

FARMINGTON —  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPORTS  
SCENE

### Gymnasts win meet

Farmington defeated Plymouth Canton in a gymnastics dual meet Monday at the Farmington Gymnastics Center, 137-30 to 130-55. Farmington's Chelsea Keesling had the best scores on vault (8.9) and bars (9.25) and was first in all-around scoring with a 36.2 total. She also was second on beam (8.75) and floor exercise (9.3). Teammate Clara Seymour finished first on beam (9.16) and second overall (35.56). She was second on bars (9.2), tied teammate Jenny Galbraith for fourth on vault (8.4) and was fourth on floor (8.8). Farmington's Kristin Ulwicz earned an 8.55, which was good for third place, on vault and tied Keesling on beam with an 8.76. Natalie Olesko was fifth in the all-around (32.05) after Canton's Liz Fitzgerald (34.76) and Amy Driscoll (33.76). Her best events were bars and beam in which she scored 8.95 and 8.15, respectively. Farmington is 4-1 in the Western Lakes and 6-2 overall.

### Hoop stats leaders

The Observer sports staff asks for the cooperation of all area boys varsity basketball coaches in compiling a list of statistical leaders. North Farmington coaches Tom Negoshian and Pete Mantyla will take information from area coaches and compile the weekly list. The list will include the leading scorers, free-throw shooters and three-point shooters. Coaches are asked to call Negoshian's work voice-mail number at their convenience Saturday or Sunday at (248) 426-2829 or email Mantyla at peter.mantyla@farmington.k12.mi.us.

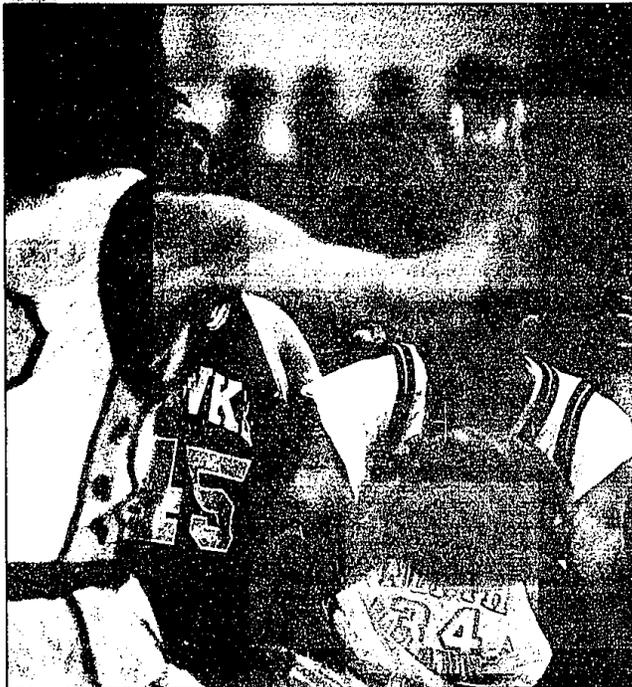
## Raiders start fast, slump — win!



North Farmington raced to an early lead Tuesday but needed a late rally to defeat rival Farmington Harrison in boys basketball, 47-36.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian figured it was a little too early in the game Tuesday night to get too excited about a 15-point lead. He was right; it was! But it all worked out well for Negoshian and the Raiders, who needed a fourth-quarter rally to overcome visiting Farmington Harrison in boys basketball, 47-36. The victory keeps North tied for first place in the Western Lakes Activities Association with Walled Lake West-ern. Both teams are 7-1. The hard-luck Hawks, who have lost a number of close games despite playing well, dip to 3-5 in the WLAA. In a huge momentum shift, Harrison overcame the big deficit and rallied to take a four-point lead late in the third quarter, but the Raiders rebounded and outscored the Hawks 20-5 over the final 11 minutes. "I never thought we were going to blow them out," Negoshian said. "They're very athletic, talented and well coached." "We said at halftime 'They're going to come after us. We have to make sure we hang in there and fight off their run.' "I thought Harrison did a great job of coming back and getting the lead and, in turn, we did a great job of coming back (and winning the game)." North senior Emir Medunjanin scored a game-high 17 points and was supported by senior Phil Watha, who finished with 11, which included one three. Senior Mike Primeau added six points, senior Adrian Bridges and junior Mike Patterson five apiece. Senior Nick Hall led the Hawks with 13 points, but he was the only Harrison player in double figures. Eight others scored, but no one had more than four points. "We're not so concerned who gets the points, but it's not likely we're going to win many games with one guy in double," Harrison coach Dave Turquist said. "No doubt our inability to get points was the difference in the game." The Hawks struggled to score early, going 0-for-9 from the floor in the first quarter and 4-for-24 in the first half. North rolled to a 13-0 lead as freshman Marcus McComb and Patterson finished the first quarter with



Hoop action: North Farmington's Emir Medunjanin looks for an opening in a crowd of players that includes teammate Mike Primeau (foreground) and Dave Condeni.

Please see BASKETBALL, C3

## Friends, family remember Red Wings great Sid Abel



Momentous: Couley's employees Stephanie Rose and Carol Reucind display a signed photograph and hockey stick from Sid Abel. On the wall behind them is a photo of the famed Detroit Red Wings' Production Line.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
AND HEATHER NEEDHAM  
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As well as one of professional hockey's all-time great players, Sid Abel is being remembered this week by those who knew him best as a person of integrity, a good friend and a devoted family man. Abel, a resident of Farmington Hills, had been in declining health for several years and died early Tuesday at Boteford General Hospital. He was 81. Abel spent much of the last half century representing the Detroit Red Wings as a player, coach, general manager and broadcaster. During a 14-year career in the National Hockey League, Abel played 12 seasons with the Wings and achieved fame as a member of Detroit's "Production Line" of the 1950s that included Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay. He was inducted into the NHL Hall of Fame in 1969. "I always called him a gentle man as well as a gentleman," said Abel's wife, Gloria. "He was a terrific husband, father and grandfather, and he'll be terribly missed." "He just enjoyed life and, of course, hockey." But sometimes watching a hockey game on television could be an anxious experience for him. "He made me laugh," Mrs. Abel said. "He'd flip the channel, and I'd ask him 'Aren't you going to watch?' He'd say 'I got too nervous!'" "But he was a Red Wings fan; that's for sure." Longtime Red Wings fans

Sid Abel  
NHL Hall of Famer

Please see SID ABEL, C4

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