

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington
Observer

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Falcons assured winning season



Farmington High built a 17-0 halftime lead but had to rally in the second half Friday for a 23-20 football victory at Northville. Coach John Bechtel's team is 5-3 and headed for a winning season with one game remaining.

By DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington was on the verge of a blowout victory in the first half Friday but ended up squeezing past host Northville in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover football game, 23-20.

After seeing the Mustangs rally from a 17-0 halftime deficit, Stephen Wayne's third field goal of the night gave the Falcons their winning margin. Farmington also guaranteed itself a winning season. Combined with a forfeit victory over Novi, which used an

ineligible player in the season opener, Farmington is 5-3 overall. The Falcons close the season Saturday at home against Lakeland.

"My story is the same; I'm proud of my kids," Farmington coach John Bechtel said. "We're coming; we're not there yet, but we're coming. The kids work hard, and they say good things happen to people who work hard. Hopefully, that's us."

After dominating the first half with their running game, the Falcons were on the defensive most of the second half.

Northville (3-5) scored the first three

times it had the ball to take a 20-17 lead with 8:38 left in the fourth quarter.

Facing third-and-10 at its own 35, Farmington called a screen pass, and Mark Ostach took the ball to the Northville 6 with a determined effort.

"We've run the screen three times this year, and twice we've slipped. It happened to go this time," Bechtel said. The Falcons had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by Wayne, however, and a tie score with 5:40 on the clock.

Ostach made the big play on defense, too, intercepting Mustangs quarterback Eric Cooley at the Northville 29. Farmington was stopped at the 16, but Wayne booted the winning field goal from 32 yards with just 2:54 to play.

Dustin Gress picked off his second Cooley pass on Northville's next possession, but the Mustangs got the ball one last time with 1:05 remaining.

Two pass interference penalties put the ball on the Farmington 27 with 44 seconds left, but Adam Kronk's interception clinched the victory for the Falcons.

"No. 87 (Northville's Ben Keetle) is the best receiver in our league," Bechtel said. "We tried to get a guy in his face, but they kept throwing the ball to him and he kept making plays."

"But when you throw the ball as much as they did we're bound to get one."

Ironically, it was Cooley's passes and Keetle's catches that made it a ballgame in the second half.

Keetle had nine receptions for 147 yards total (five for 113 in the second half), and he caught touchdown passes of 3 and 31 yards. He also caught the two-point conversion pass that gave Northville its 20-17 lead.

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Hockey team in action

Tuesday, Nov. 10, is being billed as Hockey Night in Farmington.

The new Farmington Public Schools unified hockey team will play its first game, a scrimmage, against Waterford Kettering at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Game time is 8:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Mercy needs coaches

Farmington Hills Mercy is looking for a JV volleyball coach and an assistant varsity volleyball coach.

Interested and qualified candidates should call either coach Ed Moeller at (248) 686-4200 or Mercy athletic director Nancy Malinowski at (248) 476-2835.

League seeks teams

The Midwest Super League, an amateur youth baseball organization, has openings for qualified teams to join the league for the 1999 season.

The league offers competition in the following divisions and age groups: Connie Mack (17-18), Mickey Mantle (15-16) and Sandy Koufax (13-14).

Each division is limited to 10 qualified teams to ensure a high level of play. While based in the metro-Detroit area, member teams originate from outstate Michigan and Canada as well.

League affiliation with national baseball programs (AABC, NABF and AAU) lead to high-profile tournaments in various locations around the United States.

Coaches who would like to enter their teams should contact Dennis Patterson via e-mail at MWSL1998@BCom.com or by phone at (248) 848-9432.

Youth soccer champs

The under-17 Meteors, allowing just one goal in five games, captured the Glen Ellyn (Ill.) Columbus Day girls' soccer tournament.

