

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer
INSIDE:
Skiing, B2
Bowling, B5

Page 1, Section B

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Flyers settle for draw

Ben Tyler's goal with 10 seconds left in the game Friday allowed West Bloomfield to gain a 1-1 tie with host Farmington in a non-league prep hockey game.

After two scoreless periods, Farmington's Matt Lee put the Flyers in front with a goal at 12:35 in the third period. Jeff Swanson and Dan Mooney assisted.

The Lakers pulled goalie Todd Denike with 1:20 remaining but put him back in for a faceoff in their end.

Denike left the ice again in favor of an extra attacker, and Farmington was short-handed (two as far as skaters) after a tripping penalty with 32 seconds left.

West Bloomfield capitalized on the situation with Tyler's goal, which was assisted by Todd Chawnskey and Brian Klockner.

"For the kids, it was like a loss," Farmington coach Glenn Breuhan said. "Our kids played well and their goalie was outstanding."

"It could easily have been 3- or 4-1. We had our chances and their goalie took the game away from us." Farmington was whistled for 12 penalties; West Bloomfield had nine, including a game misconduct for talking back to the referee.

Lacrosse coaches hired

Mike Mehall and John Fillion have been hired to coach the Farmington Public Schools lacrosse teams in the upcoming spring sports season.

Mehall, who started the Farmington club program three years ago, will be in charge of the girls varsity team and Fillion the boys team.

Mehall, 64, is a 28-year resident of Farmington and a Schoolcraft College instructor. He was previously an associate professor at the Center for Creative Studies, an art college.

Besides helping with the Farmington teams, Mehall has coached lacrosse at Novi Middle School for the last seven years.

Mehall became interested in lacrosse when his son began playing the sport at Our Lady of Sorrows Grade School and has coached for the last 12 years.

"Being one of those people who raises his hand a lot to volunteer, I ended up helping coach," he said, adding he became the head coach the next year and has coached continuously since then.

Fillion replaced Mehall as the Sorrows coach and has held that position for the last seven years. He was raised in Farmington Hills and attended Redford Catholic Central, playing lacrosse for the Shamrocks.

Wings in benefit game

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association will play the Farmington and Union alumni in a benefit hockey game at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, at the Redford Ice Arena.

Proceeds from the game, tickets for which are \$5 apiece, go to fund the Redford Unified varsity hockey team. Tickets can be obtained at the school or the ice arena.

Members of the Red Wings team, which also includes former members of other NHL teams, are Gary Bergman, Alex Deivechio, Nick Libett, Lee Norwood, John Ogronick, Dennis Hextall, Mike Krushelnyski, Eddie Mio, Mark Hamway (Islanders), Paul MacKinnon (Capitals), Pat Ribble (Maple Leafs), Dave Shand (Flames), Rob Palmer (Kings), Dave Debol (Whalers), Pat Hughes (Oilers), Tom Williams (Kings), Dan Newman (Rangers), Tommy Ross (Michigan State/Kalamazoo Wings) and Gerry Abel, son of the late Red Wings great Sid Abel who played briefly in the NHL himself.

Not all of the Wings alumni players are certain to participate, however. Bill Knight of the Wings Alumni Association said the lineup wouldn't be set until later in the week, depending on each player's schedule.

Rams seek players

The Michigan Lake Area Rams are trying to fill three roster spots for a new 14-year-old travel baseball team. Players should have travel baseball experience. Home games will be played in the Farmington Hills area.

Brian Kalczynski will manage the team and will be assisted by coaches Todd Miller and Eric Pierce. For more information call Dick Miller at (248) 476-1089.



Raiders stay tied for lead, North Farmington's Phil Mathis (right) sank some big three-point shots Friday to help the Raiders defeat Plymouth Salem and remain tied for the WLA lead.

Raiders slip by Rocks

BY BO WELLS
STAFF WRITER

It was one of those games where the outcome was never in doubt. North Farmington's Raiders defeated Plymouth Salem 54-42 Friday night to remain tied for the WLA lead.

With the Raiders trailing 46-44, and just a few minutes left on the clock, Salem's Matt McGuffee sank a three-point shot from 25 feet beyond the top of the key. It was a shot that kept the game alive, but it didn't matter. The Raiders had already secured the win.

Mathis' dunk, however, sealed the win.

BASKETBALL

North Farmington's Phil Mathis (right) sank some big three-point shots Friday to help the Raiders defeat Plymouth Salem and remain tied for the WLA lead.

Mathis' dunk, however, sealed the win.

