

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1995

SPORTS

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Junior golf results

Farmington Hills youths Steve Bratcher, Chris Scott and Chris Hart were age-group winners in the Eleventh Annual Northwest Parks and Recreation Junior Golf Tournament. All three captured low-gross honors — Bratcher in the 10-11 age competition, Scott in the 12-14 and Hart in the 15-17 at Glen Oaks Golf Course. Thirty-nine players who participate in the Farmington Hills and Royal Oak Recreation Department junior golf programs competed Aug. 10. Bryan Dickey (10-11), Greg Koslowski (12-14) and Andy Halem (15-17) were second in low gross. Andy Johnston (10-11) and Jeff Norfolk (12-14) were second in low net. All five are from Farmington Hills.

Daly takes 2nd place

Daly Restaurant put on a good performance in its trip to the Class A Women's Fast Pitch Softball National Tournament, hosted by the American Softball Association Aug. 11-13 in St. Louis. But it wasn't quite enough to overtake the eventual champion, Hot Stuff, of Torrance, Calif.

With some strong pitching by Plymouth Canton graduate and current University of Michigan standout Kelly Holmes, Daly won its first four games by a combined score of 25-3. Holmes won two of those, shutting out the Akron Thunder 8-0 in Daly's second game. She struck out 13 in the six-inning stint.

Holmes, who compiled a 15-6 record, topped the Parsippany Blue Jays (of Ridgewood, N.J.), 2-1 on a two-run home run by Melissa Drouillard in the bottom of the seventh inning. Holmes handcuffed the Jays on three hits.

In its fifth game of the tournament, Daly lost to tourney champ Hot Stuff 3-1, with Holmes absorbing the defeat. She hit her third nine hits in the contest, including a two-run double to Kim Wuest in the seventh that broke a 1-1 tie.

Daly survived to reach the tourney final against Hot Stuff by blanking the Los Angeles Diamonds 6-0, but Hot Stuff was too tough, beating Daly 5-3 in the title game.

Daly's final overall record was 42-10.

Golf tourney openings

Openings remain for the Rick Laromere Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course in Livonia.

Laromere, a former Livonia Churchill hockey player, died at age 17 of lymphoma cancer last March 27.

The cost of 18 holes, including a cart, light lunch, refreshments and dinner is \$80 for adults, \$50 for children. Dinner only is \$30.

Call Jeff Hatley at 459-1391 to register.

Softball teams sought

There are still tournament openings for softball teams at the Canton Softball Center, starting with this weekend when the co-ed state tournament is held. There are vacancies for all levels of co-ed teams, both recreation and competitive. Cost is \$175 per team.

CSC will also sponsor a Tournament of Champions this weekend. Any team finishing in the top three in its league may enter. Cost is \$125 per team, with jackets awarded.

And there will also be a Tavern Tournament this weekend, with any bar/restaurant-sponsored team eligible. Cost is \$175 per team.

The fall season is also upcoming. It begins Sept. 6 and consists of six weeks of doubleheaders. Cost is \$386 per team plus umpire fees (\$7 per game). Men's, women's and co-ed league openings are available.

For information regarding any of the above, call (313) 483-5000, ext. 102.

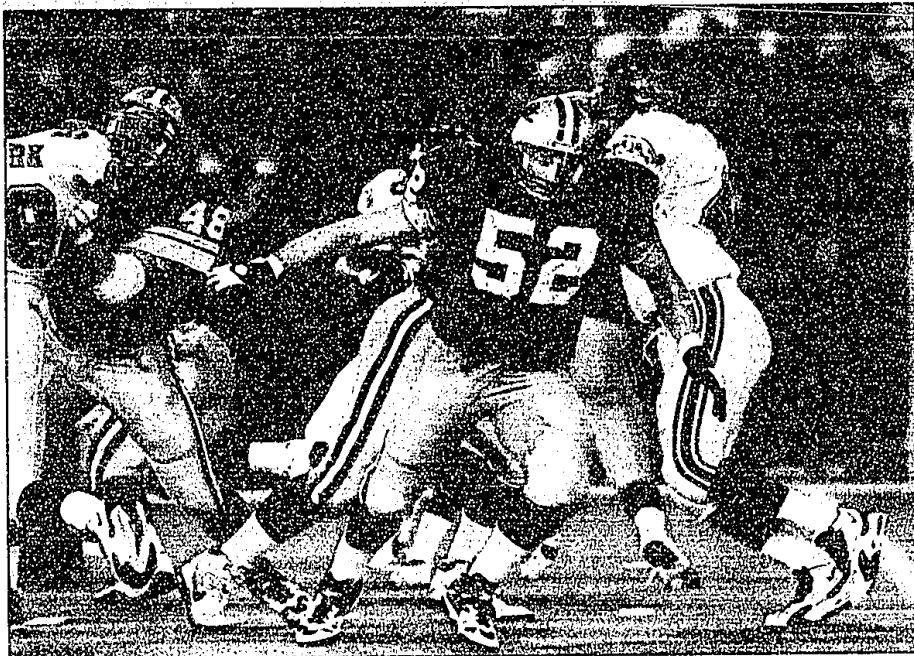
Crackbox Sports of Farmington Hills has openings for co-ed and men's softball teams. For more information call (810) 474-6175.

