

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1995

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Area girls on ODP teams

The process never seems to end. Just a month ago, the Olympic Development Program regional soccer pools were selected at a 10-day camp in DeKalb, Ill. The players considered for the regional pools were chosen at the ODP state camps held in August 1994. Tryouts for the ODP girls state pools, from which regional and eventually national ODP teams for 1996 will be selected, were held Aug. 12-13 at Founders Park in Farmington Hills.

Not surprisingly, the Observer & Eccentric coverage area was well-represented — 42 players from the Observerland were chosen for the five age-division pools.

The following are the Observer-area players selected, by age division (birth dates):

1977-78 — Julie Durek, Canton; Angie Pandorf, Livonia; Jenny Pavesian, Plymouth; Marie Vanderburgh, Livonia; Kent Verardi, Livonia.

1979 — Shawn Cholewicki, Garden City; Anne Fedrig, Livonia; Sara Koosterman, Farmington Hills; Kristin Martindale, Redford; Ennie Meier, Plymouth; Elizabeth Siskiyelo, Livonia; Andrea Will, Livonia.

1980 — Jennifer Barker, Livonia; Allison Campbell, Livonia; Mary Denton, Farmington Hills; Andrea Galindo, Livonia; Mary Gupac, Livonia; Darrah Mantuffel, Redford; Leah McGrath, Livonia; Stacey Nastase, Livonia; Mia Saksela, Canton; Melissa Simons, Canton; Sarah Witrock, Livonia.

1981 — Susan Bear, Livonia; Rachel Morris, Plymouth; Susan Rubio, Farmington Hills; Lisa Tomasso, Canton; Michelle Vettriano, Livonia.

1982 — Jessica Ducks, Canton; Lacey Catalano, Westland; Lindsay Gurlek, Livonia; Leslie Krupio, Livonia; Stephanie King, Redford; Amanda Lentz, Plymouth; Kristin Leszczynski, Livonia; Deanna McGrath, Livonia; Robynn (Anne) Morris, Plymouth; Kelsey Mullen, Canton; Andrea Schmeel, Canton; Christian Shull, Canton; Andrea Sied, Livonia; Suzanne Towne, Canton.

Prep Kickoff Classic

The 15th Annual Prep Kickoff Classic will be held Saturday, Sept. 2, at the Pontiac Silverdome and will feature a four-game football feast.

The event, originated by the Birmingham Brother Rice Dad's Club in 1981, includes Catholic League teams against traditional non-league rivals.

Dearborn Divine Child and Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher open the action at 10:30 a.m.

Alliegan plays Orchard Lake St. Mary's at 1:30 p.m., and Toledo Central Catholic meets Detroit Catholic Central at 4:30 p.m.

The evening's final game features host Brother Rice against Farmington Hills Harrison at 7:30 p.m. Rice won 29-21 last year.

All Rice alumni are invited to attend a reception in the press box during the game.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the participating schools or the gate.

Bowling tourney finals

Lansing's Jeff Curtis edged Phil Horowitz of West Bloomfield 236-227 to claim his third National Senior Bowling Association title in as many months. The event was held Aug. 12 at Rose Bowl Lanes.

Curtis, seeded second after the qualifying round, defeated Hurston Wallace of Lake Orion, 249-188, Norrell McGlaun of Mount Clemens, 226-214, and Stan Brzezinski Jr., 207-155, to set up the final match against Horowitz.

Horowitz, after qualifying fourth, rolled past Ron Watkins of Lincoln Park, 270-211, Jim St. Petes of Royal Oak, 258-225, and Harley Trumbull 237-206 to reach the finals.

Curtis threw a clutch double in the 10th frame of the final to take home the championship trophy and a \$500 first-place check. Horowitz settled for a \$250 runner-up check.

The next NSBA tournament will be held at Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights on Sept. 9. For more information, contact the tournament office at (810) 626-8886 or (810) 358-3740.

