

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### MIAA honors Valade

Kalamazoo College freshman Mary-Jane Valade of Farmington Hills and Mercy High School was named the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association player of the week in women's basketball for Feb. 8-14.

Valade received the special recognition after leading the Hornets to an 80-42 win over Olivet College (Feb. 11) and an 86-74 victory at Adrian College (Feb. 14).

It was the first time this season the Hornets won back-to-back games.

Valade is the second Kalamazoo player to win the MIAA honor this season. Junior Kelly LaCasse of Harrison High School was named player of the week twice.

Valade matched her career high with 24 points against Adrian and helped Kalamazoo score a season-high 88 points Saturday. She had led the Hornets in scoring in three of the last four games.

She shot 10-of-13 from the field and had her best single-game shooting percentage (.769) against Adrian. She has connected on 71 percent (22-of-31) of her field goals in the last three games.

Valade ranks 10th in the MIAA for field-goal percentage (.428), seventh in scoring with 15.2 points per game and sixth in blocked shots with 0.7 per game.

Valade's strong play has helped Kalamazoo move into fourth place in the league standings. The Hornets are 5-6 in the MIAA and 8-15 overall. The top four teams in the league will host first-round playoff games.

Kalamazoo concludes the regular season Saturday at first-place Calvin. The playoffs begin Tuesday, Feb. 24.

### OCC picks top athletes

Montez Briggs and Jonaketa Sledge were named Oakland Community College Athletes-of-the-Week for Feb. 8-14.

Sledge (Detroit Cady), a 5-foot-10 sophomore forward on the women's basketball team, scored 61 points and had 25 rebounds in three games last week.

She also had three assists, one block and four steals as the Lady Raiders won two of three games.

Briggs (Oak Park) had 44 points, 22 assists and seven steals in three games for the men's basketball team, which had a 1-2 record last week. Briggs is a 6-11 freshman guard.

### Hawks win dual meet

Farmington Harrison concluded its dual-meet season in boys swimming Tuesday with a 115-68 victory over Livonia Franklin at North Farmington.

The Hawks finish 4-7 overall, 2-3 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Justin Barringer, Josh Duffy and Matt Walker won two events apiece, and each contributed to two relay victories for Harrison.

Duffy won the individual medley (2:16.14) and backstroke (58.30). Walker the 50 freestyle (24.85) and breaststroke (1:05.33). Barringer the 200 freestyle (1:53.33) and 500 freestyle (6:07.69).

All three teamed with Dan Price to win the 400 freestyle relay (3:42.82). Duffy and Walker joined J.T. Svoke and Max Suttles in winning the medley relay (1:51.11). Svoke, Suttles, Price and Barringer won the 200 freestyle relay (1:42.11).

Svoke also earned first place in diving with 183.8 points, and Harrison's Steve Schwedt won the butterfly (1:03.48).

### Soccer refs wanted

The Livonia YMCA Soccer Club is seeking referees for the spring season.

The YMCA sponsors the Michigan Wolves, Hawks, Meteors and numerous recreational and select teams of all ages.

Newly certified officials, as well as veteran refs, should call Chris Nolan at the YMCA at (734) 281-2161 or coordinator Jeff Caminsky at (734) 422-5963.

### LJAL baseball sign-up

The Livonia Junior Athletic League will hold baseball registration for youths ages 8-14 from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Berkeley Center. Those registering must reside in the Livonia or Clarenceville school districts.

# May leads OCC's basketball surge



■ Oakland CC's women's basketball team is building steam for the playoffs, and Carrie May of Farmington Hills is leading the way.



BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

After a slow start this season, the Oakland Community College women's basketball team has been on a roll the last month.

And a major reason for the Lady Raiders turnaround has been the play of hometown talent Carrie May, who was a star at North Farmington High School.

The 5-foot-10 sophomore forward leads OCC in scoring with 15.6 points per game and, over the last seven, is averaging an impressive 20.3.

OCC won five of the seven and has climbed into a fourth-place tie with Schoolcraft College in the MCCA Eastern Conference.

Including a forfeit win over Wayne CCC, the Lady Raiders have won six of their last eight to improve their record to 8-6 in the conference and 12-12 overall.

