

SPORTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1997

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

McNish wins over-30 title

McNish Sport and Trophy won the over-30 league championship Wednesday in the Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association.

In the finals at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, McNish had to win twice against unbeaten Miller Arts Supply and did so with 5-3 and 3-1 victories.

Randy Knockart scored two goals for McNish in the first game. Ron Dawson, Denny LaPointe and Dave Beldis added one apiece.

McNish trailed 3-2 after two periods but scored the last three goals. Dan Anderson, Tom Froisnuth and Bob Sachs accounted for the Miller goals.

After an hour-long break, the teams played the second game at 10:30 p.m. McNish was up 3-0 when Miller scored with three minutes left in the contest.

Scott Brandon, Scott Anderson and Dawson scored the McNish goals. Miller avoided a shutout with a Walt Schram goal.

Other members of the McNish team are player/coach Gerry Ashe, Dave Phelps, Pete Fulda, John Howard, Don Masco, Rich Probst and Stef Sysko. McNish had a 4-1 record of 27-5-14.

Dawson was the team's leading scorer with 36 goals and 22 assists for 58 points. Kevin Anderson was next with 50 points (30/20).

MIAA recognizes LaCrosse

Kalamazoo College sophomore Kelly LaCrosse of Farmington Hills (Harrison) was named to the All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association second team in women's basketball.

LaCrosse led the Hornets in scoring with 12.4 points per game, steals (1.7), free-throw percentage (.855), three-point field goals (31) and total field goals (93).

In two seasons, the 5-foot-9 guard has accumulated 532 points, 186 rebounds, 112 assists and 69 steals while starting all 50 games.

LaCrosse was twice named MIAA Player of the Week, and she set a school record with 15 free throws made in one game, breaking the mark of 14 set by Laura Behling in 1986.

Senior center Dana Wade of Detroit (Morey High School) had nine rebounds in her final game for Siena Heights College—a 95-52 loss to Spring Arbor in the first round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's basketball tournament.

Wade started eight games for the Saints, played in 23 of 30 contests and averaged three points and three rebounds per game.

Siena Heights was 3-7 in the conference and 10-20 overall.

Falcons have fundraiser

The Farmington Baseball Boosters Club is selling tickets in a fundraising effort.

Ticket holders have the chance to win \$500 weekly for 20 weeks for a total of \$10,000.

If your ticket number matches the Michigan Lotto's Wednesday Evening Daily 3 Straight number, you win \$500.

Tickets are \$20 apiece. There are 20 chances to win per ticket.

You must be 18 years old to participate. Winners will be contacted by phone. Each ticket can be a multiple winner.

To purchase a ticket contact Booster Club member Don Cohagen at (810) 477-8641.

Spring hockey school

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct a spring instructional league at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena April 7 to May 22.

The seven-week program will include professional coaching of individual skills and team concepts for hockey players of all skill levels.

The program is open to Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees and Bantams. Class will meet Monday and Thursday evenings and will consist of eight one-hour practices and six one-hour games.

The cost is \$195 and includes 14 hours of ice time. All players will receive a Suburban Hockey School jersey. Full hockey equipment is required. For information call (810) 478-1600.

Gymnasts get high marks

A pair of Farmington Hills gymnasts achieved high marks in the Eighth Annual Wolverine Classic March 8-9 at the University of Michigan's Keene Arena.

Representing the Oakland Gymnastics Training Center in Walled Lake, 14-year-old Erin Kaufman won the Junior II Division vault competition with an 8.925. She also placed fourth on bars (8.9) and seventh in the all-around (34.625).

Oakland Gymnastics teammate Amy Russo, 15, placed third on bars (8.8) and fourth on floor exercise (9.05) in the Senior II Division.

This year's meet involved 300 gymnasts from 23 gyms, representing four states and Canada.

Soccer people wanted

Players, coaches and trainers for a Livonia-based Little Caesars and recreation soccer program are wanted.

Coaches are in need of girls for under-13, -14, -16, -17, -18 and open teams, along with boys and girls recreation teams, and under-10 and -11 select teams.