Senior aces golf hole

It's always special to shoot a hole-in-one. Bert Cohen, an 81-year-old recreational golfer from Southfield, recently experienced the feeling after ailing the 140-yard eighth hole at Kensington Metcalf.

Cohen used a 7-wood in scoring his first hole-in-one and shot a respectable 44 for nine holes.

"It's a par-3 that goes over the water," Cohen said. "I saw the ball go in and it's one of those moments where you want to jump around and toss your clubs in the air."



SHARON LAMBEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lions linebacker: Scott Kowalkowski moves to the football in a recent preseason game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. The lifelong Oakland County resident begins his second year with the Detroit Lions.

Lions role suits Kowalkowski fine



Scott Kowalkowski feels right at home with the Detroit Lions, having grown up in Oakland County and followed the team closely as a youth. He hopes to retain his spot on the roster for 1995.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Scott Kowalkowski doesn't complain or fret about the role he's asked to play in his job.

His concern is having a role and keeping the job he has with the Detroit Lions.

The 5'8 1/2-year pro, who was raised in Farmington Hills, starred at Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School and lives in Lake Orion, is a reserve linebacker and special-teams player.

"That's my role," Kowalkowski said. "I've been a backup my whole

career. I'm a team guy. Whatever is good for the team is good for me."

Kowalkowski, who played at Notre Dame and was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, is preparing for his second season with the Lions.

As a member of both punt and kickoff teams, Kowalkowski is on the field a lot, but he's No. 3 on the depth chart at right linebacker behind Mike Johnson.

Kowalkowski played the whole second half Thursday against the Cincinnati Bengals, however, mak-

ing four tackles and just missing an interception.

"I love the game; I love to play," he said. "The preseason is the time for me to show what I can do."

"I'm willing to be a backup; I'm not selfish. Mike Johnson is a great player, and I can learn a lot from him."

"I love the Lions; I'd like to stay here. My dad played here, and mom works here. (The Lions) treat everyone well from the top on down."

Bob Kowalkowski played offensive guard for the Lions (1966-76), and Judy Kowalkowski is a secretary in the Lions accounting office.

Scott would seem to be a good bet to earn a place on the Lions roster again, but he isn't taking anything for granted.

So he knows his role and accepts it. He just keeps playing hard and

trying harder.

"I do my best and let the chips fall where they may, as people say," Kowalkowski said. "I just want to play; I just go every day and play."

"If you're thinking about whether you're going to make it, then you're not thinking about playing your mind isn't on the game. If you don't make the plays, you're going to be out."

Like any player in any sport, Kowalkowski would like to be a full-time player on defense and hopes eventually to reach that status in his pro career.

"I take it year by year," he said. "I have goals I want to achieve. Some I have, some I haven't."

"I'm happy what I'm doing now. This is what I've wanted to do my

See LIONS, 2C

Gridders must cope with heat

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

With the help of frequent water breaks, football teams at Farmington high schools are managing to cope with the extreme heat of the 1995 summer.

Double sessions in August are always a grueling experience, but the steady 80-degree-plus temperatures and high humidity have made practice all the more challenging.

"Yesterday was the worst day we've

FOOTBALL

had in 34 years," said Harrison coach John Herrington of last Wednesday. "The air just seemed to hang there, and you couldn't breathe."

"I really don't remember any summer this hot and humid."

It got so bad one day last week Herrington stopped practice, and everyone sat in the darkened gym for 10 minutes to cool down.

The Hawks have been taking water breaks every 15 minutes, and they eliminated sprints at the end of practice.

"I think we're getting things done,"

See HEAT, 2C



JOHN BYRON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A place in the sun: North coach Jim O'Leary watches his players for signs of heat exhaustion during hotter-than-usual August practices.

Trojans will count on frosh

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

When football fans hear the name "Walter," thoughts of the great NFL rushing leader Walter Payton come to mind.

Second-year Livonia Clarenceville coach Chuck Donaldson hopes that his new Walter will have the same effect on the Trojans as Payton did with the Chicago Bears.

Following a 5-4 season that saw Clarenceville's defense dominate its

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side of the ball, while the offense struggled, Donaldson welcomed freshman Walter Ragland onto the field.

Ragland, who stands six-foot and 180 pounds, is not a newcomer to Donaldson, who coached him in junior high track. The Clarenceville coach compares Ragland to another NFL rushing great.

"He's one of the best athletes I've ever seen, and he's so quick, we have to find a way to utilize his speed," Donaldson said. "He looks like he's ready to go. He's so fluent, he kind of

See TROJANS, 2C