

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer

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Sunday, September 6, 1998

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Marlins make cuts

It was quite an opening night for the Farmington Hills Mercy swim team, which did everything but win the meet Thursday.

The Marlins made nine state cuts, including all three relays, during a dual meet at Ann Arbor Huron. The host River Rats won, 954-904.

Junior Elizabeth Posvar and sophomore Amy McCullough had state cuts in two individual events each.

Posvar was second in the 200-yard individual medley but still swam faster (2:08.84) than the time that won the state meet last year.

Posvar won the backstroke with a qualifying time of 1:40.6. McCullough was first in the 200 freestyle (1:58.33) and second in the 500 freestyle (5:05.17). Both were state cuts, also.

Mercy's remaining individual cuts were made by junior Erin Downs, who won the butterfly (59.80), and junior Kelly Carlin, who was second in the 100 freestyle (55.52).

Sophomore Elizabeth MacDonald, Posvar, Downs and Carlin won the medley relay (1:52.08).

Freshman Kriston Loridas, who won the 50 freestyle (26.95), and McCullough combined with MacDonald and Downs to win the 200 free relay (1:43.97) and with Carlin and Posvar to win the 400 free (3:38.76).

The Marlins had additional second places from MacDonald in the 200 free (2:01.32), Downs in the 50 free (26.25) and sophomore Annebelle Alberts in the breaststroke (1:14.89).

OCC splits matches

The Oakland Community College women's volleyball team split two matches Tuesday, losing to host Kalamazoo Valley CC, 11-16, 5-16, and defeating Grace Bible College, 15-10, 16-9.

In the first match, sophomore Brynn Allyn had 12 kills to tie an OCC record set last season by Amy Lambert. Allyn also had 14 digs in the match.

Sophomore Jennifer O'Connor had 14 digs and 11 set assists. Freshman Andrea Jones had nine kills and six digs. Freshman Sarah Partlow had 16 set assists.

In the second match, Allyn had nine kills and three service aces. Jones had six kills and five digs. Partlow had 15 set assists. Sheri Dumbrell had five kills and five digs.

OCC opens the conference season at Mott CC on Sept. 10.

Coyne wins golf title

Nancy Coyne of Farmington Hills was the championship flight winner Wednesday in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Tournament at Rammler Golf Course.

Coyne shot 77 for low gross; Karen Huebner of Grosse Ile had second low gross with an 80. Dorothy Cady of Farmington Hills was low net (64) in the third flight.

Youth baseball tryouts

Tryouts for the 14-year-old Michigan Bulls baseball team will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, and 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at Farmington High School.

To be eligible players must be born Aug. 1, 1984 through Feb. 15. For more information, call coach Eric Sams at (248) 647-5301.

Tryouts for the NFWB Cobras baseball teams will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12-13, at Founders Park on Eight Mile Road.

Tryouts are for ages 10 and under through 16. Players must provide their own bats, gloves, helmets and cleats. For more information, call Mel Borock after 5 p.m. at (248) 788-0691.

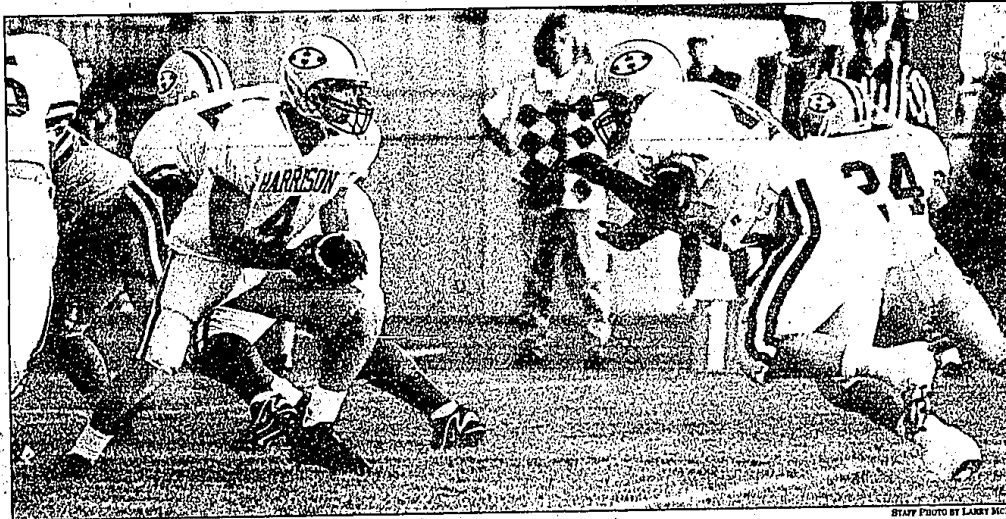
Tryouts for the Michigan Lake Area Rams baseball team will be 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at Farmington Hills Mercy High School.

Players 9 and 10 years old are eligible. For more information, call Mark Falvo at (313) 537-3449 or Jack Falvo at (248) 471-1748.

Falcons top Patriots

The Farmington High boys golf team defeated Livonia Franklin Thursday, 216-222, at San Marino Golf Course.

The low scorer for the Falcons was Dan Kimmel, who shot a three-over-par 39. Other Farmington golfers included John Knight (42), Joe Krueger (45), Ian Pardonette (46), Justin Krueger (46) and Brad Barenio (46).



STAFF PHOTO BY LARRY MICKEL

Hawks on the move: Senior Blake Ashley takes a handoff from senior quarterback Dave Pesci in Farmington Harrison's 48-0 victory over host Oxford. Ashley ran for a touchdown and Pesci passed for 109 yards and two touchdowns in his debut as a Harrison starter.

