

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Madonna hosts districts

The field's been established, and Madonna University will be the heavy favorite when it hosts the NAIA District 23 Volleyball Tournament Friday and Saturday.

In Tuesday's opening round, University of Michigan-Dearborn defeated Tri-State 4-15, 16-14, 15-7, 15-12, and Aquinas topped Concordia 9-15, 15-5, 15-13, 15-4.

On Friday, Madonna — which had one of two first-round byes — will tackle UM-Dearborn at 6 p.m. and Spring Arbor, which had the second bye, plays Aquinas at 8 p.m.

The championship match is 1 p.m. Saturday. "I expect us to play our best of the season," said Madonna coach Jerry Abraham, whose team slid through the district's regular season unbeaten in seven matches. "The kids know the importance of this weekend."

"They're very focused, very determined to get to the nationals."

First, the Lady Crusaders must get by this weekend. Should they survive, they must play at the NAIA District 22 champion Nov. 20. The winner of that match advances to the NAIA Tournament in San Diego.

Not everything is going well for Madonna, despite a 39-6 final record. The Crusaders were upset in their final regular-season match by Hillsdale, after winning the first two games. They played without middle-hitter Julie Martin, who sprained an ankle. Martin continues to undergo daily therapy.

"Hopefully, she'll be back by this weekend," said Abraham. "Offensively, we need to get her in the lineup and get as much as we can out of her."

If Martin is unable to perform, Madonna could face a stiff challenge — particularly from No. 2-seed Spring Arbor.

The Crusaders are young (only two seniors: Kari Van Deusen and Mazie Pilot) and relatively inexperienced, with just two returning starters from last season's squad.

But transfers Van Deusen, from Florida Southern, and Julie Wood, from Schoolcraft College, and freshmen Martin (Livonia Stevenson) and Kelly McCausland (Redford Union) have filled the gaps quite nicely.

Raiders to play for WLAA crown



Hoop action: North Farmington junior Alisha Gordon drives the lane between Walled Lake Western's Angie Bickel (14) and Erin Vicary (32). The Raiders won 68-53.

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington advanced to the championship game in the Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball tournament for the first time Wednesday with a 68-53 victory over Walled Lake Western.

The Raiders (12-7) will play defending champion and host Plymouth Canton (18-1) for the title at 7 p.m. Friday.

The North girls, who began as the seventh seed in the tournament, will try to duplicate what the North boys did in 1988. The Raiders were the last

BASKETBALL

seed in the boys tournament that year but won the championship over host Plymouth Salem.

"I'm very proud of the girls and all they've accomplished," North coach Lance Davis said.

"We won't focus on Canton; we'll just worry about what we can do, and everything else will take care of itself. We're going to play our game to the best of our ability."

The Raiders came close to doing that Wednesday, pressing and shooting their way to a relatively easy win over the visiting Warriors, who had beaten North 63-62 during the regular season.

Senior guard Danielle Laborde made four three-point field goals and scored a game-high 18 points for the Raiders.

Laborde, who has improved and raised her game several levels this year, has made 34 triples this year and ranks fourth in Oakland County.

"She ran track for the first time last year," Davis said. "I asked her to do it to help her with her stamina, ability to run the floor and overall conditioning. She's not a track person but she did it, and it's a paying big dividends for her."

See RAIDERS, 2B

Hawks face tough defense in rematch with Mustangs

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Coach John Herrington's teaching specialty is the American Civil War, but he wants his Farmington Hills Harrison football players to know something about ancient history this week.

As the Hawks prepare to play Northville a second time, Herrington would just as soon they forgot about their 21-6 victory over the Mustangs two months ago.

The teams will meet again Saturday with a Class A regional championship at stake in the rematch. Kickoff is 1:30 p.m. at Northville.

"Nick Williams had a good game and we hit a couple passes," said Herrington of the regular-season game, "but that was a long time ago and a lot has changed for both teams."

"When we played them, both teams were getting started and finding their way. It will be like two different teams this time, although the plays don't change much."

