

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Vardar teams triumph

Two teams from the Vardar III Soccer Club won recent tournaments in Indianapolis.

The Under-13 boys defeated Carmel, Ind., TCYO, Ohio and Center Grove, Ind. to advance to the finals. After falling behind at half-time, Vardar rallied for a 5-2 victory in the championship game against Dynamic. Two goals each were scored by tournament Most Valuable Player Nick DeGraw and David Burnett. Steven Kolb added another goal. Other team members were Elliot Bolden, David Burnett, Yuri Burrell, Corey Cecchini, Marcus Chorvat, David Dwalhy, Josh Epstein, Danny Ferrin, Victor Gordon, Adam King, Steven Kiczynski, Tyler Nahl, Rajeev Mehta, Tom Thompson and Stuart Yingst. The coach was Mark Christensen.

The U-12 Vardar boys team also won its division, beating the Perry Strikers from Indianapolis, 7-0, in the championship game. The U-12 team advanced to the finals by defeating Centerville, Ohio, ST FC, Ind. and Noblesville, Ind.

Robert Turpin received the tournament MVP. Other team members are Vince Alexander, Chris Combs, Jeff Conner, Kevin Cooper, Mike Robinson, Ken Purphy, Trevor Pampalona, Kellon Kalso, Patrick Wilson, A.J. Hulings, Kevin Robinson, Andrew Upward, Harry Campos, Nick Sanchez and Anthony Sanchez. Co-coaches are Mike Lupenc and Vito Pampalona.

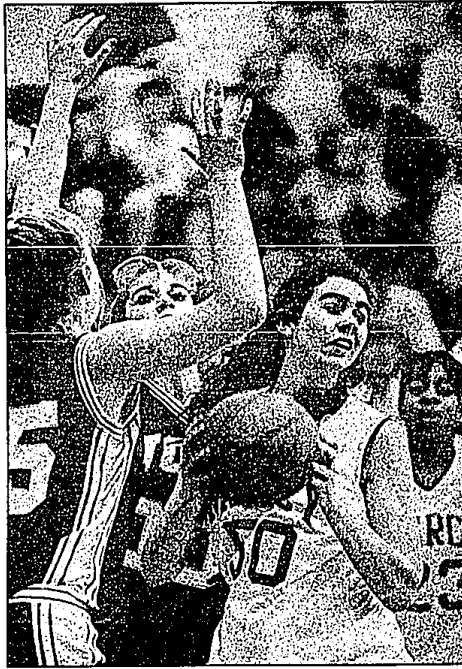
The U-10 Vardar team went undefeated at the Waterford Cup Tournament, beating the Brandon Hawks, Waterford Racers and Novi Jaguars. The U-11 team also went undefeated and beat the Waterford Warriors, 8-0, in the final.

Magic finishes strong

The Magic recently placed seventh out of 55 teams in the U.S. Slo-pitch Softball Association's girls 14-and-under tournament in Garland, Texas.

Members of the Magic include: Alyson Woodruff, Lindsey Roberts, Becky Uryga, Danielle Frazier, Grace Allen, Jenny Chulow, Jessica Selbandin, Theresa Jacob, Becky Knight, Jessica Jenkins, Alaina Scott, Marci Dupont, Christi Dilkeu, Angela Perceet and Cassie Entsminger.

Angell of Mercy sparks hoop team



BILL BRADEN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Varsity veteran: Junior center Julie Angell is a returning starter who will play a key role for the Mercy basketball team.



Farmington Hills Mercy has one of the area's leading girls basketball players in junior Julie Angell, but the Marlinns must have help for her in the post. Mercy has a lot of speed at the guards and wings and plans to use an aggressive style.

BY DAN O'NEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy might have trouble battling bigger opponents, but other teams will find it difficult to keep pace with the speedy Marlinns.

Quickness, athleticism and depth are the Mercy strong suits, according to coach Larry Baker, who enters his 18th season with a 338-95 career record. Those qualities should allow the Marlinns to make full use of the whole court.