For more information, call (313) 464-0114.

Hills youth makes select field



Brad Jaffe, a 15-year-old sophomore at North Farmington High School, was one of four boys chosen to represent the United States in the Maccabiah Games later this year in Israel.

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

Mark Spitz used the Maccabiah Games to eventually become an Olympic swimming legend.

Ernie Grunfeld did the same, using the same games to catapult his career into the National Basketball Association.

And now Brad Jaffe hopes the Maccabiah Games will be the beginning of great things for his tennis career.

The 15-year-old sophomore at North Farmington High School was recently selected to represent the U.S. in the games July 14-25 in Israel.

The Maccabiah Games, open to Jewish athletes, take place every four years like the Olympics. And, like the Olympics, athletes from all over the world will compete.

Maccabiah Games coordinators estimate more than 5,600 athletes from more than 60 countries will participate in approximately 30 sports.

Jaffe will compete on the eight-member U.S. team, which consists of four boys and four girls. To qualify, a player must have been born 1981-1983. He is the only Michigan resident to make the tennis squad.

"I'm really looking forward to visiting Israel," Jaffe said. "I had some friends go there last summer and

they really liked it. I plan on seeing everything I can."

Unlike the Olympics, the Maccabiah Games house athletes by sport. After the opening ceremonies take place in Tel Aviv, Jaffe will travel to Haifa and live for two weeks with tennis players from around the world.

He'll have three chances to win a gold medal over his global roommates as he will compete in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Jaffe's trip to Israel will culminate a quick, three-year journey to the top of his level. Jaffe didn't begin playing competitive tennis until age 12 but has made considerable progress in a short time.

As a freshman last spring, Jaffe compiled a 20-4 mark playing No. 2 singles for the Raiders. He breezed through the Western Lakes Activities Association without a loss, only to lose in the conference tournament to Plymouth Salem's Gabe Burnstein.

"I was a little nervous going into that meet, because I had beaten him in a close match, 7-6, 7-6," Jaffe said. "But I plan on using that loss as a stepping stone. My goal is to win the conference this season."

Opponents at the Maccabiah Games — and the WLA — should beware of the new Jaffe. In the past year alone, he has grown six inches

and now stands 5-foot-11.

Jaffe is ranked No. 6 in southeastern Michigan by the United States Tennis Association in the 16-year-old category.

"I consider my ground strokes, especially my backhand, as my strength," Jaffe said. "I'm also a good athlete and can get to the ball quick on the court."

Serving is the area Jaffe hopes to improve on, but his growth spurt should help.

"The taller you are usually the stronger the serve," Jaffe said. "A strong serve is important because, if you have a great serve, you can beat anyone."

In addition to hard practice — Jaffe plays four to five times a week — he owes much of his success to his instructors at the Sports Club in West Bloomfield: Joe Brennan and Steve Herdolia.

Jaffe also lives in a tennis environment as his father, Jeff, 10-year old sister and 13- and 7-year old brothers also play tennis.

Brad's father said his son's competitiveness is the key to his success. Jaffe's competitive nature was evident by his decision to pursue tennis and not baseball, which he grew up playing.

"I chose tennis because I like the fact it's an individual game more than a team sport," Jaffe said.

Jaffe's decision now appears to have been the smart choice as a future in tennis seems a real possibility.

"I hope to eventually play pro tennis, but I'd like to attend college first and play tennis there," he said.



Brad Jaffe: Farmington Hills tennis player selected to compete in Maccabiah Games.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BARNES

All-Area selection: Farmington High senior Charlie Jaeger (left) earned a place on the 1997 All-Observer wrestling team in the 136-pound weight class. Seventeen area wrestlers are recognized as first-team honorees.

Farmington's Jaeger among area's best

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

This year's All-Observer wrestling team counts three repeat selections among its 17 first-team members.

Wayne Memorial senior Richard Watson made the area honor roll for the third straight year.

It's two in a row for Livonia Stevenson senior Nick Petryk and Plymouth Salem junior Teono Wilson.

