

SPORTS

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

All-academic performers

The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has announced its all-academic teams in men's and women's cross country, women's tennis and volleyball.

Among those named to the GLIAC men's cross country all-academic team are Wayne State senior Brian Beach (Plymouth Canton), a 3.114 grade point average with a criminal justice major. On the women's team, there's Hillsdale College sophomore Joy Wright (Farmington Hills/Southfield Christian), a 3.91 with an education major.

In volleyball, Wayne State senior Renea Bonser of Livonia (Stevenson), 3.0 with an occupational therapy major, was honored. And in tennis, Oakland University senior Linda Blelenda (Redford/Livonia Ladywood), 3.92 with a general studies major, and Michigan Tech sophomore Jodie Whithead (Farmington Harrison), 3.26 with a mechanical engineering major, were selected.

To be selected, an athlete must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and be at the certifying institution at least one year, and must be a starter or top reserve.

Shamrocks defeat Irish

Senior goalie Mike Brusseau stopped all but one of host Harper Woods Notre Dame's shots Wednesday, leading the Shamrocks to a 5-1 hockey victory.

CC, which led 2-1 after one period, is 3-0 overall.

Senior center Jon Heady had two goals and an assist. Jason Couture contributed one goal and two assists, while Greg Vaquera and Dan Hunt added a goal apiece.

Chris Gonzalez, Mark Holdridge and Kevin Pederson recorded one assist each. CC is 3-0.

Clarenceville wrestling

First-year coach Grant Gordon, a 1988 Livonia Franklin grad, said his Clarenceville wrestling team "has potential to send a few to the state (Class C) meet and a few more to the regional."

"We have high hopes," Gordon said. "They're practicing hard every day, but I really haven't seen this team at a meet yet, so I'm not sure."

The new Trojan coach is sure juniors Dan Gasser (152) and Steve Spiz (160) will get their share of victories.

Other returnees include sophomore Jason Caspers (135) and sophomore Paul Vanderlout (171).

Among the list of promising newcomers, according to Gordon, are freshman Adam Caspers (103), freshman Eric Lantto (140), freshman Pat Smith (152), junior John Pauley (130), freshman Floyd Walters (125) and Chris Lakner (112).

Paluk contributing

Saginaw Valley State freshman Brian Paluk, a Redford Catholic Central graduate and resident of Plymouth, made all six of his field goal attempts and scored a career-high 13 points Monday in the Cardinals' 113-75 victory over Concordia College. Paluk has made 7-of-10 shots from the floor and has 12 rebounds and three assists for the Cardinals, who are 5-1 overall. SVSU's only loss was 74-67 at Division I Cleveland State University. Paluk is one of four freshmen on SVSU's roster and the only one not being red-shirted his first season.

Plymouth Canton graduate Julie Nicastri, a 6-foot sophomore center for the SVSU women's team, is averaging three points and three rebounds per game. Sarah Ruete, a 5-9 junior guard from Plymouth Salem, has played in two games for SVSU, which is 4-2 overall.

MSU has strong start

Michigan State's wrestling team traveled to the Northern Iowa Open, where 285 wrestlers from 10 states competed, and several did well — including Redford Thurston graduate Jed Kramer. Competing in the 134-pound division, Kramer finished fifth.

He has a 9-3 match-record for the season. A sophomore in eligibility, Kramer had an 8-6 record last season before being injured and redshirting.

Outstanding efforts

Senior Ron Orris (Plymouth Salem), who placed in the top eight in one individual and two relay events at the U.S. Open short-course swim meet in Ann Arbor, has the fastest times in two events so far this season for Michigan State. Orris has been clocked at 47.18 in the 100-yard freestyle and 1:55.27 in the 200 individual medley.

