

SPORTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS SCENE

O'Meara regains title

Farmington sports editor Dan O'Meara has reclaimed the championship in the annual grid predictions contest.

Brad Emons, who covers Livonia-Westland, was dethroned after a one-year reign.

O'Meara had a big finish, calling it right on five of six games last weekend for an 11-3 performance. His season total was 104-28 while Emons (7-7) was 98-34.

Plymouth Salem, Farmington Hills Harrison, Redford St. Agatha, Trenton and Westland John Glenn came through with wins on behalf of O'Meara. Garden City was a winner for Emons.

O'Meara has won the Observer prediction title six of the past eight years.

OCC cagers vs. alumni

The Oakland Community College men's basketball team opens its 1994-95 season Friday against an alumni all-star team 7 p.m. at the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. Among the all-stars will be former Detroit Pistons Walker D. Russell and former Pontiac Northern standouts Derrick Williams and Samuel Smith. The all-stars have won the traditional season opener since 1987.

The Raiders have new leadership this year. Lynn Reed, who coached the team for three decades, is taking a one-year hiatus. Former assistant Marvin Cushingberry will coach OCC.

"I'm excited about this year's team," Cushingberry said. "We've got a good mixture of returning sophomores, redshirt players and new recruits." Freeman Jones and Tony McNeal are returning starters. Will Marcous, who played at Redford Catholic Central, Jason Taylor and Charles Hicks also return.

Cushingberry is counting heavily on redshirt players Richard Micheaux, Tajuan Pickett, Scott Goddard and Lawrence Simmons as well as transfer Desmond Payne. The newcomers include Steve Jurawich, Jason Hanson, Damien Smith and Gavin Gordon.

Sports information can be sent to Dan O'Meara by mail (36231 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150), fax (591-7279) or phone (953-2141).



Regional run: Mercy senior Eileen O'Connell finished second in the Class A girls meet at Marshbank Park Saturday.

Falcons, Raiders qualify for state



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The race was for third place Saturday in the Class A girls regional cross country meet, and Farmington High walked off with the prize.

In the boys competition, North Farmington reached its season-long potential with a strong showing and finished a surprising second.

Both teams qualified for the state championships Saturday at Sakaaton Golf Course in Grand Rapids. The top three teams in each regional qualify.

Most teams conceded first and second place to Livonia Stevenson (50) and Novi (82) in the girls race, but there were plenty of good teams vying for third.

That went to the Falcons (69), who outscored Plymouth Salem (123) and Farmington Hills Mercy (166).

"We're very excited as a team because this has been our goal since camp," Farmington coach Liz Zynda said. "Our long-term goal was to make it to state, and we knew if we ran well we had a chance." "A lot of the girls said it was like a big weight had been lifted off their shoulders. The regional was make it or break it.

"Now that we're going to state they can go out and enjoy it, have fun and do the best they can."

The Falcons were led by freshman Kate Adams, who finished seventh and had her best time on the Marshbank course in West Bloomfield at 20:25.

"People don't realize how strong an

athlete she is, but she's an all-round athlete," Zynda said.

"She's playing hockey during cross country season and doing very well at both. She gave up a couple hockey practices just so she could concentrate on cross country, because she wanted to go to state real bad." Senior Dana Goba was 17th (20:51), junior Anne Grimaldi 23rd (21:11), Natalie Dawson 24th (21:16) and junior Theresa Derwinski 28th (21:31).

The rest of the Farmington team also did well as sophomore Almoce Cameron placed 36th (21:58) and freshman Ellen Adams 38th (21:59).

Goba and fellow senior captain Kerl Lowry played key roles for the Falcons because of their experience, according to Zynda.

"They had been there three other times, so they knew what we needed to do," she said. "They were not as nervous as the other girls, because we have a real young team."

"Dana was awesome. That was the best run she's had this year at Marshbank and second best of the year. Kerl wasn't on the varsity team for this race, but she dressed and warmed up like she was running. She led the team and showed them what teamwork is all about."

Farmington's goal is to finish among the top 10 teams at the state meet.

"We're just excited to have a chance to go because we're so young," Zynda said. "It will be a great learn-

See CROSS COUNTRY, 3C

It's dirty job, but Grubbers are ones to get it done right

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Nobody will ever confuse a Grubber with a football glory boy regardless of how many times he gets his name in the paper.

Grubbers, a euphemism for Farmington Hills Harrison offensive linemen, are guys who labor for relative obscurity, their hard work usually unnoticed.

But a true Grubber would have no other way.

"That's why I like being a Grubber," senior guard Steve Shaleb said. "We don't like getting recognition. We leave it up to the backs."

"When I'm blocking someone, a guy who's 30 pounds heavier and can pancake him, that's all it takes to make me happy."

Spoken like a true Grubber! In fact, there's a penalty to pay for any Grubber who is recognized in print.

A Grubber who gets his name in the newspaper has to do 10 burpees at the next practice.

FOOTBALL

What about a second reference?

"Then it's 20," said Harrison assistant coach Bob Sutter, who is not exempt from the rule. He did 120 one day last year.

The term Grubbers was first applied in 1973, and a tradition within the budding Harrison football tradition was born. But why Grubbers?

"One day Sutter had them down there in the mud and he said: 'We're grubbers; we get down and grub in the mud,'" Harrison head coach John Harrington said. "From that day on, they were Grubbers."

Grubbers pride themselves on getting down and dirty, literally, while fighting the battle in the proverbial trenches and opening a hole in the line for the running backs.

Strong bond in group
Thus, they have their own

esprit de corps, their motto being Grubber Pride.

The top linemen in each game receives a T-Shirt with those words and a caricature of a Grubber — a player with a mouthful of turf holding a piece of sod triumphantly overhead and standing over a prostrate opponent — drawn by former player Pete Thompson.

"It's just like our own little tradition at Harrison," Shaleb said. "When you're a Grubber, it's like your own family. I'll remember the rest of the guys on the line the rest of my life."

"There's a lot of pride in knowing the guys on the line are all working for the same goal," senior tackle Brian Gurwin said. "We don't usually get the coverage, so we take pride in knowing we get the job done whether it's known or not."

"When it comes down to it, (coaches and teammates) know

See GRUBBERS, 3C



Grubbers: The starting unit consists of (front row, from left) Jim Struble, Evan Jefferson, Brian Gurwin, (second row, from left) Brad Donahue, Dave Wolff, Steve Shaleb and Tony Valdez.

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