

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Girls golf meetings

Coch Ann Marie Sopha will conduct informational meetings at each of Farmington's three public high schools for girls interested in playing golf for Farmington's unified team this spring.

The first meeting will be 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, in the media center at Harrison High School.

Sopha will meet with North Farmington girls at 2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, in the school's media center.

The meeting at Farmington High is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the mediated classroom.

Fishing trivia contest

Fishing enthusiasts take note. Here's a chance to prove your superior fishing knowledge and win tickets to the 11th Annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo.

We'll hold a fishing trivia contest each Thursday in the Observer & Eccentric through Feb. 25. Answer the weekly trivia question correctly and have a chance to win four tickets to the Sportfishing and Travel Expo March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. One weekly winner will be randomly selected. All entries for this week's question must be postmarked by Monday, Feb. 8.

Bloomfield Hills resident Julius "Chip" Drotos caught a state record and line class world record green sunfish in 1990 while fishing on Kirkwood Lake. The 1-pound, 8-ounce fish still stands as a record. This week's trivia question is: According to the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, what pound test line (line class) did Drotos catch the fish on?

Send the correct answer to Fishing Trivia Contest, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Shamrocks take Observerland title

Redford Catholic Central is champion of the Observerland Wrestling Tournament for 1999 after edging Livonia Stevenson for first place, 207-204.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@ec.homecomm.net

No one was surprised to see Redford Catholic Central walk off with the championship trophy of the Eighth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Livonia Church Hill.

But the Shamrocks didn't simply walk away with the title. As Livonia Stevenson injected a dose of suspense into the competition and made it interesting with a strong upset bid.

CC needed a victory from senior Broce Naysmith in the last bout of the tournament to overcome the Spartans and capture its third team championship.

The Shamrocks, who trailed Stevenson by three points going into the 216-pound final, finished with 207 and the Spartans 204. Garden City was a distant third (132). Defending champion Plymouth Salem had a prior commitment to a tournament at Holt.

Clarenceville made its strongest showing with a fourth-place final and Livonia Churchill, Plymouth Canton, Redford Thurston and Wayne Memorial scored 100 or more points apiece.

"It's just nice to win it," CC coach Mike Rodriguez said. "We've been down all year long as far as our record. These guys just put their hearts and souls together to win it."

"This is a good tournament for us. All year we get ripped on, and here in our own backyard we have a chance to shine a little bit."

"Stevenson is a tough team. We're going to hit them again in the district, so this is not the end."

CC, which is 7-7 in dual meets with two remaining against Clarkson and Rochester Adams, and Stevenson had



Title bout: Farmington senior Andy Wood (foreground) made it to the finals at 171 pounds (above), but lost a decision to Brian Hinzman of Garden City in the annual Observerland Tournament.

Harrison's Ghannam hopes to earn role as U-M punter

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@ec.homecomm.net

Here's a possible scenario that could be an interesting reality in the near future:

You're watching the annual Michigan-Ohio State football game on TV, and you hear the play-by-play announcer call two familiar names in the same sentence:

"Michigan's Joe Ghannam punts the ball to his former teammate at Harrison High School, Ricky Bryant," he says.

That could be the case as Ghannam will attend Michigan as a preferred walk-on in hopes of doing the punting for the Wolverines.

Bryant previously announced



Joe Ghannam

he would accept a scholarship offer from Ohio State and was expected to sign a letter of intent Wednesday with the Buckeyes.

Michigan schools use only one scholarship for a punter, and that spot on the U-M roster belongs to South Lyon's Cory Sargent.

"They usually go for the big dogs, like linemen and running backs," Ghannam said. "I understand where they're coming from and the position they're in. I just have to go out and compete with

whoever is out there and, hopefully, earn a scholarship."

Ohio State also expressed interest in Ghannam, who was Harrison's punter for three years and was named to the All-Observer team last fall.

But the Buckeyes signed a punter from Georgia and wanted Ghannam to go there as a walk-on, too.

He talked with coaches from Indiana, Toledo, Western Michigan and Northwood but was sold on the idea of going to U-M when the Wolverines entered the picture. His older brother, C.J., is a member of the Michigan baseball team.

"I was really gunning for the Big Ten," Ghannam said. "Har-

Please see GHANNAM, C7

Farmington finishes 2nd in own meet

Farmington's unified gymnastics team achieved its highest score of the season (135.95) and finished second in its own invitational Saturday.

It was the second time in as many invites Farmington was the runner-up. But coach Jeff Dwyer and his gymnasts were not disappointed, considering the first-place team each time has been top-ranked Hartland.

The Eagles scored 145.1 points to win the meet. Defending state champion Northville-Novis was third (137.55) and Hardland's B team was fourth (130).

Farmington freshman Chelsea Keeling was a Division I standout, finishing third in the all-around, and team depth in the Division II competition was the key to Farmington doing so well.

"We didn't have a lot of other girls place real high; yet we came in second," Dwyer said.

Please see GYMNASTICS, C5



Gymnastics routine: Farmington senior Anna Clark tied for eighth place in Division II bars competition.



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