

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Wayne rally tops OCC

Oakland Community College was outscored, 63-30, in the second half Wednesday and lost to visiting Wayne OCC in men's basketball, 92-72.

Dennis Jenkins scored 28 points to lead five Wayne players in doubles figures. Darius Burke added 20, David Rucker 19, Russell Little 12 and Nanyomko Walton 10.

The Wildcats shot better than 58 percent (21-of-36) in the second half and nearly 63 percent (39-of-74) for the game.

Rafiq Abira scored 29 points to lead the Raiders, who led at halftime, 42-39. Abira made 11 of 19 field goals; he was 2-of-2 shooting threes and 6-of-6 at the charity stripe.

Tim Swafford tossed in 22 points and Walter Malone 13 for OCC. Abira and Malone had seven rebounds apiece. The Raiders shot 45 percent (23-of-65).

The loss left OCC at 1-10 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 6-16 overall. Wayne is 1-9 and 6-12.

Sports and spirituality

Author, attorney, community leader and sports enthusiast Rabbi James Gordon reveals the importance of spirituality in the world of sports in his new book *Pray Ball!*

Gordon will make an appearance at Borders Books and Music in Farmington Hills at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10. A book signing will follow.

The event is co-sponsored by Borders and the Henry and Della Meyers Memorial Library of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

In *Pray Ball! The Spiritual Insights of a Jewish Sports Fan*, Gordon connects the world of sports with the world of Judaism, using sports events, figures and analogies as illustrations.

Gordon is a past president of The Denague Society of Lawyers and also serves as chairman of the Rabbinic Welfare Committee of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. He is the author of articles on comparative law and other contemporary Judaic issues and frequently lectures on these topics.

Clinic for parents, kids

Boys and girls can learn to grip, throw, field, catch and hit a baseball and run the bases in the Parent/Child Baseball Clinic, which is offered through West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation.

The clinic is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and will take place indoors at the JCC in West Bloomfield on Sundays, March 12 to 26. The times are 1-2:30 p.m. for children ages 6-7 and 2:45-4:15 p.m. for ages 8-12.

The cost is \$27 per child for a West Bloomfield resident and \$37 for a non-resident. There is no charge for parents.

The registration deadline is Friday, March 3. To register call West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at (248) 735-2600.

Adult hockey sign-up

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is conducting registration for its spring season, which begins Wednesday, March 29. Games will be played at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Team entries will be taken for the 18- and 30-and-over leagues, individual entries for the 40-and-over league. The team entry fee is \$2,300; the individual entry fee is \$250.

The sign-up deadline is Friday, March 10. There is a discount for teams and individuals who register early.

Registration forms are available at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. For more information call the FFAHA at (248) 471-6004.

Soccer club sign-up

Spring registration is under way in the Farmington Soccer Club. Registration forms are available at Farmington public libraries, the Farmington YMCA and Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office.

The fee is \$45 for returning players and \$65 for new players. An additional \$25 late charge will be assessed after Feb. 18.

Please call the FSC registrar at (248) 482-1148 or visit the website at www.leaguisonline.com/fsc/

Farmington adds lacrosse teams



Farmington Public Schools will compete for the first time in boys and girls lacrosse in the spring sports season. There will be a meeting for players and parents 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Farmington High School mediated classroom.

By DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Public Schools student-athletes will have another choice of sports to consider playing in the 2000 spring season.

The district is elevating existing lacrosse club teams — one each for boys and girls — to varsity status starting this year.

Both teams will be unified teams in which athletes from all three public high schools are eligible to participate on a pay-to-play basis.

FPS Athletic Director Brian Swinehart hasn't made a decision on coaches.

He was waiting for the posting period for district employees to expire Friday before moving on that front.

Mike Mehall of Farmington, who was one of the driving forces along with Nick Faloon to make lacrosse a varsity sport, has applied to coach the girls team and John Fillion the boys.

Mehall, 54, helped to organize the club teams three years ago and made the presentation for school-sponsored varsity play to the FPS Athletic Advisory Council last spring.

"There was some thought this was going to take athletes away from existing sports that are already struggling for numbers," Swinehart said. "The

feeling was the ones who would participate in lacrosse wouldn't participate in other sports; so they wanted to bring this on.

"I'm excited we can offer this to our athletes. Any time you can expand offerings to kids that's a positive.

"There are opportunities for college scholarships in lacrosse, and we hope we can provide athletes in Farmington with the opportunity to possibly go on and play at the next level.

"The bottom line is 'What's best for kids?' and the best thing is to have lacrosse teams."