Moving up from the second and third teams are Stevenson's Katsuhiko Bueda and Mike Allinen, Salem's Eric Coburn and Dan Hamblin, Wayne Memorial's George Buckner and Livonia Churchill's Bob Fowler.

The first team also includes Richard Brammer and Dan Sedor of Stevenson, Marc Dugas, Westland John Glenn, Mitch Hancock and John Abshire, Redford Catholic Central; Charlie Jaeger, Farmington; Anwar Crutchfield, Salem; and Craig Rose, Clarencville.

Western Lakes Activities Association champion Stevenson leads with nine wrestlers ahead among the first, second and third all-area teams.

WRESTLING

Catholic Central and Wayne Memorial had seven wrestlers each selected, Salem six, John Glenn four, Lutheran Westland and Garden City three apiece.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Richard Brammer (275), senior, Stevenson: Brammer finished strong, placing fifth in the Division I state meet and becoming the first Stevenson heavyweight to do so.

Brammer (29-11) was second in the Observerland and WLA tournaments, fourth in the district and third in the regional. He also placed second at Garden City and third at the Shamrock Invitational.

"Richard is an example of what can be done if you combine hard work and determination," coach Don Berg said. "He focused on a goal, which he could and did reach—placing at state."

Marc Dugas (275), senior, John Glenn: Dugas was a state qualifier who finished the season with a 20-4 record. He was the Western Lakes champion, and he also placed first in district and regional tournaments.

Katsuhiko Bueda (103), junior, Stevenson: Bueda, wrestling competitively for just his third season, went all the way to the state finals. The Division I runner-up was a WLA, district and regional champion.

Sueda, who was 45-6 this year and is 93-20 in his career, also won the Salem Invitational and was second at Trenton, Garden City and CC. He won the Observerland title at 112 pounds.

"Kat has the tools to be a three-time state qualifier," Berg said. "He has the ability to do it all; he's a great competitor."

Mitch Hancock (132), freshman, Detroit CC: Hancock was outstanding for just his first year of high school competition, compiling a 48-3 record.

He was champion of the Toys for Tots, Salem, Davison, Southgate Anderson and Catholic League tournaments. Hancock was second at the district but couldn't wrestle at the regional due to an injury.

"He's one of the most dedicated wrestlers in the room," coach Mike Rodriguez said. "I am certain you will hear more of him in years to come."

Eric Coburn (119), senior, Salem: Coburn compiled a 52-5 record this year and set a school record for single-season victories. He won district and regional championships and placed fifth in the state.

Coburn, who defeated two state champions during the season, also finished first in two Salem tournaments as well as the Observerland and Holt Invitionals. He was second in the WLA.

"His record this year included 24 pins, and he concluded his career with a 138-43 record."

"Eric is one of the few Salem wrestlers to score over 300 points in a season," coach

Ron Krueger said. "He has knocked two state champions off our record board by winning 52 matches in a season."

"Eric has left his mark on Salem wrestling over the last four years, and his picture will go on our wall of champions."

Dan Sedor (123), junior, Stevenson: Sedor was a state qualifier, finishing second in the regional and winning the district title.

He was second in the Observerland, WLA and Catholic Central tournaments. His season record was 40-12.

"Dan is a hard worker whose desire to be No. 1 drives him," Berg said. "He will fulfill this goal; I am sure."

Richard Watson (230), senior, Wayne: Watson is a two-time state placer who finished third in Division I this year while posting a 48-2 record.

He holds school records for dual-meet wins, tournament wins, dual and tournament pins, career pins, single-season wins and most career gold medals.

Watson, who was 120-29 in his career, was the tournament champion at Trenton, Ypsilanti Lincoln, Lincoln Park and Observerland. He also won Mega Conference, district and regional titles.

"Rich has been wrestling for five years under my direction and, out of hundreds of wrestlers, was one of the all-time greats," coach David Davis said. "He will be remembered in our Hall of Fame. Rich was one of the best."

See ALL-AREA WRESTLING, D3