Hawks whip Wildcats in opener

There are high expectations for the 1998 Farmington Harrison football team, and the Hawks did nothing to disappoint anyone Friday. The defending Class A champs routed host Oxford for the season opener, 48-0.

BY BRAD KADIRICH
STAFF WRITER

John Herrington knows his Farmington Harrison Hawks have a diverse offense as they chase a second straight state football title.

On Friday at Oxford, the Hawks put it all on display, routing the Wildcats 48-0 in the season opener for both teams.

Junior Kevin Woods rushed seven times for 116 yards and two touchdowns, and senior quarterback David

Pesci was an economical 10-of-14 passing for 109 yards as Harrison hammered Oxford for the fifth straight year.

"We wanted to establish the pass, but (Oxford) stopped that early," said Herrington, whose Hawks are ranked No. 1 in Class A and have won 14 consecutive games. "We went to the run and that opened up the passing game."

Actually, it opened up pretty much everything.

The Hawks scored less than four

minutes into the game after a 13-yard Wildcat punt set them up at the Oxford 37.

Five plays later, senior running back Blake Ashley busted an 11-yard touchdown run off the trap to put Harrison up 7-0.

The teams traded punts, and senior Ricky Bryant returned the second one to the Wildcat 28. After a sack and a penalty, Pesci found junior wideout Brian Nelson for a 35-yard scoring pass, up the right side.

Another short punt set the Hawks up at the Oxford 43, and senior fullback Matt Turney slammed over from inside the 1 with two seconds left in the first quarter.

Bryant, who was relatively quiet offensively, showed up on defense,

intercepting Oxford quarterback Brad Nowacki midway through the second quarter.

Three plays later, Pesci found Bryant for a 25-yard scoring strike, and Blake Boesky returned a punt for a touchdown and a 35-0 halftime lead.

The only thing that slowed the Hawks down in the second half was the running clock, which takes effect once the lead becomes 35 points.

Harrison still managed to get a pair of touchdowns from Woods — a 20-yard run with 10:20 remaining and a 64-yard burst with 1:02 left in the game.

The rout came as a surprise to Herrington.

"You don't expect it against (Oxford coach) Bud Rowley's teams, because

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STAFF PHOTO BY SEARON LEMLEY

Grid action: Farmington's Grant Weber tries to turn the corner against Novi's Lee Ehlers in the season opener Friday night.

Farmington's errors costly in loss to Novi

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

A nightmare for the Farmington football coaches and players was a dream come true for their Novi counterparts in the season opener Friday night.

The Falcons could do no right and the Wildcats no wrong in the first half as host Novi carved out a 31-0 halftime lead on its way to a 38-7 victory.

Farmington gave Novi, which had only one sustained scoring drive all night, plenty of help with costly mistakes and turnovers.

"We didn't execute today and that was the key to the football game," Farmington coach John Bechtel said. "We must have done a poor job as coaches, because I thought we were ready to play."

The Wildcats drove the ball on the Falcons just once, and that was early in the game and led to the first points.

On its second possession, Novi went 73 yards in eight plays. Jon Corvi took a pitch from Jason Hill and finished the drive with a 15-yard touchdown run.

Novi's John Gauder returned an interception 40 yards for another score,

and Jesse Posey recovered a loose ball — after the snap sailed over the Farmington punter's head — in the end zone for another Novi TD.

The score was 21-0 before the first quarter was out.

"It was like a dream come true," Novi coach John Osborne said when asked about his team's good fortune. "We've had some hard times lately, and we haven't had a game like this where we could get the momentum and hold it."

"It seems something happens in every game to switch the momentum, but it didn't change and we were able to stay on top of it."

The Wildcats turned a second interception and the first of two blocked punts into more points in the second quarter, creating the 31-0 halftime gap.

Novi needed just two plays to score from the Farmington 11 following Dan Jilg's interception. Hill passed to Pat Muston, who went 11 yards to paydirt.

The Wildcats got the ball again at

Please see FALCONS, D2

Cross country teams hope '98 better year

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The key word for all three Farmington Public Schools boys cross country teams, as they prepare for the 1998 season, is improvement.

That's the goal of each following a collectively disappointing performance last year in which they combined for one divisional dual-meet victory in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

North Farmington, which defeated Farmington in a Lakes Division dual, fared best with a fifth-place finish in the WLAA championships, but Farm-

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ington was 11th and Harrison last in the 12-team meet.

All three are hopeful of moving up in the WLAA, which appears evenly balanced after conceding the top two spots to defending champion Plymouth Salem and last year's runner-up Walled Lake Central.

The annual Farmington city meet has been restored following a year's absence due to scheduling changes in the WLAA. The event is slated for

Tuesday, Oct. 6, with Cass Benton Park as the tentative site.

The only home date for all three teams will be Thursday, Oct. 1, because of construction under way at Oakland Community College, and the teams will run at Cass Benton that day, too.

North Farmington Raiders

Junior Charlie Stamboulis has two years of varsity experience and is ready to assume the role as North's No. 1 runner will follow the graduation of All-Observer selection Jon Berman.

"He's looking strong and is a very

consistent runner," coach Paul Welch said. "We're looking for him to do some big things this year."

Juniors Mike Millat and Matt Wiegand are returning runners, too, who solidify the top three positions in the North lineup.

"If we're going to be successful, the Mike Millats and Matt Wiegands will have to excel," Welch said. "They have to do their job for us to have a chance."

Welch was uncertain about the next four spots as a handful of runners remain in contention.

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