

SPORTS

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1994

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Softball camp

The South Farmington Softball Camp will run for 10 consecutive Sundays beginning Jan. 8 at the Mercury Center. Girls ages 9-18 are encouraged to attend. High school team players should attend from 10:30 a.m. to noon. House league players should attend from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$1 per player per session. Call Jim Foster for more information, 478-6586.

Fury finishes 2nd

The Farmington Fury under-16 boys soccer team settled for a disputed second-place finish in their indoor division at Total Soccer. The Fury (5-3) lost to division champ Ann Arbor, 5-4, in the season finale.

Ann Arbor, 7-1, lost its only game of the year via forfeit after it was learned the team used a non-roster player. Fury coach Tom Faro felt that the forfeit should have dropped Ann Arbor out of first place.

"Total Soccer's rule 2B is quite clear," he said. "It says that any team found guilty of using an illegal or non-roster player forfeits the game, any previous games and the remainder of the season."

"I am disappointed for my guys because we played by the rules and we're the ones that got cheated."

Adult hoops

The Farmington Hills parks and recreation department has openings for adult teams in its Thursday resident/industrial men's basketball leagues. Fee is \$500 with games played at Oakland Community College. For more information, call 473-9570.

Running camp

The 13th annual Buddies and Pals Girls Running Camp will run in two sessions: July 30 to Aug. 5 and Aug. 6-12. To reserve a spot, a \$50 deposit is required by Jan. 1, 1995.

The camps, run by Farmington Hills Mercy track and cross country coach Gary Servais, take place at the Brighton Recreation Area. The cost of \$150 covers food, room and a T-shirt. The cost is reduced to \$130 if paid by March 1. A special two-week rate is offered at \$225.

The camp features two workouts a day with an individual race on Saturday. There will also be guest speakers, a 3-10-1 athlete to coach ratio and two movie and pizza nights.

Other coaches working the camp are: Kevin Donner (Central Michigan), Richard Goepf (Dearborn Divine Child), Guy Murray (University of Detroit-Mercy) and Bob O'Brien (Ladyswood).

For more information, call 476-2836.

Madonna women win

Dawn Pele came off the bench to pour in a game-high 18 points in leading Madonna University's women's basketball team to a 65-62 upset in overtime of 10th-ranked Indiana Wesleyan Friday at Madonna.

The Lady Crusaders followed that with an 89-72 win over Wisconsin Lutheran Saturday at Madonna, but on Monday — playing their third game in four days — they were down and lost 69-53 to Northwood University in Midland. The 2-1 stretch raised Madonna's record to 6-8 overall.

Joining Pele in double figures in scoring for Madonna were Mary Blazewicz with 13 points and Vikki Koenig with 12. Koenig also had 14 rebounds.

Madonna men lose

Northwood University dropped Madonna's men team to 1-11 with a 133-95 win last Tuesday at Madonna. Brandon Simpson's 27 points led Madonna, but 24 of those came in the second half when the game was out of reach. Jay Dimes had 22, and Jeff Kennedy and Brandon Lemley added 12 each.

Floor hockey openings

The Detroit College of Business' Athletic Booster Club still has openings for its winter Indoor Floor Hockey League, which starts Sunday, Jan. 8. All games will be on Sundays, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Taylor Made for Recreation Center, located at 22805 Goddard, east of Telegraph.

Cost is \$625, which includes a \$50 refundable deposit and all 10 games plus playoffs. Gym rental, referees, scorekeepers, trophies and locker room facilities are also included.

For more information, call Kevin Brasell at (313) 581-4400, ext. 369.

To submit items to Sports Scene, the mailing address is 36361 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or send a fax to 313-581-7376. All correspondence should be sent to sports editor Dan O'Meara.

The break's a blessing for North



Let's see, his leading scorer has been suspended, his motion offense has been virtually motionless and the defense has, for the most part, rested. Other than that, life is dandy for first-year North Farmington coach Brian Swinehart.

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Nobody was happier to see the holiday break arrive than first-year North Farmington basketball coach Brian Swinehart. His basketball program wobbled home in need of major retooling after a 66-41 loss to Northville in the consolation round of the Novi

Holiday Tournament on Wednesday.

"We are having a few adjustment problems," he said. "The kids still aren't comfortable with the style of play I want and there are a couple of individuals who don't quite understand what we're after in terms of playing team-oriented basketball. There are a lot of people worrying

about things they don't need to worry about."

The frustration level after a 1-4 start, Swinehart admits, is nearing a critical level. The team's leading scorer, junior John Kelley, has been suspended indefinitely for disciplinary reasons. He missed both games last week.

"We have a lot of work to do over the break, there is no question about that," Swinehart said. "But the kids are working very hard."

The toughest adjustment has been on offense, where Swinehart has replaced former coach Tom Negroshi-

an's strict patterned attack with a more free-form motion game.

"We are trying to get them to play a motion and screen offense similar to what Indiana University uses," he said. "And that is something totally new for them. For the most part, they have just looked lost. They end up just standing around."

North managed a mere 14 points in the first half Wednesday. At halftime, some of the players asked that a standard play from Negroshi's old system be installed for the second half.

See NORTH, 2C

Shooting touch eludes Schoolcraft vs. Highland Park

BY C.J. RIZAK
STAFF WRITER

A new year, a new beginning. What else can Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team hope for after Wednesday's disappointing effort against Highland Park CC?

