

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Indoor soccer tournaments

SoccerZone of Novi will have registration for its second season of indoor soccer through Saturday, Dec. 6, for both individuals and teams.

Cost for individuals is \$66; for teams, the fee is \$695 plus referee fees (which vary by age divisions). The eight-game season goes Dec. 14, Feb. 14; you can register in person at SoccerZone, located on Grand River between Meadowbrook and Novi roads.

SoccerZone is currently conducting registration for its annual Holiday Blast Soccer Tournament, which will be Dec. 28-29. Age divisions will be from under-10 through under-19, for both boys and girls.

Cost is \$200 per team; registration deadline is Dec. 15. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of three 45-minute games. For further information, call SoccerZone at (248) 374-0500.

Motion hoop tryouts

Michigan Motion, an AAU girls basketball club, will have open tryouts Sunday, Dec. 7, Friday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 14, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Tryout times are 6-6:30 p.m. for ages 11-13; 6:30-8 p.m. for ages 14-15; and 8-9:30 p.m. for ages 16-17. All players are welcome; for more information call Mike Tuck between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. at (248) 486-1615.

Winter hitting camp

The baseball coaching staff at Madonna University will conduct a pair of indoor winter hitting camps next month.

Session I (ages 8-12) will be from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Dec. 21, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22; Session II (ages 13-18) will be from 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, and 4-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

The camp features two full-length hitting tunnels and video taping. The cost for advance registration is \$80. Space is limited.

For more information, call Madonna assistant coach Sean Maloney at (313) 432-5727.

College sports news

Schoolcraft College setter Amber Wells (Plymouth Canton) was named to the All-Region 12 volleyball team along with Henry Ford's Heather Wohlfiel (Redford Thurston) and Nicole Vondracek (Livonia Ladywood).

All-Eastern Conference choices in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association included Sarah Gregerson and Megan McGinty (Livonia Churchill).

Honorable mention choices include Miry Sullivan (Churchill), Stacy Campain, Kim Washnock (Farmington High School) and Janet Hinz, all of Schoolcraft.

Inline hockey clinic

Roll-America Inline Hockey Academy will have a Thanksgiving weekend and hockey clinic Nov. 28-30 at U.S. Blades, 5700 Drake Road in West Bloomfield.

The fee is \$95 for all three days and includes a hockey jersey. The Division I session (ages 9-11) will take place 9-11 a.m. each day, Division II (ages 10-12) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The next session of Roll-America's inline hockey school will be Dec. 29-31 at U.S. Blades. For more information call (248) 661-9769.

Bike Trekkers meet

Serious bikers can get on the right track Sunday mornings by joining members of Bike Trekkers for a ride through West Bloomfield. Bike Trekkers meets at 8 a.m. each Sunday morning at the West Bloomfield Recreation Center and ride 10-15 miles on various routes through the subdivisions of West Bloomfield.

Routes include both paved and dirt roads as well as the West Bloomfield Trail Network. Bike treks may also take riders outside West Bloomfield. The program is free and there are no residency requirements. Cyclists must be at least 16 years of age, have a bike with sturdy tires that can endure gravel roads and must wear a helmet.

For more information call Doug McEwen at (248) 738-2500 or leave a message at (248) 788-3940.

Lakers shipwreck Raiders, 44-26



West Bloomfield's basketball team turned up the pressure on North Farmington in the second quarter Friday and won the district final, 44-26.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield gained a district championship and it hopes some added respect for its girls basketball team Friday.

The Lakers, who've heard the talk about playing an easy schedule in Division III of the Oakland Activities Association, made believers of North Farmington with a 44-26 victory in the final of the district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

"We're coming together as a team to show people how powerful we are — that West Bloomfield is no joke," said 6-foot-2 junior center Kim Kilpela, who led the Lakers with a game-high 17 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks.

"We lost our first game of the district last year, and we had to come out and prove how good we are, where we stand."

Where the Lakers stand is 20-2 overall and headed to the Class A regional tournament at Plymouth Salem to face Cuthbert League champion Birmingham Marion at 7-30 p.m. Monday. The final game will be played Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The Lakers weren't joking around when they took charge of the district final in the second quarter.

