

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1993

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Mercy soccer victory

Erin Porth scored a pair of goals Wednesday as Farmington Hills Mercy defeated Birmingham Martin 3-1 in an early-season soccer showdown between Catholic League rivals.

Porth scored the first two goals, giving the Marlins a 1-0 halftime lead, with assists from Margaret Wirth and Heather Richards, who later scored the insurance goal.

Amy Watroba was in goal for Mercy (1-0-1) and made nine saves. The Marlins attempted 11 shots.

Mercy began the season last Monday with a scoreless tie against Woodhaven, though the Marlins outshot the Warriors 20-3.

"An exchange student from Denmark was their goalkeeper," Mercy coach Deepak Shrivaram said. "She's on the all-Danish handball team. It was 11 against one. We must have hit every part of the goalie. She played an excellent game."

All-State volleyball

The Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association recently announced its All-State teams.

First-team Class A features Livonia Stevenson's Patty Diamond and Julie Martin, both seniors.

Diamond is headed for Florida State, while Martin will attend Madonna University.

Livonia Ladywood's Liz Gunn, bound for Western Michigan, earned second-team honors.

Plymouth Salem's Casey Tatterton, Redford Union's Kelly McCausland and Stevenson's Kristen Drabicki received honorable mention. All four are seniors. McCausland is also headed for Madonna.

Redford Thurston senior Daune Koester, who has signed with Maryland, was voted first-team All-State in Class B.

Livonia Clarenceville sophomore Tracy Sledz earned honorable mention Class C honors.

Bulls look for sponsors

The Bloomfield Bulls, a set of four federation baseball teams, are seeking sponsors for the 1993 season to help with tournament fees and other team expenses.

The Bulls have two teams in both the under-12 and under-14 age groups. Larry Swistak is a coach and founder of the Bulls organization. The players are from Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Commerce, Hartland, Franklin and Redford.

Individuals or companies interested in supporting the Bulls should call Tim Donovan at 851-7858.

Area officials honored

Eight Observers officials will be honored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association Saturday, April 17, at the Holiday Inn-South Coventon Center in Lansing.

The 14th annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet, beginning at 7 p.m., will recognize Plymouth's Bruce Campbell and James Munezio with 30-year plaques.

Twenty-year plaques will go Arthur Link and James Valliere, both of Farmington Hills; Steven Boyak and John Dunn, both of Livonia; David Mattingly, Redford; and William Hawley, Wayne.

Guest speaker for this year's banquet is John Erickson, assistant commissioner and director of basketball operations for the Big Eight Conference.

Tickets are \$15 and available to the public. For information call Dolores Lake at 332-5046.

Racquettime anniversary

Racquettime Health Club, 36600 Plymouth Road, Livonia, is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a series of month-long activities in April.

From 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 10, Racquettime will hold a children's racquetball clinic followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and party. There is no charge for either event. Advance registration is necessary.

An adult racquetball clinic, also free, will be geared to beginning and intermediate players from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 17. Advance registration is necessary.

Special rates for teenagers (ages 13-19), offering racquetball, wallyball and basketball, will be on the week of April 12-16.

Free racquetball will be offered in honor of Secretaries Week, April 19-23.

Racquettime will also offer five grab-bag days in April.

Prizes include free racquetballs, racquetball lessons, an overnight stay at an area hotel, free month memberships, tanning packages, Ektelon racquets and more.

For more information, call 591-1212.

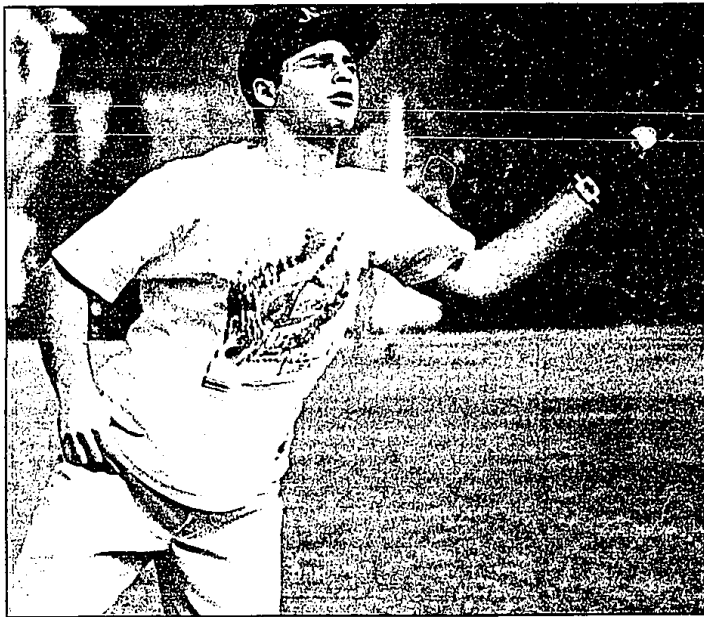
Shamrock cage camps

Coach Bernie Holowicki of Redford Catholic Central will offer four different basketball camps this summer for boys and girls.

