

# Sports & Recreation

The Farmington  
Observer  
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## North sacks defending champs



The North Farmington girls basketball team faced a major challenge in its Western Lakes Activities Association opener Thursday. But all went well for the Raiders, who defeated defending champion Plymouth Canton, 49-41.

To be a championship contender, a team has to be able to win the big games.

North Farmington proved it can do exactly that in its Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball opener Thursday.

It was just the first of 11 league games, but it was a huge win as the

host Raiders knocked off defending champion Plymouth Canton, 49-41.

Observerland victories don't come any bigger than that, and success couldn't have been sweeter than it was for North coach Linda Perkins and her players.

"The girls knew, if they played hard and smart, took care of the ball and

played great defense, we could take this game," Perkins said.

"I believe in this team. We don't use the word can't. We talked before the game about believing and being the best we can be."

The Raiders, who are idle until Thursday when they visit Livonia Churchill, are 3-3 overall; the Chiefs also are 3-3, their other losses being to Birmingham Marian and Flint North-ern.

"This will certainly give (the North girls) great confidence to face the tough league we're in," Perkins said. "If they play like that every game, I couldn't ask for more."

"It's a real big win at the start of the season. It's great for the kids' confidence, and I couldn't be prouder of them."

Sophomore Samantha McComb scored a game-high 23 points to lead the Raiders. She also had 10 rebounds, six steals and four assists. Senior Katie Vihtelic had 16 points and seven rebounds. Sophomore Britany Vihtelic added eight points (all in the second half), and senior Katie Gaffey helped on the glass with seven rebounds.

The Raiders were outstanding at the

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### North upsets Stevenson

North Farmington hadn't won a dual meet in boys golf; Livonia Stevenson hadn't lost.

But the records didn't mean a thing Friday. The fortunes of both teams were reversed as North defeated Stevenson at Glen Oaks, 189-190.

"I was extremely happy and so were the kids," North coach Daryl Case said. "They felt real good about playing that well."

"It was probably the most exciting match of my career, because both teams played so well."

The Raiders (1-4) were just two strokes off the course record held by Livonia Churchill.

Five of the six North players were under 40. Derek Spicer shot even-par 35 and Brady Dwyer 37; Mike Barnett, Brandon Finkel and Mike Patterson finished at 39 each, and Mark Isler had 45.

"Derek Spicer has been the only solid player," Case said, adding the Raiders started the season well but went into a slump. "He's been playing well all season, so he continued his consistent play."

"We've been down in the dumps, and this is the first real showing we've had as far as turning it around. Hopefully, we're starting to play better, and this is a sign of it."

Stevenson's Steve Polanski was the medalist with a two-under 33. Mike Byberg shot 38, Matt DiPonio 39, Kevin Yuhasz and Roy Rabe 40. The Spartans are 4-1.

"(North) gave Stevenson a wake-up call," Stevenson coach John Wagner said. "The whole league is loaded with good players. We would love to have won, but the North Farmington boys did a great job."

### Hawks have hard luck

The hard-luck results continued for the Farmington Harrison boys golf team Thursday in a 195-200 loss to Walled Lake Central.

"What can I say? We're 2-4, playing extremely good golf and have lowered our team average to 200 for five players," Harrison coach Bill Spencer said.

"I believe we still have some excellent golf ahead of us as the season heads into its final stages."

Central had four players under 40 at Edgewood Country Club, led by medalist Lee Aho's even-par round of 35. Cory Johnson shot 37 for the Vikings, Chris Pyzik 38, Mark Hamilton 39, Dominick Vitale and Jason Mulligan 46 apiece.

Harrison's Brian Gruhman shot a team-leading 36. Matt Lee and Chris Scott reported 40 strokes each, Kenny Lee 41, Corey Miller 43 and Kevin Geary 48.

### OCC women win again

The Oakland Community College volleyball team won its second straight MCAA Eastern Conference match Thursday by defeating Delta College, 15-13, 15-10, 15-11.

The Raiders improved to 2-1 in the conference and 4-5 overall. Delta drops to 0-2 and 1-9.

Sophomore Jessica Regentin (Walled Lake) had a school-record 14 kills in the match to go with six solo blocks, two block assists and five digs.

Kelly Ghiacine (Oxford) had eight kills and two solo blocks. Sarah Partlow (Northville) and Jennifer O'Connor (Redford) had 15 set assists each.

Kristen Rousch (Waterford) was 20-for-20 on service with one ace and seven digs.

### Football fund-raiser

The Farmington High School Football Backers are seeking artists and crafters for their Ninth Annual Art & Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 14. The show will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Farmington High School. Artists and crafters who want to participate should call Denise Bush at (248) 478-2397.

