

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1994

SPORTS

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SCENE

McDonald college star

Rob McDonald, a graduate of North Farmington High School, has been a major player in helping the State University of New York-College at Fredonia hockey team to its best start under sixth-year head coach Jeff Meredith.

The senior right winger has scored 10 goals and recorded 14 assists for the unbeaten Blue Devils (16-0-2). In the SUNY Conference, he ranks No. 4 in scoring with six goals and seven assists.

McDonald, playing in his first game since missing three with a knee injury, scored two goals, including the game-winner at 11:56 in the first period, and two assists Saturday in Fredonia's 10-2 win over Hobart College.

While in high school, McDonald played for the Lakeland Junior As and was a two-time NAJHL all-star in 1990 and '91. McDonald, a marketing major, is the son of Robert and Emily McDonald of Farmington Hills.

Gable top skier again

Farmington Hills Mercy Junior Niki Gable led the Marlins to a second-place finish Tuesday in a giant slalom ski meet at Mount Brighton.

Gable, who has finished first in every meet this year, posted a combined two-run time of 33.52. Teammate Jen Warner was 10th (39.25), Erica Healy 14th (40.46) and Ginny Harte 21st (43.02).

Birmingham Seaholm won the eight-team meet, and Okemos was third behind the Marlins.

Redford Catholic Central was fourth in the boys competition. Brighton was first, Okemos second and Birmingham Groves third. CC's Mark Klenz placed seventh (35.23), Nick Muscimino 13th (35.57), Todd Turawski 18th (36.47) and Matt Connolly 19th (36.52).

The next event is a slalom meet today at Mount Brighton.

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

At least Farmington Harrison made a statement.

The Hawks didn't win Wednesday night's volleyball showdown at Plymouth Salem. But they at least dammed the swelling tide that was threatening to flood, swallowing everything in its path.

That's how good Salem had been playing. Since being upset in the final of the Plymouth Festival Tournament Jan. 15, the Rocks had not lost. And we're not talking matches here; we mean games.

When they swept past Harrison in Wednesday's first two games (15-3, 15-4 were the scores), it ran their consecutive-game win streak to 20. They had the chance to keep it going. The Hawks were playing much tougher in the third game, but Salem had used a five-point serve from Erin Koch to pull out to a 9-5 lead. The Rocks eventually built that to a 13-8 advantage.

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It didn't make a difference in the victory. Salem resumed its dominance in the fourth game, with newcomer Kelly Johnston — a junior transfer from Livonia Ladywood — serving the final eight points in a 15-4 triumph that gave the Rocks a three-game-to-one Western Lakes Activities Association victory.

Harrison had been the choice to win the WLAA prior to the season. No more. It was the Hawks' second-

straight loss to Salem; last Saturday the Rocks played what their coach, Brian Gilles, called "the best match a Salem team's ever played" in routing Harrison 15-2, 15-2 in the Plymouth Varsity Tournament semifinals.

Wednesday's victory improved the Rocks' record to 21-4-2 overall and to 3-0 in the WLAA. Harrison is 21-3-4 overall, 2-1 in the WLAA.

"These are the best we've seen in the Western Lakes," said Harrison coach Ron Short of a Salem team that played without its best big player, Paula Dombrowski, who was out with the flu. "Then there are four of us in a group right behind them."

Asked what led to their downfall, Short was blunt: "I think our kids were kind of intimidated. They're used to seeing the quick attack (Salem uses)."

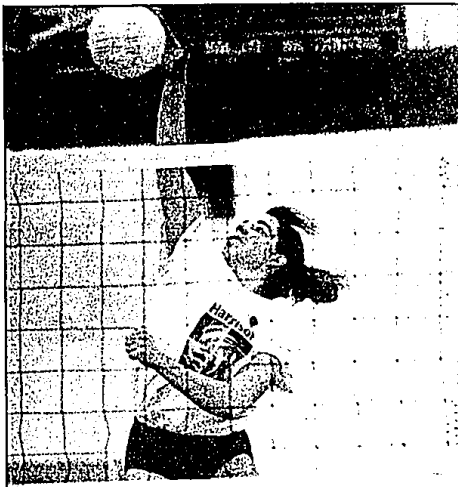
"We weren't moving to their hits very well, and if you stand and wait against them, they'll mash you."

Although Auer is considered their top player, her effectiveness was neutralized most of the match. "We didn't get the ball to Amanda the way we want to," admitted Short. "But it was because of what they were doing. They wouldn't let us."

What Salem was doing started with some very formidable serving. "We have tough servers," said Gilles. "And they don't only serve it hard, but they'll serve it into the short middle, for example. They're smart."

It certainly made a difference. The Rocks had 17 service aces in the match and did not make a service error in the first two games.

James Viat, the team's captain and only senior, led with 10 kills. Karen Gundry and Shellye Silis had



BILL BRENNER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spiked: Harrison's Carey Perkins slams one down at Plymouth Salem in Wednesday's key WLAA match. The Hawks didn't get enough hits like Perkins'.

nine each, with Gundry leading with seven ace serves. Johnston had seven kills and Kim Sheldon contributed four aces. Koch had 26 assists to kills.

