

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Brady wins Michigan PGA

Steve Brady of Farmington Hills won another major golf tournament in Michigan last week, taking top honors in the Michigan PGA Championship on Wednesday in Lewiston.

The 35-year-old Brady, the assistant pro at Detroit Golf Club, won back-to-back Michigan Open titles in 1991-92.

He received a \$12,000 first-place prize and some additional bonuses for his victory last week. The win qualified Brady for the Ameritech Showdown that was played Sunday and berths in the PGA Club Professional Championship in October and the Buick Open next year.

Brady shot a 3-under-par 69 on the final day to edge Ron Beumann by one stroke overall, 209-210. Beumann shot 68 in the last round but had -72-70 going into it. Brady, who was seven under for the tournament, shot 70-70 the first two days.

Men's senior softball

Rev up the bus, National Trails is hitting the road again.

The 50-and-over men's slow-pitch team, featuring several area players, has qualified for the National Association of Softball Club Seniors Tournament Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 in Houston, Texas. But the first stop is Sept. 6-13 in Scottsdale, Ariz., for the 22-team USA Senior Softball World Series.

National Trails, fourth a year ago in the NASCS, has joined forces this season with East Side club Northdurft Tool.

Manager Al Moran's team qualified for Scottsdale last weekend with an 18-4 victory over the Akron (Ohio) Tuffy's in the Dorchester, Ontario, tourney.

"We've merged the east side and the west side teams together," said Moran, a Farmington Hills resident who once played for the New York Mets. "This is our first year together and it's going well. We've jelled at the right time."

National Trails, 46-7 overall, is unbeaten in the 50-and-over Oak Park League.

Area players include Livonia's Eddie Hammecher (pitcher), Chuck Hebestreit (first baseman) and Vaughn Covert (outfielder).

Third baseman Pete Woodard of Plymouth, MVP in the Mount Clemens Tournament, is a mainstay along with pitcher Joe Martin and outfielder Jerry Ratuewicz, both of Canton.

Rounding out the squad is pitcher Don Phillips and outfielder John Sprys, both of Northville; shortstop Zeke Zdrodowski of Mount Clemens; catcher Jim Raniezewski of Detroit; second baseman Roy Simms and outfielder Jay Barr, both of Sterling Heights; outfielder Bill Solomay of Eastpointe; and pitcher-outfielder Larry Palinski of Fraser.

Leftfielder Al Frank of Southfield is the team's sponsor.

"It's difficult to say how good we are until we get there," said Moran, an assistant baseball coach at Redford Catholic Central High. "Hopefully we'll have a better team. We took fourth last year and want to get closer."

Marlins win hoop debut

Junior guard Glenda Lee had an outstanding season debut Thursday as Farmington Hills Mercy defeated host Walled Lake Central 69-50 in girls basketball.

Lee scored 16 points to lead the Marlins and also had seven assists.

"She was smoking as our press breaker, too," Mercy coach Larry Baker said.

Junior Mitzi Ruddock came off the bench to score seven of her 12 points in the fourth quarter when the Marlins finished off Central with a 17-8 advantage. She also led Mercy with 12 rebounds and had six assists.

"We needed some fresh legs in the second half," Baker said. "Mitzi came on strong and so did Holly Taylor and Carrie Schwagie."

"They really helped us extend our lead. The heat and humidity took their toll, and our bench saved the day."

Mercy junior Julie Angell also scored 12 points and senior Zandra Simmons added 10. Kerri Kobus netted a game-high 21 points for Central before fouling out in the third quarter.

The Marlins led 19-13 after one quarter, 38-30 at halftime and 52-42 at the end of three periods. The Vikings had two players foul out.

"The key is we applied pressure more effectively than Central," Baker said. "They created more fouls with their pressure, and we created some turnovers with ours."

Hawke succumb in OT

Farmington Hills Harrison's girls basketball opener had a sour ending Thursday, with the Hawks losing 51-44 in overtime to visiting Brighton.

Harrison rallied in the fourth quarter to outscore the Lady Bulldogs 11-7 and force a 43-43 tie, but Brighton posted an 8-1 points advantage in the extra session.

Senior Carey Perkins and junior Krista Snow scored 11 points apiece for the Hawks, who lost Perkins with five fouls in the fourth period and Amanda Ault and Erin LaCrosse in the OT.

Joey Dean had 10 points to lead Brighton, which led 16-12 after one quarter and 29-23 at halftime.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High has its best season in boys soccer last year and will try to keep it going in 1993 despite heavy graduation losses.