"We finally got our chemistry going after all this time and, hopefully, we'll play well through the playoffs and regional," May said. "We're just playing better together."

"Now we have a goal, to win the playoffs and regional coming up, so everyone is excited about that. That's our main focus. If we keep playing well, who knows?"

Post-season play and such lofty goals didn't seem likely for OCC early in the season.

The Lady Raiders lost their first four conference games and were 1-5 after the first six, though a 75-72 loss to first-place Macomb has since resulted in a forfeit victory.

The team's late-season surge has OCC preparing for a first-round MCCA state playoff game Monday. The tournament concludes with the final game Feb. 28, and the NJCAA Region XII tournament is March 3-7 in Muskegon.

"I think we have a really good chance," May said. "We've hung in there with pretty much every team, even Macomb; so we know we can play against anybody. It's just a matter of having a good night."

It's no small coincidence OCC's resurgence parallels a step up in May's performance.

She's probably the best all-round player on the team, averaging the most minutes (29.6) as well as 5.7 rebounds, 1.8 assists, 3.3 steals and 1.2 blocks.

May ranks second in Eastern Confer-

Please see MAY, C4

Homegrown hoop star: Carrie May, a former North Farmington standout, is playing a big role in the Oakland Community College women's basketball team's late-season surge toward the playoffs.

# Playoff-bound Raiders relish win over Chiefs

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER

## BASKETBALL

Now that's a role reversal. A year ago, Plymouth Canton was preparing for a run at its fourth straight Western Lakes Activities Association basketball tournament championship (which the Chiefs got) while North Farmington was getting ready for another trip to the "Final Four" — a reference to the bottom four finishers in the league, teams that don't qualify for the WLAA tournament.

But that was then. On Tuesday, Canton hosted the Raiders, with a berth in the league tournament at stake.

The Chiefs had to win if they were to defend their title. They didn't. The Raiders put together a strong finish to the third quarter, and that carried them to a 52-41 victory.

The win pushes North's record to 10-6 overall, 6-4 in the league. Canton slips to 5-11 and 4-6.

"I think we're in (the tournament) for sure," North coach Brian Swinehart said, "and that's the first time since I've been here."

For Swinehart, in his fourth year coaching at North, it was a night of firsts.

"As a coach, I've never won in this gym," he said. "I'm excited to be in the playoffs, and I'm excited to come in here and win."

The Raiders are in the WLAA playoffs for sure. Plymouth Salem clinched a tie for

first by beating Livonia Churchill Tuesday; the Rocks will get the tournament's No. 1 seed with a victory over winless Livonia Stevenson Friday.

Farmington Harrison and Westland John Glenn are tied for second at 8-2; North and Farmington are tied for fourth at 6-4. North plays host to Farmington Friday.

Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Western and Livonia Churchill are 5-5, just one game ahead of Canton. But, even if the Chiefs do win Friday at

Please see RAIDERS, C4

# Mustangs edge Rocks to claim WLAA crown

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

## WRESTLING

If it was poker and not wrestling, you could say Northville trumped Plymouth Salem's ace in a winner-take-all tournament Saturday.

The Mustangs didn't have to wait long to even the score with the Rocks after losing the Western Lakes Activities Association dual-meet title two days earlier to Salem, 33-24.

Northville held the better cards Saturday in winning the league tournament and claiming the official WLAA championship.

The Mustangs scored 249½ points to win their first WLAA title since 1992, the host Rocks 221½. Walled Lake Western was third (196), defending champion Livonia Stevenson fourth (146), Walled Lake Central fifth (99).

"If I'm Northville, I think I have to be happy as a pig in mud," Salem coach Ron Krueger said, "and Salem has to be disappointed because all year long we've beaten (state-ranked) teams like Holt, Bay City Western, Clarkston and Swartz Creek."

Thursday's (dual) match was for pride. There were no trophies, no medals. Northville is real good. They came back and dominated the tournament more than we did."

Krueger added the Mustangs will probably finish higher in the state team tournament, too.

"Some people project Northville to get to the final, and I think they'll be

Please see WRESTLING, C5



Tourney finalist: Farmington's Jerry Lema (top) nearly pins Dan Seder in the 135-pound final but lost an 8-7 decision in the end.