Hawks capture Cup

The Livonia YMCA Hawks, an under-14 girls soccer team coached by Farmington's John Buchanan, captured the Waterford Cup last weekend with a 2-0 win over Chippewa Valley in the finals.

The Hawks also beat teams from Flint and Ann Arbor, outscoring their opponents by a combined 11-0.

Members of the Hawks include Susan Bear, Kristin Leszczynski, Deanna McGrath, Brianna Roy, Andi Sied, Stacey Supanich and Michelle Veittriano, all of Livonia; Christen Shull and Suzi Towne, Canton; Jessica and Rebecca Brady, Grosse Pointe; Nicole Breyer and Laura Grode, Sterling Heights; Alyson Kahler and Gayle Lukes, Grand Blanc; Michelle Lowe and Kristin Weida, Royal Oak; Cassie Teple, South Lyon.

Wolves 2nd at Maumee

The '85 Michigan Wolves, an under-11 boys soccer team, settled for a runner-up finish in last weekend's Maumee (Ohio) International Tournament.

The Wolves, coached by Joe Kneisel, fell to the U.S.L. First of Troy, 2-1, in the championship game.

Members of the Wolves include Tim Allen, Brady Crosby, Nik Djokic, Brian Ennis and J.T. Kallio, all of Livonia; Matt Okopy, Farmington Hills; Brian Papacay and Mike Simons, Canton; Mike Brownlie, Fraser; Keith Mullins, Dearborn; Highty, Tony Zena, Dearborn; Josh Chavella and Jeff Eschall, Novi; and John Hazzardbrook, Southfield.

Falcons primed for more success

After going 6-3 and coming within points and minutes of making the football playoffs, Farmington High wants to do better in 1995.

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



Its first winning season in 10 years has made the Farmington High football team hungry for more victories.

And the Falcons could equal or surpass their 1994 success if preseason assessments prove accurate. Farmington posted a 6-3 record last year and was in the playoff picture until the last week of the season.

Despite considerable graduation losses, the Falcons have enough talent back (including 24 seniors) to make another winning campaign possible.

Lauri Nikkanen, who begins his third year as head coach and has been pointing toward this season, admits he is optimistic.

"We've built the foundation," he says. "We have our system in, we have continuity as far as coaches. Of course, you've gotta have players."

"These kids have been in the program. The seniors were as freshmen; the sophomores with a JV schedule, and they won last year on the varsity."

"We respect all our opponents, but we're going to play with great confidence."

The Falcons hope to take it a step further this year and make the Class A playoffs.

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SHAWN LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Practice play: Fullback Nick Latra catches a pass in front of Aaron Phillips this week as Farmington prepares for its Sept. 2 season opener.

Marlins need time to develop as team

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Time, as Mercy High School coach Larry Baker says, is on the side of his basketball team as it strives to mature in 1995.

The Marlins have won 18 district championships and will need the 24 months until the tournament season to be able to extend that number.

Baker's 21st Mercy team is his youngest ever.

The Marlins return five players but no starters.

Schwagie, Amanda Northcross, Holly Taylor, Piper Metz, Felicia Brooks, Mitzi Rudock and Julie Angell have graduated after leading

Mercy to a 13-9 record and another district title.

This year's team consists of three seniors, six juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. Baker had only three freshmen on the varsity in the last 20 years.

"It was fun last year because we had such great depth," Baker said. "We were very athletic and could go right down the bench, and this is the trade-off."

"We're going with some young players, and I'm sure we'll develop another deep team."

The varsity veterans are seniors Nadia Grooms, Rachel Geiger and Jenny Brennan and juniors Mary Jane Valade and Jena Kluska.

Grooms and Valade are the most experienced, though Kluska played in 14 games after joining the varsity in mid-September.

Valade will play a much larger role after averaging three points and three

rebounds. The post player got more than half of her rebounds on the offensive glass.

