

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Top athlete awards

A pair of Farmington athletes were among those considered for the 1993-94 Catholic League Athletes of the Year awards.

Amy Freund, who attends Farmington Hills Mercy High School, and Brian Kalcynski, a Farmington resident and Birmingham Brother Rice student, were finalists for the honors.

Rahim Batten of Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher was the top male athlete, and Riverview Gabriel Richard's Camille Brisky won the female award.

Freund is a four-year member of the Mercy cross country and track teams, earning All-Catholic and All-Observer recognition in both sports. Kalcynski, who attended Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, starred in football, basketball and baseball for the Warriors.

Batten and Brisky will receive their awards Wednesday, June 1, between games of the Catholic League baseball championship doubleheader at Tiger Stadium.

Devine all-academic

Gary Devine of Farmington Hills, a former standout athlete at Harrison High School, was named to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference all-academic baseball team.

Devine, a junior outfielder on the Wayne State University team, is a criminal justice major with a 3.35 grade-point average.

Russo best gymnast

Amy Russo of Farmington Hills won the state title on the bars and beam Sunday at the Michigan Level 7 Junior Division Gymnastics Championships in Kentwood.

She scored 9.45 on bars and 9.075 on beam, she also placed second on vault (9.3) and floor exercise (9.075). Russo was runner-up in the all-around competition with a total score of 36.9.

Russo is a member of the state championship team from Oakland Gymnastics Training Center.

Regional champion



Track title: North Farmington's Heather Burcar won the 400-meter dash Saturday at the West Bloomfield regional. See story on Page 3B.

Young leads CMU into NCAA tourney



It's the seventh inning and Central Michigan is down a run in a baseball game with Miami University. Kevin Young, who starred at Farmington High four years ago, hits a two-run homer and CMU wins.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Kevin Young is having a fabulous season — the kind most players can only dream about — playing baseball for Central Michigan University.

But for all the personal glory he has reaped, the former Farmington High star is most proud of what his efforts have done to help the team.

The underdog Chippewas (38-19) toppled first-place Kent State to win the Mid-American Conference tournament last weekend and begin play today in the NCAA regional at Tallahassee, Fla.



Kevin Young

"I think I had something to do with that, and that's where most of my gratification comes from," Young said. "We're a winning team and not just a good team with a bunch of good players."

The junior third baseman from Northville had a lot to do with CMU's success.

Young won the MAC triple crown, leading the conference with a .417 average, 15 home runs and 56 runs batted in. Stats like that earned Young the MAC Player of the Year Award.

His current numbers are .411, 16 and 53 after he was 4-for-12 with three RBIs in the MAC tournament. Young had three hits, including a two-run homer, in the final to help the Chippewas beat Kent 5-4 in 11 innings.

"If somebody had told me I'd have 16 home runs right now, I would have laughed," Young said, adding he changed his stance and closed it up.

"My dad noticed I wasn't keeping my hands and weight back enough. That's the key to driving the ball. I was taking good swings, but I wasn't powering the ball."

Young attributes his outstanding season to a position change. While that might disrupt most players, it had the opposite effect on Young.

He was an All-Observer center fielder as a senior at Farmington in 1990 and, after being redshirted at CMU, played right field the past two seasons and first five games this year.

Then he was moved to third base, a position he hadn't played since his junior year in high school.

"I think that had a lot to do with my hitting," he said. "I really concentrated on playing well (in the field) and forgot about the pressures of hitting."

"It took my mind off thoughts of over swinging and things like that. I just worried about fielding. There was no pressure on me; it was like I was expected to make mistakes. I attribute my hitting to that and working hard."

Young also got a boost of confidence by playing in a wooden-bat league last summer in Cincinnati.

"It makes you a better hitter," he said. "If you make a mistake with a

See YOUNG, 4B

Mercy remains champion with 5th consecutive title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Few high school teams can boast of having a record for success like that of the Farmington Hills Mercy track team.

The Marlins captured their fifth consecutive Catholic League title on their own track Tuesday, scoring 132-plus points and finishing well ahead of upstart Livonia Ladywood.

"It's a credit to the kids and the program," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "They didn't want to let the tradition die, and a lot of them had to run four events or triple to do it."

"There's something about Mercy kids. They want to work hard and succeed; they're willing to make the effort to win."

An important figure in the Mercy victory was junior Eileen O'Connell, who was first in the 1,600- and 800-meter runs and also helped the Marlins win the 3,200 and 1,600 relays.

"This is the third year in a row for me (on the winning team)," O'Connell said. "I thought it

GIRLS TRACK

would be closer today, but this is the best we've run this year as a team."

The Marlins also had winning performances from senior Renee Arceno in the shot put, sophomore Amy Buhl in the 100 hurdles and senior Amy Freund in the 3,200 run.

Lisa Nobles and Brandy Johnson were on both winning relay teams, Freund and Tarrie Smith one each.

"It was nice to finally win the two mile; I've been second in that the past two years," Freund said. "It means a lot to win (the meet again). It's become a tradition at Mercy, and it's nice to carry that on."

The Marlins fared well in the shot and discus with Arceno and senior Texas Copprue scoring in both.

Mercy showed well in its area of strength — the distance events. Freund also placed in the 1,600,

Nobles the 800 and Mary Thewes the 3,200.

"We started running the 400 and above, we were pretty strong," Servais said. "We went one-two in the 800, and that's 18 points right there. We were one-four in the 300 and one-three in the 1,600. That's another 30."

The Marlins repeated as champions despite losing standouts Sharmila Prasad, Dawn DiPonio and Nicole Pryor to graduation last year, and Servais hopes Mercy can fill the void Freund, Arceno and Copprue will leave, too.

"Hopefully, we can get some others to step up next year," he said, adding Ladywood has 70 girls on its team, Mercy 35.

"I thought Ladywood might have scored more, but their team is young and they had a tough regional. They'll be tougher to beat next year, and Divine Child has a good, young team, too."

The Blazers had their best league meet in a decade. Senior Lyndi Pailing is the discus cham-

See MARLINS, 4B

Farmington reaches final; Maples top North, Mercy

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High won the right to play for a district tournament championship Wednesday by defeating Redford Union 3-0 in girls soccer.

The Falcons (5-5-2) will be playing in their first final since 1990 and will face the winner of tonight's Livonia Churchill-Livonia Stevenson game at 11 a.m. Saturday at Churchill.

"We didn't play as well against Stevenson as we did Churchill," Falcons coach Bob Neff said, adding his team was able to score on Churchill.

"They're going to come ready to play; hopefully, we'll be ready to play and it will be a terrific game."

SOCCER

The Falcons dominated the game against visiting Redford Union, attempting 39 shots while Farmington goalie Jessica Gubbert had to make only one save.

Jami Pawloski converted a penalty kick for the first goal in the sixth minute, and Maggie Prump made it 2-0 just before halftime.

Farmington's Tiffany Okopyn had to be carried from the field after colliding with the RU keeper. Following a 25-minute delay, the Falcons scored their second goal within 10 seconds of the restart.

Okopyn was not seriously hurt, according to Neff, and is expected

to play Saturday.

In the 50th minute, Farmington defender Corrie Kempel crossed the ball to Denise Lauria, who scored the third goal. RU finished 3-13-1.

"The kids are playing outstanding," Neff said. "The team has been coming together and, hopefully, we can keep it together through Saturday."

Neff added his midfielders have been outstanding. Prump, Krisay Mahon, Pawloski and Eunice Lee operate on a four-person rotation and have controlled the midfield this week.

In a first-round district game Monday, the Falcons rallied from an early deficit to defeat Livonia

See DISTRICTS, 2B

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