

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

College hoop report

Farmington High School graduate Amanda Porter recently completed her first season as a member of the Cedarville College (Ohio) women's basketball team.

The 5-foot-6 freshman guard played in all 29 games for the 9-20 Yellow Jackets with 18 starting assignments. Porter, one of three freshmen to finish the season in the starting lineup, ranked third on the team in scoring at 9.8 points per game and shot 72.5 percent from the free-throw line. She was second with 53 steals.

Porter, who received an honorable mention in the Mid-Ohio Conference, scored in double figures 12 times with a high game of 21 points.

Cedarville is a Baptist liberal arts college located in southwestern Ohio, 25 miles east of Dayton. The school has an enrollment of 2,559 students.

The Yellow Jackets compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) and the MOC, which will change its name to the American Midwest Conference on July 1.

Porter is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Porter of Northville.

Golfers win openers

Farmington Hills Morcy and the Farmington unified team started the 1998 girls golf season Monday with victories.

The Marlins shot an impressive 177 — a fine team score at any time during the season but especially for the first official day of competition and easily defeated Birmingham Marian (233) at Glen Oaks Golf Course.

Junior Jennifer Borowicz shot 42 to lead the Marlins. Freshman Erin Borowicz posted a 43, senior Kristen Smith and Angela Harber 46 each.

The Marlins played as well and have such team depth this year they didn't need junior Sarah Cahill's 47 or sophomore Tanya Foster's 48.

The match was considered a non-league contest and won't count in the Catholic League dual-meet standings. Farmington began its second season of competition with a 204-219 win over host Milford on the Meadows Course at Mystic Creek.

Sophomore Cassie Jamison, a first-year player who ran track at Harrison High School last year, shot 45 to lead Farmington.

Junior Carrie May reported a 51, senior Laura Cunniffe and junior Karen Berger 54.

Milford's Shannon Springall also shot 45 and shared medalist honors with Jamison.

Farmington is idle now until after spring break. Morcy doesn't play again until April 18 when it goes to East Lansing for a tournament.

Vardar III wins title

The Vardar III '84 boys soccer team won the Louisville Inviatational Spring Classic April 4-5 in Louisville, Ky.

To get to the finals, Vardar III defeated the Genesee Star from Grand Blanc, 11-1, the Nitro Express from Franklin, Tenn., 7-0, and the Cincinnati Rowdies, 3-0. In the championship game, Vardar whipped the Raiders United from Cincinnati, 7-0.

The members of the Vardar team are Ryan Alexander, Southfield; Brandon Brent, Rochester Hills; Ron Collins, East Lansing; Bobby Dobbie, Rochester; Jordan Gruber, Birmingham; Ricky Harper, Pontiac; Ryan Hodges, Troy; Kierly Lampert, Birmingham; Kyle Lapkovich, Sterling Heights; David Lepore, Troy; Nick Ramirez, Farmington Hills; Danny Robinson, Troy; Brian Snover, Howell; Matt Strabbing, Canton; Mychal Turpin, Pontiac; Larin Wilski, Macomb; and Chris Wilson, Lake Orion. Ramirez is an eighth-grader at Power Middle School.

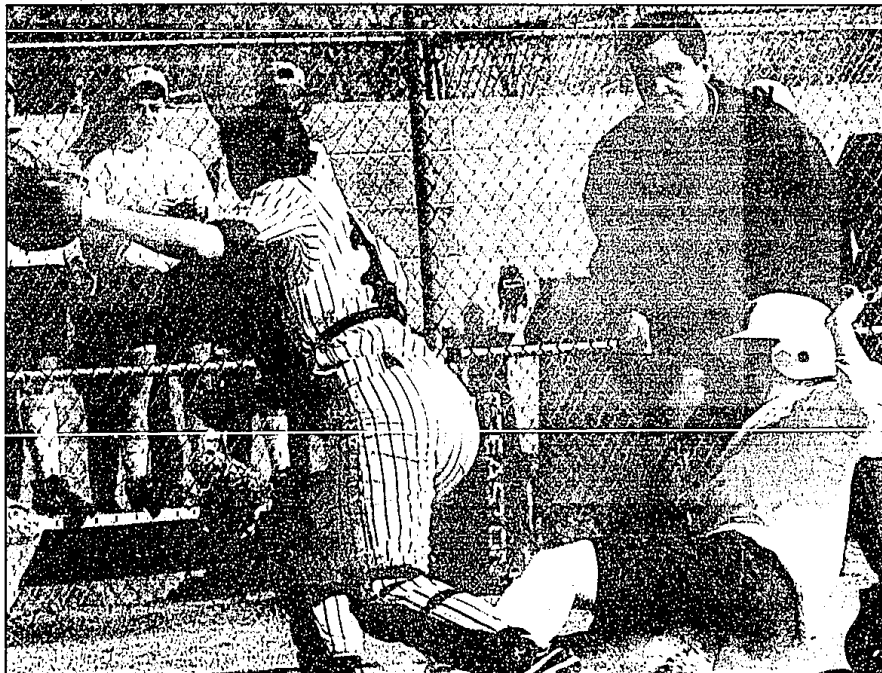
The team is coached by Morris Lupence. Jim Lampert is the team manager.

Myślinski clears fence

Jennifer Myślinski of Farmington Hills (Harrison) hit an over-the-fence home run April 3 to help Western Michigan University defeat host Marshall in women's softball.

The sophomore left fielder was batting .281 with three RBI in 15 games for the Broncos, who were 4-4 in the MAC and 10-10 overall after the win.

Myślinski was a standout first baseman in high school and is a former All-Observer player.



Home safe: Senior Lynn Livernois slides into home plate and scores a run for North Farmington before Stevenson catcher Kim Giller can field the ball Monday. The Raiders won the game for their second straight victory, 4-0.

