

**FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE**

McMullens rule 8K race

The husband and wife team of Paul and Jill McMullen came away winners in the first Wayne County Lightfest 8K run Tuesday in Hines Park.

The race drew over 500 runners. Proceeds benefited Friends of Wayne County Parks and the American Heart Association.

Paul McMullen, a former NCAA champion from Eastern Michigan University who represented the U.S. in the 1996 Olympic Games in the 1,500-meter run, won the event in 24 minutes, 19 seconds.

His wife, Jill, who represented the U.S. last summer in the 800 meters (placing ninth) at the World Championships in Athens, Greece, was the women's winner in 30:01.

Whalers split with Sting

After a disappointing letdown Saturday against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, the Plymouth Whalers repulsed a Sarnia Sting comeback Sunday to record a 5-3 victory in an Ontario Hockey League game at Compuware Arena.

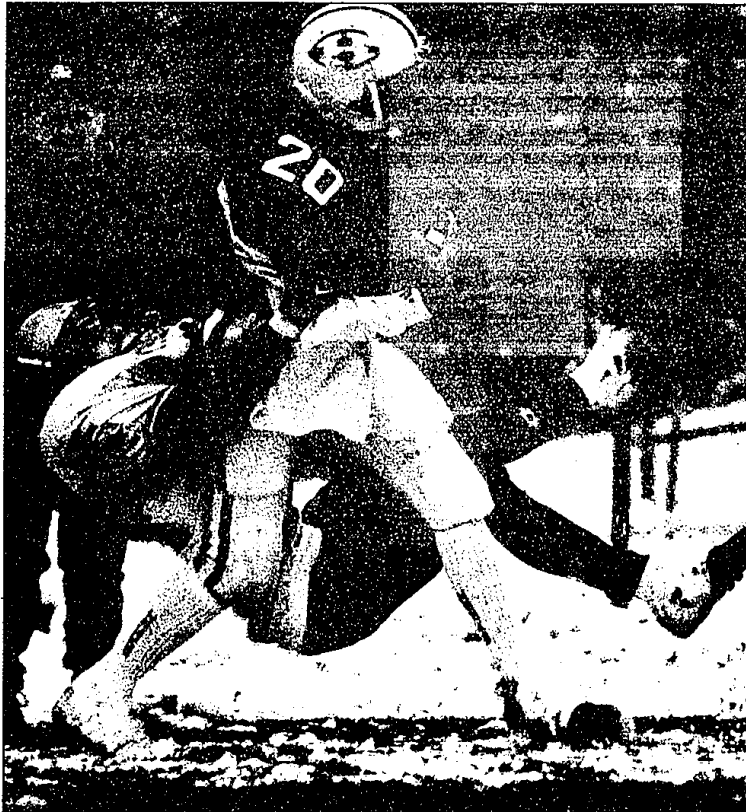
The Sting avenged that defeat by beating the Whalers 5-1 Tuesday in Sarnia.

The Sting opened the scoring in the rematch, getting a first-period goal from Andrew Pronkurnicki. Ivan Novosiltsev made it 2-0 before the Whalers retaliated, getting a goal from David Legwand, his 22nd of the season.

But it was all Sting after that, as Detroit slipped to 11-7-3. Sarnia is 10-9-6.

On Saturday, the Whalers and the Greyhounds battled to a 7-7 tie after the Whalers let a 7-3 third-period lead get away from them.

The Whalers remain tied with the Erie Otters for second place in the OHL's West Division with 25 points.



Playoff run: Ypsilanti defender Ken Dailey has a hard time keeping his feet on the snowy, slippery surface and tackling Harrison's Matt Reed in a Class A playoff game Saturday at Buller Field.

State semi pits Hawks vs. Maples

No. 1-ranked Farmington Harrison is paired against No. 5 Birmingham Seaholm in a state semifinal football game Saturday at 1 p.m.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Hardly a day passes that coach John Herrington doesn't look at moments of the last (and only) time his Farmington Harrison football team played Birmingham Seaholm.

