

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Founders Fest softball

The City of Farmington Hills has openings for the annual Founders Festival Softball Tournament. The fee is \$160 per team, which includes umpires and softballs.

The tournament will be played July 10-12. The registration deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 7.

For more information, call the City of Farmington Hills Recreation Office at (248) 473-9570. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cobras earn victories

The NFWB 13-year-old travel baseball team picked up two wins last week to improve its record to 4-3 in league competition.

After losing three close games early in the season, the Cobras bounced back to beat the Windsor Titans, 14-4, and Michigan Rams, 12-9.

Danny Graham paced the offense against the Titans, going 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI. Andy Wingert and Sam Grossman were 2-for-2 with two RBI.

Doug Pickens, Nick Vitania, Matt Clark, Matt Petry, Evan Rodriguez and Ben Darga added one hit each. Darga (8-0) picked up the win in relief of Danny Lentz against the Rams.

Wingert, who closed out the game on the mound, and Graham, who had five RBI, went 3-for-4. Grossman went 2-for-4 and scored three runs.

Vitania, Clark and Petry had one hit each. Brian Smith contributed to the winning effort by providing solid defensive play.

The Cobras, who compete in the Little Caesars 14-and-under division, are 17-7 overall.

Legwand nominated

Only three junior hockey league players receive a nomination for the Canadian Hockey League's Bauer Player of the Year Award, and the Plymouth Whalers' David Legwand is one of them.

That he was nominated isn't all that surprising. He won the Red Tilson Trophy as the Ontario Hockey League's most outstanding player in his first season of junior hockey.

In 59 games for the Whalers, the center from Grosse Pointe Woods scored 54 goals and had 105 points. He is considered one of the top three prospects in the upcoming NHL draft.

The other nominees are Ramzi Abid of the Chicoutimi Saguenéens, members of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, and Sergei Varlamov of the Swift Current Broncos, members of the Western Hockey League.

Abid, from Montreal, led the QMJHL in scoring with 136 points (60 goals, 85 assists) and was that league's MVP. Varlamov, from Kiev in the Ukraine, paced the WHL in scoring with 66 goals and 53 assists and was the league MVP as well.

Fast-pitch camps

The Finesse Softball program, winner of two world championships in the last three years, will have a week of skills and development camps June 22-25 in Westland.

The morning session is for girls ages 10-13 (cost \$95) and the afternoon session is for girls 14-18 (cost \$150).

For more information call Garden City softball coach Barry Patterson at (734) 487-3964 or coach Don Dreher at (248) 552-8624.

Gymnastics camps

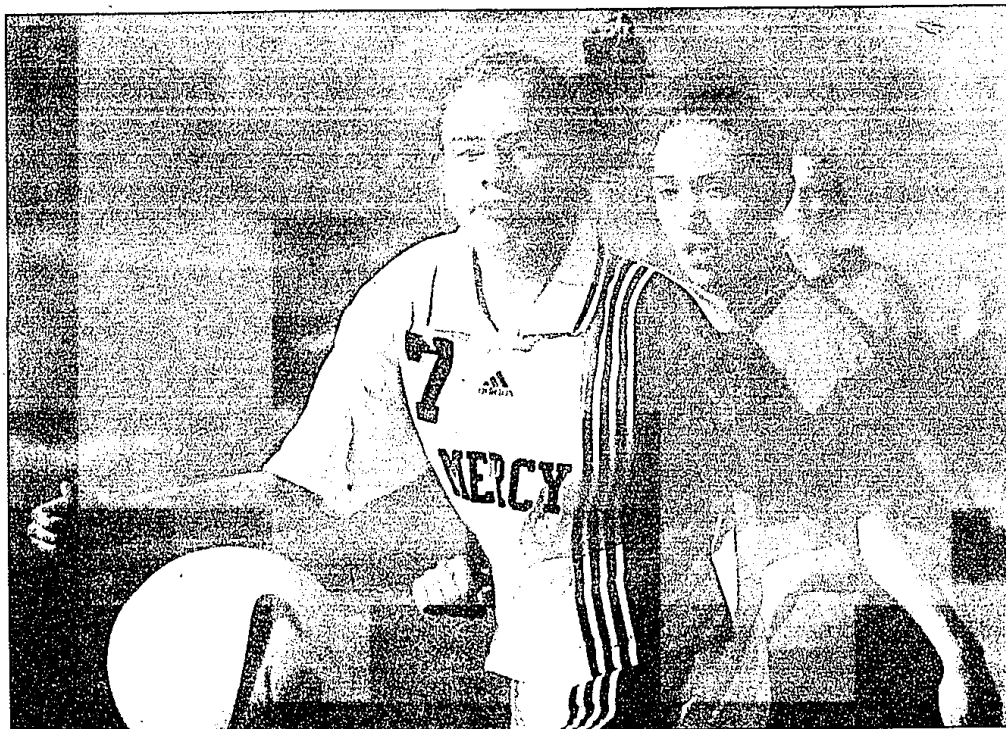
Farmington Public Schools is offering a series of instructional gymnastics camps June 22 to Aug. 13 at the Farmington Training Center.