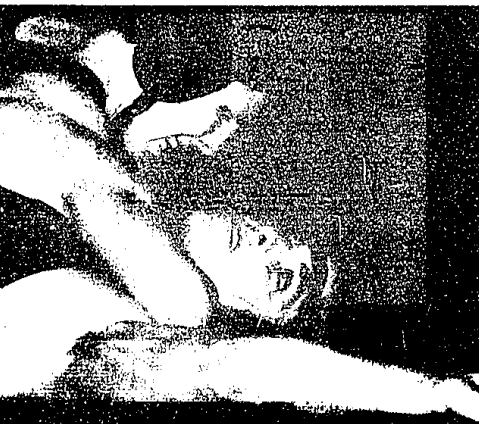
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Down but not out: The situation might not look good for Farmington's Mark Ostach (bottom) at this point in the 152-pound bout, but he turned it around and won a 9-4 decision over Scott McKee.

Falcons stage comeback to earn tie with Chiefs

BY DAN O'MEARA
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A victory in their own gym would have been a nice result for the Farmington High wrestlers in their last home dual meet of the season Thursday.

That's especially so for the many seniors on the team, but a tie with Plymouth Canton was still better than a loss.

And, when you consider the circumstances — the Falcons had to overcome a 21-point deficit to force a 36-36 draw — it was darn close to being a win.

"It was one of the most exciting matches I've seen in a long time," Farmington coach Al Beyar said. "It was certainly a crowd pleaser."

"We were so far down and, to come back, we knew we had to score pins to do it. There was a lot of pressure on the kids, and they had to come through."

"It's a good time of year to come through, because now every match is a

Falcons regroup for win

BY BRAD EMONS
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Farmington High dug itself an early hole, but the Falcons showed their way out of trouble Friday by rallying in the second half to beat host Westland John Glenn, 56-52.

The win keeps Farmington, now 12-3 on the boys basketball season and in second place overall in the Western Lakes Activities Association with a 7-2 mark. (North Farmington and Walled Lake Western are tied for first at 8-1 each.)

The Falcons are also tied for the Lakes Division lead with North Farmington and Plymouth Salem. All three teams are 3-1 with one division game left.

BASKETBALL

"It was a big win for us," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "And even though Glenn's record probably isn't what it should be (3-11, 2-8), they have good athletes and we knew we had to play well to beat them, especially on the road. Give our kids credit for coming back like they did."

Matt Mikel, junior guard and son of the Farmington head coach, proved to be the catalyst in the victory.

Mikel, who finished with a team-high 15 points, knocked down four consecutive free throws in final 30 seconds to help clinch the victory. Junior Curtis Tillman split a pair of free throws with just four seconds left to seal the win.

Senior center Justin Milus added 14 points for the winners, while Brian Davies and Chad Seaborn contributed nine and eight, respectively.

Glenn jumped out to an 18-4 first-quarter advantage and led, 22-12, early in the second quarter when Mikel made a courageous play, sacrificing his body for the team.

The 5-foot-11 Mikel took a charge against Glenn's 6-8 Yaku Moton, who grabbed a rebound and barreled down the floor dribbling the ball with his 260-pound frame. Mikel stood his ground inside the lane and the Rockets' center picked up his third foul, forcing him to the bench the rest of the second quarter.

"He (Moton) was really coming and I think it gave the whole team a lift to see Matt do that," the senior Mikel said.

By halftime, the Falcons had cut the deficit to 27-22.

"Glenn kind of caught us off-guard," Mikel said. "We wanted to play zone (defense) and pack it inside and not let Yaku get it in there."

"But the second quarter we went man-to-man and it changed the tempo for us. It got us more aggressive on offense and we also played harder."

Glenn got off to a hot first-half start behind the three-point shooting of lefty Brent Bogie (15 points) and Michael

Please see FALCONS, B4

WRESTLING

do-or-die match. It's a good way to establish some momentum going into the team district tournament."

The Falcons fell behind 24-3 after the 135-pound bout, and the point differential was still the same as Farmington trailed 30-9 after the next two weights. But Beyar's boys won the remaining five bouts, losing only by forfeit at 189, to pull even with Canton in the end.

After Farmington's Mark Ostach won by decision at 152, the Falcons received pin points from Mike Murland (160), Ben Lukas (171), Kyle Domagalski (215) and Brian Bolen (275).

"It was a great come-from-behind effort," Beyar said, adding the Falcons were hurt by the fact they had to concede 18 points — six by injury default and 12 due to a pair of voids.

Farmington's James Clarahan had to

Please see WRESTLING, B5