"This was a big victory for us," said Gilles. Asked if his team is playing as well as he had hoped, he answered, "I think it's better. We're hitting better than I thought we would."

With preseason predictions crum-

bling, Gilles faced another — perhaps more difficult — question. Can Salem do what it has never done before? Can the Rocks win the WLAA, tournament and all?

The answer would have to be yes, for now. But there are a lot of teams gunning for you, aren't they Brian? "I think they are," he answered, relishing the thought a bit.

Hawks, Falcons rebound

Harrison and Farmington High got back to winning in boys basketball Tuesday, but North Farmington — the only winner Friday — was on the short end of a close score.

The Hawks fought off a late charge by host Livonia Stevenson with the help of free throws from the Bambenek brothers.

Harrison had an eight-point lead with 48 seconds remaining, but the Spartans, who made four of their 10 three-point baskets in the last quarter, got within 61-59 with only 14 ticks on the clock.

Freshman guard Kevin Bambenek and senior forward Charles Bambenek made two free throws each to secure the win for the Hawks, 1-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 5-5 overall.

Junior center Aaron Weiss led Harrison with 17 points, while forward Calvin Pruitt had 16 points and 21 rebounds.

Kevin Bambenek and Rick Smith chipped in 11 points apiece and Charles Bambenek 10. Kevin Bambenek made all six free throws in the last 1 1/4 minutes.

Farmington wins 4th in row

Jon Reed posted a season-best time and made the state cut in the 500-yard freestyle Tuesday when unbeaten Farmington High routed host South Lyon 140-46 in dual-meet swimming.

Reed broke five minutes and won the 500 with a 4:55.86 time. He also helped the Falcons (4-0) win the medley and 400 freestyle relays.

Scott Brown, Danny Belanger, Reed and Don Boyer combined for a 1:45.58 time in the medley. The 400 freestyle relay team of Reed, Steve Scanto, Boyer and Brown posted a 3:30.48 time.

The other relay swimmers were individual winners, too. Scanto was first in the 200 freestyle (1:55.72), Boyer the 100 freestyle (1:31.01), Brown the backstroke (2:07.35) and Belanger the breaststroke (1:05.33).

Farmington's Chris Prump won the 50 freestyle (24.27) and connected with Belanger, Scanto and Mark Kurzer to win the 200 freestyle relay in 1:40.45.

BASKETBALL

Brad Morgan scored 14 points and Chris Chichila 12 for the Spartans, 1-3 and 1-8. Harrison enjoyed a 13-point advantage at the free-throw line, making 14 of 21 as opposed to Stevenson's one of three.

FARMINGTON 77, WESTERN 49: The Falcons rebounded from their loss to North Farmington and prepared for a Thursday showdown with Plymouth Salem. Farmington, 3-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 5-2 overall, will play host to the Rocks, who are 4-0 in the WLAA and 8-1.

"They're a good team, and we're looking forward to the challenge," Farmington coach Danny Mikol said, adding the Falcons are "playing pretty decent. They have a superstar (James Head), and we're going to have to play a great game. It's our No. 1 challenge of the year so far, and we'll see where we're at."

Scott Menser scored 20 points

and Stan Lewis 18 to lead the Falcons in their rout of Walled Lake Western Tuesday. Kevin Afters, Mike Tok and Steve Juncaj (eight rebounds) added eight apiece.

Jason Summerfield had 11 points and Paul Whitting 10 for the Warriors, 0-4 and 0-10.

Farmington led 56-21 at halftime, 66-49 after the third quarter. The Falcons took advantage of their experience and quickness to dominate the game.

CHURCHILL 62, NORTH 59: The Chargers won their third-straight game Tuesday at the expense of host North Farmington. Both teams are 2-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-6 overall.

Scott Lord had 18 points to lead the Raiders, Doug Dolak 14, Jon Penning and Evan Ellis 10 apiece. Churchill's Bill Morris shared scoring honors with Lord. Tim Wrublewski tossed in 14, Jeff Anderson nine and Ethan Jerome eight.

See **HOOPS**, 2B

SWIMMING

The Falcons also got firsts from Tom Seley in the individual medley (2:20.6), Jeff Thomas in diving (181.8) and Rich Hamann in the butterfly (59.59).

NORTH 49, NVILLE 44: North Farmington pulled off an important Western Lakes Activities Association dual-meet victory Tuesday over host Northville.

Jon Kershaw and Karl Kozicki had the only individual wins (one each) for the Raiders (2-1), and they also teamed with Drew Sopha and Charlie Jacobs to win the 400 freestyle relay (3:24.91).

Kershaw won the 50 and 100 freestyles in 22.55 and 50.55, and Kozicki was the fastest swimmer in the butterfly (55.07) and the 200 freestyle (1:47.05). Jacobs was second in the 100 freestyle (52.52) and Sopha the 500 freestyle (8:11.62).

Jason Speer, Sopha, Kozicki

See **SWIMMING**, 3B

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