Perfect start for softball teams



Judging from early-season results, it's going to be a good year for the Farmington Public Schools varsity softball teams. After playing a total of seven games, all three were unbeaten as of Monday.

The collective winning percentage for Farmington softball teams was a perfect 1.000 on the public-school circuit as of Monday.

All three teams were undefeated in seven total games. Farmington led the way with three victories while Harrison and North Farmington had two each.

They continued their early-season success Monday when Farmington edged Plymouth Salem 5-4, Harrison toppled defending Western Lakes Activities Association champ Plymouth Canton 3-1 and North Farmington, which had yet to surrender a run, blanked Livonia Stevenson 4-0.

Junior Ali Ault pitched a two-hit complete game for Harrison that included two strikeouts and five walks. Katina Vitanis went 3-for-3 with one RBI; she also stole three bases and scored two runs. Ault helped her cause with two hits, including a double.

Canton, 1-1 in the Western Division and 1-4 overall, scored in the first inning on a walk, sacrifice, single and error.

The Hawks went ahead with two runs in the bottom of the third. Ault, who had a bunt single and stolen base, scored on a bunt hit by Vitanis, who scored on a double by Amy Roble.

Vitanis scored an insurance run in

the sixth with a single, stolen base, sacrifice and wild pitch.

Canton had runners at first and second with one out in the fifth, but Ault got the last two outs with a fly out and pop out. Ault got the last five outs of the game on ground balls, the fifth being a strikeout.

"All started (the game throwing) super fast," Harrison coach Mike Touchman said, adding she issued four walks in the first four innings.

"In the fifth, sixth and seventh innings, she did a nice job of changing speeds. The sixth was a four-pitch inning, and that's the way we like it."

"All got them to hit the ball on the ground. We want her to be a Greg Maddux type of pitcher instead of a Randy Johnson."

North, which outscored its first two opponents 16-0, broke a scoreless tie with three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning Monday.

The Raiders broke the game open

with three of their five hits, two Stevenson errors, two stolen bases, a fielder's choice and a groundout in that inning.

Senior Mickey Spisz pitched a complete game, scattering seven hits while notching five strikeouts against just one walk.

She also had two of North's hits and scored a run. Lynn Livernois, Kellee Fournier and Jenny Panush had the other hits. Kate Devereux and Gusty had one RBI each.

Farmington won its third straight behind the six-hit pitching of sophomore Melissa Mytty, who struck out eight and walked one over seven innings.

Sophomore Amanda Sutton was the losing pitcher, surrendering 11 hits to Farmington. She fanned seven and walked four.

Mytty, sophomore Meghan O'Rear

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Track time Raiders eye first-division finish

With a little fine-tuning, coach Bill Pinnell is confident 1998 will be a good year for the North Farmington girls track team.

"Our goal is to finish in the top half of the conference," he said. "We have a lot of rookies, but we have a lot more kids out this year, too."

The Raiders, who started last week with an 86-42 victory over Walled Lake Western, had the best finish (sixth) among Farmington teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association. They also were seventh in Oakland County, eighth in the regional and 2-3 in dual meets.

Plymouth Salem is the defending champion and will be good again, but Pinnell believes Livonia Stevenson is the team to beat.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

"I think they'll win it all this year," he said. "They're strong from top to bottom."

The Raiders can't make that same boast, however. A ray of hope in the field events is senior Melissa Gratz. She placed fifth in the state last year in the discus and appears headed for another solid season.

"She looks really good," Pinnell said, adding Gratz threw 128 feet recently. "We're hoping she can get into the high 130s or low 140s by the end of the year."

Gratz is also the team's top performer in the shot put and was second in both events at the regional. Sophomore Debbie Chen provides depth in the discus.

In the high jump, Katie Vihtelic should score points. She topped out at 5'2 last year but needs to be ready for big improvements.

"She may be able to go 4-10 or 5 feet," Pinnell said.

Pole vault makes its debut as a girls event this spring. Junior Courtney Camp and senior Yael Zohar are the top prospect.

"We need to find some field event people," Pinnell said. "We need some people to blossom."

North's top sprinters will be seniors Ericka Ander-

son and Kristen Cook.

Anderson will likely anchor the 400- and 800-meter relays and run in the open 100 and 200 sprints.

"I think she's in the top 10 sprinters in school history," Pinnell said.

He hopes for big things from sophomore sprinters Dayna Glemone and Nicole Taylor, both of whom came on strong at the end of last season.

Anderson will likely be the team's top 400 runner. Holly Stockton and Karen Bockli are middle-distance runners to watch.

"They're much improved over last year," Pinnell said. "Each is running strong right now."

Heldi Frank and Elena Spencer top the list of distance runners. Frank is a transfer student from Haslett and appears to be a versatile runner.

"I think she can run anything," Pinnell said. "She'll run the 1,600 and 3,200 and may even try the 400."

Hurdles will be another strength for the Raiders with the return of Katie Gaffey, Katie Callahan and Vihtelic.

"We have a lot of veterans in that event," Pinnell said.

With so many newcomers and lineup questions, he thinks his team could struggle early in dual meets.

"I think we'll be a better big-meet team," he said.

Farmington Harrison Hawks

The Hawks enter a new era following the graduation of Devron Kennedy, a four-year standout and the school's all-time greatest female track athlete.

"We still have some familiar faces out there," coach Mark Thibault said. "Students will still be our strength, but we've made some improvements in other areas, too. Speed, relays and hurdles will be our strengths."

Senior Mahogany Fletcher and junior Emily Mayberry head the list of returning athletes and are All-Observer relay runners.

Please see GIRLS TRACK, C5



Returning athlete: Kristy Figel returns to compete in jumping events for the Falcons.