

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON-HILLS
**SPORTS
SCENE**

Bridges to coach Falcons

Farmington High School has selected one of its own to replace longtime boys cross country and track coach Jerry Young, who retired last year after 27 seasons.



Chip Bridges

Chip Bridges, a lifelong Farmington resident and 1955 graduate of Farmington High, will assume both roles beginning with the upcoming spring season. He will be an assistant to Dave Catherman in track, working with the distance runners, hurdlers and jumpers.

"This is the job I've always wanted," he said. "I'll work hard to keep up the tradition."

The 28-year-old Bridges, who teaches at Eagle Elementary School, played golf and was a member of two Farmington teams that qualified for the state finals. He also ran track and competed in every event from 400 meters and up.

Bridges became a more serious runner after high school and developed an interest in cross country while a student at Central Michigan University.

He trained with the CMU cross country team and served as team manager in that sport and track, learning the technical aspects from coaches Walt Drenth and Jim Knapp.

"They gave me a lot of responsibility as far as keeping track of workouts, running meets and helping with the recruiting," Bridges said.

"I learned an awful lot and gained an appreciation for the sport (cross country). I found I enjoyed cross country, and I wish I had run in high school because I probably would have been pretty good."

Bridges coached cross country at Power Middle School in 1990 and was an assistant in boys track for two years at North Farmington. He was a volunteer assistant with the Farmington boys and girls track teams last year.

"I know the kids and parents well, so it will be an easy transition," Bridges said. "I'll take the good things from Walt, Jerry and the others and run with it."

"I'm pretty conservative as far as mileage. I want to train a kid far enough to let his natural ability take over, so that when he's done with high school he's ready to go to the next level."

Bandits fill soccer squad

The Farmington Bandits under-14 boys select soccer team has announced its roster for the spring season.

The players are Tony Claramitro, Dante Delpizzo, Brendan Fay, Jeff Gandolfo, Chad Goshorn, Ian Gray, Jason Grossbart, Chris Hart, Sagar Janvejo, Tony Juncal, Jake Lawrence, Paul Mitchell, Shane Patterson, Travis Schrowe, Greg Thurman, David Viane and Phil Wantin.

"We added a couple of new players this season," Bandits coach Tom Fero said. "Their efforts and those of the other team members during the indoor sessions should prove to be valuable as we prepare for our outdoor season."

RU spiker to Madonna

Redford Union's Kelly McCausland, a 5-foot-10 middle-hitter from Redford Union, plans to sign a letter of intent to play volleyball at Madonna University.

McCausland, who carries a 3.2 grade-point average, becomes coach Jerry Abraham's second recruit for the 1993 season. She joins Livonia Stevenson's Julie Martin.

The RU spiker averages nine kills and four blocks per match.

"Kelly is just starting to come into her own," Abraham said. "She gives us another threat at the net as an attacker and a blocker."

"We really like to get local kids and we feel Kelly and Julie are two of the best in the area."

Holmes wins scholarship

Kelly Holmes, a senior at Plymouth Canton High School, has won the Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award in the sport of softball.

The MHSAA and Farm Bureau Insurance give a \$1,000 college scholarship to an athlete in every sport the MHSAA sponsors a state tournament.

Holmes and the other spring sports winners will be honored at halftime of the Class B boys basketball final Saturday, March 27, at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Holmes, who earned three varsity letters in basketball and will earn a fourth this year in softball, has a 4.055 grade point and is a two-year member of the National Honor Society. She also is active in the German Club and tutors elementary students in reading.

Holmes, an all-state pitcher, will attend the University of Michigan next year on a softball scholarship.

She has compiled a 63-9 record and 635 strikeouts during her high school career. She led the Chiefs to a runner-up finish in the Class A tournament last year.

"Sports have enhanced many parts of my life, most importantly my school work," Holmes said, adding that balancing the two has helped her with time management.

"I know I will have at least two hours of practice or a game that night, so I always sit down and do my homework right away. By forming these good study habits... I have been able to schedule time for everything and be successful in school."

Clutch win puts North in playoffs

North Farmington did it again Friday, surviving a must-win situation to qualify for the Western Lakes basketball playoffs.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



It was not surprising North Farmington's boys basketball won its last league game Friday night, given its track record in such do-or-die situations.

For the third time in six seasons, the Raiders needed a victory in their final Western Lakes Activities Association game to make the playoffs and came through with a clutch victory, 68-62.

This time the opponent was city rival and host Farmington, which would have qualified instead of the Raiders if it had won.

"It's just nice to get into the playoffs," North coach Tom Negroshian said. "It gives you a chance. If you're in the playoffs, you have a chance to win the championship. No question the odds are stacked against us, but we're there."

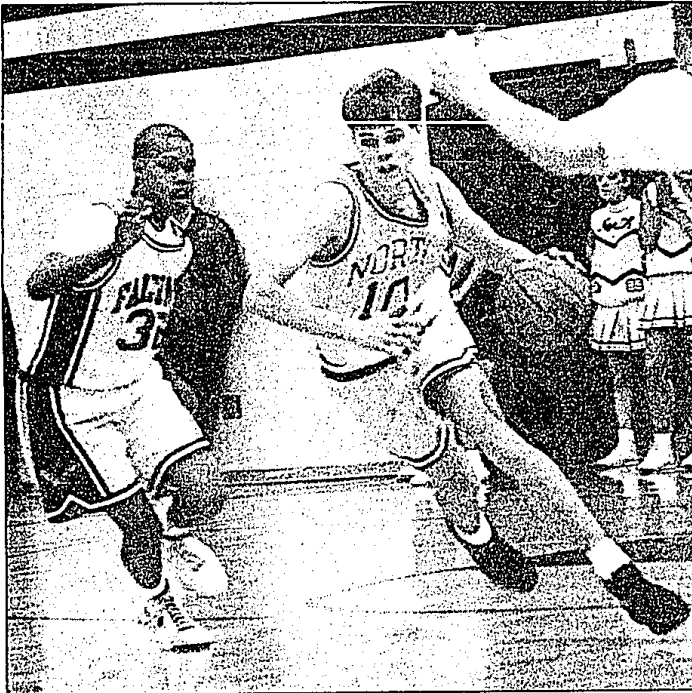
With seven of the eight playoff berths determined before Friday, the Raiders and Falcons played for the final spot.