"I still have a picture up in the family room of John Miller running through the mud," he said. "It was a hard-fought game; I don't remember the score, but it was close."

The Hawks won the 1984 Class A playoff game; Herrington didn't forget that, but his vagueness on the finer details is understandable. That was 13 years, 134 victories and five state championships ago.

Harrison (11-0) meets Seaholm (10-1) again Saturday in a Class A semifinal contest at Rochester High School.

This time the stakes are higher. A trip to the Silverdome and a berth in the state final on Friday, Nov. 28, is the reward instead of a regional title.

"Way back in August, Herrington thought it might come to this. That's why he and his staff have scouted the Maples a half dozen times or more.

"Right from the very beginning of the year, we thought they'd probably win that region," he said. "They probably thought about us, so I'm sure they have as many films as we do on them."

Both teams have high-scoring offenses and rock-solid defenses. Like the first meeting, this one has the potential to be a close, hard-fought game, too.

Harrison has scored 91 consecutive

Please see HAWKS, C4

Marlins remain league's best

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

It was a long day but worth the wait Saturday for the Farmington Hills Mercy swimmers and divers.

The Marlins accumulated 516 points during the course of a 10-hour meet to capture their 31st Catholic League championship in 32 years.

Birmingham Marian was a distant second with 288 points in the Royal Oak Dondoro pool.

Mercy won all but one event and had three double individual winners in sophomores Elizabeth Posvar and Kelly Carlin and freshman Amy McCullough.

"We were pretty solid all the way through," Mercy coach Jim Downs said. "We had a couple kids in exhibition swims who would have been eighth or ninth."

"We just had too many of them. We let the seniors swim, but we tried to spread the wealth around as much as possible."

Posvar, who won the individual medley and backstroke last year, was first in the 50-yard freestyle (25.01) and the breaststroke (1:09.03) this year.

SWIMMING

Both are season-best performances, and her breaststroke time is league record. The old record belonged to former Mercy swimmer Bethany Budde, who swam 1:09.3 three years ago.

Carlin won the 200 freestyle (1:59.92) and the 500 (6:21.14); McCullough claimed victory in the individual medley (2:17.01) and backstroke (1:02.26).

Senior Becca Gould defended her league title in diving with a varsity record of 404.6 points for 11 dives.

Sophomore Erin Downs won the butterfly (1:01.08) for the Marlins. Marian's Lauren Najarian was the only non-Mercy winner with first place in the 100 freestyle.

Mercy senior Callan, Posvar, senior Jenny MacDonald and senior Danielle Clayton won the medley relay (1:55.40).

Posvar anchored the winning 200 freestyle relay team that included Carlin, McCullough and junior McKenzie Mayne. Their time was 1:44.18.

The Marlins finished the meet with Clayton, MacDonald, senior Emily Thompson and senior Betsy Lambert winning the 400 freestyle relay in 3:46.58.

"We didn't load up the relays," Downs said. "The ones we'll use at the state meet are completely different. We still dominated the relays, even though Marian was DQed in the 200 free."

Mercy had second-place swims from Thompson in the 200 free (2:01.86), Callan in the individual medley (2:19.98) and backstroke (1:03.61); MacDonald in the butterfly with a state cut (1:01.65), freshman Elizabeth MacDonald in the 100 free (59.34) and Lambert in the 500 free (5:24.58). Senior Jamee Pulum was second in diving (315).

The athletes arrived at 7 a.m. for warm-ups; prelims took place in the morning and the finals after a lunch break. The meet ended at 6:15 p.m.

"Hats off to every kid who was there," Downs said. "No other league does that. It's really a grueling thing. All the kids who were there need to be saluted."

(See Page C2 for a preview of the state meet this weekend.)



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Championship contributor: Senior Betsy Lambert finished second in the 500-yard freestyle and anchored Mercy's 400 freestyle relay team in the Catholic League meet.

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