

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Falcons in hoop final

Farmington High remained undefeated in boys basketball Tuesday with a 69-34 win over Taylor Kennedy in the first round of the Riverview Gabriel Richard holiday tournament.

Matt Mikel scored 15 points, which included three three-point baskets, to lead the 4-0 Falcons.

Justin Milus and Jeremy Muzes added nine points apiece, Garland Gilchrist seven and C.J. Whitfield six.

Farmington led 18-8 after one quarter and was ahead at halftime, 29-14. Its lead grew to 42-23 at the end of three periods.

"We're really playing very well," Farmington coach Danny Mikel said.

Farmington, which is averaging 68 points per game while allowing only 34, played host Gabriel Richard in the championship game Thursday night.

"One of our goals was to be 5-0 at the end of the year," Mikel said. "If we can do that, I'll feel real good for the kids, because they've worked real hard at it."

Brian Peters scored eight points and Mike Schulte seven for Kennedy (0-3). The Eagles made six of 10 free throws.

The Falcons, who were 12-of-17 at the line, divided the rebounds among a lot of players.

"We played everybody and kept a constant rotation going, so nobody had a chance to pile up big numbers," Mikel said.

Eagles edge Raiders

Detroit DePorres won the fourth quarter and the basketball game Tuesday, 47-42 over North Farmington in the Motor City Roundball Classic.

Playing at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, the Raiders missed their front end of five one-and-one opportunities down the stretch and finished 5-of-19 shooting free throws.

Junior Aaron Squirewell made six late free throws, was 9-of-9 at the line overall and led the Eagles (3-0) with 17 points.

Senior Emir Medunjanin scored 14 points to lead North (1-3). Phil Watha added 10 and Marcus McComb six.

The Raiders battled foul trouble all game. Medunjanin sat out most of the first half and senior Adrian Bridges a large part of the second half.

Knights down Trojans

Junior forward Ruan Stennett scored 17 points, grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked three shots Wednesday at Royal Oak Kimball in the consolation final against Livonia Clarenceville at the Walled Lake Western Tournament, 64-27.

Senior forwards Tim Hughes and Ryan Doyle contributed 16 and 10 points, respectively, for the Knights (4-2). Junior center Scott Wion had 10 for Clarenceville (1-4).

On Tuesday, Clarenceville lost to host Western, 79-39, as Johnny Engle paced the victorious Warriors with 16 points.

Brandon Routhier and Rob Pisha contributed 12 each for Western, which outscored Clarenceville 47-12 in the second half after leading 32-27 at intermission.

Tim Shaw led Clarenceville with 12 points; Rick Burack and Wion each contributed 11.

Whalers defeat Otters

Three third-period goals lifted the Plymouth Whalers to a 4-2 win over the visiting Erie Otters in an Ontario Hockey League game Tuesday.

Andre Robichaud broke a 1-1 tie at 2:40 in the final period, and Tomas Kurka netted what proved to be the game-winning on the power play at 8:56.

The Otters got within a goal when Eric's Shane Nash scored his second goal of the game at 16:13, but George Niemas made it a two-goal difference for the Whalers at 18:13.

Nash put Eric on the scoreboard less than two minutes into the game (1:55), and the Otters led until Justin Williams scored the first Plymouth goal on a power play at 8:37 in the second period.

Eric Goalby assisted on all four Whaler goals. Damian Suran, Kuntz, Stephen Morris and Nate Kiser also were credited with assists.

Goalkeeper Rob Zapp stopped 16 shots for Plymouth while Erie net-minder Adam Munro made 24 saves.

The top 100

Mallon, Miller make list of area's best athletes

Brad Emons grew up in Livonia and has worked as an Observer sports writer for more than two decades. With a wealth of knowledge regarding the area's sports history, he put together his list of the top 100 athletes.



ESPN has had its say on the century's 50 greatest athletes.

It's good discussion material among sports fans, for sure.

I can't say Secretariat belongs in the top 50, but I can't argue with Michael Jordan as No. 1 over Babe Ruth.

Sports Illustrated recently came out with its top 50 sports figures from each state.

Very interesting. It seemed the person or persons who compiled the Michigan list tried to be politically correct.

How can you have Emanuel Steward in there and not Chet Walker? Eddie Futch over Hayes Jones? Gerald Ford over Lofton Greene?

But, hey, it's not an exact science. Like I said, you may have more than a few arguments with my top 100 Observerland list.

After a week of doing research, I was banging my head against the wall at times.

I've made as many calls as I could trying to cover my tracks and going through the files.

There are a few stipulations on this list.

I looked for multi-talented, as well as singularly-talented, athletes. These athletes had to grow up in this area or attend a school in our coverage area.

I only go back to 1979 for Catholic Central, when the school relocated from later Drive in Detroit to Breakfast Drive in Redford.

That would exclude athletes such as Frank Tanana, Tom LaGarde and Tom Zaliagaris.