Swinehart added Farmington High senior Dustin Gress, a member of the advisory council, voted in favor of lacrosse despite the defection of track teammates to the lacrosse club team.

"Even though he felt it hurt his track team, he didn't think it was fair not to bring in lacrosse for that reason," Swinehart said. "It was more impor-

tant to have a choice of which sport you would like to participate in."

As with the unified Farmington hockey team, the athletes will have to provide their own equipment and shoulder the cost of the program beyond what can be raised through fund-raising efforts.

Mehall said the exact cost is still under evaluation but club players paid approximately \$90 apiece last year.

"When the proposal was made, it was late spring last year, and the 2000 budget was already set," Swinehart said. "For this season, costs will be paid exclusively by the lacrosse boosters or pay-to-play."

"Next year the district will pick up the cost for the coaches alone. When we brought in hockey as a pay-to-play sport, we were able to have more sports given this format."

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Flyers make most of ice time: Farmington's Glen Hearn skates with the puck ahead of Northville's Brandon Szalkowski in a Western Lakes hockey game Friday night at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The Flyers won their second game in a row, 3-2.

Power-play goal lifts Flyers to victory

Sophomore Matt Len scored a pair of goals Friday as host Farmington completed a three-game hockey sweep of Northville with a 3-2 victory.

Len scored the first two goals of the game to get the Flyers off the ground (or, rather it should be, the ice) in good shape.

Kevin Tomerowski assisted on both Len goals, which occurred in the first period. Rose Patterson also got an assist on the first, Scott Salomonson on the second.

Northville's Steve Lariche (Bill Sallette) cut the margin to one goal heading into the second period.

But the Flyers came up with the eventual winning goal at a key point in the game when the Mustangs were two men short.

Tom Close scored the power-play goal with help from Preston Picard and Brian Marion to give Farmington a 3-1 advantage and defeat the opponent.

"You could kinda see it in the Northville players; they looked a little frustrated after that goal," Farmington coach Glenn Breuhan said. "But they

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came out and played a strong (but scoreless) third period."

The Mustangs got another goal, this one by Rob Ryan (Scott Weyandt, Scott Schueler) with 5 1/2 minutes left in the second period to finish the scoring.

"It was a very good hockey game," Breuhan said. "They played well and we played very well."

"It was just fun hockey. They're so evenly-matched with us you know it's going to be a good game."

Logan McLean was in goal for Farmington and played an outstanding game, according to Breuhan.

"The two goals he gave up were screened shots and very, very tough shots to stop," he said.

The Flyers, who have won two in a row and four of their last five games, are 9-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 13-6 overall.

"I think we're on an upswing," Breuhan said, adding the Flyers have

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Hockey action: Northville's Mike Stewart tries to slow down Matt Lee, who managed to score two goals in Farmington's 3-2 win.

Tough defense keeps Raiders at top

Defense did it again for North Farmington — defense and a freshman guard named Marcus McComb.

The Raiders held Walled Lake Central down Friday night and then steam-rolled to a 65-38 victory in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball game.

North took a 16-7 lead after one period and was up, 33-12, at the half as everybody played and 12 players scored for coach Tom Negoshian's team.

"We played real well defensively," Negoshian said, "and that just kind of set the tone for us. It kind of mushroomed on (the Vikings). I honestly think they're a pretty good team; it just didn't happen for them."

North is 6-1 in the WLAA and 8-6 overall; Central

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is 3-4 in the league during a 4-9 season. The game was played in the Walled Lake Western gym.

Paul Pavlich paced the Vikings with 12 points.

North senior guard Phil Watha led all scorers with 21 points, and center Emir Medunjanin added 12. McComb, gradually losing his freshman inexperience, scored seven points, had six rebounds and contributed five assists.

"We got a solid game out of Marcus McComb," Negoshian said. "He played very well for us."

Rocks shut down Falcons in WLAA game

Plymouth Salem did to host Farmington what the

Falcons usually do to other teams Friday, holding them to just 40 points.

The Rocks, on the other hand, managed to score 52 against a good Farmington defense and stun the Falcons in a Western Lakes game.

The loss knocks Farmington out of first place, dropping the Falcons to 5-2 in the WLAA and 10-3 overall.

Salem moves within a game of Farmington at 4-3; the Rocks reached .500 overall with a 6-6 record.

The Rocks jumped in front after one quarter, doubling the score on the Falcons, 18-8. They extended their lead to 27-16 at halftime and were ahead 38-27 going into the final period.

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