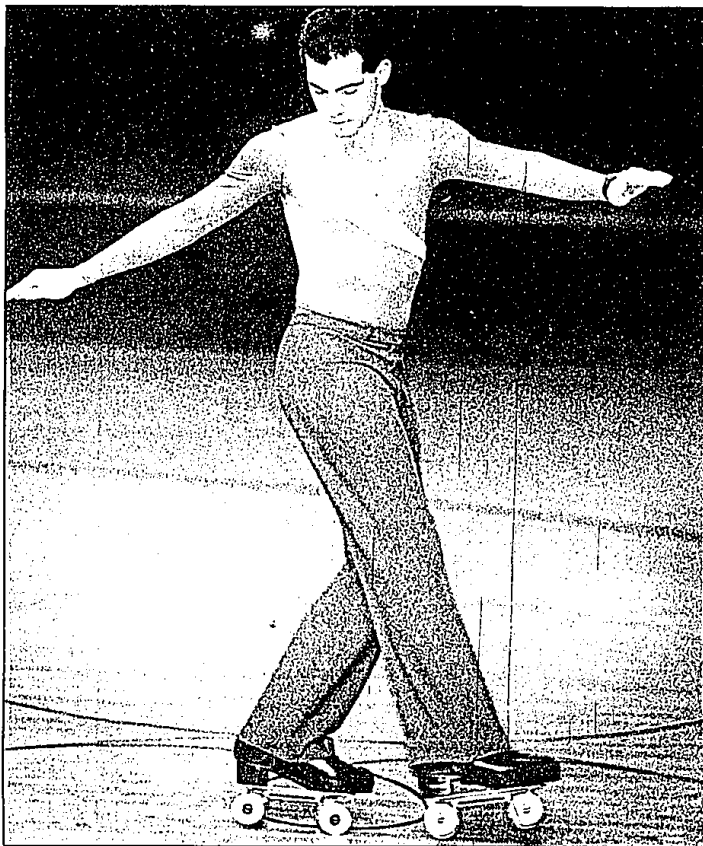
Former Redford Catholic Central track standout Eric McKeon has already carved out a niche for himself at University of Detroit-Mercy. At the University of Western Ontario Meet Dec. 4 in London, Ont., McKeon placed fourth in the 600-meter run in 1:24.7, a UDM freshman record.

All-league honors

Redford Catholic Central graduate Ryan Bell was recently voted to the All-Southeastern Conference football squad. The offensive guard took second-team honors.

Sophomore Kevin Sanchez of Birmingham Brother Rice and Alma College received an honorable mention on the All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association men's soccer team.

Findlay wins world title in skating



Best in the world: Steven Findlay of Farmington can make that claim after winning the men's figures title in roller skating.

Farmington is home to the world champion in men's roller skating. Steven Findlay won the title recently in Bordeaux, France.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Like any true artist, Steven Findlay knows when he has performed his special skill to the best of his ability.

The Farmington resident's near-perfect execution on the roller rink occurred at the most opportune time and earned him the title of world champion in men's figures last month in Bordeaux, France.

"It was instant gratification when I finished competing," Findlay said. "When I rolled off the floor, I knew I had done exactly what I wanted to do."

The world championship was a goal he had sought to achieve for four years, moving up one place each time until he reached the top, but Findlay said he was unusually calm when he finally won.

"It took a good day to sink in," he said. "I had skated well enough that I knew I had done my job and had to wait for the tabulations to come in."

"It began to sink in the next day when people in many different languages and broken English kept referring to me as world champion. It was a good feeling to accomplish something I set out to do."

Findlay and the other competitors were given four of a possible 22 figures to skate without knowing in advance which ones they would be required to do.

The ones Findlay performed? A rocker figure, paragraph double three, back paragraph loop and paragraph bracket — two during a morning session and two in the afternoon.

After two figures, Findlay knew he was solidly in first place. His average scores were in the low nineties while the competition was in the high eighties.

Justin Bates of the United States, the 1990-91 winner, finished second, Italian Samo Kokorevic third and American Richard Saucedo fourth.