The Lady Ocelots opened the game by scoring the first 12 points, holding their visitors scoreless for seven minutes. After that, however, SC's will to win gradually began to disintegrate; within three minutes the Lady Panthers had erased the deficit, and five minutes into the second half they led by nine.

The final result was a 71-58 Highland Park victory.

The loss dropped SC to .500 overall, at 6-6. The Ocelots are 1-3 in the Eastern Conference.

"This is the story of our season," SC coach Ed Kavanaugh said after the game. "We cannot put the ball in the basket."

Statistically, Kavanaugh's point is proven. In the second half, the Ocelots converted just 13-of-42 floor shots, a mere 30.9 percent — which explains why Highland Park pulled away so easily. The Panthers made 17-of-32 from the floor (53.1 percent).

Sure, also made a difference. Highland Park had 6-foot-3 Kisa Bradley patrolling the middle.

"She's the No. 1 junior college center in the country," said Panthers' coach Leonard Merchant.

The Ocelots did nothing to disprove that. Bradley scored inside and out, totaling 24 points — 17 coming in the second half — and 17 rebounds. She also blocked five shots, which intimidated SC's inside game.

And hurt the Ocelots in their most vulnerable spot — confidence. When their shots started bouncing out, they began to hesitate. Throughout the

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Ed Kavanaugh
Schoolcraft coach

second half, the offense was almost entirely from the perimeter.

"We had enough shots to win this ball game," Kavanaugh said. "We're just not finishing. Their confidence level is way down."

Identifying the problem is one thing; how to address it is another. "I wish I knew," Kavanaugh said.

SC did finish the first half well, overcoming a five-point deficit with a 10-4 run over the last 3:14. Dawn Newlin scored five of her 11 points in that stretch to give SC a 29-28 half-time advantage.

However, it should have been greater. The Ocelots missed seven straight free throws and were just 4-of-12 from the line in the first half.

The Panthers' confidence grew as SC's shrank. They outscored the Ocelots 24-7 in the first nine minutes of the second half, hitting 9-of-14 shots for a 52-36 lead.

The deficit never reached single digits after that. Amy Pittala led SC with 13 points; Shelly Sockow (from Plymouth Salem) had 10, with seven rebounds and three steals.

Highland Park also got 11 points and 13 rebounds from Rhonda Canty, 10 points and 10 boards from Shawntia Gregory, four points and 10 rebounds from Eurlina Clapton, and nine points and six rebounds from Tamara Owens.

The Panthers had a commanding 67-44 advantage in rebounding. Which, combined with SC's poor shooting, spelled disaster for the Ocelots.



Shootin' two: Schoolcraft's Dawn Newlin had the hot hand in the first half Wednesday. Five of her 11 points gave the Ocelots an early and short-lived lead against Highland Park.

Albion's title run fueled by area talent

Curtis was big in limited role

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

People wear watches to tell time. The gold watch Kevin Curtis received recently will remind him of the time he played on the Albion College football team that won the 1994 NCAA Division III national championship.

Curtis, a 1993 Garden City High School graduate, isn't one to boast, so he won't be wearing the watch often. It'll be displayed only like a trophy. "I have an MIAA (Michigan Independent Athletic Association) championship ring, but I don't wear much jewelry at all," said Curtis, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound sophomore who played a key role for Albion on special teams and as a reserve outside linebacker.

"The watch will be more of a memory type thing. I don't want to show it off, to be known as a star or something."

That humbleness is a trait Curtis says is shared by his teammates, who despite owning a 25-game MIAA winning streak and six straight league championships, don't like to talk about their accomplishments.

The Britons put the finishing touches on their 13-0 season with a



Kevin Curtis

38-16 victory over Washington & Jefferson College in the championship game played before 7,168 fans at Salem, Va.

Several thousand fans followed the Britons to the national championship game and gave them an appreciation day when they returned. It seemed only a matter of time before the Britons would achieve Division III's highest honor, since they are 87-24-2 overall under coach Pete Schmidt and

For N. Farmington's Lee, Britons' success was a snap

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Becoming a long snapper on the North Farmington football team was one of the best decisions Brian Lee ever made.

By the time Lee became a sophomore at Albion College, his expertise helped him make road trips with the team. Lee was a reserve wide receiver, and the team can take only so many players at each position on trips.

"In college, there are so many great players, you can only take so many on the road — that was my ticket to road games," said Lee, a 1992 North graduate who studies physical education at Albion.

This season, Lee's ability to be a long snapper allowed him to continue his career. Lee suffered a serious back injury at the end of his sophomore season that for all intents and purposes ended his career as a wide receiver. The second vertebrae in Lee's back cracked in two places after he was hit chasing an opponent down following a blocked kick.

But off-season rehabilitation

helped Lee return to snapping and remain an important member of the Britons' 1994 NCAA Division III national champion team.

The 38-16 win over Washington & Jefferson in the championship game and a Florida vacation over the holidays are the rewards for the year-round hard work he endured.

"I had to rehab all summer just to get to the point where I could at least snap," Lee said. "It threw off all the muscles in my back, and I had to recondition them."

Lee began long snapping as a sophomore at North Farmington and credited his coach Ralph Tembs for his early development. He expects to continue to improve this summer, snapping to his brother Mark, a senior at North who punted for the Raiders' football team.

Lee wishes he could be a wide receiver again but knows he's relegated to snapping.

"I'd love to, but I can't run for extended periods and every morning after games after I wake up and I'm ex-

See LEE, 2C

See CURTIS, 2C