With North holding a 13-10 lead halfway through the period, West Bloomfield turned the game around by scoring the last 10 points of the half.

The Lakers continued to dominate in the third quarter, netting the first seven points and outscoring the Raiders 14-5 to take a commanding, 34-18 lead into the finale.

"We knew their legs would be tired from Wednesday's game with (Farmington) Harrison," West Bloomfield coach Lance Davis said. "We wanted to make them work to see what they were doing and take it away from that point on."

"When they felt they had weathered everything we threw at them, we came back with something more. We intensified it and made the game more up-tempo; we came at them full blast."

Sophomore Heather Robbins scored nine points for West Bloomfield, junior Heather Pedersen seven, sophomore Crystal Andrews six and freshman Lisa Copeland five. Seniors Kellee Fournier and Kate Devereux and freshman Samantha McComb scored six points apiece for the Raiders (12-10). Senior Melissa Gratz added five and junior Katie Vihtelie three.

Vihtelie's three-point play at the end of the first quarter tied the score, 10-10, and Devereux gave North its last lead with a three early in the second.

It was all Lakers after that as their defensive intensity went up considerably. The Raiders never got the ball inside again with any success, due in large part to Kilpela's intimidating presence.

"We talked about our girls stepping up, and I thought she stepped up and had a big game when we needed it," Davis said. "She controlled the paint, offensively and defensively; she wasn't going to let us loose."

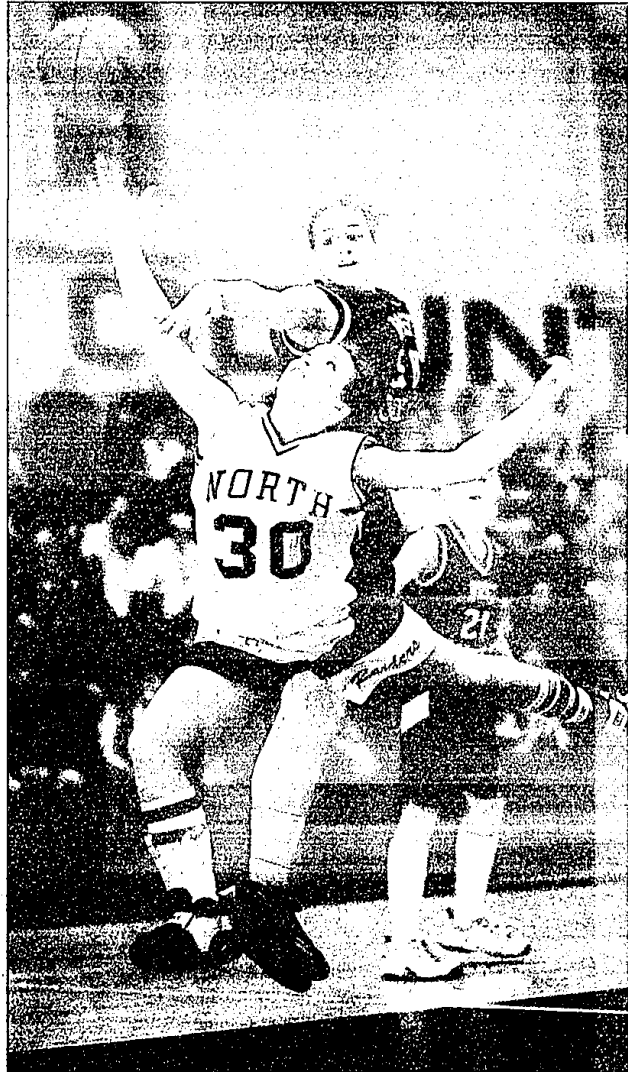
Furthermore, the three weren't falling for North as they did Wednesday in its win over Harrison. The Raiders were 5-of-24 from three-point distance, and they made two late in the fourth quarter after the game had been decided. The Lakers were 1-of-13 from long range.

West Bloomfield's press began to have a greater effect, too. Both teams had 14 turnovers, but the Raiders were hurried and off balance from the mid second quarter on.

"Our game plan was to allow Samantha to bring the ball up the floor in the first quarter and see what she could do," Davis said. "She orchestrated a great first quarter for them. We decided to take her out of the game and force someone else to orchestrate for them."

