

# SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1997

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## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Marlins defeat Monarchs

Kathy August rallied Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball team with some precision setting Monday night to lead the Marlins to a 15-9, 16-18, 15-12 victory over Allen Park Cabrini in a Detroit Catholic League crossover match.

Mercy is now 8-3-3 after winning away from home.

August had 22 kill-attempts in the match and 75 sets overall as she rallied Mercy after the team faltered in the second set. She also had five service aces and five kill attacks.

Gail Agacinski registered nine kills in 24 attacks while junior Erin Fitzgerald had five kills in 21 attacks.

Fitzgerald also was the leading server with 15 serves and stood out on defense.

The double block twosome of junior Krista Kelley and sophomore Kaitlyn Jarzembowski shut down Cabrini's attack at critical moments.

Mercy plays host to Bloomfield Hills Marian tonight.

### Ambassadors Tours

The Sports for Youth Foundation is now accepting applications for boys and girls 15-21 years old who are accomplished volleyball and basketball players for its summer tours.

This will mark the 14th year of the Goodwill Ambassadors Tours.

Registration deadline for the volleyball tours is Feb. 28. Those interested must be both strong players and solid citizens, both in school and in their community.

In volleyball, there will be two tours: a Western Europe tour, through London, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels; and a Southern Europe tour, through London, Paris, Geneva, Venice and Rome.

In basketball, all the same standards apply: Those interested should be good players and good people. The registration deadline is Feb. 28.

For further information on the volleyball tours, or to obtain a brochure, contact the Sports for Youth office at (208) 251-6951, or write to Sports for Youth, 18475 Olympic Ave. South, Tukwila, WA, 98188.

For more information on the basketball tours, or to obtain a brochure, call (206) 251-6576, or write to the NW Sport Center offices, Sports for Youth Foundation, 18475 Olympic Ave. South, Tukwila, WA, 98188.

### Cobras schedule tryouts

The 16-year-old-and-under Michigan Cobras baseball travel team will be conducting tryouts at the Sports Academy in Novi from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19 and 26.

The tryouts are intended for pitchers and those players with advanced skills. For information call Bob Sopo at (810) 366-1091 in the evening.

### Best area swim times

Overland boys swim coaches are asked to report their best times and diving scores to Livonia Churchill coach Ken Stark.

Coaches can phone results to Stark at the Churchill High School pool (523-9231) Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m.

The first list will appear in the Observer editions of Thursday, Jan. 23. Schools in Farmington, Livonia, Plymouth-Canton, Redford, Garden City, Westland and Wayne are eligible for consideration.

### All-star hitting camp

Mark Avery's All-Star Hitting Camp will take place the next four Sundays at the Oakland Community College Highland Campus.

The camp is open to youths age 11 to 18 and is designed to correct the aluminum bat swing of amateur players.

Wood bats will be used exclusively and provided for the campers. All campers will be filmed and analyzed to help with their swing.

The cost is \$160. Campers can receive a video copy of their bat swings for an additional \$20.

Camp sessions last one hour each with starting times at 8 and 9:10 a.m., 2:45 and 3:55 p.m. The camp meets Jan. 12, 19 and 26, Feb. 2 and 9.

The instructors are Mark Avery, two-time minor league all-star catcher; Bruce Fields, manager of the Grand Rapids Whitecaps; Tony Mitchell, Dan Whitmer, Jay Alexander and Mario Borroci, who coached the USA Junior Olympic team to a bronze medal.

For information call Avery at (810) 268-0707.

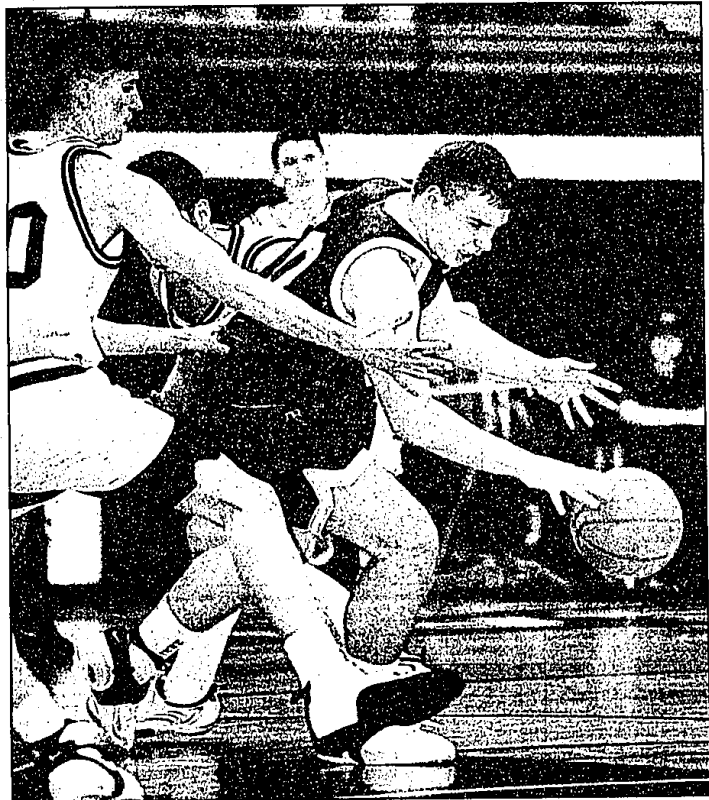
### Adults spring hockey

Applications for the adult spring hockey leagues will be available at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena starting Saturday, Feb. 1.

The spring season will run from March 30 to May 30. Each team will play a minimum of 16 games. Teams and individual applications will be accepted through Sunday, March 23, or until an age division is filled.

