.3) and beam (7.9). Jenny Jaeger placed fourth on vault (8.45), and Hillary Lum tied for fifth on floor (7.8).

Hockey scouts like Observerland



The area of southeastern Michigan that is part of the Observer & Eccentric coverage has become a gold mine for professional scouts searching for prospective National Hockey League players.

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

When you think of hotbeds of hockey talent, you think Canada. You think Windsor, Toronto and those obscure-sounding places like Medicine Hat and Moose Jaw.

If you think United States, you might think Minnesota or Massachusetts or upstate New York. It would probably be a while before you got around to thinking about the Observer & Eccentric area.

Well, think again.

"When you look at the quality of the players produced in this area, it's really unbelievable," said Craig Button, the director of amateur scouting

for the Minnesota North Stars. "This area produces more quality players than any other area in the U.S. I'm from Montreal, but the North Stars asked me to move here (Ypsilanti) three years ago because the depth and breadth of hockey talent is so good."

The area Button is talking about is southeastern Michigan. And when he lists the great players from this area he includes the likes of Pat Lafontaine (Waterford), John Vanbiesbrouck (Detroit), Craig Wolanin (Grosse Pointe), Kevin and Kelly Miller (Lansing) and Kevin and Derian Hatcher (Sterling Heights) and Jimmy Carson (Grosse Pointe).

Still, the largest concentration of

talent in southeastern Michigan comes from the 12-community O&E area. There are now 23 players from the O&E area playing professional hockey, nine in the NHL.

The nine are: Adam Burt from Westland (Hartford); Mike Donnelly from Livonia (Los Angeles); Mike Hartman from West Bloomfield (Tampa Bay); Al Iafate from Livonia (Washington); Todd Krygier from Northville (Washington); Mike Modano from Livonia (Minnesota); Chris Tancill from Livonia (Detroit); Mark Howe from Lathrup Village (Detroit); and Rich Kromm from Livonia (New York Islanders).

"That's quite an accomplishment for an area in the U.S.," said Chris Coury, a Red Wings scout and the general manager of the Little Caesars' AAA elite hockey program. "You take a place in Canada like Toronto and

you have a quarter of a million kids playing hockey. There's almost as many kids playing hockey in Toronto as there are in the entire U.S. So to have that many quality players come out of one area like that is really impressive."

System breeds quality

It's not difficult to see why this area produces such a high quality and quantity of hockey talent. The steps up the ladder of success are all securely in place. They need only to be climbed.

"There is a good system in place here and excellent facilities for development," Coury said. "It all starts with the local associations and the communities really do a good job of getting them started and getting them exposed to the game."

See HOCKEY HAVEN, 2C

Raiders repelled by Mustangs



Swimming dual meet: Jon Kershaw competes in the 200-yard freestyle for North Farmington during a dual meet Thursday at Northville. The Raiders failed to tarnish the perfect record the 6-0 Mustangs have achieved, losing 53-35. See story on Page 2C.

Salem denies Farmington cage upset

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington envisioned an upset Friday night, but unbeaten Plymouth Salem refused to go down in a Western Lakes Activities Association basketball game.

The No. 6-ranked Rocks overcame a first start by the Falcons and weathered a second-half rally to defeat visiting Farmington 71-57.

Salem improved to 3-0 in the WLAA and 9-0 overall. The Falcons are 2-1 and 5-4.

"Every game is a battle because we're up there in the rankings and undefeated," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "People are going to come after us hard."

Farmington jumped in front 11-4,

but the Rocks scored the next 10 points to take the lead. Salem led 16-13 after one quarter and 37-25 at halftime.

The Rocks expanded their lead to 49-25 in the third quarter, but Farmington narrowed the gap to seven points (64-47) before Salem regained control in the last three minutes.

"We felt good about the fact we hung in there," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "Early in the third quarter, we could have folded up and got blown out real bad."

"We felt we were going to be able to come in here, surprise them and win this one. It's been awhile since Farmington basketball felt positive about their chances going into certain games. That's a tribute to the players."

Salem had too much height and inside strength for the Falcons, who were badly outrebounced.

James Head, who scored 20 points as did teammate Mike Stone, combined with Brian Jensen, Brandon Stone and Harold Shanks to control the boards. Jensen added 10 points and Brandon Stone six.

"The big factor was size," Mikel said. "There's no way we could rebound with them."

"We had four offensive rebounds and they had 17, according to our stats. That kinda sums up the dominance they had on the boards against us."

Farmington's Scott Menser scored a game-high 21 points, which includ-

ed three three-point field goals. Stanley Lewis finished with 17 and Brian Farr 11.

Salem led 22-20 in the second quarter when the Rocks kicked their transition game into high gear and scored 11 unanswered points. Head punctuated the surge with back-to-back dunks, one a monster, two-handed slam.

"Farmington came at us with such pressure we said 'We're going to take off on you' and were successful. They backed off and it was a little easier, but then we weren't scoring as much."

Salem appeared to have turned the game into a rout, scoring the first 12

See BASKETBALL, 3C

Harrison overcomes FT woes, Churchill

Farmington Hills Harrison made only six of 24 free throws Friday night but held on to beat visiting Livonia Churchill 62-46 in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball game.

Harrison improved to 2-7 overall, 2-1 in the WLAA. Churchill fell to 1-7 overall, 0-3 in the WLAA.

Harrison led 10-6 after one quarter and 20-13 at halftime. Churchill was outscored by Harrison 21-20 in the third quarter and trailed to rally in the fourth, outscoring the Hawks 13-11.

Reserve Aaron Weiss had eight rebounds and helped Harrison hold on in the end with a basket with 33 seconds left.

Churchill was led by senior forward Mark Rutherford with 17 points and nine rebounds. Churchill coach Tom Lang said senior guard Jason Renkiewicz "spurred the comeback" with 10 points.

"We worked hard on running our offense and de-

fense, and I was proud of our effort," Lang said. "Our kids are young and are going to beat somebody we're not supposed to beat some day."

Junior center Calvin Pruitt led Harrison with 15 points. Senior Ryan Cahill scored eight points, seniors Don Bryant and Jeremy Teachman seven apiece.

"Their style makes you expend so much energy on defense; they play hard and play within their abilities," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

■ CENTRAL 51, NORTH 39: North Farmington successfully slowed down the pace of Friday's game against visiting Walled Lake Central but couldn't surpass the Vikings on the scoreboard.

Central held on to stay undefeated in nine games and move to 3-0 in the WLAA. North fell to 5-4 overall, 2-1 in the WLAA.

Central came in with a high-scoring offense that has produced at least 90 points in four games. But North

held a 10-9 lead after one quarter and trailed only 24-20 at halftime.

The Vikings outscored the Raiders 15-8 in the third quarter to pull ahead 39-28. North got within eight points with the ball but couldn't get any closer in the fourth quarter.

"We played at our pace and I was very pleased; they're a very good team," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

Junior center Evan Ellis led North with 16 points and "really stepped up" his game, according to Negoshian.

Chris Ward added nine points and Todd Anderson scored only four points but helped break Central's pressure.

"Todd played exceptionally well," Negoshian said. "It wasn't so much his points as what he did with a real good floor game."

See AREA HOOPS, 3C