

FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
**SPORTS  
SCENE**

**Cobras conduct tryouts**

The 17-year-old NFWB Cobras travel baseball team will be conducting tryouts. The Cobras will participate in the Elite Connie Mack Federation League. Call Bob Sopo at (248) 366-1091 for details.

**Soccer registration**

The Farmington Soccer Club's spring registration is taking place through Monday, Feb. 2.

The fee is \$45 for returning players and \$65 for new players. A \$25 late fee will be added after Feb. 2.

All boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 19 are invited to join. Each child participates regardless of ability or skill level.

Registration forms are available at local Farmington libraries or by calling Butch Babler at (248) 471-4379.

**Special Olympics event**

The 21st Annual Super Stars Competition to benefit Oakland County Special Olympics will be 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Silverdome. Admission is free.

Local celebrities will act as team captains, and each team will participate in three sport-type events. Each team is composed of at least two team sponsors who have donated \$1,000, a local celebrity and two Special Olympians.

The money raised from the competition helps defer the yearly costs of training, competition, uniforms, equipment and other costs associated with Special Olympics. The event raised over \$95,000 last year.

Corporations, business, service organizations and individuals are invited to be team sponsors. The cost is \$1,000 and is tax deductible. For more information call (248) 674-4924.

**MHSAA ticket offer**

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is offering group ticket pricing for its boys basketball finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing March 26-28.

Groups of 10 or more can obtain a discount off the standard ticket price for any semifinal or final session.

The discount is \$2 off the standard \$5 semifinal and \$6 final ticket prices. Tickets will be priced at \$3 for each semifinal session and \$4 for each final session.

The group discount will only be for upper deck bench seating subject to availability.

All orders must be submitted to the Breslin Center ticket office by Friday, Feb. 27. Order forms can be obtained from the Breslin Center, One Birch Row, East Lansing, MI 48824, or can be downloaded from the MHSAA web site at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Call (517) 432-5000 for more information.

**Pro tennis tourney**

The Cadillac Pro Indoor USTA Challenger will take place Feb. 27 at The Sports Club of West Bloomfield.

The event has attracted the tour's aspiring stars, currently ranked from 100 to 250 in the world by the ATP. The prize money is \$50,000.

The tournament, one of 16 such events in the United States, includes a 32-singles and 16-team doubles competition. Day sessions begin at 11 a.m. and evening sessions at 7 p.m. The finals will be 7 p.m. Feb. 7.

"This is a chance to see great tennis up close and personal," said event promoter Glenn Healey. "Michael Chang, Todd Martin and Mali Wozniak are all won Challenger tournaments on their way to the top of the tennis rankings."

Miko Russell, 19, of Bloomfield Hills, will make his pro debut at this tournament. His world ranking rose from 1,314 last summer to No. 381 currently. Call (248) 626-9880 for ticket information.

**OCC Athletes of Week**

Freshman guard Montez Briggs (Oak Park) and sophomore forward Karyn Kerr (Waterford) were named Oakland Community College male and female Athletes of the Week.

Griggs had 32 points and 16 rebounds in two basketball games last week. He also had 13 assists, six steals and shot six three-pointers.

Kerry had 12 points on 6-of-10 shooting and nine rebounds in OCC's 81-69 loss to Henry Ford on Jan. 21.

**Raiders prevail in pool duel**



STAFF PHOTO BY BETAN MITCHELL

North defeats city rival: Senior Dan Gabriel won the 100-yard backstroke and assisted in a pair of relay victories as North Farmington outscored Farmington Harrison in boys swimming Tuesday, 125-60. See story and Observerland best swim times on Page C3.

## Hawks, Raiders prevail in hoop

North Farmington and Farmington Harrison were non-league winners in boys basketball Tuesday, and Farmington High just missed making it a perfect night for the hometown team.

North defeated visiting Waterford Matt, 60-47, behind a 23-point effort by senior Ray Lousia.

