

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1993

B

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Glen Aquatic takes NSSL B crown



Swim finals: Erin Lennon helped Farmington Glen Aquatic Club finish seventh in the A meet, placing third in the 8-and-under 25 backstroke and sixth in the 25 butterfly. See story on Page 2B.

With a cushion of nearly 400 points, Farmington Glen Aquatic Club easily finished first in the Northwest Suburban Swim League B meet.

Farmington Glen Aquatic Club had seven double winners and captured the B meet championship of the Northwest Suburban Swim League July 19 at Cranbrook.

Glen competed as an A team in the dual-meet season, having qualified for first-division competition based on its seventh-place finish in the 16-team league meet a year ago.

But the Aquatic Club and Pleasant Ridge, eighth in the last NSSL meet, were asked to compete in the B meet along with the Nos. 9 through 16 teams instead of the A Division B meet.

"It gives these kids a chance to shine," said Farmington Glen coach Theresa Button-Peterson of the B championships.

"We have 125 kids on our team, and many end up swimming exhibition (in dual meets). This is a great opportunity for them to feel good about swimming well at the end of the season like they did.

"Everyone gets a chance to swim at the championship level, which everyone deserves."

Farmington Glen won the meet with 1,063 points. Pleasant Ridge had 676, Cranbrook 401, Beechview 391, Compton-Buckingham 352, Beverly Hills Athletic Club 349, Village Athletic Club 330, Kendallwood 319, Woodbrooke Hills 138 and Huntington Woods 117.

Aquatic Club had a pair of double winners in the boys 13-14 age group. Chris Booms won the 100-yard individual medley (1:21.16) and 50 breaststroke (40.29), and Jared Fitzpatrick won the 50 backstroke (41.47) and 50 freestyle (30.56).

See SWIMMING, 2B

Vardar National Champs

Vardar III's under-16 boys captured the U.S. Youth Soccer Association championship Saturday with a 2-1 victory over the California Stars at the Cave Creek Complex in Phoenix, Ariz.

Livonia's Dan Brody tallied Vardar's first-have goal from Jim Weber.

The Stars tied it early in the second half, but tourney MVP Brandon Moggio notched the game-winner with only 16 minutes remaining on an assist from Farmington Hills' Justin Marshall.

Other area players include Jeff Babinski (Livonia), Jeff Flies (Canton), Paul Dood (Canton), Doug Herriman (Canton), Mike Key (Canton) and Brian Collier (Redford Catholic Central High).

Olympic Sports Festival

Redford Catholic Central High product Randy Testers, representing the South Team, took a bronze medal Sunday in the 200-meter breaststroke at the U.S. Olympic Festival in San Antonio, Texas.

The University of Michigan swimmer gained third in 2:22.89. Christian Clayton of Walnut Creek, Calif. set a meet record in 2:18.01.

Matt Martin, a recent graduate of Westland John Glenn and headed to Stanford this fall, finished seventh in the 200 backstroke (2:08.53).

Tate Blahnik broke the meet record with a time of 2:01.81.

In other Festival results:

■ Livonian Kate Keleman, a Churchill High product now attending Murray State (Ky.), finished seventh in the women's air rifle competition.

■ Farmington Hills Jennifer O'Donnell, a 1992 Olympic participant, took fifth and seventh in women's archery at 30 and 50 meters, respectively. She is fifth overall.

■ In roller skating (men's figures), Steve Findlay of Farmington Hills won the gold medal with Canton's Jeff Angiulli taking sixth.

Determined Coburn finds niche as Ladbroke jockey

By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

For anyone born and raised in suburban Detroit, the career possibilities are numerous and varied.

Racing horses is not among the top 100, however.

Lori Coburn is not one to follow the flow. Born in Livonia and a resident of several other Detroit suburbs through her pre-teen years — she attended Farmington Junior HS — Coburn suddenly decided what she wanted to do with her professional life 10 years ago, while living in Dallas and working at a pet store.

She wanted to be a jockey.

That wish has led her on a decade-long, winding and often treacherous route, filled with obstacles both mental and physical, constantly confronted by the challenge of personal sacrifice. It has led her back to her hometown, to Livonia's Ladbroke DRG, where she is trying to establish herself as one of the track's top-10 jockeys. Through Thursday, she had eight wins this summer; she had 17 during the spring meet.

Considering our culture's video transfiguration, it's no surprise to discover that Coburn's inspiration to become a jockey was sup-



Lori Coburn

plied by TV and the movies. "In 1983, I went and saw the movie 'The Black Stallion,' and I watched the Kentucky Derby on TV," she recalled. That was enough: "I packed up my truck and my dog and left for Lexington."

Kentucky is, Coburn reasoned, horse country. Her somewhat advanced age (20) to begin such an endeavor (Steve Cauthen, remember, rode Affirmed to the Triple Crown win before he was 20), in a sport in which she had no train-

ing and no "ins," did not deter her.

Granted, becoming a jockey was not her immediate goal. Coburn just wanted to break into the business. She started by rubbing yearlings (birthing foals) at Keeneland in Kentucky in '83 and eventually moved to Saratoga, N.Y., helping exercise horses.

Going all-out to pursue a career as a jockey did not embrace her until the summer of '84 in Saratoga. "The first time I breezed (ran hard) a horse, I knew," Coburn recalled.

Chasing the challenge

"Being a jockey was something I had always said I wanted to do, but I never really, fully, believed it."

Others did, however. Coburn got her license to gallop horses in '84. The following year, a trainer at Saratoga originally from Norway, Aage Paus, convinced her to try racing.

She rode four races at Belmont Park (N.Y.) that summer and won the third. However, race stewards felt she needed more experience and did not grant Coburn her jockey's license.

See COBURN, 4B

Diamonds win Incredible title

The Farmington Hills Diamonds clinched the championship of the incredible Glee Fast-Pitch Softball League with a doubleheader sweep Tuesday.

The Diamonds defeated the Farmington Hills Hornets 17-8 and 12-0 to run their season record to 14-0 with two games remaining Thursday against the Livonia Lasers.

The champions were trailing 7-1 in the first game when they exploded for 16 runs in the third inning. The game ended after 3 1/2 innings because of a time limit.

It took nearly an hour for the Diamonds to complete their half of the third inning, in which they sent 21 batters to the plate. The Diamonds scored their runs on five hits, 10 walks, two hit batters and one error.

SOFTBALL

After three straight walks to start the third inning, winning pitcher Melanie Cheney hit a two-run double, and Kate Mackie later hit a two-run triple.

Allison Stein was 2-for-2, scored three runs and had one RBI, and Mackie was 2-for-2, had four RBI and scored two runs. Cheney and Renee Ouellette also scored two runs each.

Becky Thursam pitched a strong second game for the Diamonds, holding the Hornets to four hits while striking out seven and walking one.

Stein had two hits again and scored two runs, and Mickey Spiez had two hits and two RBI. Aubrey Repicky had a hit and

scored a run.

Dzilekan hurls no-hitter

Dana Dzilekan pitched a no-hitter in the first game Tuesday as the Farmington Hills Majestics swept a doubleheader from the Canton Commanders, 11-1 and 14-6. Each game lasted just five innings.

Dzilekan struck out eight and walked two, and Ellen Kozlowski and Kelly Moug drove in one run apiece.

Dobbie Sobczak was the winning pitcher in the second game, and she initiated two double plays by catching a pair of line drives.

Allison Gunn hit a two-run double and Lindsey Moolier a two-run single. The Majestics finished with a 9-6-1 record.

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