

# Observer Sports

The Farmington  
Observer

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Thursday, February 1, 2001

FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

## Wild Game Dinner

The Fourth Annual Sportsman's Wild Game Dinner will be 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Taylor Moose Lodge located at 9981 South Telegraph Road in Taylor.

Local sportsmen and women will enjoy a wild-game dinner of turtle soup, rabbit, venison, beaver, buffalo, elk, kangaroo and many more surprises.

There will be information available on camping and fishing resorts, charter fishing, hunting, food lots and current boating information. There is a photo contest for your special hunting or fishing photo.

Proceeds go to support Michigan hunting and fishing projects, youth programs and disabled outdoor projects.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tickets are available by calling Alan Thompson at (248) 851-1266 or Master Chef Steve Malinak at (313) 277-8291.

## Girls golf meetings

Coach Ann Marie Sophia will conduct informational meetings at Farmington's public high schools for all girls interested in playing golf for the Farmington unified team this year.

Sophia will meet with Harrison girls, Friday, Feb. 4, in the school's office conference room, North Farmington girls Monday, Feb. 21, in the school media center and Farmington girls Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the school's dedicated classroom.

All meetings take place at 2:30 p.m.

## Rams seek players

The Michigan Lake Area Rams are conducting tryouts to fill three roster spots for a new 14-year-old summer travel baseball team.

The team will participate in the Little Caesar's All-American Baseball Federation Sunday, Koush Division.

Players should have travel baseball experience. Home games will be played in the Farmington Hills area.

Brian Kaczynski will manage the team and will be assisted by coaches Todd Miller and Eric Pierce. All have recent college baseball experience.

For more information, call Dick Miller at (248) 476-1089.

\* The Michigan Lake Area Rams are conducting interviews and tryouts for their 17- and 18-year-old travel federation baseball team through Feb. 18. Call (248) 737-9138 or (313) 291-5031 to arrange a tryout.

## Scholar-Athlete finalists

A total of seven athletes from schools inside the Observerland coverage area are among the 114 finalists selected from a record 2,657 applicants for the 1999-2000 Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Awards.

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, honors 24 athletes statewide, one in each of the MHSAA state-sponsored sports.

Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Award, and presents a \$1,000 scholarship to each winner.

The honors ceremony for the 24 winners will be conducted during halftime of the Class C boys basketball state final Saturday, March 25, at Michigan State University's Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.

Farmington finalists are Charlie Stamboulian, boys cross country, North Farmington; Grant Wehr, football, Farmington; and Brian Herr, boys soccer, North Farmington.

## OCC women triumph

Mahogany Fletcher of Farmington Hills (Harrison High School) scored a game-high 26 points Saturday to lead the Oakland Community College women's basketball team to a 69-46 win over visiting St. Clair.

Fletcher made eight of 19 field goals, including two of eight threes, and seven of 11 free throws. She also had seven rebounds.

Sara Weller added 14 points, Nicole Schulze and Breanna Pearson chipped in for the Lady Raiders, who led at halftime, 29-28. OCC was 4-3 in the MCCC Eastern Conference and 6-13 overall.

Tim Grawford had 19 points for the OCC men's team in an 83-70 loss to St. Clair. The Raiders dropped to 1-8 in the conference and 6-14 overall.

## Shamrocks remain No. 1 in area

■ Redford Catholic Central earned its second straight championship and fourth overall in the Observerland Wrestling Tournament.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oohomecomm.net

Redford Catholic Central's team victory Saturday in the Ninth Annual Observerland Wrestling Tournament was especially significant for the Shamrocks.

CC achieved a record fourth championship and became only the second school to win back-to-back titles since Livonia Stevenson did it in 1994-95.

### WRESTLING

"This tournament is a highlight for us," CC coach Mike Rodriguez said. "I never realized how much this means to the boys, to be in their own backyard and to win something where everybody knows you instead of going down to Ohio."

It's the first tournament the Shamrocks have won this season, and they're hoping to use it as a springboard to bigger things.

"We're looking to go up to state and make some noise," Rodriguez said. "The well has been dry too long. This will give us a boost to get ready for state."

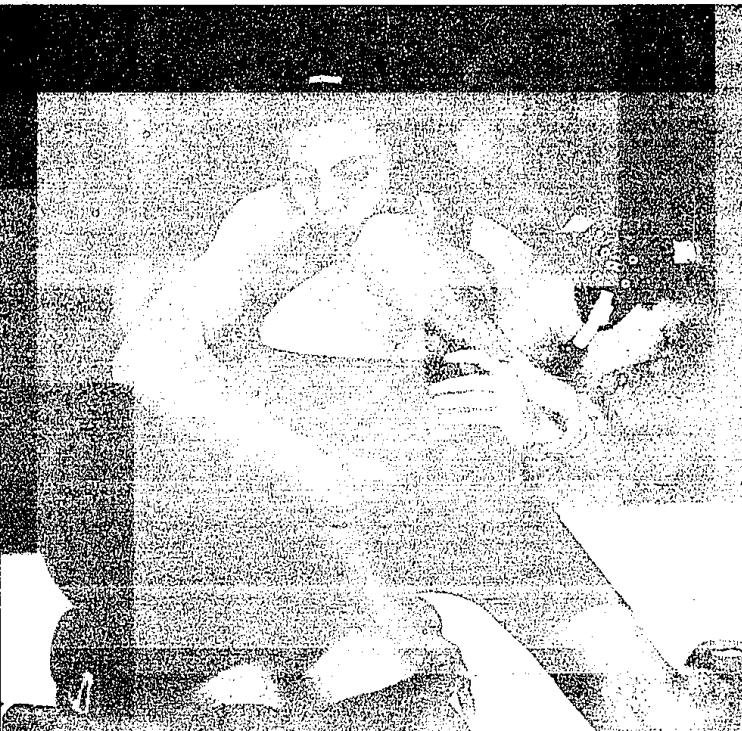
With five wrestlers in the championship finals, the Shamrocks had a 24-point lead over Livonia Stevenson, 211-157, and the title virtually locked up before the individual bracket winners were decided.