Kilpela had 12 points in the first half. Five players scored a field goal for West Bloomfield in the third quarter; Rob-

Please see RAIDERS, E3



STAFF PHOTO BY JEFF KILGEL

Road block: North Farmington's Kellee Fournier drives the lane, but West Bloomfield center Kim Kilpela is an intimidating force in the middle.

Mustangs roll over Chargers and into regional

BY MIKE HORNBAUM
STAFF WRITER

TOURNAMENT

The final score of Birmingham Marian's 77-40 victory over Southfield-Lathrup Friday was an accurate reflection of the Mustangs' dominance. Yet the district final basketball game did feature some drama.

Marian's full-court, trapping press forced numerous turnovers and sparked the Mustangs to a 39-12 lead midway through the second quarter. With a 27-point lead, it was easy for Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone to remove her starters and substitute freely. It was a tougher call to leave

her starters on the bench during a 16-2 run which brought the Chargers within 41-29 at halftime.

Lillie-Cicerone admitted she was nervous as she watched Marian's reserves lose over half of the lead.

"I felt torn," she said. "I felt I should take the kids out. But it is more embarrassing to take them out, or to leave them in when they're doing poorly. They struggled in the last three minutes of the half. They need more playing time. This was a game where they

could get time. My second group can play. They showed it in the second half."

Before the second group could redeem itself, Marian's starters reasserted their dominance and ended any remaining drama.

The Chargers actually improved a bit against Marian's press in the second half, but Lathrup still committed plenty of turnovers in its half-court offense. Lathrup went scoreless until 2:22 remained in the third quarter, by which time Marian had regained its 27-point lead.

Marian's big girls, 6-foot-3 Nicole Annejionu and 6-1 Stacey Yankovich,

scored four points apiece to open the second half, then 5-6 guard Breann Wales scored six straight points to open a 65-28 lead. Marian pointed to a 67-33 advantage after three quarters.

Marian's last starter left the contest with 6:01 remaining, but this time the reserves not only held the lead, they increased it throughout the final minutes.

Other than the second quarter problems, Lillie-Cicerone felt the game went "the way we hoped it would. We did a nice job."

The opening quarter featured pro-

Please see MUSTANGS, E3

Farmington's Gaines commits to play at Vermont

Farmington High School's Trevor Gaines has signed a national letter of intent to play college basketball for the University of Vermont.

The 6-foot-6, 210-pound post player averaged 13.6 points and nearly 10 rebounds per game for the Falcons last season.

Gaines is the first Farmington player in 15 years to receive a Division I basketball scholarship, according to his high school coach, Denny Mikel.

"Vermont is getting a super kid," Mikel said. "He is a great student with a grade-point average of 3.3, and he's a very friendly kid who is popular with the entire student body."

"He is also very coachable. I think Vermont is getting a diamond in the rough. They will be very happy with Trevor."

Gaines, who won't turn 17 until the end of this

BOYS BASKETBALL

month, was named to the all-star team at the Five-Star Camp in Pittsburgh last summer. He visited the Vermont campus earlier this fall.

"We are extremely excited about the future of Trevor Gaines at Vermont," coach Tom Brennan said. "Being that he is only 18 years old, we think he has tremendous potential. We look forward to him having a great senior year before he joins us next year."

CC's Young signs with Wolverines

Detroit Catholic Central's 6-foot-9 senior center Chris Young has signed a national letter of intent with the University of Michigan men's basketball team.

Young, who verbally committed to U-M in July, is one of two players to sign during the early signing period. He signed despite the recent turmoil at U-M surrounding the firing of coach Steve Fisher, who was replaced on an interim basis by Brian Ellerbe.

"The fact of having the opportunity to get a degree from the University of Michigan and the weight and prestige that a U-M degree carries is a huge factor in my decision," Young said in a statement. "The recruiting process is very flattering and was a great opportunity for me to learn about other schools, talk to and get to know great coaches."

"Waiting to the spring will allow us to know who the permanent coach will be, but will not change how I feel about the program, the players, the coaches there now, or the school. At some point basketball will end and the degree will last a lifetime."