

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1993



STEVE KOWALSKI

Rose league blossoms; CC-Traverse City should meet halfway

The idea of a fall baseball league for high school players in Michigan seemed strange to me until Farmington Hills resident Stu Rose offered an explanation.

"To be honest, baseball in the fall is better than in the spring because of the (nicer) weather," said Rose, the Henry Ford Community College coach who started the fall league last season.

I agree.

Every spring, it seems the start of baseball and softball schedules are delayed because of rain and snow. Some years it's so bad that teams spend the first month practicing indoors.

Rain postponed a few games last week but Rose's 16-team league, which began in late August, will be ushered out by Indian Summer. Games will be played every night this week at Henry Ford and the championship will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17.

The league is for ninth through 12th graders who are staying in shape in the fall, an advantage players in the south usually have over northerners. Colleges have fall leagues but this is the only high school league in Michigan, Rose said.

Entry fee per player is \$75.

"We're not after football players, this is just another option," Rose said. "A lot of people are happy to have an alternative to a sportless fall. As a die-hard baseball fan, it's right up my alley. It's a great chance for some of the younger kids to play against older high school competition and get acclimated to high school ball."

See KOWALSKI, 3B

Noble effort



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chest high: Farmington's Sean Noble controls the ball in Monday's rivalry against North Farmington. See how Noble and his teammates fared, 4B.

Mercy dunks G.P. South, 95-93

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls swimming team beat Gross Pointe South, the No. 9 ranked team in the state, on Tuesday, 95-93. The Marlins are 2-2 in dual meets.

The highlight of the victory was the Mercy win in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The team of Michelle Welch, Katie Scallen, Hope Harrison and Andrea Hoeftlein won the event in a state-cut time of 3:51.56.

won two individual events as well. Welch took the 100 butterfly in 1:03.28 and the 500 freestyle in a personal-best time of 5:21.09, while Hoeftlein posted the fastest times in the 200 freestyle (2:01.42) and the 100 freestyle (56.64).

Other Mercy winners were Molly Johnson in diving (153.65 points) and Bethany Budde in the 100 breaststroke (1:11.70).

McCoy sparks Raiders' victory

North Farmington outscored Livonia Churchill 26-8 in the first quarter Tuesday to get started on an 81-39 Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball rout at home.

The Raiders are 6-4 overall, 2-2 in the WLAA. Churchill is 3-7 overall, 0-4 in the WLAA.

Sophomore guard Shannon McCoy scored a game-high 23 points with five assists and five steals for North. Junior guard Alleha Gordon had 16 points, senior guard Allison Stein scored 14 and sophomore forward Carrie May 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Raiders.

The Chargers, who trailed 45-20 at halftime, were led by Kristen Sattler's 12 points.

Jamie Clark added nine points and nine rebounds.

DIVINE CHILD 58, MERCY 56: Dearborn Divine Child on Tuesday outscored visiting Farmington Hills Mercy, 24-13, in the fourth quarter to erase a 42-34 deficit after three quarters.

Mercy blew a nine-point lead with 4:03 remaining and is winless in three games and 3-7 overall. DC is 7-2 overall, 2-2 in the Central Division.

Junior forward Mittal Ruddock, who scored a season-high 17 points, helped Mercy gain an eight-point lead after three quarters. But DC's full-court pressure caused several Mercy turnovers in the fourth quarter and Falcons' guard Carrie Carpenter scored 12 of her 18 points in the final eight minutes.

Carpenter helped seal the outcome with eight-of-eight free throw shooting. Junior guard Glenda Lee led Mercy with 18 points and junior forward Julie Angell scored seven of her 12 points in the fourth quarter.

"Our forwards were really cooking (the first three quarters) and if we would have gotten them the ball in the fourth quarter more we would have been in fine shape with a terrific win,"

Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "I thought we put together one of our best defensive quarters and certainly one of our best third quarters but we were ineffective getting into our half-court offense (in the fourth quarter) and Carpenter walked them back into the game." DC led 16-12 after one quarter and 28-27 at halftime.

W.L. WESTERN 54, FARMINGTON 35: Stacey Nelynyck scored all 16 of her points before halftime Tuesday, leading visiting Walled Lake Western to the victory over Farmington.

Farmington is winless in four WLAA games, 3-7 overall.

Andrea Salyer scored 12 points and teammate Kim Washnok added 10 for the Falcons, who trailed 15-5 after one quarter and 29-14 at halftime. Angie Bickel added 15 points for Western.

"We're not that potent a basketball team to get down by 10 and come back," Farmington coach John Verdura said.

LADYWOOD 59, REGINA 42: Livonia Ladywood on Tuesday overwhelmed host Harper Woods Regina in the first and fourth quarters to win its third-straight Catholic League Central Division game without a loss.

