

# Sports & Recreation

The Farmington  
Observer

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Sunday, August 16, 1998

## FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Sorrows seeks players

Our Lady of Sorrows varsity football team (seventh and eighth graders) still needs players for the upcoming season. Full-pads practices begin this week.

Student-athletes from Sorrows parish and school, as well as bordering parishes, are eligible.

Proof of having passed a physical exam since April 15, 1998, is required. There is a \$75 fee to play.

Please call head coach Ugo Abata at (248) 474-5880 or Athletic Director John Castine at (248) 476-5324 for more information.

### House league sign-up

The Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills will hold an open registration for the STC house league from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The league is open to mites, squirts and pee wees and will run 24 weeks from mid September through March, 1999.

Mites, squirts and pee wees will have a one-hour practice session each week and will play one game every weekend.

There will be two additional evaluation skates prior to the start of the league, and players will be evaluated and assigned to a team in their age group.

The STC also has a mini mite (ages 4-6) program that will focus on skating, puck skills and having fun.

Mini mites will skate from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday at STC, 23996 Freeway Park Drive. For more information, call (248) 888-1400.

### Falcons need coach

Farmington High School is in need of a girls swim coach for the 1998 fall season.

Anyone who is qualified and interested in coaching the team should contact Farmington High building athletic director Bernie Call either at school (248-489-3456) or home (810-229-4257).

### Fall softball sign-up

The City of Farmington Hills is accepting team registrations for the adult fall softball leagues.

Registration is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Leagues will play one night per week. Men's games will be played on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, coed on Wednesday.

The registration fee is \$446 per team. Each team is required to pay a \$10 umpire fee at the field. Softballs will be provided.

League play starts the first week in September. Games will be played at Harrison High School and Drake Park. Leagues are limited to the first six teams.

For further information call the Farmington Hills Recreation Division at 473-9570 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Attention ex-glidders

Anyone who played varsity football for North Farmington between 1962 and 1963 is invited to attend a reunion and celebration in honor of former coach Ron Holland.

Holland, who coached the Raiders during those years and then served as athletic director, retired in June after 38 years with Farmington Public Schools.

The calendar of events includes a golf outing and dinner on Friday, Oct. 9. Following a luncheon, the North Farmington football field will be dedicated in Holland's honor on Saturday, Oct. 10.

For more information call Don Noble at (248) 863-1288.

### Carho baseball school

The Bernie Carho Premier Baseball School will conduct individual and small group clinics in power pitching, fielding and hitting, as well as video analysis.

Philadelphia Phillies minor league hurler Mark Rutherford (Livonia Churchill/Eastern Michigan) will assist as an instructor.

For fall and winter appointments, call (734) 421-4928.

(Farmington readers can fax information for the Sports Scene to (734) 691-7279).



Under new management: John Bechtel spent the last seven years on the Farmington High School varsity football staff as defensive coordinator before taking the reins as head coach this year. Rich Burrell begins his first year as head coach at North Farmington, too.

## New coaches lead grid programs

A new football season means the start of new assignments for a pair of veteran coaches. Rich Burrell is only the third head coach in North Farmington history, and John Bechtel moved into the top job at Farmington High.

John Bechtel and Rich Burrell are first-year football head coaches at Farmington high schools, but both are familiar with Farmington and their new roles.

Bechtel replaces Lauri Niskanen at Farmington High, and Burrell follows in the footsteps of 1997 Observerland Coach of the Year Jim O'Leary at North Farmington.

Both have Farmington backgrounds and previous experience as head coaches.

Burrell returns to his alma mater, having played for Hall of Fame coach Ron Holland in the 1970s.

The 37-year-old bachelor started at free safety and was the backup quarterback on the 1978 North Farmington team that was runner-up in the Class A playoffs.

"It's a real honor to be able to come back here," Burrell said. "The program has such a strong heritage and tradition. (Holland and O'Leary) were on staff when I was player and to walk in their footsteps is pretty inspiring."

Burrell later played football under Ray Smith at Hope College in the early '80s when the Flying Dutchmen were perennial champions of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association,

starting at cornerback for 2½ seasons.

"I was fortunate to play for some great coaches," he said. "I've been real fortunate to have them as role models."

"I'll do my best to emulate the things they taught me and give the kids I'm coaching now the same kind of positive experience I had when I was a player."

One of Holland's last acts as Farmington Public Schools athletic director before he retired in June was to hire Burrell after Lake Orion High School opted not to renew Burrell's contract.

