

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

All-tournament players

Kalamazoo College basketball players Kelly LaCrosse and MaryJane Valade, both of Farmington Hills, were named to the all-tournament team at the Madonna University Classic in Livonia.

The Hornets (4-4) were runners-up, defeating Madonna Friday 93-84 and falling to Indiana-South Bend in the championship game Saturday, 84-73.

LaCrosse scored 32 points (four shy of the school record) in the win over Madonna on 10-of-20 shooting, including 4-of-6 from three-point range. She also pulled down seven rebounds, picked five steals and had three assists.

Valade scored 19 points Friday on 8-of-17 shooting and had a double-double with 12 rebounds. She also led the Hornets with seven assists.

Valade was one rebound short of consecutive double-doubles as she scored 14 points and pulled down nine rebounds Saturday. LaCrosse was one of four Hornets in double figures with 12 points.

LaCrosse leads the team in scoring with 16.8 points per game. The senior guard also leads Hornets with 30 assists while averaging 4.13 rebounds.

Valade is second on the team in scoring (15.4) and shooting percentage (49). The sophomore forward leads Kalamazoo in rebounding with 6.76 per game and is second in assists with 25.

The Hornets will take a week off from competition before traveling to California for the Whittier College Tournament Dec. 29-30.

Brzezinski wins award

Boston College senior offensive guard Doug Brzezinski (Livonia/Redford Catholic Central) was recently named winner of the annual Varsity Club Trophy (Thomas F. Scanlan Award).

Brzezinski won BC football's highest honor, which is presented annually to the senior player who best exemplifies the ideals of Tom Scanlan (Class of 1920), a beloved football alum, scholar, athlete, friend, gentleman and ambassador of goodwill at Boston College.

Considered to be a sure choice in the upcoming NFL Draft, the 6-foot-5, 305-pound Brzezinski is a two-time, first-team All-Big East selection and in the major reason the Eagles finished with 4,627 total yards on the year. He was voted the team's co-captain prior to the season.

Mercy softball clinic

The Second Annual Farmington Hills Mercy High School Softball Clinic will be 9-10:30 a.m. (grades 4-6) and 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (grades 7-12) on Saturdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, as well as Feb. 13 and 20, in the school gym.

The cost is \$25 for six sessions or \$5 per session. Attendance is limited to 30 per session.

Call Fred Marinucci at (313) 531-5819 or Jack Falvo at (248) 471-1748.

Raiders visit Europe

Five soccer players from North Farmington High School will travel to Portugal during the holidays to represent the United States against Portuguese competition.

Senior Justin Street, juniors Kyle Meteyer, Eric Phillips and Brian Horr and freshman Mike Buchwald are among the 14 players who were chosen last summer for the under-17 team after participating in the (Kurt) Vogelmeier Academy's Midwest camp in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The players will leave from Metro Airport at 7 p.m. Friday and return Jan. 2. They will spend three days in Lisbon and four days in Algarve in the southern part of Portugal.

The U.S. team will play four games against four Portuguese teams, using FIFA rules. The U.S. team will be coached by John Sousa, a high school coach from Illinois.