The Falcons defeated state finalist Plymouth Salem for the first time to win the Lakes Division and were co-champions of the Western Lakes Activities Association along with Livonia Franklin.

Farmington (10-6-3) must get along without all-star Mike Giese, a four-year starter at forward. He scored 27 goals last year and finished his career with 64. Giese also had 10 and 37 assists, respectively.

The Falcons also lost second-team, all-area midfielder Kris Wiljanen, Aaron Bommarito, John Comai, Brian Staley, Kevin Yoder and Mark Moffat.

"We're going to be a young team, mostly juniors," coach Luke Juncal said, adding Farmington has only three seniors. "We still have some talented kids, and some of the JV players have improved a lot."

"The team does look pretty good, and I think we'll be competitive again. We do need work on defense, but the most important thing right now for these guys is to play together."

The strength of the team will be the midfield where the Falcons return three starters: juniors Sean Noble, Ryan Ramirez and Chris Darnell. Sophomore Brian McCloskey was with the varsity last weekend for the Detroit Country Day tournament.

Noble, who has recovered from a broken leg he suffered in the Salem game, is one of the best juniors in the state, according to Juncal. The team

captain is an attacking midfielder and the player most likely to lead Farmington in scoring, Juncal said.

"The midfield is pretty much the same except for Wiljanen, which is a pretty big loss," Juncal said. "If you have a strong midfield, you're going to do very well, usually."

The Falcons will play a 4-4-2 and return senior Chris Miller (five goals) at one forward. The other could be junior Wojtek Radz, who moved here from Poland. Farmington also has sophomore Nate West and junior Steve Faro to use at forward, too.

"I think our forwards will be getting the ball more," Juncal said. "Last year we went to Giese as much as we could. This year we have two people up there, and we'll try to get the ball to them evenly. Defenses have to stop two of them and not just Giese."

The defense was hit hard by graduation, losing Bommarito, Staley and Yoder from the starting unit. Sophomore Chris Meyer is the line returning starter and will play either stopper or sweeper.

The other starters are likely to be junior Steve Scania, who was the backup goalie, sophomore Matt Trunk and returning senior Kevin Murphy. The Falcons also have senior newcomer Kevin Cook and juniors and former JV players Ben Goble and Jeremy Biddle on defense.

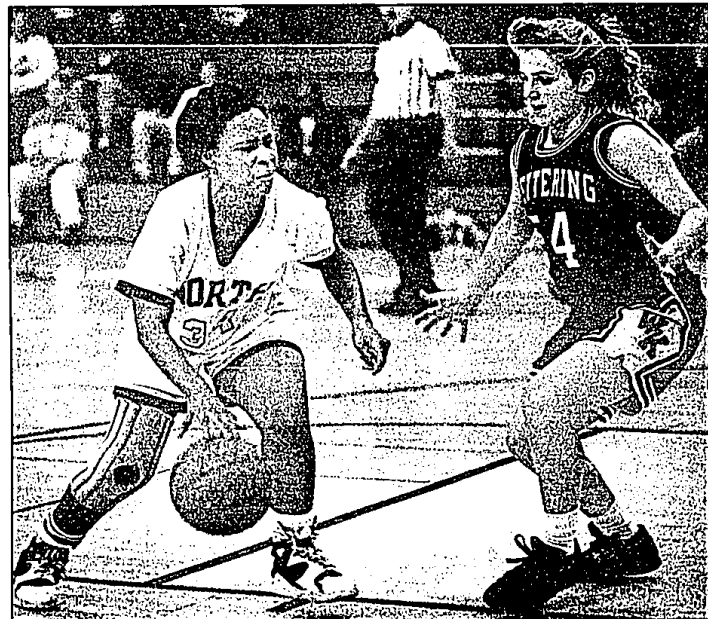
"We do have some pretty good defenders," Juncal said. "All they need is time to work together and learn how each other operates. It might take some time but we're getting there; they're looking better and better each day."

Junior Scott McKay replaces Comai as the goalkeeper.

"Like the rest of the defense, he just needs some experience," Juncal said.

The Falcons have the talent to contend for the WLAA crown again, according to Juncal.

"Most teams lost good players like we did," he said. "Though we're young, I think we're going to be competitive and we can play against any team in our league. Yeah, I think there's a chance there."



SHARON LAMMUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoop veteran: Junior Alisha Gordon begins her third year as a starter for the North Farmington girls basketball team.

Raiders to utilize reserves

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington girls basketball coach Lance Davis isn't one to endorse gambling, but he's going to do plenty of it this season.