"Things went well in the morning and even better in the afternoon," he said. "If I had skated the same as I did in the morning, that probably would have been adequate, but it went even better."

See FINDLAY, 2C

New floor leader boosts Mercy outlook

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball coach Peggy Spengler was concerned how well her team would make the transition to having a new setter in its lineup.

The Marlins lost second-team, all-area setter Jill Jarosz to graduation, but Spengler's preseason fears were eased by the rapid development of sophomore Heather Greig at that position.

"I thought we might have some down time while the team adjusted," Spengler said. "I thought it could be a rebuilding season, but I don't think we're going to have to do that."

"Heather has outstanding talent and great potential, and it's nice to know she'll be there for three years."

Spengler credits JV coach Rocky Clob, a former standout setter at Livonia Stevenson and Kalamazoo College, for making Greig a better player through her tutoring.

"She has a lot of knowledge about

VOLLEYBALL

volleyball and has brought Heather a long way in the last few weeks," she said.

The Marlins, who were 18-17-3 and won a district championship, have three starters among their seven returning players.

Marcy also lost All-Observer middle hitter Angela Assad, who is playing at Aquinas College, outside hitter Kristina Kudelko and defender Marcella DeAgostino.

Five-foot-11 senior Christiane Grant was the other middle hitter and the top blocker. Spengler wants her to have a bigger role in the attack this year.

"We're looking for her to step up, take the lead on offense and carry on where Angela left off," she said.

Senior Jill Higgins returns as the other outside hitter and will play all around this year. She shared time

early last season but won the starting job by midseason.

"She worked hard in the offseason and really made a turnaround," Spengler said. "She's in great shape, has increased her vertical jump (two inches) and can do some things she couldn't do last year. It was a dramatic change."

Junior Mitzi Ruddock moves from weak-side hitter to the middle, also is the backup setter and will play all around. She has made a quicker transition from basketball to volleyball this year, according to Spengler.

"Last year it took 3-4 weeks to get her out of the basketball mode," she said. "It was a matter of two days until she came around this year. I think she decided volleyball is going to be an important sport, too, and has taken it a little more seriously."

The Marlins also return three seniors who play back row: Theresa Cisco, Meghan O'Brien and Kathy Mieserich, who suffered nerve damage in her back and legs as a result of

a car accident but has recovered well enough to resume playing.

Senior Jennifer Worth and juniors Liz France and Amy Schulkins are vying to be the other two hitters. The varsity also includes junior Kim Sanders and sophomore Jamesca Emerson.

The Marlins begin the season Tuesday at Ortonville-Brandon and play in the Madonna Tournament Saturday.

Harrison High

The Hawks hope to continue their success of last season when they set a school record for match wins (26-11-5) and won their first Western Division title.

Harrison lost only one starter to graduation, but middle hitter Julie Heist was a major player. She made the All-Observer first team and Central Michigan University travel squad as a walk-on.

See VOLLEYBALL, 3C

1st week of boys hoop successful for Falcons

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

After one week of a new basketball season, Farmington High coaches and players have to be pleased with the early results.

The Falcons are undefeated and averaging 80 points following an 83-68 victory Friday over host Redford Union.

"It's the start we wanted," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "The kids thought we could be 2-0, but you have to be careful not to look too far ahead because none of them are guaranteed. We feel good; it's the best start since I've been here."

Farmington uses the whole court

and plays a fast-style game to compensate for a lack of height and to take advantage of its athleticism.

The Panthers (0-2) tried to match the Falcons in that type of contest, partly due to necessity since Farmington was in the lead all the way after jumping to an 8-0 lead.

"We got hit on the chin right away," RU coach Tim Smith said. "They got six points in the first 30 seconds. So we were making comebacks; we extended ourselves (on the press), and they got some easy baskets."

"Early, we were trying to force turn-

See FALCONS, 3C



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top scorer: Senior guard Scott Menser scored a game-high 21 points Friday in Farmington's 15-point victory.