

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Academic awards

Three college athletes with Farmington Hills connections have received all-academic honors.

University of Michigan swimmer Katie Knipper (Mercy High School) and U-M gymnast Kelly Carfora, who attended Munster (Ind.) High, were named to the Big Ten All-Academic team. Both families live in Farmington Hills.

Knipper is a sophomore majoring in literature, science and arts, Carfora a senior majoring in movement science. Athletes must have a 3.0 career grade-point average to be eligible for the all-academic team.

Senior Becky Wiquist (Lathrup Village/Mercy High), a member of the Ball State University women's swim team, made the Mid-American Conference All-Academic team.

Wiquist has a 3.67 grade point in elementary education and is a member of the Gold Key and Blue Key national honor societies.

National soccer champs

Vardar III Soccer Club's under-17 boys team won the national indoor championship for under-19 teams in Atlanta March 13. The team claimed the under-17 outdoor national title in 1993.

Vardar III rallied from behind in the fourth quarter and eventually beat Cleveland United in a shootout in the championship game.

Team members Dan Savich and Brian Callier were named to the national all-star team. The rest of the squad consists of Jeremy Aldrich, Jeff Babinski, Dan Brody, Mo El-Mohammed, Jeff Ellis, Jeremy Harkins, Jason Howard, Mike Kley, Justin Marshall, Brandon Moggio, Steve Tramoniti, Bryan Turpin, Matt Wait, Jim Weber and coach Mike Lupone.

Two other Vardar units competed in Atlanta. The under-16 boys lost in the semifinals to a team from Ontario. The under-14 boys team placed third.

Falcons ready to go the distance



Senior leader: Kevin Afflerbaugh is one of the top 3,200-meter runners in the area for Farmington High.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High's success in boys track last year could be attributed in large part to a quality group of distance runners.

The Falcons, who recaptured some of their past glory by winning a share of the Lakes Division dual-meet title, will rely heavily on that part of their team again.

The top distance runner of a year ago, Dave Clinard, now competes for Enkine College in South Carolina. He was the Western Lakes Activities Association champion in the 1,600-meter run and was all-area in that event.

But Farmington returns seniors Kevin Afflerbaugh, Jason Jackson and Tom May. All three were on the state-qualifying 3,200 relay team with Clinard.

"Clinard was a sub-2:00 guy," first-year coach and Farmington alum Chip Bridges said. "That means the other three have to improve, and we have to find someone else to step in and run at least 2:05. But nobody else returning who has run close to that."

Afflerbaugh was all-area in cross country and was second in the 3,200 run at the WLAA track meet. May tied for fifth place in the 800, and Jackson ran cross country for the first time and should benefit from that experience.

Afflerbaugh and Jackson also were members of Farmington's district championship basketball team and begin their third sport without a break.

"Jason and Kevin were sore and tired when they came out," Bridges said. "It's going to take awhile for them to get strong again. Hopefully, by the midpoint of the season, they'll

start to get back and be a real positive force on the team.

"From the 3,200 down to the 400, (all three are) going to help us. They're pretty versatile. By the end of the year, if they're in good shape, they'll have a chance to do well in the conference and regional meets."

Other distance runners with potential are juniors Phil Giovannini and Mike Langdon, sophomore Matt Trunk and freshman Ryan Hassell.

The Falcons also lost Mike Robles and Dan Martynowski to graduation. Robles scored in the long jump and 400 dash at the WLAA meet, and Martynowski was among the best 110-meter hurdlers.

Jackson is the top returning long jumper and could help in the high jump, but he can compete in only a few events.

Farmington has a quality thrower in junior Corey Minous, who threw the shot 47 feet and the discus 132-11. Senior Adam Jeneval will be a nice complement to Minous. "Corey works hard and with another year of experience and maturity he'll do a real nice job this year," Bridges said. "We've got some big kids, but they're inexperienced, and we don't know what they can do."

Junior Steve Scanie and sophomore Matt Niskanen are the leading hurdles prospects, particularly in the 300 intermediates.

The Falcons are looking for someone to emerge in the sprints, especially since Nigel Whit, who was second-team all-area in the 100 dash, is no longer in school.