First and second sessions for boys, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. (cost \$90), will be June 15-19 and June 21-25. The girls' session will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 5-9 (cost \$90).

Shooting camp for boys and girls (grades 7-9) will be 9 a.m. to noon July 12-16 (cost \$55).

For more information, call 634-0660 (days) and 261-3346 (evenings).



Key infielder: Senior Aaron Shepherd will reach for line drives and field ground balls as the North Farmington shortstop.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Raiders must rebuild

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

It's true everything that goes up must come down, but the North Farmington baseball team might make it down in record time.

After a season that saw the Raiders win the Western Lakes Activities Association title and compile a 16-4 overall mark, North's expectations for this season are much lower.

The entire starting lineup from last season is gone. An indication of how North might fare this season? The top returning player had four hits last year.

"I saw this coming," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "I coach so many sports and you realize that you can't stay on top forever."

And Horwitz made it clear he wasn't playing the humble coach that many of his peers do at the start of each season by downplaying the future of their squads.

"I'm not faking it," Horwitz said. "We lost all of our starters and return no experience. We have a good nucleus of six players but have nothing around that on our bench. We only have three pitchers."

"This will be a rough season and will be the toughest and most challenging one since I've been here (eight seasons)."

Gone from last season is all-state pitcher Mark Temple, who now plays for the University of Michigan. He surrendered just 10 earned runs on 37 hits and 23 walks in 61 innings, posting a 9-2 record with a 1.16 ERA. The



Top of order: North outfielder Alex Blitt will bat in the leadoff position.

BASEBALL

righthander struck out 79 and posted seven shutouts. Temple also played shortstop and batted .677.

Also gone is left fielder Jack Wilks, an all-region performer who got the North offense going last year. The leadoff batter hit .387 and scored 18 runs.

Continuing the list of missing stars is second baseman Mike Jehle (now playing at Albion College), all-division catcher Mike Hamill and all-league center fielder Jason Horwitz.

"I thought at the beginning of last season we had a heckuva chance to win the conference because of Temple and if we could get some hitting," said Horwitz, who went on to win his first conference crown.

Senior Jason Danielewicz will lead the North pitching staff. He also plays outfield, compiled a 1-2 record last season and batted .200.

Senior Alex Blitt (.250) will play outfield and bat leadoff for North. Senior Bret Blanchard will play second base, and senior Ryan Moore will share duties at first and third base. Moore will pitch considerably more than last season in which he took the mound for two innings.

Rounding out the list of returning players are senior shortstop Aaron Shepherd and junior catcher Joey Danielewicz, who will bat clean-up.

Horwitz does believe the Raiders' future looks brighter with the addition of sophomore hurler Darin Glasser, who will start a lot of games.

CC, Glenn have talented squads again

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Of the galaxy of existing Observers baseball teams, it's inevitable that Westland John Glenn and Redford Catholic Central will collide like two meteors.

Both teams soared to great heights last season.

CC held the state's No. 1 ranking until Glenn became the Shamrocks out in the semifinals of the Class A regional tournament, 6-5, at Temperance-Bedford.

The Rockets (17-8) then soared into the state semifinals before losing to Leapeer East, while CC (25-4) settled for a semi-early exit.

The previous season, Glenn won 23 of 25 games before being intercepted by eventual state champion Plymouth-Salem.

Coach Norm Hoenes, now in his 27th season at Glenn, appears to have another talented club returning, as does John Salter at CC.

Graduation cost stand-out outfielder John Ward and pitcher Chris Kirkley, but Hoenes has a bulked up lineup that includes first-team All-Area

pitcher Aaron Scheffer, who struck out 88 batters in 64 1/3 innings; junior twins Bryan and Derek Besco; 6-foot-4, 235-pound first baseman Mike Blitt, along with left-handed hurler Greg Nesbitt.

Despite the recent snow, Hoenes can't hide his optimism for launching the season.

"We've got some power," he said. "If the juniors step up and do the job, we'll be strong."

