

# Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer  
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## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Ksiazek goes to Oxford

Matt Ksiazek of Farmington Hills, a right-handed pitcher from Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School, will continue his baseball career at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

After transferring from Detroit Catholic Central, Ksiazek helped the Eagles (32-4) win the Division II state championship this year.

Ksiazek pitched a no-hitter in the recent season, recorded 90 strikeouts in 70 innings and posted an ERA of less than 2.00.

Ksiazek is playing this summer for Ypsilanti-based A. Green Financial, which has a 27-7 record and includes area prep stars Kirk Taylor (North Farmington), Kevin Thomas (Walled Lake Western) and Zack Cornwall (Farmington Harrison) on its roster.

Other members of the A. Green Financial team are Drew Henson (Brighton), Bobby Korecky (Saline) and OLSM teammates Nick DiPonio and Marc Doggto.

### STC hockey programs

The Suburban Training Center has a number of hockey programs available this summer.

The following are drop-in programs in which players come to the arena, register and go out on their own. There will be a coach on the ice to supervise.

- Pop-in hockey practice session (all ages), 1:30-3 p.m. Monday through Friday until Aug. 21. No pick-up games allowed. The fee is \$8 per player per session.

- Shooting range (all ages), 3-4 p.m. Wednesday through Aug. 19; open ice time to practice and perfect shooting skills. The fee is \$8 per player per session.

- Drop-in hockey (18 and over), 6:30-8 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, 4:30-6 p.m. Tuesday; full equipment required. The fee is \$7 per player.

The following programs require pre-registration:

- Summer skills and conditioning (ages 9-16), 3-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday through Aug. 22; full hockey equipment required; limited to 20 skaters; one instructor on the ice. The fee is \$12 per session or \$100 for a 10-session package.

- STC house league for mites, squirts and pee wees with the focus on fun and skill development; limited to 24 weeks from mid-September through March, 1999; 16 players per team.

For more information call the STC at (248) 888-1400.

### Summer hockey classes

Suburban Hockey Schools begins its summer class schedule this week with programs at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

There will be classes for squirt, pee wee and bantam power skating, youth female and goalies July 20-24; squirt, pee wee and bantam hockey schools, beginners clinic and parent-child programs July 27-31; mite power skating and beginners clinic Aug. 3-7; mite and adult hockey schools Aug. 10-14.

The instructors include managing director Tom Anastos, who played at Michigan State and in the Montreal Canadiens farm system.

Program directors are former MSU players Lyle Phair, who played professionally with the Los Angeles Kings and coached at the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Doug Garbarz. The goalie instructor is Darren Elliot, a member of the 1984 Canadian Olympic team. To enroll in one of the SHS programs call (248) 478-1600.

### Rockets grld camp

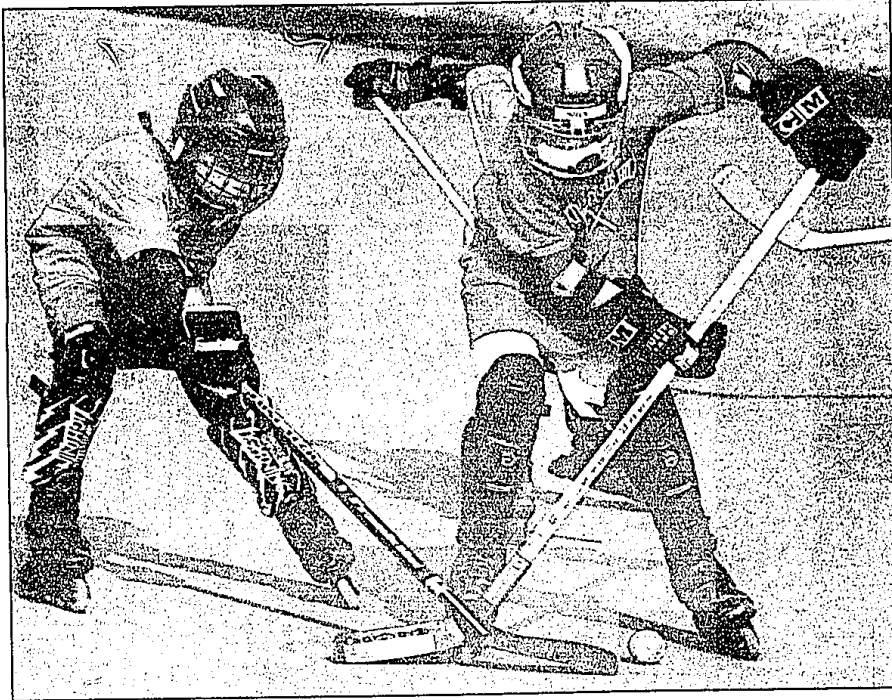
The Farmington Rockets are planning an instructional football camp for Saturday, July 25, at Farmington High School.

The camp begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Campers will be divided into two age groups: 8-11 and 12-14.

Waivers must be signed the day of the clinic by a parent or guardian. All questions should be directed to Bill Kilduff at (248) 477-2823.

### Girls swim notice

Girls planning to compete for the Farmington Harrison girls swim team this fall should pick up a medalion form from the high school office and complete it before practice begins on Monday, Aug. 17. For more information contact coach Ross Bandy at (810) 750-2899.



No-ice game: Mark Dixon (left) of the Hammer Heads fights for position with Nick Pedersen of the Grizzlies during a roller hockey game at Heritage Park in Farmington. The sport of roller hockey has become a popular pastime for area youths. The game can be seen being played in organized recreation leagues and on a pick-up level in area parking lots.

