

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Ellis an All-American

Senior Evan Ellis of Farmington Hills, co-captain of the Johns Hopkins University men's basketball team, has been named an academic All-American.

Ellis, a 1994 graduate of North Farmington High School, is the only two-time winner of the Scholar-Athlete Award at prestigious Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md. Ellis is a psychology/pre-med major with a 3.86 grade-point average.

Ellis plans to attend medical school next year. He has been admitted to and is considering Cornell, Emory, Michigan and Northwestern medical schools.

The 6-foot-7 center led Johns Hopkins to a 20-6 record this year and a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament. Ellis was named the most valuable player in the Blue Jay Classic Tournament earlier this year.

Pair named All-MIAA

A pair of Kalamazoo College players from Farmington Hills have received post-season honors in women's basketball.

Freshman MaryJune Valade (Mercy) was named to the All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association first team, and junior Kelly LaCosse (Harrison) made the second team for the second year in a row.

Valade, one of only two freshmen to receive even an honorable mention, and LaCosse tied for the team lead in scoring with 14.7 points per game.

Valade was second in rebounding (6.5) and blocked shots (16). She was Kalamazoo's leading scorer in the playoffs, averaging 12 in two games.

She was also named MIAA and Great Lakes Region player of the week (Feb. 16), and she made the all-tournament teams at DePauw and Anderson universities.

LaCosse is the first MIAA player, male or female, to repeat as MIAA player of the week this season.

She won MVP honors at DePauw and was named to the all-tournament team at Anderson. LaCosse led the team in assists (80/3.2), steals (50) and free-throw percentage (.750). She scored in double figures 21 times.

The Hornets finished the season 6-7 in the MIAA and 9-17 overall.

Regional champions

The Metro Stars, an under-13 girls indoor soccer team, finished first in the regional round of the North American Indoor Soccer Championships. Their success takes them to the National Championships later this month in Detroit.

Team members are Emily Taxe (Bloomfield Hills); Janae Bucks, Katie Cooper, Cheri Opsnik and Shaina Smith (Canton); Michelle Boothroyd (Farmington Hills); Desha DeLeo and Jessica Klein (Livonia); Ashlie Wilson (Northville); Becca Campos and Lindsay Miglio (Novi); and Megan Depp and Rachelle Marshall (Plymouth). The team is coached by Terry Miglio and Phil Smith; Steve McCall is the trainer.

Szopo ready for tennis

Korin Szopo, a graduate of Farmington High School, is about to start her second year at the Kalamazoo College women's tennis team.

Szopo is expected to play No. 3 or 4 singles and No. 1 or 2 doubles for the Hornets.

During her freshman year at Kalamazoo, she posted a 10-2 record while playing Nos. 5 and 6 singles. Szopo was a four-year varsity tennis player at Farmington.

Senior golf seminar

Senior citizens, age 55 and older, are invited to attend a golf seminar given by Terry "Teo" Heaton in conjunction with Farmington Parks and Recreation Services.

The seminar will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center located within the William M. Costick Activities Center at 28800 Eleven Mile Rd.

The seminar will offer plenty of golf tips. Heaton, a practicing physical therapist, will talk about ways to loosen up before playing golf and how to practice with a purpose. Heaton specializes in the evaluation, treatment and prevention of injuries unique to golf.

Seniors must pre-register by calling (248) 473-1830. The cost is \$2.

'Big Mo' sides with Farmington



Farmington High captured third place in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball tournament Friday with a 59-54, come-from-behind victory over Walled Lake Central in the consolation final.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

March Madness started a little early for the Farmington High boys basketball team.

Momentum — always a big factor in the state tournament — was with the Falcons at crunch time Friday as they rallied to defeat Walled Lake Central, 59-54.

The victory gave Farmington (13-7) the consolation championship in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament and momentum heading into this week's district tournament.

The Falcons will play the Bloomfield

Hills Lahser-West Bloomfield winner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Lahser.

"We came into this game with the attitude we were going to play everyone and get everybody some playing time," Farmington coach Deeny Mikel said. "As the game went along, that attitude changed a little bit.

"You always want to win, but the momentum of the win will be a great help going into the first district game. It's a nice experience for our boys to play in a meaningful game before we go to the district, because this is like a tournament game right here."

Momentum and the lead changed

hands several times, and it looked as if Central (9-11) was going to win the game, holding a 50-46 lead with under two minutes remaining at Livonia Churchill.

But the Falcons capitalized on one last momentum swing to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Senior center Trevor Gaines scored the next six points — the finale to an outstanding 23-point performance — that put Farmington on top to stay.

Gaines grabbed a teammate's missed free throw and scored on the putback. With the Falcons pressing full court, Gaines got the deflection on a tip and went to the hoop again. Senior Matt Orr stole the ball on the next inbounds play and fed Gaines for the go-ahead basket, 52-50, with 1:08 left.

"I think we caught them off guard a little bit and got a couple key turnovers right there," Mikel said. "I think that was the last momentum swing, and we

kept it on our side the rest of the game. "They say big-time players step up when they have to, and Trevor has done that all year.

"We came down the floor several times (just prior to that), and Trevor never touched the ball. During one of our timeouts, we said we wanted to make sure he got some touches at the end."