Mercy's lack of size was a problem last year in the Central Division of the Catholic League, which included the No. 1-ranked team at the start of the year (Harper Woods Regina) and the No. 1 at the end (Birmingham Marian).

The Marlinns were 0-8 in the division, but they won eight of their last nine games and finished 13-12 overall. Mercy continued a tradition by winning its 16th district title under Baker, reaching the regional final, where it lost to state champion Marian.

In the district tournament, the Marlinns rallied from an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat Walled Lake Central 64-63 in triple overtime. Mercy later defeated Novi for its fourth district title in a row.

Mercy returns seven letter-winners and two starters from that team, and the added experience will help the Marlinns in terms of depth and playing their brand of basketball.

"Last year we had some inexperienced people logging time," Baker said. "Now it's time, hopefully, for it to pay off in the way they perform."

"We'll be able to run a number of players on to the court and play an aggressive, up-tempo game. For the returning players, the key is getting off to a strong start and establishing some consistency."

The top returnee would have to be 6-foot junior Julie Angell, who earned All-Catholic honors while leading Mercy in scoring and rebounding.

The Marlinns won't be dominated in the post with Angell, who became a starter late in her freshman year and helped Mercy reach the Class A final, but will need supporting help for her.

"The girls respect her experience and elected her co-captain," Baker said. "We're centering much of our offense around her and counting on her for some big-time play at both ends of the court. She has more confidence and we're expecting more consistency this year."

The Marlinns have a pair of experienced guards in 5-1 junior Glenda Lee and 5-0 sophomore Lis Weber, who started at point guard last year when Lee had a stress fracture. Baker calls them the Dynamic Duo.

Weber was the leading three-point shooter, and Lee hit some important treys in the district tournament.

"They're tiny but can do some creative things with the basketball," Baker said. "In those two, we have a couple players who can hit the three and handle the ball."

The backup guards are juniors Carrie Schwagle (5-5) and Amy Schulkins (5-5). The latter is possibly the best wing shooter on the team and will help against zone defenses, Baker said.

See MARLINNS, 3B

Raiders remain optimistic despite grid shortcomings

BY DAN O'NEARA
STAFF WRITER

The downslope of the preseason outlook for the North Farmington varsity football team is a lack of size, numbers and experience.

Coach Jim O'Leary hopes the Raiders can overcome those shortcomings with desire, teamwork and well-conditioned athletes.

North returns 15 lettermen from a team that expected to do better but finished 4-5 after playing a rugged schedule. Among that 31 players — the lowest number in 23 years — seven had considerable playing time.

Nine players are slated to start on offense and defense, which has O'Leary concerned about injuries and stamina. It also has contrib-

uted to a change in his philosophy about practice.

"We work hard on conditioning just because we see no way out of kids going both ways in large numbers," O'Leary said, adding North doesn't do a lot of hitting in practice.

"If kids get hurt, it should be in a game; if you beat them up in practice, they're not going to give you 100 percent in the game."

"You don't have to go live every down. That's when you get most of your injuries and, after last year, we can't afford it. We lost eight kids and six were starters."

Among the good news for the Raiders is the return of junior Scot Lord, who had reconstructive surgery on his left knee after getting hurt playing basketball.

Lord (6-4, 215) will play tight end and outside linebacker and also do the punting again. He started on offense and had eight receptions.

"He made it through the scrimmage; he took some shots on (the knee), and it held up OK," O'Leary said, adding Lord still runs 4.66 in the 40-yard dash. In the passing league, he had a spectacular summer. He has great hands. We just have to get the ball to him.

"He went to camp again and was first in (punting) distance. He has an incredible leg. When he hits a football, he can really bash it."

See RAIDERS, 2B



SHARON LAMTUDA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gridiron drills: Lee Lazar carries the football as linebacker Kevin Demeter closes in to make the tackle during a North Farmington practice.

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