Children can sign up for one, two, three or four days per week (Monday through Thursday), and the fees will vary accordingly.

There are camps for advanced gymnasts (middle and high school, club level seven or higher), intermediate (middle and high school, club level six or below) and beginners (ages 6-12).

The fourth camp is a recreational tumbling class for middle and high school students who are interested in tumbling skills, pom, cheerleading and dance.

The instructor is Jeff Dwyer, head coach of the Farmington Public Schools team. To obtain a registration form contact FPS or leave a message for Dwyer at (248) 489-3456.



All-Area standout: Junior midfielder Mary Gignac was a key player for Farmington Hills Mercy, leading the Marlins to a runner-up finish in the Catholic League soccer playoffs and earning a place on the 1998 All-Observer first team.

Junior mids named All-Observer



Team leader: Junior Emilie Villemonte (left) led Farmington High in both goals scored and assists for a team-high 57 points.



Farmington is represented on the girls 1998 All-Observer soccer team by a pair of junior midfielders: Farmington's Emilie Villemonte and Mercy's Mary Gignac. State champion Livonia Stevenson has five girls on the team.

Does this sound familiar?

The state's best soccer talent all resides in the same conference: the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Who can argue? Livonia Stevenson has won two consecutive state championships and hasn't lost a game since 1995. That can't make teams like Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem, both of which were ranked in the state's top five, too happy. Only once in the last seven years has one of these schools not made the state finals, which includes three titles.

And yet, as good as the talent always seems to be in this league, particularly with these three teams, there was something very special about this Stevenson squad. As several coaches said very early in the season, "No one is going to beat them."

Very true. The Spartans were as invincible as any team in state history, never trailing in a game and sur-

dering goals very stubbornly.

That's why five of the 12 first-team All-Observer players are from Stevenson. There were plenty of capable players elsewhere, but none quite that good.

Here, then, is the All-Observer girls soccer team:

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Jenny Barker, goalkeeper, Livonia Stevenson: A total of 13 shutouts testified to both Barker's ability and that of the defense the Spartans put in front of her.

The senior totaled 59 shutouts in her career, a Stevenson record, and was scored upon just five times in the Spartans' two Division I championship seasons. Her goals against was a nearly invisible 0.5 per game.

Bound for Madonna University to play soccer, Barker made first-team All-State and was All-Observerland for the second year in a row.

*Jenny is the best Stevenson has ever had

Please see ALL-AREA, C3

Post 346 starts season with sweep of twinbill

Post 346 of Farmington started a new season in American Legion baseball the right way Sunday by sweeping a doubleheader from Brighton-Hartland.

Both games went eight innings with host 346 winning 4-3 and 15-13 at Farmington High School.

The teams finished one-two last year in the league. Farmington, which includes players from Novi and Walled Lake, was 19-3 and Brighton-Hartland 18-4.

"I think we'll have another good season," said Post 346 manager Wally Christenson, who begins his 38th year in the American Legion program.

Post 346 scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to win the first game.

The winning rally started with a walk to Tom Judd, who moved up on a passed ball. Bill Kandilian knocked him in with a double.

After Ryan Wing reached base on an error, Joe Paletta's sacrifice fly scored

BASEBALL

Kandilian. Andy Gutierrez sacrificed Wing to third, and Wing scored the winning run on Kurt Kale's single.

Brighton had broken a 1-1 tie with two runs in the top of the eighth.

Kandilian went 3-for-4 and scored two runs. Paletta had two RBI; Jeff Hetrick was 2-for-4.

Shawn Morrison pitched a complete game for Post 346, striking out 11 while scattering seven hits and walking two.

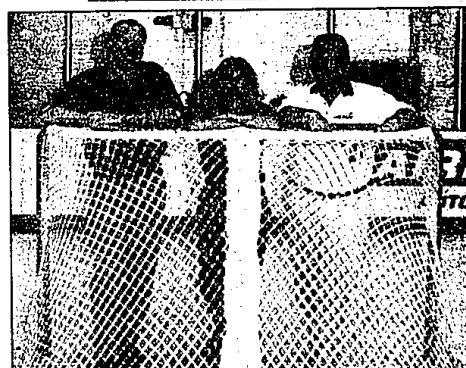
In the nightcap, Jon Rospierski entered the game to provide a key hit and become the winning pitcher.

He took an active role with two outs in the bottom of the third inning after Brighton had scored 10 runs to take an 11-5 lead.

Rospierski pitched the last 5¹/₂ innings, holding Brighton to two addi-

Please see BASEBALL, C2

Ice arena plans grand opening



Opening Day: Arena managers (from left) Ron Schueneman, Deb Grace and Dan McManamon are ready for Suburban Training Center's grand opening noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at 23996 Freeway Park Drive in Farmington Hills.