Members of the Meteors, sponsored by the Livonia Family YMCA, include Alexis Bowman, Sarah Corless, Allison Curd, Alison Edwards, Kristen Katcherian, Beth Kolacki, Laura Kozub, Laura Lettingwell, Kristin Pimlott, Danielle Portelli, Beth Poulos, Anna Schovers, Patti Sullivan, Colleen Thompson, Kara Tweady, Kelly Upton, Dana Wantin and Katie Westfall.

The team is coached by Bob Westfall. Randy Upton is the manager.

Livonia league sign-up

*A meeting for Livonia Parks and Recreation Class D basketball — 18 and under for residents in the Livonia and Clarenceville school districts — will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Civic Center Library (Room A).

*A meeting for men's basketball will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Civic Center Library (Room A).

*A meeting for adult volleyball will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Civic Center Library (Room A).

League play begins in January, 1999. For information call Parks and Recreation at (734) 466-2410.

Sunday softball clinics

Madonna University softball coaches will conduct a series of clinics every Sunday through Nov. 1 at the Ladywood High School field. The time is 12:30-3 p.m. each Sunday.

The cost is \$5 per session. Pre-registration is not required.

The instructors will be Al White, Curt White and Dave Brubaker. For more information call Curt White at (734) 728-3074.

Football fund-raiser

The Farmington High School Football Backers is seeking artists and crafters for its 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.

Gridiron correction

The Farmington football player pictured making a tackle in the Oct. 22 Observer should have been identified as Brian Brinaden.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRAGGER

Making waves: Kristen Burke of North Farmington (above) was second in the 100-yard butterfly behind teammate Lauren Turner, and Farmington's Tina Cavicchioli was second in the breaststroke after North's Jennifer Bendick. North won the dual meet, 134-52.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRAGGER

Taking a dive: Farmington's Jamie Miltello is the focus of attention as she performs a diving routine Thursday.



Raiders have strong finish

North Farmington finished the dual-meet season with its fifth consecutive victory Thursday to finished 5-2 in girls swimming.

The Raiders lost their first two to state powers Birmingham Scabolin and Livonia Stevenson but won all the rest, including a 134-52 victory over visiting Farmington in the finale.

"The kids pulled together during the season, and we're hoping for better things yet," North coach Pat Duthe said. "But I'm very pleased with the

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dual-meet season.

"We didn't swim a lot of meets, but then we don't like to swim a lot. I think one meet a week is pretty good. You definitely need to race, because it's an important part of training. But you can over-race, too."

"We have two weeks now until the league meet, and we have time to get rested and polished. We always seem

to swim well in the conference meet, and we're hoping to do that again."

North's Lindsay McElean won the individual medley (2:18.76) and the backstroke (1:04.79), and she anchored the winning 400 freestyle relay team, too.

Lindsey Taub, Nikki Little, Sarah Reading and McElean ended the meet with a winning time of 4:16.31.

The Raiders won every event but divided the rest of their individual

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Spartans repeat as conference champs

By BRAD EMONS
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Livonia Stevenson continued its run on Western Lakes Activities Association girls cross country titles Friday at Kensington Metropark.

The Spartans, taking six of the first 12 places, earned its fifth straight WLAA crown with a team-low 30 points.

Plymouth Salem and Northville finished second and third, respectively, with 77 and 85. See statistical summary.

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Junior Andrea Parker crossed the finish line first in 15 minutes, 44 seconds. Runner-up Alyson Flohr of Northville finished in 20:22.

Stevenson also took fifth (Kim McNeilance), sixth (Leslie Knapp), eighth (Katie Sherron), 10th (Christy Talon), 12th (Marissa Montgomery) and 21st (Julie Suchau).

"We did incredibly well," Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg said. "We let our kids don't kill yourself on

the first hill. Go smart because it's a three-mile race and get in position the second mile. They ran incredibly smart today."

Parker, sixth in the state Class A meet last year as a sophomore, has put herself among the elite girls runners in Stevenson school history.

"She's certainly with the cream of the crop," Holmberg said. "And we've had some awfully good runners. She's right in there with them."

"She has the ability to handle setbacks and adversity. If she has a bad race or workout, she just puts it

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