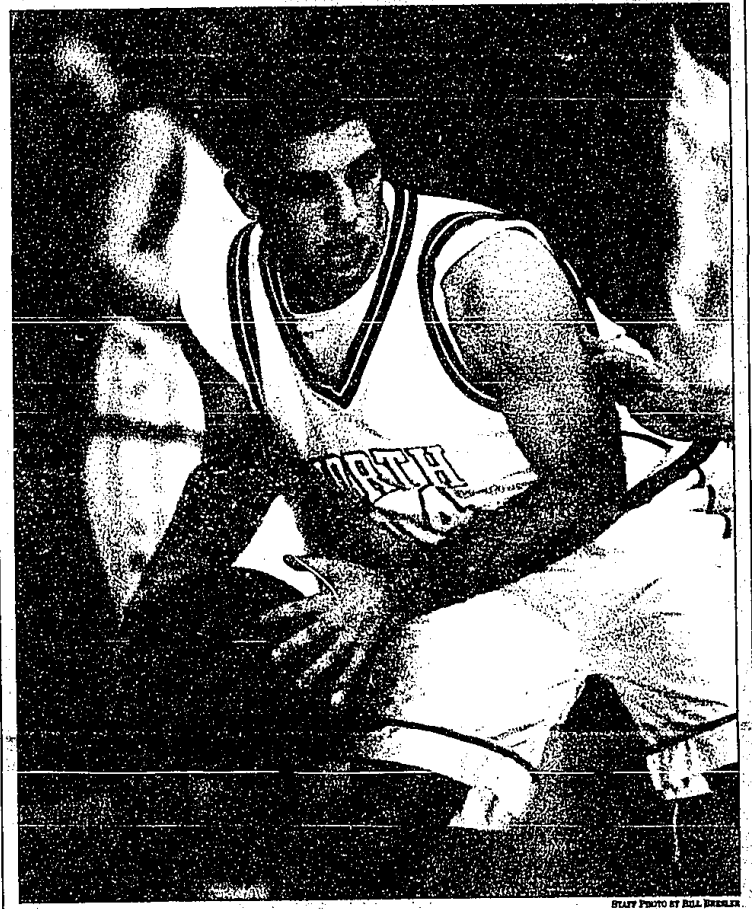
CYO officials wanted

The Catholic Youth Organization is developing a program to train and certify high school seniors (17-year-olds) as registered sport officials earning minimum of \$20 per contest.

Umpiring schedules will be worked around high school games and practices. For information, call Margie Chewning, (313) 963-7172, Ext. 149.

Falcons conclude '98 with victory

Raiders romp to win over Maples



Hoop happenings: Senior captain Matt Kelmigian and his North Farmington teammates rout visiting Birmingham Seaholm in their final basketball game of 1998 Tuesday, 67-25. The Raiders will begin the New Year with a 3-1 record. See story on Page C4.

■ Farmington High used its size advantage and superb shooting Tuesday to defeat Detroit Crockett in boys basketball, 58-42.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
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Farmington High School's basketball coaches and players will find it a little easier to enjoy their two-week holiday break after winning their last game of 1998.

The Falcons pulled away from visiting Detroit Crockett in the second half Tuesday to post a 58-42 win and finish the year with a 2-2 record.

"I'm somewhat happy with that, because we're a young team," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said, adding he "would have been real happy with 3-1. It's nice to go into the break off a win. It makes the holidays a little more pleasant."

Farmington made 13 of 18 field goals in the second half, shooting 72 percent, and outscored Crockett 36-27.

The Falcons capitalized on a height advantage, consistently getting the ball to juniors Justin Milus and Brian Davies around the basket.

The 6-foot-5 Milus and 6-4 Davies were taller than any player for the Rockets (1-3) and also led the rebounding effort for Farmington.

Yared Yearly, a 6-3 sophomore, was the tallest player for Crockett, which started two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

Milus scored a game-high 14 points; Davies and sophomore point guard Matt Mikel finished with 13 each. Yearly and sophomore guard Andre Johnson had 11 points apiece to lead the Rockets.

"Two things we talked about in the pregame were getting the ball inside and defensive rebounding," Mikel said. "We wanted to give them just one shot and box out."

The outcome is reflected in the shooting percentages as the Falcons shot an impressive 53 percent (22-of-38) overall while the Rockets made just 18 of 62 attempts for 35 percent.

Crockett led 12-11 after one quarter but was scoreless until late in the second while going 1-of-8 from the floor as Farmington took a 22-15 lead at halftime.

The Falcons made five straight shots, eight of their first nine, in the third period to build a 40-25 lead at which point Mikel put five subs on the floor with two minutes remaining.

Crockett cut the deficit to 40-33 by the end of the period and got within six

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Raiders anticipate better year in '99

BY DAN O'MEARA
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VOLLEYBALL

Second-year coach Christine Diebold is optimistic 1999 will be a better year for her North Farmington varsity volleyball team.

The Raiders, who were 1-10 in Western Lakes Activities Association dual matches, gained additional experience in off-season competition and look forward to the challenge a new season brings.