After losing Carey Perkins, his post player who transferred to Farmington Hills Harrison, Davis was left with a team full of guards and small forwards. He considered the options and the result was the creation of the "Vegas Bunch."

Davis has a solid starting five, which includes four returning starters, but will make five-for-five player substitutions when he feels the time

is appropriate. The group coming off the bench gets the slick moniker.

"I call them that for several reasons," he said. "First, for me to utilize five players who have limited experience is a gamble. Second, this gamble of five players who have no experience playing together could pay off big for us. And finally, because of our lack of size, we have to gamble."

"This will be fun. It will let us know early what we have to work with and who can do what. The older players laugh at the idea, but they want to be part of it."

Davis disagrees with the idea of the gamble hurting the team by taking

his best players out at once.

"This will allow me time to speak with my unit and never have tired players on the floor," he said.

"We have a tendency to play to our opponents' level. We have to create the tempo and take control of the game early. We have to start playing at our own pace and not the pace set by our opponent."

After a promising start last season, the Raiders finished 10-11. Davis believes this year's team is an overall better squad despite the lack of height.

Davis disagrees with the idea of the gamble hurting the team by taking

Falcons take new direction

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High begins a new era in girls basketball under first-year coach John Verdura, who will try to get the Falcons turned around and on a winning track.

Verdura is a proven winner as coach of the Riverview Gabriel Richard boys team for six seasons, but he doesn't expect an overnight success story in his latest venture.

"It will take time," he said. "We need a lot of work and I hope the team understands it will take some time. There is talent but we have to develop it."

BASKETBALL

"I'm going to have to instill the desire and confidence. Any team that has a tradition of losing has to get over that hump and build the confidence to win."

"When there is a close game, they have to get rid of the thought 'How are we going to lose?' and start thinking 'How are we going to win?'"

The Falcons, who were 10-33 the last two years and begin the new season Tuesday in the Troy Tournament, lost center and leading scorer Tammy Allen and guard Nicole Bingham to graduation.

Verdura is relying on 5-foot-10 junior forward Andrea Salzer to pick up the scoring slack be the team leader.

"She is our best athlete," Verdura said. "She runs the floor well and is versatile and can play defense, rebound and score."

Amanda Porter will start at guard. The freshman has made the rare leap from middle school into the starting lineup, but Verdura believes confidence won't be a problem.

"She has a lot of skills and understands the game well," he said. "She has the talent and she's gaining more confidence every day. She just has to work on her intensity level."

Sophomore Kim Washnock (5-11) will be counted on for strong inside play. Another post player who should start is junior Stephanie Rennie, who can score from the inside or outside and will help on the boards. The fifth

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See FALCONS, 2C

Young players dominate city golf teams

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

It doesn't take a fortune teller to predict the future of high school golf has a bright future in Farmington. All it takes is a look at the team rosters.

The Farmington schools will depend on young players this season. With many of the top golfers from last season gone, including Farmington High state champion Jason Buha, underclassmen will battle for top positions and bragging rights.

It doesn't take a south-sayer either to determine North Farmington enters the season as the team to beat in Farmington.

North Farmington

When the golf-coach is having his best season in years, could that be an omen of good things ahead for his charges?

North Farmington coach Daryl Case recently qualified for the state amateur tournament for the first time. Many around the league believe this season might prove just as successful for the Raiders.

"I'm going to be careful not to tout my own horn," Case said. "But we may be improved from last season."

The Raiders lost Eric Wilson and two others to graduation, as well as junior Ben Reinke who opted not to return. However, junior Scott Stelniauf is back from a team that finished third in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Stelniauf made all-state honorable mention as a sophomore, but hasn't let it go to his head, or his stomach. Stelniauf returns 35 pounds lighter than last season, and the additional flexibility has improved his game, according to Case.

"He's more mature physically and emotionally and has improved at managing the game on the

course," Case said. "He's hitting the ball harder now and can break 80 at any given time."

"He has high expectations for his game and will not be happy unless he breaks 80. He is a viable candidate for all-state."

Another returning junior who is capable of breaking 80 is Drew Sopha, one of the top swimmers in the area and a better golfer, too, Case said.

Making a big advancement from last season is sophomore Ron Vedder, who has developed into a solid third man, according to Case. Junior Brad Steel should be the fourth golfer on the team.

Junior Mike Radisch, who skipped golf to concentrate on academics last year, returns as does sophomore Aaron Stephan, whom Case says is the most improved golfer on the team.

See GOLFERS, 2C