Questions regarding the adult spring program may be directed to the Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association, Farmington Hills Ice Arena, 35500 Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The phone number to call is (810) 471-6004.

## Rocks overcome Hawks in OT



Room to roam: Farmington Harrison junior Brian Lewis dribbles out of traffic Tuesday while surrounded by Plymouth Salem players. Salem won the game in overtime, 67-66.

■ Farmington Harrison came up short in a key Western Lakes basketball game Tuesday, losing at Plymouth Salem, 67-66.



BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

Well before the opening tip, Farmington Harrison basketball coach Mike Teachman was downplaying the meaning of the game, which featured two of the Western Lakes Activities Association's studs.

"This is a posturing game," Teachman said as the two teams warmed up by firing jumpers at opposite ends of the Plymouth Salem gymnasium.

A game this early in the season can't be that important, he insisted. "Wait until the end of February," he added with a wink.

If this was a nothing game, just a warm-up, then the match that means something should really be something. Harrison used a second-half comeback to offset Salem's first-half dominance, overcoming a 13-point halftime deficit to tie it at 58 with a Justin Snow three-pointer at the regulation buzzer.

But the Rocks didn't fold, either. They outscored the Hawks 9-5 over the first 3:59 of the extra period, surrendering a meaningless three-pointer at the buzzer to post a 67-66 victory Tuesday.

The win kept Salem atop the WLA standings at 2-0; the Rocks are 7-1 overall. Harrison slipped to 6-2 overall, 1-2 in the conference.

It was not a game without mistakes, which are common in the early season. But it was evident by the time the fourth quarter started that these were two teams that did not accept losing gracefully.

The Hawks' slogan — "Refuse to lose" — could easily be assigned to Salem.

Certainly it was a story of two halves, with defense ruling in each: Salem's in the first, Harrison's in the second.

The Hawks, a three-point type of

See HAWKS, C2

## Groves reverses course on Farmington

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High looked like the better basketball team at the start of its game Tuesday against visiting Birmingham Groves.

But it didn't end that way as Groves eventually won going away, 55-38.

Occasionally, big changes occur during a 32-minute contest, and this was one of those times.

Groves overcame a first-quarter deficit to take the lead at halftime and gradually increased the margin throughout the second half.

### BASKETBALL

"I think we started to play harder," Groves coach Gary Sharpe said. "We were much more intense in the second half, actually from the second quarter."

"We came out very nonchalant. We couldn't hang on to the ball; we gave up easy baskets, second shots. Fortunately, that turned around for us."

In the first quarter, it seemed Farmington was into the flow of its offense more, crashed the boards better and was ahead at the end, 13-8.

"We started off well," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "In the second quarter, we kinda fell apart and never did get back in sync the rest of the game."

"I didn't think we, obviously, played well. We could make lot of excuses, but the bottom line is we didn't execute the offense and had too many breakdowns."

Brian Hayden scored 11 of his game-high 17 points, Eric Easter eight of his 14 and Jimmy Fox six of his 10 in the second half for Groves (4-3). Brian Schaeffer added six.

"This was a good team game for us, where people came off the bench and we were able to continue playing well," Sharpe said. "We didn't lose any momentum as kids came off the bench."

Six-foot-5 junior Trevor Gaines led Farmington with 10 points. Adam Weber scored eight and Nick Sertic seven.

Gaines had eight points in the first half but was held scoreless until the final 1:43 of the game.

"We started out playing him on the side and trying to deny him the ball," Sharpe said. "He hit two of his first three shots. Obviously, that wasn't working."

"We adjusted our position to play behind him, with the idea 'Don't let him take it to the glass; make him shoot over you.'"

Easter gave the green-and-gold Falcons their first lead, 18-17, and hit a buzzer-beater from the corner to put them on top at halftime, 22-17.

Groves never trailed again, but

See FALCONS, C2



All wrapped up: Farmington's Adam Weber was intentionally fouled Tuesday as he was heading toward the basket.

## Falcons' Thomas breaks school diving record

Senior Jeff Thomas broke the Farmington High School record in diving Thursday during a dual meet at Grosse Pointe North.

The Norseman won the meet, 107-70, but the first-place finish by Thomas was one of the highlights for the Falcons.

Thomas achieved a score of 286.60 points, which was 8.1 more than the old record that had stood for 15 years.

"It was just a great performance, probably the best diving performance I've seen in years," Farmington coach Ross Bandy said.

"He was very steady and very poised. He was finishing his dives better than I've ever seen him do. There weren't any gimmies, either. He dove

well, and the judges were tough. He earned it all the way."

"Jeff is more focused than he's ever been. He has a goal in mind. He was eighth in the state last year and is looking forward to finishing higher."

The Falcons had two other first places from Matt Bouckeleere in the individual medley (2:20.02) and Chris Owen in the breaststroke (1:05.62).

John Hawkins had a pair of second-place finishes for Farmington in the 200 freestyle (1:54.4) and the 500 (6:08.45).

Also placing second were Farmington's Nick Katcherian in the IM (2:33.2), John Lowry in div-

ing (1:27.8), Pete Bosler in the butterfly (1:01.8) and Todd Benivenga in the backstroke (1:02.08).

The Falcons are 1-2 in dual meets.

### Lack of depth hurts Harrison cause

Farmington Harrison had good performances against powerful South Lyon, but what the Hawks needed were more swimmers.

South Lyon came to North Farmington to swim against Harrison and went away Tuesday night with a 103-80 win.

"The boys swam great," Harrison coach Lisa Collins said. "They had the depth, and we didn't"

See SWIMMING, C4