"We're trying to make her the focal point, so for her it's a new role," Baker said. "We're pushing her to build up in terms of minutes played and fill more of a scoring role."

"Though she's only 5-8, rebounding is her strong suit, and she's easily the best passing forward I've coached. She's also developed a nice 15-foot jumper we're going to try to take advantage of."

Kelisha Brooks, a 5-10 junior who played on the JV, will join Valade in the post, with 5-9 freshman Katie Vihelle and 5-10 sophomore Heather Davis, a transfer from Northville, as backups.

"Being a post player on our team this year is more a state of mind," Baker said. "You can't spot the post players in the pregame warmup. Our

players are all in the same range from 5-6 to 5-10."

Grooms (5-10) was a shooting guard in the past but moves to small forward. Kluska (5-6) will start at point guard, and freshman Jena Kluska (5-9) will be the off guard.

"Jena is a real good competitor and a quarterback to have on the court," Baker said. "She makes good decisions, and we seem to function better when she's on the court."

"But she has yet to prove she can sustain her ball handling under the kind of pressure she's going to face."

Brennan should provide some offensive punch and could be an exciting player to watch, according to Baker.

"She has a ways to go with her defense and adjusting to our style of play, but she's a very potent open-court threat and has an exceptional

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North tops city rivals in '95 opener

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The results of initial competition Monday produced encouraging numbers for the 1995 North Farmington boys golf team.

The Raiders are expected to be competitive again after winning the annual preseason city meet for the third consecutive year.

North posted a 422 team score, Farmington 438 and Harrison 443 at Huron Meadows Golf Course near Brighton.

Senior Aaron Stephan placed third among individuals and was one of five players to earn all-city honors with a seven-over-par 70.

Juniors Andrew Wantuck and Chris Reading followed with a pair of 84s for the Raiders, junior Jeff Gardner 85, junior Nick Pfister 89 and freshman Joel Mazur 90.

"I was surprised and pleased we were as closely bunched as we were," North coach Darryl Case said. "We had no real low scores but no high scores."

"Maybe that shows we have a little more balance and depth than other years."

The Raiders relied mostly on two outstanding seniors last year, Drew Sopha and Scott Steinlauf. Sopha was All-Observer and All-Western Lakes.

"Last year we had two real good ones, and it looks like we'll be a little different team this year," Case said.

Stephan and Wantuck were the only returning varsity golfers among the six who represented North in the season opener.

Case said he was pleased by the early scores and potential reflected in the scores of the other four. The Raiders will be even better and deeper with the return of sophomores Danny Krochmal, added Case. Krochmal led last year but was in Los



BILL BRIDGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Old pro: Andrew Wantuck is one of the veteran North players.

GOLF

Angeles for the Maccabi Games and missed the first meet.

Junior Brad Barth will bring added depth and balance to the team, too.

North was fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament, and Case expects defending champ Plymouth Salem and runner-up Livonia Churchill to be the teams to beat again.

Farmington High

The Falcons had three of the five all-city golfers Monday, but two were playing in the junior varsity event.

Sophomore Derek Fox and senior Mitch Barrett were co-medallists with like rounds of 78. Junior Pat Hickey and Harrison senior Jared Taketa shot 83 and tied for fourth place.

But Farmington couldn't count the Barrett and Hickey scores since they were assigned to the JV, most based on practice rounds.

"That's always the question," Farmington coach Jim Miner said. "If you can shuffle the cards right you probably can win the hand."

"Had they been playing, we probably would have walked away with it, but that's not the way it goes."

The Falcons were a young team last year, finishing ninth in the league meet and above 500 in duels, and have most of their team back.

The eight returning players are seniors Barrett, Krie King, Brian Prentice, Brent Richard and Mike Carlson, junior Jeff Thomas, Hickey and Fox.

Following Fox in the varsity tally were King (80), Prentice (90), Thomas (90), Carlson (92), Richard (93).

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