

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington
Observer

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FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Flyers win finale, 5-4

Brad Hocking's third-period goal proved to be the game-winner Friday as host Farmington survived a late charge by Novi to win its final regular-season hockey game, 5-4.

The Flyers (5-17-2) took a 4-1 lead into the third period. Novi's Pat Muston scored his second goal of the game at 14:00. Hocking made it 5-2 with assists from Ross Patterson and Kurk Laird at 12:15.

The margin held up until Novi's Rob Innis (4:01) and Trevor Schneider (3:07) put some suspense into the game with late goals.

The Wildcats pulled their goalie soon after and pressured the Flyers for the duration of the game.

"We played very well the first two periods and into the third," Farmington coach Glenn Breuhan said. "We had a harder time finishing off the game tonight."

"We're not accustomed to going into the third period with a 4-1 lead. With more experience, we'll get used to being in that position."

Farmington's Matt Lee scored the only goal of the first period (7:17) with an assist from Chris Hone, who scored twice in the second period for a 3-1 lead.

Muston had tied the score at 12:20 in the second period. Jeff Zaidel's goal (1:00) gave the Flyers their 4-1 advantage.

Lee assisted on both Hone goals. Tony Ward, Scott Salomonson, Troy Anderson and Tom Close also had assists for Farmington, which finished 2-13-1 in the Suburban High School Hockey League after a 5-1 loss Wednesday to Walled Lake Western.

Logan McLean was outstanding in the Farmington net, according to Breuhan. The Flyers had 32 shots, the Wildcats 31.

Farmington's next game is Saturday, Feb. 27, against Birmingham Brother Rice in a Class A district tournament at Compuware Arena.

Whalers maul Majors

The Plymouth Whalers defense was offensive Thursday against the Toronto St. Michael's Majors in Toronto.

Defencemen Troy Smith and Shaun Fisher accounted for five Whaler goals in Plymouth's 7-0 trouncing of the Majors. Smith had a hat-trick, scoring twice in the third period. Fisher had two goals and an assist.

The three goals doubled Smith's season total, bringing it to six; Fisher, who scored twice in the first period, brought his total to nine goals.

Fisher's goals, both on the power play, were sandwiched around Smith's first goal. Randy Fitzgerald got his 11th marker of the season, assisted by Fisher and Paul Mara, on a power play in the second period.

Adam Colagiacomo netted his 31st goal of the season, on another power-play conversion (the fourth of the game), at 12:13 of the third period. Smith scored his second goal 21 seconds later; he completed his hat-trick with 1:14 left in the game.

David Legwand finished with three assists for Plymouth. Mara had two.

Robert Holsinger turned away 22 shots in picking up the shutout, his fourth of the season — tying him for top honors in the Ontario Hockey League with Ottawa's Lavent Szeper.

The Whalers improved to 42-11-3 overall, still best in the OHL's West Division. Toronto is 17-32-6 and fourth in the Central Division.

Shamrocks clinch title

Redford Catholic Central wrapped up the Michigan Metro Hockey League championship and now it can concentrate on a bigger prize: The Class A state championship.

The Shamrocks (20-1-1) finished the regular season league schedule Friday with a 13-1 whipping of Ann Arbor Huron at Redford Arena.

CC, which begins post-season play Thursday against Livonia Stevenson in the district at Eddie Edgar Arena, finished with a 14-1-1 record in the Metro.

Brad Holland, David Mose and Brandon Kalenicki scored two goals each for the Shamrocks. Todd Bentley, Chris Morelli, Matt Van Heest, Joe Moreau, Rick Buttery, Derek Genrich and Pat O'Dea scored one goal apiece.

Keith Rowe and Ryan Yost had four assists each. Shawn McGowan and Jeff Good contributed three assists apiece.



Win by pin: Farmington High's Jon Simmons (top) is in control of the situation in his bout with Redford Union's Joe LeBlanc at 119 pounds Wednesday in district tournament competition. Simmons pinned LeBlanc and also his Oak Park opponent as the Falcons won both matches and the tournament, defeating RU in the final, 58-18.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Falcons flying high in post-season

BY DAN O'MEARA
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WRESTLING

The real and complete Farmington High wrestling team showed up last week, and the results have the Falcons optimistic about their near-term and distant futures.

Farmington presented a lineup that was at full strength Wednesday for a Division II district tournament and crushed Oak Park and Redford Union

to win its third such championship in four years.