The Vikings had just made an 11-0 run that wiped out a 46-39 deficit and given them the lead at 50-46. Todd Negoshian, who led Central with 22 points, started it with a three and had seven points during the run.

"We made some critical mistakes — things we haven't done all year," Central coach Steve Emerit said. "We had the wrong person taking the ball out of bounds. He hasn't taken the ball out of bounds in 19 games.

Please see FALCONS, D3

Hawks achieve 17-win season

Farmington Harrison avenged an earlier loss and finished the regular season in boys basketball Thursday by defeating Livonia Churchill, 57-41.

The Hawks, who finished fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament with the win, have won 10 of their last 11 games since losing in late January to the Chargers, 51-45.

Playing solid team defense, Harrison bolted to a 17-4 lead in the first quarter and enjoyed a 36-13 advantage at half-time in the rematch.

BASKETBALL

Churchill trimmed the deficit to 45-26 after three quarters and outscored Harrison in the second half, 28-21.

"The seniors went out in style," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, referring to the jump shot made by the Hawks. "Either they've been brain washed by me, or they believe it's the way to go.

"They came fired up and really played a nice game. They showed the way in the first quarter. They understand the jump shot might not always fall, but the defense can always be there."

The Hawks (17-3) were led by junior Andrew Burt, however. He scored a game-high 17 points and pulled down an incredible 25 rebounds.

His rebound total was one shy of the school record. Bob Mason had 26 rebounds and 30 points in the first game of the 1974-75 season during a game with Walled Lake Western.

Senior Jerrard Johnson added 11 points for the host Hawks, senior Jared Hopkins eight and junior Zach Burton six.

Center George Kithas scored 16 points, which included two three-point baskets in the third quarter, and Erik Uhlinger seven for the Chargers (7-13).

Churchill made four of nine free throws, while Harrison sank 13 of 20. (The Chargers) are a take-it-to-the-



Floor leader: Senior point guard Kareem Smart controls the action for Farmington Harrison in a Western Lakes tournament game Thursday. Livonia Churchill's Erik Uhlinger plays defense.

hoop team, and that's the way they beat us the first time," Teachman said.

"That was probably the turning point in our season. The five senior captains decided in the locker room after that game they weren't going to let this team fold."

The Hawks have won 17 games for the second straight year, but Teachman is just as proud of the fact Harrison will end this season not having lost two games in a row.

"I told the kids that means a lot to me," he said. "That shows their heart, their will to win and ability to stick together has been developed. There's a lot of winners on this team."

Harrison will face cross-town rival North Farmington in a district tournament game Wednesday at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

In the regular-season meeting Jan. 20, North jumped to a 19-6 lead, but Harrison came back to win, 40-39.

Lato basket beats Raiders

North Farmington has had more than its share of last-second disappointments, and the Raiders endured yet another Thursday in the final regular season game.

Ben Dewar sank a three-point shot from 22 feet away with 2.3 seconds remaining to give visiting Walled Lake Western a 44-42 victory over North.

"It seems to be one of those years," North coach Brian Swinehart said. "The kid hit a tough shot. (Kirk)

Moundros had a hand in his face and he was falling away. You have to give him credit."

The Raiders led 23-16 at halftime, but the Warriors cut the deficit to a point after three quarters, 30-29, and outscored North in the final period, 15-12.

Sophomore Emir Medunjanin had 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead North (11-9). Seniors Ray Lousia and Al Penala added eight and seven points, respectively.

Dewar finished with a game-high 16 points, and teammate Wes Hazel chipped in 12.

Western (10-10) sank eight of 17 free throws, North five of 10.

Please see BASKETBALL, D3

Blazers extend district tourney reign

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Being the only junior on Livonia Ladywood's talented senior-led volleyball team might make Jenny Young feel like her last name.

But Young proved she fits right in with her older teammates as she led the Blazers to their fifth straight district title Friday at Ladywood.

Young recorded 10 kills and six aces as the Blazers beat a resilient Livonia Franklin team, 15-13, 15-2.

With her heroics, Young made sure her teammates in the starting lineup have won the district championship in each of their seasons on the varsity.

"I don't feel young because I've actually been on the varsity as long as the other players," Young said. "When we were getting ready, they said they wanted

CLASS A VOLLEYBALL

to win their last match at the Ladywood gym. But they looked at me and said 'except for you.'"

The Blazers will try to win the regional title for the fifth straight time Saturday at Plymouth Salem.

Ladywood and Salem split a pair of games when the two teams met Feb. 7 in the Schoolcraft Tournament. The two rivals have battled each other the past two years in the regional with each match going three games.

"I expect it to be just as tough if not tougher with it being at their gym," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said. "They're a very physical team and well coached."

Against Franklin, Ladywood had its hands full early. After jumping to a 4-0 lead, Franklin clawed its way back into the game and eventually tied the score at 9-9 on a kill by Andrea Kmet. An ace by sophomore Tara Merrill gave Franklin the lead.

The Blazers came back to take a 13-10 lead, but Franklin again rallied to tie the game after an ace by Jackie Ziem and a kill by Danielle Wensing.

After Ladywood took a 14-13 lead, Young put the game away with a powerful, jump serve.

"I've been working on the jump serve since the middle of last week when coach told me to give it a try," Young said.

"We've had serve receiving problems, and I think they may have caught us deep with their topspin."

Please see VOLLEYBALL, D3