Senior Matt Derocher's 19 points helped host Harrison overtake Birmingham Groves, 55-49.

Farmington lost a heartbreaker in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest as visiting Livonia Churchill rolled in the second half for a 72-71 victory.

Lousia, who also had five assists, hit two free throws with 3.2 seconds remaining to clinch the North win.

**BASKETBALL**

"Ray has been playing really well," North coach Brian Swinehart said, adding Lousia is averaging 18 points in the last four games. "He kinda carried us through the stretch."

The Raiders were two points better in the first quarter, 16-14, and one in the fourth, 13-12. The scoring was even in the middle quarters at 21 apiece.

Dan Singer added seven points and Phil Watha had 10 rebounds for North, 6-4 overall.

"We didn't play as well as we could, so we were happy to come out with a win," Swinehart said.

He suspected the Raiders might not be emotionally up for the game, occurring between a big win over Walled Lake Central last week and another big game Friday against Plymouth Salem.

"We were a little bit flat, but I give the guys credit," he said. "On a night when they didn't play as well as they

Please see BASKETBALL, C4

## Wrestlers vie for Observerland title

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

**PREVIEW**

Sooner or later, time changes everything. Even an American Football Conference team will eventually win a Super Bowl, given enough time.

So when the Seventh Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament gets under way Saturday morning at Westland John Glenn, expect some changes.

Nothing too drastic — three of last

year's top four teams will probably still be at the top of the standings by day's end. What seems likely to change, however, is the order of their finish.

Livonia Stevenson is the reigning Observerland king. The Spartans have owned the tournament the last few years, winning three of the last four. Only Redford Catholic Central was

able to interrupt that dominance with a championship in 1996.

"We've been lucky," Stevenson coach Don Berg said. "We've had some good wrestlers. We still have some good wrestlers, but I don't know if we're good enough to win it this year."

While the Spartans have had to plug holes in their lineup due to injury and graduation losses, the team that gave them the most trouble at last year's tournament — Plymouth Salem — has

flourished. That's why the Rocks, beaten by a more six points last year, are the favorites this time.

None of it means too much to Salem coach Ron Krueger, however.

"You know, we're not even ranked in the top 10 in the state, and we've beaten several teams that are," Krueger said. "All that being favored and that other stuff doesn't mean anything."

Please see WRESTLING, C5

## Marlins breeze to victory in giant slalom ski meet

Coach Tom Gable's ski teams hit peaks and valleys in their most recent meet. Farmington Hills Mercy got the peaks, but Detroit Catholic Central hit a bit of a rut.

"The girls did super," Gable said. "They were a powerhouse."

"The boys is a very competitive division this year. Catholic Central, Brighton and Birmingham Seaholm are trading back and forth."

"This time CC came out on the shorter end. We were third."

time of 30.00 second. The other senior co-captain, Denise Hartsock, was second with a combined time of 31.00.

Junior Krysten Salla of the Marlins was fourth with a combined time of 31.20. Junior Renee Burek's 31.60 was good for sixth spot while Jamie Borowicz finished 23rd with a time of 34.40.

"That was a good score," Gable said of Mercy's 13 points. "A 1-2-4-6. That's nice. The girls skied very well."

"They're happy with their finish. That puts them solid in the lead for the division."

Mercy has another slalom meet today, then the division championship set for Thurs., Feb. 5.

Mercy has two first-place finishes and a fourth in three meets in the Mt. Brighton Division of the Southeast Michigan Ski League.

"I think they're going to use this performance as a springboard," Gable said. "Our two senior captains are in midseason form."

One would think they should be because this is midseason. Except that due to the unusual weather, it isn't.

"We can't afford to miss any more ski time," Gable said. "Our seniors have already suffered through two complete



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBSON

Out of the gate: Renee Burek starts down the Mount Brighton ski slope, helping Mercy win the giant slalom.

Please see SKIING, C5