After spotting each opponent a 12-0 lead, host Farmington roared back to defeat Oak Park 63-18 in the opener and Redford Union in the final, 58-18.

"I didn't think we were that much better, but I'm not surprised because we have a lot of good athletes on our

team," said Andy Wood, one of only two seniors on the Farmington squad.

"I think the team has been working extremely hard the last couple weeks. We have that never-say-die attitude in the practice room, and you could see that on the mats tonight."

With no weights left void and nobody missing due to illness or injury, the Falcons appear to be reaching their peak level at the right time of the season.

"I think today we all come together and showed the potential we have for this year and next year," junior Mark Ostach said.

Farmington (8-10) hopes to continue its successful wrestling this week when it competes in a regional tournament Wednesday at Monroe Jefferson High School.

The Falcons meet Ypsilanti Lincoln (7-12) in a semifinal match, and the

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District champs — It's first for Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

WRESTLING

The wrestling gods haven't been kind to North Farmington's team, which has had few victories to celebrate in recent years.

So it was quite a surprise and a nice change of pace for the Raiders when they won their first team district tournament Wednesday.

North capitalized on six voids by Bloomfield Hills Andover to win their

first match, 48-21, and beat host Farmington Harrison in the final, 48-24.

"It's a great win for our program," North coach Zaim Cummulaj said. "It gets us back on track again. Hopefully, we can start building a program here. I'm really proud of our team."

The Raiders, whose only other win this year was against Orchard Lake St.

Mary's, won the district without three of their regular wrestlers.

Asif Rohela (125) was out of the lineup due to illness, and Trevor Clark (130) and Pat Sidur (145) are injured.

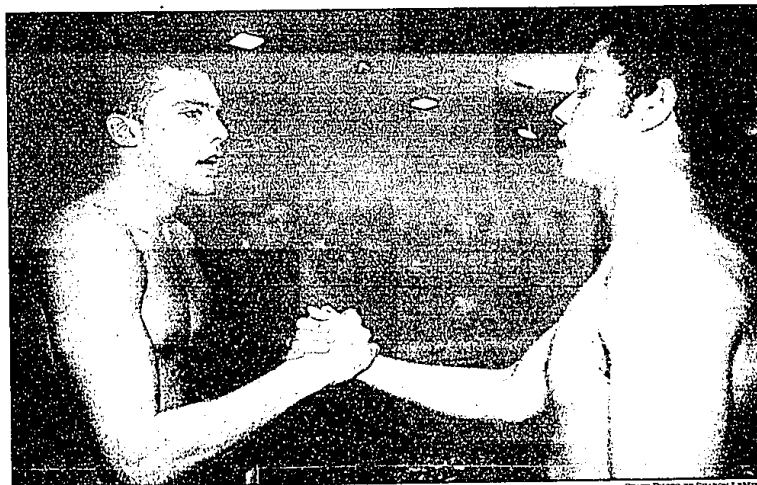
"When I first saw the situation, I thought we had a shot at winning, but we were pretty healthy then," Cummulaj said. "Today, I guess they really wanted it bad. I have to give credit to all the kids; they worked really hard."

The Raiders travel to Clio for a Division II regional tournament Wednesday and will face Oxford at 5 p.m. The winner meets either Auburn Hills Avondale or Mount Morris in the final that same day.

"From what I know, it's going to be really, really tough, but I'm very pleased with what the team did today," Cummulaj said.

In the Harrison match, North was down 12-9, but Brian Kaasa (130)

Please see **RAIDERS**, D4



STAFF PHOTO BY SHAWN LEMLEY

Record-setter: Matt Zald (left) shakes hands with teammate Brandon Digia after a North Farmington victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Zald also set pool and varsity records in the 50 freestyle.

North ends perfect year 8-0 in duals

BY DAN O'MEARA
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The last dual meet of the boys swim season was a special event for senior Matt Zald and his North Farmington teammates Thursday.

Zald shattered a 25-year-old record in the 50-yard freestyle and helped the Raiders qualify for state in both freestyle relays.

The net result of those efforts and others was a 136-47 victory over Farmington as North capped an undefeated season with an 8-0 record.

Zald, who had the best Observerland time in the 50 at 22.30 before the meet, improved on that with a winning effort of 21.68.

In doing so, he broke former Garden City swimmer Dave Sweeney's pool record of 21.90, which was established in 1974. Zald also bettered his own

Please see **UNDEFEATED**, D3