Eric Lindros, who attended Farmington High for a time while playing hockey for the Computware team, is also disqualified.

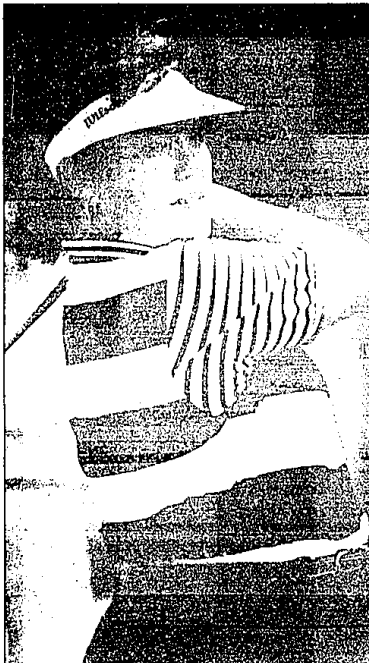
We also did not cover Wayne Memorial High School until 1985, so that would exclude Pat Sheridan, Doug Tolson and Rick Rogers.

Nobody prior to 1960 is on this list. Women merit consideration as high as the men.

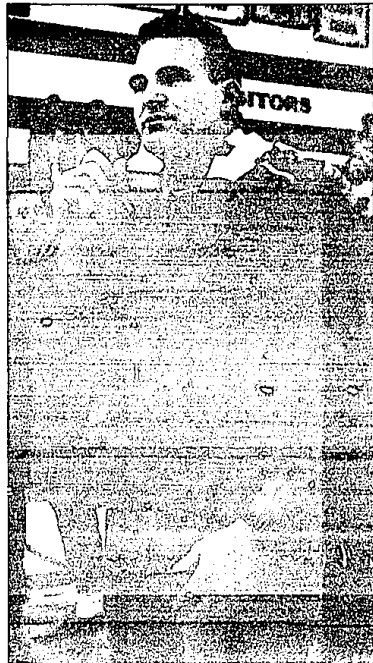
I also considered what impact they made in high school and what they did afterward. Injuries cut short many a promising career.

This list, of course, is my list, not the Observer's. It's a compilation of my being here for 22 years at the Observer and having grown up and attended school in the area.

Sure, I'm prejudiced in certain respects, but let's give it the old college try.



Pro golfer: Meg Mallon played at Ohio State and is one of the top LPGA Tour money winners.



Hawk grid star: John Miller spoke to the crowd in 1990 when Harrison High retired his jersey.



Star wrestler: Mark Churella won state and NCAA titles.



Top passer: Mill Coleman holds the record for passing yardage.



Golf standout: Jason Buha was a state champion in 1992.

THE TOP 50 ATHLETES

No. 1 (Mike Modano): The 29-year-old Westland, one of the NHL's true superstars. Is the only Observerland athlete (No. 28) on Sports Illustrated's top 50 list from Michigan. He was the NHL's top draft pick in 1988 and has played in two Stanley Cup finals, 1991 with Minnesota before winning the coveted Cup last year with the Dallas Stars. Represented U.S. in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan and was a member of the World Cup champion U.S. team which defeated Canada in 1996. Attended Livonia Franklin High School for two years before playing junior hockey in Prince Albert. Also played on the French tennis team.

No. 2 (Meg Mallon): Farmington Hills Mercy grad is one of the top 10 women's golfers on the LPGA tour. Won two majors in 1991 and is a mainstay on U.S. squad for international competition. The Ohio State grad also played hoops in Europe.

No. 3 (Warren "Beak" Cawley): Farmington High grad won a gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle hurdles (49.5) at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Ran a 1:3.5 in the 110-meter hurdles, a time which still ranks him fourth all-time best in the MHSAA annals.

No. 4 (Al Ibratt): Livonia Bentley High product made the U.S. Olympic hockey team (1984) at a 16-year-old. He was a first-round pick by the Toronto Maple Leafs. The 6-foot-3 defenseman was an NHL All-Star with one of the league's hardest slap shots. Also played with St. Louis and Washington.

No. 5 (Shelia Taormina): Standout swimmer at Livonia Stevenson and an All-America at Georgia. Taormina won a gold medal in the 1996 Summer Olympics in the Atlanta Games (4 x 200-meter freestyle relay) at the age of 27. Now living in another Olympic event, the women's triathlon, Taormina has already moved into the top 50 in the world and top 10 in the U.S. She is headed to both Olympic Trials events in both Sydney and Dallas.

No. 6 (Doug Kurtz): Stevenson grad made his name after high school. Michigan's premier distance runner for years, Kurtz holds a record

that may be unmatched — 70 plus marathons under 2 hours, 20 minutes. Has competed in most of the prestigious marathons in the world.

No. 7 (Chris Sabo): Steady third baseman for the Cincinnati Reds who played on the 1990 World Series championship squad which swept Oakland. The Catholic Central and Michigan standout was also a standout 800er in the junior hockey ranks. Now on the Celebrity Golf Tour.