CC finished with 231 points and Stevenson 199. Plymouth Canton had its best showing since being the 1992 runner-up, finishing third with 195 points. The top five included Plymouth Salem (161) and host Livonia Churchill (124).

"I think we wrestle the toughest schedule in the state of Michigan," said CC senior Mitch Hancock, who won his second-straight title and was named the most valuable wrestler in the upper weights (160-275).

"This is a big stepping stone. The guys realize as a team, we can come through and do anything. We knew we were going to win it. We've worked hard and we're peaking at the right time going into the long stretch."

CC had three other champions — junior heavyweight Aaron Parr, 135-pound senior Jeff Wheeler and 171-pound junior Ryan Rogowski.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN MITCHELL

**Observerland tourney:** North Farmington's Dan Canavasser (back) wrestles Garden City's Jacob Davis in a 103-pound bout Saturday. Davis won the consolation round contest by pin.

Parr was seeded second and pinned No. 1 Josh Rose of Clarenceville in the final. Parr also pinned his first two opponents in less than two minutes.

"He's just starting to come around," Rodriguez said, adding Parr was pinned by Rose in an earlier meeting. "I knew if he got a second shot at him, he might do better."

"Working with (former two-time

state heavyweight champ) Casey (Rogowski) is starting to pay off. He started out slow and little by little he started winning some matches."

Top-seeded Wheeler won an 8-2 decision over No. 2 Steve Dendrinos of Salem, but the score was just 4-2 until the match when Wheeler got a takedown and nearfall.

Hancock, who won at 152 last year,

breasted through the 160-pound bracket with a technical fall in his first bout and two pins. His record this season is 32-0; his career total is 172-13.

"What I'm doing is just preparing for the state," he said. "I want to wrestle a state championship match every match."

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## Falcons beat Chiefs to finish, 55-46

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

With just over four minutes remaining and the score tied, 43-43, Tuesday's Farmington-Plymouth Canton basketball game had "down-to-the-wire, buzzer-beating finish" written all over it.

That is, until the Falcons got their erasers out.

Energized by a full-court press that

### BASKETBALL

forced Canton into committing 23 turnovers, Farmington outscored the Chiefs 12-3 down the stretch and went on to post a 55-46 victory in Canton's gym.

The triumph boosted the Falcons'

record to 10-2 overall and 5-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Canton fell to 4-8 overall and 3-3 in the WLAAs.

Farmington coach Denny Mikel singled out a change in defensive strategy as the primary reason his team was able to overcome a deficit that had reached seven points midway through the third quarter.

"We started out the game in a man-to-man defense, but Canton was beating us off the dribble and getting a lot

of easy baskets," Mikel said.

"At halftime, we realized they weren't hitting many outside shots, so we switched to a zone defense and a box press. I think it may have got them out of sync a little bit, and we were able to get back into the game."

Forced to turn to their perimeter game when the Falcons packed in their zone, the Chiefs connected on just two

Please see BASKETBALL, C3

### Marlins lose court fight to Mustangs



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN MITCHELL

**Prep basketball:** Mercy High's Katie Dinsmore passes the ball during a match Tuesday night against Birmingham Marian. The Marlins lost in two games. See results on Page C4.

## Farmington gridders make college choices

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Three football players from Farmington schools made their college plans official Wednesday when they signed national letters of intent.

Two committed to Division I schools — Farmington High two-way end Justin Milus and Harrison running back Kevin Woods. Farmington High linebacker Brian Brinsden accepted a scholarship to Ferris State University.

Milus and Woods will play in the Mid-American Conference; Milus is headed to Western Michigan in Kalamazoo and Woods to Northern Illinois in DeKalb, Ill.

College coaches liked the potential Milus holds based on his 6-foot-6, 245-pound size, according to Farmington coach John Bechtel.

"They look at kids on a five-year basis," he said. "They anticipate red-shirting every incoming freshman and see it as an opportunity to develop kids, and Milus is the perfect kid to develop."

Despite being injured most of last season, missing a number of games and not earning much post-season recognition, Milus still drew a lot of interest from recruiters.

"He's probably healthier than he's been in two years," Bechtel said. "The WMU coaches liked him develop through his ball skills and it made a lot of difference to them."

"He's a big kid who can move his feet, and that's what they were looking at. In addition, it helped that Justin is a long snapper."

"This kid is a sleeper. He has the potential to be a big-time player. I tried to point that out to colleges that came in looking at him. Somebody was going to step up and grab him."

Milus was bothered by a hip injury in his junior year, and he had a stress fracture in one of his feet last fall.

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### FOOTBALL

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Please see GRID RECRUITS, C4