## Roller hockey gains in popularity



Shot on goal: Robby Paige of the Grizzlies tries to put the puck past Hammer Heads goalie Paul Vainer, but the shot went wide.



One of the fastest-growing sports, especially among children and teens, is roller hockey, which is played on in-line skates. There are facilities and sports businesses in every area community offering organized play.

In-line hockey has become a popular summer pastime for youngsters, and it's arguably safer than some famous water sports.

For instance, Livonian Scott Macdonald, 8, lost a tooth last summer, and it didn't happen while playing for his 10-under in-line hockey team on the tennis courts at the Livonia Family Y.

Macdonald was tubing on a lake when one of his front teeth fell out and another was knocked loose after a wave bounced his mouth into the tube.

"I said 'Are you OK?' and he said 'Yeah, but I lost my tooth in the water and now I can't leave it under my pillow,'" laughed his father, Dave Macdonald, who has another son, Danny, 9, also playing in-line hockey for a team called the Sharks.

The younger Macdonald is either a tough guy or, like his dad, a future businessman.

Leaving a tooth isn't a concern for youngsters while playing organized in-line hockey, what with all the head gear they're required to wear.

The most troubling element playing outdoors in the summer is the heat, leaving tubers with an argument that there is no sport of choice.

But avid in-line youth hockey players, who must wear a helmet and cage, elbow pads, gloves, knee and shin pads, and chest protector if they're playing goaltender, probably figure there's plenty of time to head for the beach.

New equipment, including the skates, can cost as much as \$300. Used equipment, which can be purchased at some sporting goods stores, can cut the cost in half.

Entry fees for most leagues cost less than \$100 per season per player, making the sport considerably less expensive than ice hockey.

A water-filled ball that hardly bounces or a puck resembling the one used in ice hockey is typically used in in-line and Dek hockey.

In-line hockey rules are similar to those in ice hockey, although no checking is allowed and there's no offside or icing. Players 18 and over aren't required to wear cages.

### Attracting all ages

The sport has even become popular among the older set. At DekHockey, Inc., on Michigan Avenue in Canton, there are leagues for players 30 and over and even a league for couples.

"We play every other Sunday, so in case there is a big argument, you have another week to make up," said co-owner Amy Mueller, half-joking.

In-line hockey and DekHockey - hockey played on tennis shoes instead of ice skates or in-line skates - is played seven nights a week, 5:30 p.m. to midnight for all age groups at the Canton rink.

Please see ROLLER HOCKEY, D2

## Post 346 rally nets American Legion win

### BASEBALL

Marc Berling's bases-loaded, suicide squeeze in the bottom of the seventh inning Friday ended Farmington Post 346 to edge Clarkston in its regular-season finale, 6-6.

Post 346 finishes atop the league standings in American Legion summer baseball with an 18-4 record.

Second-place Berkley was 14-4 and needed to win all four of its remaining games to tie Farmington. If there is a tie, there will be playoff game 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Chief Pontiac field.

If Post 346 holds on to first place as seems likely, it will advance to the zone tournament starting July 30 in Pontiac. The winner advances to the state tournament Aug. 4 in Escanaba.

Tom Judd started the winning rally Friday at Chief Pontiac - Farmington was the home team - with a one-out double.

He went to third and Ryan Wing was safe on a strikeout-passed ball. Brenon

Conley received an intentional walk, setting the stage for Berling's bunt.

Farmington took a 2-0 lead in the third on a pair of RBI singles by Bill Clarkston and Mark Churella, but Clarkston scored five unearned runs in the fourth on three hits, four errors and one walk.

Post 346 got two back in the fifth with RBI singles by Clarkston and Judd. Farmington tied the score in the sixth with Jim Carson's two-out single and Jon Rospierski's double.

Shawn Morrison (8-2) pitched a complete game, allowing four hits and two walks while striking out five.

On Wednesday, Rospierski had four RBIs and was the winning pitcher as Farmington also rallied that night to defeat Clarkston, 7-5.

Rospierski hit a two-run homer (his seventh of the season) and drove in two more runs with a single and a sacrifice fly. He went the distance on the mound, allowing eight hits and striking out seven.

Post 346 had only four hits, the others being an RBI double by Andy Gutierrez and a Morrison single. Each scored two runs.

In a two-run fourth inning, Rospierski's sacrifice fly sent Morrison to the plate and tied the score, 4-4.

Farmington won it with three runs in the seventh.

Mark Churella's bunt resulted in consecutive errors by the Clarkston catcher and right fielder. Gutierrez scored on the play, and Rospierski followed with his two-run homer.

On Sunday, Post 346, minus five players for various reasons, dropped a doubleheader to host Rochester, 11-1 and 12-2.

Farmington had only two hits in the first game, one each by Carson, who scored the lone run, and Wing.

Post 346 had six hits in the nightcap but fared little better. Wing was the only player with two hits on the day. Churella and Morrison were the starting and losing pitchers, respectively.

On Saturday, Farmington split with visiting Clintondale, winning the first game, 6-5. Morrison pitched a complete game, giving up seven hits.

Kyle Burcar and Joe Paletta were 2-for-3. Rospierski, who hit a solo homer, and Burcar had one RBI each.

Clintondale won the nightcap, scoring five in the bottom of the sixth to claim a 6-4 victory. Rospierski suffered his first pitching loss after six wins. He went the distance, surrendering eight hits.

Paletta, who hit a two-run homer, and Carson, who had one RBI, had two hits apiece.