### Adult volleyball sign-up

The Farmington Hills Recreation Division is organizing men's and coed open volleyball leagues.

Games will be played on Tuesday evenings, starting in late September, in the Costick Activities Center gymnasium.

The fee is \$225 per team. To register call Cathy O'Rourke-Wondrick of the Recreation Division at (248) 473-9570.

### A day at the races



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BAZZALE

**Running competition:** The North Farmington-Plymouth Salem boys cross country race (above) gets under way Thursday at Cass Benton Park. Farmington Harrison's Lynn Andrzejewski (left) competes in the girls race with Plymouth Canton. Jason Scarbrough (below, left) and Ben Ilmer make their way along the course for the Harrison boys team. Salem and Canton won both girls and boys races. See Page D2 of the sports section for stories and results on both meets.



## Raiders post 4-2 triumph

North Farmington recorded a victory over a major Western Lakes Activities Association opponent in boys soccer Friday when it defeated host Northville, 4-2.

"We really played an excellent game; all the kids played well," North coach Ron Meteyer said, adding the Raiders dominated the entire game. "The kids came out ready to play tonight."

"After the frustrating game we had against Harrison, tonight things just clicked. The defense was sharp; the offense was sharp, and the midfield was winning balls."

### BOYS SOCCER

The Raiders are 2-3-1 in the conference, 6-3-1 in the regular season and, including a preseason tournament, 9-4-1 overall.

Chris Erickson scored the first goal for North 13:32 into the game. Craig Hearn, who had two goals and two assists, passed to Erickson, who one-timed the ball from 15 yards.

With less than three minutes left in the half, Hearn took a pass from Dan Gabriel in the center of the field, beat three defenders and fired a shot into the left corner for a 2-0 halftime lead.

Northville's Brandon Bethel tied the score 10 minutes into the second half, but Strait restored North's two-goal lead 4 1/2 minutes later on a header.

After he was run over in the penalty box, Hearn converted a penalty kick to give the Raiders a 4-1 lead. Tim Kelleher scored the final goal for Northville.

Hearn has 26 goals and nine assists this year, Strait 14 goals and 16 assists.

The victory avenged a loss to Northville in a Division II district tournament championship game last fall. The Mustangs move up to Division I this year, so there won't be a rematch unless the teams meet in the WLAA crossover.

Nat Evory, Jarret Kruse and Kyle Meteyer were standouts on defense for the Raiders, according to coach Meteyer.

"They played the lions share of the minutes, kept (the Mustangs) from penetrating and wouldn't let them get off any quality shots," Meteyer said. "Northville scores a lot of goals, and these guys did a heckuva job shutting them down."

"We needed a big win over a big team and this was a good win."

On Wednesday, the Raiders were frustrated by host Farmington Harrison's determined defensive effort but

Please see SOCCER, D2

## Marlins sweep Grosse Pointe opponents

Farmington Hills Mercy swimmers were in the Grosse Pointe North pool nearly as much as their own last week. Based on the dual-meet results, however, the Marlins probably wouldn't mind going back there.

Mercy made two bus trips to Grosse Pointe but found the away site to its liking, defeating host North on Tuesday, 100-89, and Grosse Pointe South on Thursday at North, 113-73.

In the South meet, Kelly Carlin was a double winner for the Marlins in the 200 freestyle (1:58.78) and the 500 (5:19.48).

### SWIMMING

Mercy's Amy McCullough won the individual medley (2:15.87), Kristen Loridas the 50 freestyle (1:26.05) and Erin Downs the backstroke (1:03.74). Loridas and McCullough combined with Annabelle Alberts and Carlin to win the medley relay (1:58.8) and with Kaitlyn Jarzembowski and McKenzie Mayne to win the 200 freestyle relay (1:46.45).

Elizabeth Posvar and McCullough were double individual winners in the

### North contest.

Posvar won the 100 freestyle (54.47) and backstroke (1:00.71); McCullough took first place in the 200 freestyle (1:55.13) and the 500 (5:01.29).

Carlin was the leadoff swimmer in two relays and won the IM (2:15.28), and Downs was the butterfly winner (1:00.43).

The Marlins set a Grosse Pointe North pool record in the 400 freestyle relay as Carlin, McCullough, Loridas and Posvar posted a 3:40.87 time.

Carlins, Posvar, Downs and Elizabeth MacDonald combined to win the

### medley relay (1:55.28).

In addition, Mercy's Danielle Darlin was second in diving (167.4) and Susan Neal third (156.75).

The Marlins are 3-1 in dual meets.

### Hawks post win over Falcons

Farmington Harrison recorded its first dual-meet victory Thursday at the expense of cross-town rival Farmington.

The Hawks won all but two events in the North Farmington pool and the meet, 101-84.

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