The Blazers have won five in a row to move to 7-1 overall. Ladywood hosts undefeated Central Division rival Birmingham Marian tonight.

Ladywood outscored Regina 18-8 in the first quarter and 15-16 in the fourth. Junior forward Tara Overalls led the Blazers with 18 points and held Regina's top player Tamika Bates scoreless for three quarters. Bates, who picked up three fouls in the first quarter, finished with six points.

Sophomore guard Kerry Duggan made four three-point shots and finished with 14 points. Junior Maurea Duggan also made two shots from three-point range and finished with eight points.

Freshman runner guides North to 1st at RU invite

North Farmington's girls cross country team had one goal entering Saturday's Redford Union Invitational at Cass Benton: finish in the top two. The Raiders made that their goal because of the presence of Dearborn Edsel Ford.

But when Ford opted not to compete, the goal changed and the path cleared for the Raiders, as North easily won the eight-team invite. North finished with 41 points, 19 better than second-place Novi. Farmington Hills Harrison took seventh with 162.

The key to the victory was the Raiders ran strong together, according to coach Bill Pinnell.

"Our top five runners were within a minute-and-a-half of each other," Pinnell said. "That's the second time we've done that this year. Generally, when that happens, you do pretty well."

Leading the way for North was freshman Jaime Brenner, who took second place in 20 minutes, 24 seconds, which was only three seconds off her career best time.

The trio of senior Keegan Keefe (fourth place, 20:40), sophomore Amanda Hough (seventh, 20:56) and freshman Becky Neale (12th, 21:30) all turned in season-best times and received medals.

Alliea Crossland, who finished 16th (21:54), and Elaine Wolff, who took 27th (22:23), received ribbons. The other North runner

to compete was Nora Curiel, who crossed the finish line in 22:57 (31st place).

Marlins impressive
Amy Freund and Eileen O'Connell combined to lead the Farmington Hills Mercy girls cross country team to second place behind state ranked Monroe in Saturday's Centerline Invitational.

Monroe, the fourth-ranked Class A school, took first place with 55 points. The Marlins came in second with 68 points.

Freund came in second place individually in 19 minutes, 13 seconds and O'Connell was third in 19:22. Livonia Stevenson's Bridget MacKinnon won the race easily (18:36).

Mercy's Betsy Gignac finished 12th (19:22) and Mary Thewes took 18th (20:39). Other Mercy finishers included Sarah Podorick, 33rd (21:32), Erin Blazewski, 51st (21:58), and Brandy Johnson, 53rd (22:07).

The Marlins had no trouble winning a dual meet Monday against the one-girl team of Birmingham Marian, 15-50, at Cass Benton Park.

The Marlins are 3-0 in the Catholic League Central Division. O'Connell took first place (19:55), followed by Freund (20:14), Gignac (21:01), Thewes (21:04), Lisa Nobles (21:41), Po-

dorick (21:57) and Blazewski (22:18).

Falcons place
The Farmington boys cross country team finished fourth in the Haelett Invitational Saturday, one place behind Redford Catholic Central.

Brighton won the meet with 37 points followed by an Arbor Huron (87), CC (96), Farmington (147) and East Lansing (148).

Kevin Affenbaugh led the Falcons with an eighth-place finish and 17:03 time.

Tom May was 16th (17:28), Jason Jackson 27th (17:46), Mike Huron (87), CC (96), Farmington (147) and East Lansing (148).

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Rice out to snap CC string

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

This is the bye week for the Detroit Lions.

Good thing, because if they were playing this Sunday in Pontiac, it would be only the second most important game in town.

It's Wiener Stadium, not the Silverdome, where the action will be as Boys Bowl goes Redford Catholic Central (4-1) and Birmingham Brother Rics (5-0) meet for the 27th time. Kickoff is 2 p.m.

Needless to say, this is the top game this weekend in Observer-

GRID PICKS

Rice, considered the state's top-ranked team in all classes, leads the series 14-13. (There was also a 0-0 tie in 1958. CC also won a state playoff game).

CC, however, has captured seven of the last eight meetings, including the last three.

Rice won the 1989 encounter, 31-14, with a star-studded cast that included Steve Morris and Gannon Dudley, both defensive starters at Michigan; tight end

Pete Mitchell, an All-American candidate at Boston College; Bob Utter, the starting quarterback at Iowa State; and Chris O'Brien, a starter at offensive tackle for Central Michigan.

As for the prep prognostication race, yours truly correctly picked 13 of 15 games last week to raise his overall season record to 60-14 (a blistering 81 percent).

Meanwhile, arch-rival Dan O'Meara went 11-4 to slip to 55-19 overall (74 percent). O'Meara is on vacation this week (he needs

See GRID PICKS, 3B

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