Herrington is especially concerned about a Northville defense that has posted five shutouts and been superb in the seven games since losing to the Hawks.

The Mustangs (9-1) have allowed no more than six points in

| FOOTBALL | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----|
| NORTHVILLE | | |
| 14 | South Lyon | 10 |
| 31 | Plymouth Salem | 0 |
| 6 | Farmington Harrison | 21 |
| 43 | Livonia Churchill | 0 |
| 14 | Plymouth Canton | 0 |
| 30 | Livonia Franklin | 0 |
| 40 | Walled Lake Western | 0 |
| 14 | Livonia Stevenson | 6 |
| 28 | Novi | 0 |
| 13 | Detroit Chadeay | 0 |
| 233 | 9-1-0 | 49 |
| HARRISON | | |
| 21 | Divine Child | 7 |
| 19 | Westland Glenn | 24 |
| 21 | Northville | 6 |
| 17 | Livonia Franklin | 6 |
| 23 | Walled Lake Western | 0 |
| 28 | Plymouth Canton | 21 |
| 36 | Livonia Churchill | 0 |
| 7 | Westland Glenn (207) | 6 |
| 0 | Brother Rice | 35 |
| 44 | Dearborn Edsel Ford | 23 |
| 216 | 8-2-0 | 128 |

any game since then. The 21 points Harrison scored represents nearly half of the 49 allowed by Northville this season.

The leading tacklers are inside linebackers Bryan Kelley (6-2, 200) and Derek White (6-2, 185) and ends John Gatti (6-2, 220) and Jason Holman (6-3, 190).

The Mustangs also have a pair

of big tackles in Adam Davis (6-1, 250) and Nick Bowersox (6-4, 260). Halfback Brian Jackson (5-10, 160) has six interceptions and safety Marc Golden (5-10, 155) three.

Stop the big play

"The defense has really played outstanding for us," Northville coach Darrel Schumacher said. "We haven't given up a lot of TDs and most have come late. We like short drives and to take away the big play, which is our goal this week."

Mustangs held Detroit Chadeay star Rafael Cooper to less than 100 yards last week in a 13-6, playoff victory, and they hope to contain Harrison tailback Jason Granger this week.

Granger rushed for 190 yards Saturday in a 44-23 win over Dearborn Edsel Ford, and he dashed 76 and 65 yards for touchdowns on Harrison's first two plays from scrimmage.

"If Granger gets outside, he's gone," Schumacher said. "If you gear up to stop him, (quarterback Joe) Patel can throw the ball (Nick) Burgess and (Kevin) Bryant are good skill people."

"They have a very balanced offense at Harrison. We're trying to

See HAWKS, 4B

Marlins finish 8th in state meet

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy had its best state meet under coach Gary Servais in the Class A girls cross country championships Saturday at Siskatone Golf Course in Grand Rapids.

The Marlins finished eighth in a strong field of 26 teams and had two runners receive all-state honors. In junior Eileen O'Connell and senior Amy Freund.

O'Connell finished ninth with a 19:08 time and Freund, the first two-time all-stater for Servais, 14th at 19:13.

Amy fell down in the first 300

X-COUNTRY

yards and was as far back as 40th," Servais said, "so she ran a heckuva race to get back up there and finish as well as she did."

"And Eileen, for her to run after being sick again this week, was outstanding. It was her best race ever and Amy's, too."

Also scoring for Mercy were freshman Betsy Gilmac in 33rd place (19:49), senior Mary Theues in 115th (21:14) and senior Sarah Podoresek in 125th (21:21).

Rounding out the Mercy contingent, senior Erin Blazewski

was 138th (21:37) and sophomore Lisa Nobles 147th (21:48).

Rajdl among best

North Farmington sophomore Brian Rajdl had the best finish of any Farmington runner in the Class A boys individual race, placing 10th with a 16:25 time.

"He never ceases to amaze me," North coach Paul Welch said.

"He ran a terrific race."

Welch, a 1979 graduate of North who holds the school record (16:10) in cross country and the 3,200-meter run (9:34) in

See STATE MEET, 2B

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