North finished 5-6 in the WLA and moved ahead of Walled Lake Western as the No. 7 seed. The Raiders (7-10) will play at No. 2 Plymouth Salem in the first round Friday.

Farmington ended 3-8 and ninth. The Falcons (6-11) will play a round-robin schedule against the three Livonia schools and will be host to Franklin on Friday.

The Raiders faced the same situation in their last WLAA game two years ago and upset Farmington Hills Harrison 57-56. They were eliminated by eventual champ Salem in the first round.

See RAIDERS, 2C



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Passing grade: North Farmington earned a WLAA playoff berth by beating Farmington. Chris Ward (above) dribbles to an open spot, while Jason Jackson defends for the Falcons.

Hawks stumble in game with Chiefs

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Canton Interim basketball coach Charlie Payne was well aware of the dramatic comebacks staged by Farmington Hills Harrison this season.

He was also aware of the heart-breaking fourth-quarter collapses his squad has had this season.

But the Chiefs held on to defeat the visiting Hawks 70-62 Friday and gain some valuable momentum heading into the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs.

"The Harrison comebacks and Canton collapses) was something we discussed going into the game and at the start of the fourth quarter," Payne said. "We kept the team thinking about it, and tonight I think we

played smarter toward the end of the game."

The victory also gave Canton the league's Western Division title. Harrison will get a shot at revenge Friday when it hosts the Chiefs in the first round of the WLAA playoffs.

Canton finished 4-1 in the division and 6-5 in the league, Harrison 3-2 and 8-9. The Chiefs improved to 7-10 overall; the Hawks are 8-9.

Coming off close losses to Northville (62-60) and Plymouth Salem (67-61) in overtime — both due to late collapses — the Chiefs found themselves fighting off the comeback kids from Harrison throughout the fourth quarter.

"It was a big win for us after two tough losses," Payne said. "We beat a very good team tonight — a team that

will finish third in the conference. This will help the team's confidence."

"People will be aware of us now, but no one will expect us to win the league playoffs. Walled Lake Central, Salem and Harrison are the favorites, but we have a chance if we play like we are capable of playing."

Senior center Owen Crosby led the Chiefs with 20 points. Brad Paskivitch and Ted Docks scored 16 and 12 points, respectively, for Canton.

"It's a very big win for us, considering the year we've had and the adversity we've gone through," Crosby said. "I think this win will show other teams we can play and they'll look out for us."

Senior Ryan Cahill, who kept the Hawks within striking range late in

the game with two three-pointers and a pair of free throws, paced the Hawks with 21 points. Keye Smith added 16 while Aaron Weiss came off the bench to net 13.

Harrison coach Mike Teachman wasn't the officials' top fan after the game. One questionable call in particular will stay on the minds of many Harrison fans.

With 3:08 remaining and Canton clinging to a 60-51 lead, Harrison's Calvin Pruitt was called for charging as he barreled over Crosby. As Pruitt leaned over to help Crosby get up, the referee whistled Pruitt for a technical foul.

See HAWKS, 2C

Gable leads Mercy into ski finals

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

To say the Marlins were eagerly awaiting Thursday's regional ski meet at Mount Brighton is like saying priests pray. They couldn't wait to get on the slopes.

After finishing second in the division, Farmington Hills Mercy failed to qualify for the league meet, and that fact had been gnawing away at the Marlins.

But they redeemed themselves Thursday by placing second at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Region II ski meet at Mount Brighton and earning a trip to the state finals Monday, March 1, at Marquette Mountain.

"I knew it was close," said Mercy coach Tom Gable. "They were so disappointed about not making it to league. All week long they kept saying 'We should have been at league.' This takes the disappointment away; they redeemed themselves. Now we're all headed to Marquette."

Brighton won the 16-team competition with 70 points. Mercy was second with 102 followed by Hartland (133), Birmingham Marian (176), Birmingham Seaholm (210), West Bloomfield (245) and Fenton (249).

The top two teams and the top four individual skiers from each race who



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ski champion: Mercy sophomore Niki Gable won the individual title Thursday in the high school ski regional.

are not members of the top two teams all qualify for the state meet.

On a frigid day in which a stinging wind plunged the wind chill temperature to 23-degrees below zero, Mercy sophomore Niki Gable burned up the gates while dominating both the giant slalom and the slalom races. In the morning GS competition, Gable was the only racer to finish under 27 seconds.

She clocked a 26.41 on her first run and wrapped up the championship by turning in a 26.23 on her second for a combined time of 52.64. She was 2.71 seconds faster than second-place finisher Kim Lambert of Hartland (55.35).

"Her confidence level in the GS is very strong," Tom Gable said of his daughter. "She's extremely focused, and her intensity level is not with her focus. She also works real hard at it. She's on the slopes every day."

Gable was second (20.62) to Marian's Kelly Cook (20.33) after the first run in the slalom. But she rose to the occasion on her second run and wrapped up the victory with a combined time of 42.33. Cook finished second (42.92).

The top two teams and the top four individual skiers from each race who

See MARLINS, 3C