CC riding high

Salter, meanwhile, lost several key players from a year ago, including do-it-all pitcher/fielder Scott Kapla, a hard-throwing right-hander now at Eastern Michigan University.

Kapla, who came on in relief last week to beat Michigan, will be missed along with first-team All-Area pick Dan Guasoff and second-teamer Paul Kuhn.

Fitching is a question mark, but 6-5 senior right-hander Brian Paluk could emerge as the ace of the staff along with Dave Susalla.

The two combined for an 8-1 record last season.

"We have some good arms, we just lack experience," said Salter, who has one state title to his credit.

CC will have to power sticks in the lineup too with EMU signee Brian Hicks, the catcher, returning after clubbing nine homers a year ago. Aaron Babicz, an All-State football lineman, also provides power at first base.

Livonia outlook

Who can challenge Glenn and CC? Livonia schools Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson, simply put, are looking for improvement.

Churchill (8-7), defending city champs, returns pitcher/infielder Mark Rutherford, another EMU signee. The second-team All-Area selection is one of six senior returnees entering their third varsity season with the Chargers.

Franklin (9-12) is going with youth. The Patriots are also scrambling to find a replacement for second-team All-Area catcher Jeff Schaffer.

The heir apparent, junior Delano Volett, transferred to Dearborn Divine Child.

Falcons hope '93 is better

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

For starters the Farmington High baseball team just wants to do better than it did last year.

The Falcons will fly as high as their ability and good fortune will allow after that.

Farmington was 0-10 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 5-16 overall. Plus, the Falcons return only five players from that team, so they're pretty much starting over this spring.

"It's a young group, so it's going to depend on senior leadership and how well players do in new positions," Farmington coach Kevin Kaneman said. "But I'm confident we'll do well and have a rewarding year."

Sophomore catcher Aaron Cagnon is one of the few returning players to have started many games last year. He hit over .300 and made the all-division team, but his forte is defense.

"That's what we were looking for last year — somebody who could play there defensively — and he did a good job," Kaneman said. "We'll look a little more for his bat this year, but he's there because he can play the position."

The other returning players are seniors Mike Raffle, Jon Siskosky, Dave Liszewski and Dave Stylianou. Siskosky, who started some games, and Raffle are likely to be the regulars at the corners of the infield.

Either sophomore Dal Domas, also a backup catcher, or junior Jeff Drummond will play second base. The shortstop duties will belong to junior Ron Salomonson, who appeared in several varsity games at the end of last year.

The outfield positions are less certain, but sophomore Ken Johnson has won a spot. Kaneman said all three sophomores will play or he wouldn't have them on the varsity.

Drummond, Stylianou, Liszewski and juniors Mike Pringle and Brian Dudinski are the other outfield possibilities.

"I try to be defensive minded, and we're going to have some people at positions they haven't played; so that's going to be a question mark," Kaneman said. "I'm confident the guys can play the positions, but it's going to come down to how hard we work."

Kaneman isn't as concerned about his team's performance at the plate.

"That's a little different; I'm very optimistic there," he said. "I foresee us scoring a lot more runs and having a lot more fun. It's going to help our pitching staff, too."

The mound corps consists of junior Mike Williams, Salomonson, Liszewski, juniors Dave Schall and Jeremy Liszewski and possibly Johnson. Williams, who pitched two varsity games including the district game with North Farmington, and Jeremy Liszewski are left-handers.

"(Williams) gets the ball over the plate and throws well to location," Kaneman said.

"A most coaches would say, we have to get the ball over the plate, and I'm pretty confident we can do that with this group. We have 29 games on our schedule so they should get enough work."

Stevenson (4-17) hopes that first-year coach Mike Keller, who replaces the retired Richard DeVries, will work his magic on the Spartans.

Keller, a Churchill grad, is a long-time summer sandlot coach in the Livonia Collegiate League. He led Walter's Appliances to the brink of prestigious All-American Amateur Baseball last summer before losing to New Orleans in the title game in Johnston, Pa.

Stevenson's top returnee is senior Matt Cogswell, a smooth fielding first baseman who will also pitch.

Zebras could contend

Wayne Memorial (13-8), one game out of first last year in the Wolverine A League, could challenge once again if things fall into place.

Eric Bates, a first-team All-Area infielder, will be missed along with pitcher Jason Wetters, but senior speedster Jeff Tapp returns as does 6-5 junior first baseman Jason Overton.

In the Metro Conference, Lutheran High Westland joins Livonia Clarenceville in the West Division.