No. 8 (Bernie Carbo): 1965 Franklin High grad was a No. 1 pick of the Reds Johnny Bench was in the second round). Hit 215 his rookie year with the Reds, earning Topps National League Rookie of the Year honors. Connected to two pinch-hit homers for Red Sox in the 1975 World Series battle against the Reds. Also played for Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

No. 9 (Dena Head): Plymouth Salem grad and former Miss Basketball (1988) was All-America who starred at point guard on Tennessee's NCAA championship team (1991). Played for Utah in the WNBA and has also played internationally. Also a standout soccer and track athlete during her prep days at the Rocks.

No. 10 (Drew Mahall): North Farmington quarterback led Raiders to mythical state title in 1970. Went on to be captain at Notre Dame and played in the NFL for the San Diego Chargers and Philadelphia Eagles as a linebacker.

No. 11 (Shawn Respert): Bishop Borgess guard is Michigan State's all-time leading scorer in men's basketball (2,531 points) and first-team All-America. First-round pick in the NBA who had stints with Toronto and Dallas, now playing in Italy. Helped Borgess reach the 1987 state Class B championship game.

No. 12 (Ron Edgley): Salem High and played at the University of Wisconsin and enjoyed a productive 10-year NFL career after being signed as a free agent. His best years were with the Denver Broncos followed by a short stint with San Diego. Also played hoops for the

Rocks.

No. 13 (Mike Donnelly): Played high school hockey at Franklin, walked on at MSU and earned NCAA tournament MVP honors as Spartans won the national title in 1986. Signed as a bonus baby (near \$1 million) by the New York Rangers. Also played for Buffalo, but most productive seasons in his 9-year NHL career came with the LA Kings where he played along side the Great One, Wayne Gretzky.

No. 14 (Aleta Sill): Dowler spent her youth in Garden City and Westland where she became the LPGA's all-time leading money winner, the first ever to top the \$1 million mark in career earnings. Has won multiple titles in the Majors.

No. 15 (Mark Churella): Farmington High product was a three-time NCAA wrestling champion and a third-place finisher for Michigan as a freshman. Was runner-up in the U.S. Nationals in 1979 Olympic Trials, but never got his Olympic moment because of the 1980 U.S. boycott. Lives in Novi where he sells insurance and works at Novi High as an assistant coach (for his two sons).

No. 16 (Danielle and Steve Hartsell): The John Glenn High duo won the 1999 U.S. Figure Skating pairs championship. Good bets to represent the U.S. in the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City. Danielle recently suffered a setback when she shattered her knee during practice and will be out for the season.

No. 17 (Bill Fahey): Journeyman Major League catcher who starred at Redford Union with big league stints with the Washington Senators, Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers. Played one season at the University of Detroit. Also coached for the San Francisco Giants. Resides in Toronto.

No. 18 (Carol Fox): Westland native teamed with partner Richard Dalley to become one of the country's top ice dancing duos. Represented the U.S. in the 1984 Winter Games in Sarajevo where the pair placed fifth. Multiple U.S. Open and bronze U.S. medalist. Fox and Dalley went

to star professionally in the Ice Capades.

No. 19 (Pete Wysocki): Garden City East grad played as a linebacker on the CFL and for the Washington Redskins (in under George Allen and Jack Pardee). Also inducted into Western Michigan University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

No. 20 (Rick Drawlitz): The 6'7 Garden City West grad led the Tigers to 1970 state Class A semifinals where he scored 41 points in an 84-79 loss to Campy Russell and Pontiac Central. Scored 39 in quarterfinal win over Benton Harbor, but 20 of 25 free throws in regional win over CC and kept CC alive with 48 points and a last-second jumper in district semif. at Warren Bentley. Captain of the Free Press All State team. Played on SEC championship team as sixth man for coach Addison Rupp at Kentucky.

No. 21 (Kim Archer): A woman among girls as a high schooler at Bentley. Archer could do it all — basketball, hockey, volleyball and softball. Made All State in softball and basketball, went on to play at MSU where she starred at point guard. Played women's world class slow-pitch softball at age 15. Made first-team All Big Ten softball in her only season with the Star tanks (1988), hitting .328 with 53 hits. Could throw a baseball better than 75 mph.

No. 22 (Eazy Rogowski): Nobody had a more productive three sport career at CC — all state in wrestling (two-time undefeated heavyweight), football (two state titles) and baseball (one state title). The inebriator had a chance to sign with Central Michigan in football. But Rogowski chose to play first base with the Chicago White Sox after being drafted in the 13th round.

No. 23 (Barrie Cunningham): The slightly built lefty from Churchill High was a U.S. Junior National champion and played several years on the women's pro tennis tour where she cracked the top 40 in the world rankings. She also reached the sweet 16 of the U.S. Open — there lost to Monica Seles in the semifinals of the