"I don't see why we can't do better; we have all the skills and ability," Diebold said. "A lot of these girls went to team camp and played AAU and it shows."

"Everybody has talent. It's just a matter of who has a little more. Between that and chemistry, anything is possible."

North has just four returning players, but each one figures prominently in the plans. The veterans are seniors Giselle Moses, Colette Burcar, Melinda DiVito and Jessica Glvak.

Senior Minna Hindo also would have been among the returnees, but she suffered a knee injury in basketball and won't play volleyball.

Glovak will be the middle hitter and blocker. DiVito and Emily Whitten, one of eight juniors who join the varsity this year, will play the front outside positions.

"Jess has a good eye for blocking and has a pretty good vertical jump," Diebold said. "Emily and Melinda have a great deal of strength and quickness."

"Playing AAU two years in a row has made (DiVito) a good player. I look forward to seeing her get better as the season goes on."

"Melinda has a ton of heart. She knows how to get the team going when we need to without offending anyone. I think that's why she and Giselle are captains."

Diebold had planned to use two setters, but that caused some confusion in the Harrison Invitational Dec. 12.

Junior Ali Edwards has the task of replacing Diana Gustkey as the main setter, but junior Kelly McKeon has a wonderful serve; so she'll figure in there, too," Diebold said.

"Ali is quick and has good hands; she really listens on the court and she hustles just as much as (Gustkey). She tries to get to every ball, and I have to remind her she doesn't have to get to absolutely every one. She thinks it's her fault if she doesn't get to the ball, but it might be the pass. It does take a

team effort."

Moses and Burcar are back row specialists, and junior Meredith Keilly, an all-round player, will have an impact there, too.

"Giselle and Colette are my talkers; Giselle is a great reader," Diebold said. "They help the front row a lot with where the block needs to be and where the pass is going to be."

"At first, I thought Meredith was just a front row player with her height, but she's proving to be a very good passer, too."

The other new players are defensive specialists Katie Brown, Jaime Harris and Jennifer Timpor and middle blocker/wake-side hitter Kelly Downey.

In addition to talent, the Raiders also have a great deal of intelligence, according to Diebold.

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CC comeback produces win over Rice

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team remained undefeated but it took a third-period rally to remain that way on Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The Shamrocks scored two third-period goals to rally from a 3-2 deficit and beat host Birmingham Brother Rice, 4-3, in a Metro Hockey League game.

The win raises CC's record to 9-0 overall, 6-0 in the Metro. The Shamrocks couldn't seem to solve the goaltending of Rice's Aaron Jones despite enjoying nearly a 2 to 1 shots on goal advantage.

PREP HOCKEY

power-play goals but also gave up two breakaway goals.

Senior forward Keith Rowe scored two goals for the Shamrocks, including the game-winner with less than two minutes remaining.

"I'm worried when I'm ahead, imagine how I feel when I'm behind," CC coach Gordie St. John said.

St. John scored first on a goal by Todd Bentley, assisted by David Moss and Jim Spivack with 10:17 left in the first period.

But Rice took a 2-1 lead with a pair of goals in the last 4:28 of the first period, including one with seven seconds remaining.

"We let down defensively and they came to play," St. John said. "Rice's second goal was a heart stopper, gave them momentum coming into the next period."

CC tied the score at 2-2 on a goal by Rowe, assisted by Ryan Yost, with 6:55 left in the second period. The Warriors regained a one-goal lead, however, with an unassisted goal midway through the second period.

Yost's goal, assisted by Bentley, with 4:40 left in the third period tied the score at 3-3. The Shamrocks scored the

game-winner with a goal by Rowe, assisted by Brad Holland and Spivack, with 1:20 left.

"Rowe has done a fantastic job for us," St. John said. "He got the goal to get us back in the game. He got the game winner. He plays hard. He pushed himself every second of the game, never took a break."

"Rice was better prepared for the type of game between two arch rivals. That carried Rice a long way. We didn't have quite the same degree of emotion."

CC goalie Ben Dunne stopped 14 of

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