He had been head coach at Lake Orion for the past six years, compiling a 28-27 record, which included a 6-3 finish last fall.

His 1994 team won the Oakland Activities Association Division II title and qualified for the Class A playoffs.

Burrell was an assistant coach under Mike Berry at Lake Orion for four years and was a volunteer coach for three years at Grant High School

under Doug Fraser before that.

"I look at it as a real blessing," Burrell said of his return to North Farmington, adding he will see his parents more often now.

"The kids at North are great. They've given me everything they have, and it's nice to be in a place where the administration appreciates and values what you have to offer kids."

Since no staff positions were available in Farmington, Burrell will continue to live in Lake Orion and work at the high school as a social worker.

"If a job opens up (in Farmington) and they see fit to hire me for that, I'd be glad to consider it," Burrell said. "It sure would save on gas mileage."

Burrell said he will use the same offense as Holland that "allows you to take advantage of things which complement your personnel" and will stay

Please see COACHES, D3

## Bryant hopes for expanded role at U-M

It was

Meet the Press day Friday in Ann Arbor, minus standard NBC quizzer Tim Russert.

C o a c h Lloyd Carr and his undefeated and defending National Champion University of



Kevin Bryant  
U-M wide receiver

Michigan football team were once again in the spotlight.

Reporters grilled coaches and players.

Even Bo Schembechler, the patriarch of Wolverine football, was on hand. So just how are things shaping up in Maize and Blue country?

"My time here has been great so far," said No. 22, wide receiver Kevin Bryant of Farmington Hills Harrison. "I've been able to contribute to this team and get a great education. I couldn't ask for anything more."

The 6-foot, 182-pound Bryant, however, may have a more expanded role this season despite suffering an injury at the end of spring practice.

### FOOTBALL

"Kevin broke his leg and he's coming off an injury, but we're expecting him to play an important role this year," Carr said. "It was just a freak thing during a non-contact drill."

Bryant says he's 100 percent. "I rehabbed it a lot and trained a lot, put in a lot of extra work," said Bryant, who played in all 12 games, mostly on special teams with spot duty at flanker. "I gained 10 pounds since last year. I have confidence in my ability and I've paid my dues."

Incoming freshman like Marquise Walker and David Terrell come in as

highly touted pass catchers. Tai Streets, the team's leading receiver, also returns along with Marcus Knight.

"There's enough to go around for everybody," Bryant said. "It's a big family. We help each other."

Tom Brady moves in at quarterback with competition in the preseason coming from holdover Scott Dreisbach and freshman Drew Henson.

"I like them all," Bryant said. "And I like whoever gives me the ball."

Guarding against complacency doesn't appear to be a problem for the former Hawk standout.

"The competition within and the

Please see WOLVERINES, D3

## W. Bloomfield site of '98 Maccabi Games

West Bloomfield and the surrounding area will be buzzing with young athletes over the next seven days as the Maccabi Games return to the Jewish Community Center. The Games are the equivalent to the Jewish Junior Olympics and haven't been held in Michigan since 1990.

"It means a great deal to host the Games in the sense that this is the largest Jewish youth sports gathering ever," said West Bloomfield resident Ari Horvitz, assistant director of this year's Maccabi Games. "It's an unbelievable opportunity to expand the culture and heritage of the Jewish youths coming in. Athletics is not necessarily the focus of the event,

rather it's the avenue to bring them together. The cultural experience is the big reason they gather."

Over 2,000 athletes representing 65 delegations are coming to the Games, including 2,600 athletes from outside the Metro-Detroit area. Those athletes will be housed by local Jewish families for the course of their stay. Delegations are coming in from as far away as Israel, Great Britain, Mexico and Canada and from throughout the United States.

The Games feature team and individual competition in 27 different events. Team competition will be held in baseball, basketball, soccer, in-line hockey, softball, and volleyball. Individuals can participate in

bowling, chess, cross country, dance, golf, gymnastics, racquetball, swimming, tennis, table tennis and track and field.

Twenty four venues throughout the area will be used to hold the individual and team events. Bowling alleys, racquet and fitness clubs, school districts and golf courses are all hosting events to insure the success of the Games.

The Maccabi Games were first held in Memphis, Tennessee in 1952 and began as a semi-annual event. West Bloomfield hosted the second games in 1984 and hosted them again in 1990. The games turned

Please see MACCABI, D3