The top returning sprinters are junior Jeremy Biddle, who has a best of 11.4 in the 100, and junior Sean

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Here's line on Farmington: veteran mids, solid defense

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The conventional wisdom says defense wins championships.

While first-year coach Robert Neff isn't predicting a title for the Farmington girls soccer team, he has no doubt the Falcons will be good defensively.

That should hold well for Farmington, which finished 3-8-1 and was sixth in the Western Lakes Activities Association with a 3-6-1 record.

"We're certainly looking forward to a good year," said Neff, 51. "I doubt anybody will come in and mop up the field with us. If we play the game we've been practicing, we should be competitive."

Neff, who replaces Cathy Kennan, was a varsity assistant at Northville last year and the JV coach before that. He has been a head coach in the premier and travel leagues for 15 years with a winning percentage of .780.

Neff was undecided about the forward positions earlier this week, but the midfield and de-

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fense are stocked with experienced players.

The Falcons lost Michelle Lorenz, the leading scorer with 10 goals and one assist, to graduation, but they return senior Kristy Mahon at center-halfback and junior Jamie Pawloski and senior Maggie Prump on the outside. Mahon scored three goals and all three had two assists each.

"I think all three are going to be very strong in the midfield," Neff said. "Teams try to control a certain portion of the field that serves as strength, and I look for them to control the midfield."

The three defensive starters will be juniors Corrie Kempel and Beth Chambers at fullback and Erin Kenny at sweeper. The stopper could be either freshman Denise Lauboff or sophomore Erica Gwynn, who played on the JV.

"Depending on how we do this year, we should have strength coming back next year, too," Neff

said.

The Falcons have a veteran goalkeeper in junior Jessica Guibord, who made 114 saves, allowed 24 goals and had three shutouts.

"She was outstanding last year, and I expect her to be again this year," Neff said. "She's been very well-taught and is fundamentally all there, which is terrific because in high school you don't have a lot of time to drill fundamentals."

The forward possibilities include seniors Laura McWilliam, Eunice Lee and Amanda Lachmann, junior Kerl Lowry, sophomore Denise Laurie and freshmen Tiffany Okopney, Amanda Porter and Jodie Guibord.

"I know what it takes to be an offensive team in this league," Neff said. "I guess I don't feel like a powerhouse offensive, but if we harness the teamwork, we should be able to play with anybody in the league."

Farmington begins the season Wednesday, April 13, at Walled Lake Central.

Madonna begins new program

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Starting a college soccer program from scratch is hard enough.

But throw in a potential language and cultural barrier between the coach and players, and you begin to understand the enormity of the challenge facing Robert Mazur and the fledgling Madonna University men's soccer program.

"It is very difficult, especially since I am not fluent in speaking English," said Mazur, 36, who came to America from his native Poland three years ago equipped with three languages: Polish, German and French. "It's not been easy to organize everything, but I think I can do it and do a good job."

Madonna decided to add men's soccer to its athletic repertoire in January and hired Mazur, a former professional soccer player in Europe who continues to coach

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the boys and girls programs at Millford High School.

The Madonna team will begin practicing the last week of May and will play its inaugural season next September. The team will use Ladywood's field.

Mazur has been scrambling to fill out a schedule, a task made difficult by the fact that Madonna will enter NAIA competition as an independent, unaffiliated with any league or district.

"It has been hard to find teams with open dates," Mazur said. "So far, we have only eight games."

The problem of finding players, happily, has been less difficult. "I have sent letters to many, many high schools," Mazur said. "So far, I have gotten answers from 40 players. A lot of kids want to play at Madonna."

There have also been open tryout invitations posted throughout the campus. But Mazur won't have a clue as to the level of talent, or even the names, of the players he'll be starting with until May.

"We will have to work very hard to be on the same level as most college teams," he said. "We will be mostly freshmen, and it is a very hard adjustment from high school to college. But that doesn't mean we have to lose all our games. We just have to work hard."

Mazur said that Madonna University, located in the middle of one of the best high school soccer regions in the Midwest, shouldn't have trouble attracting talented players once the program is established.

"There are a lot of great players in this area," he said. "I am, what do you say, optimistic."

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