

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

NAHL all-time team

The North American Hockey League has named its all-time all-star team, dating from the league's inception in 1975. Seventeen former NAHLers have gone on to play in the National Hockey League.

Of the 18 players on the all-time squad, several have local ties. The most recent is David Leggett, the Plymouth Whaler standout who is currently playing with the Nashville Predators.

Others named to the team are defenseman Don McSweeney, a Plymouth native who played at Michigan State and for the NHL's St. Louis Mighty Ducks, and goalie Brent Johnson, a Farmington native who played for Owen Sound in the Ontario Hockey League and the NHL's St. Louis Blues.

Football leadership

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association will stage its Team Leadership Conference 2000 Saturday, July 29, at Michigan State University's Wilson and Holden halls. Registration is from 8-9 a.m., followed by the conference for high school players and coaches from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The purpose of the conference is to provide leadership skills for both players and coaches to enhance their programs.

Pre-registration is \$40 (if post-marked by Saturday, July 16, or \$50 a the door. No phone registrations will be accepted. Included in the cost is continental breakfast, lunch, T-shirt, resource materials, ticket and program for the MHSFCA All-Star Game at Spartan Stadium.

To register, mail to Fred Davis, 794 Fairway Court, Gaylord, MI 49735. Checks should be made payable to the MHSFCA. For more information, call (616) 546-3205.

Stampede of Races

The Second Annual U-M Heart Care/Domino's Stampede of Races will be Saturday, April 8, at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor.

The first entry deadline is March 13. Fees are \$15 for the 20- and 10-kilometer races, along with the 5K run/walk. Cost is \$5 for the Mitral Mile and Mini-Mitral (400 meters).

Entries may be printed off the event web site at www.AthleticVenues.com or enter online with a credit card. For more information, call (734) 332-3981.

Schoolcraft golf outing

Golf 200, the annual Schoolcraft College Foundation golf tournament, will be Monday, June 5, at Pheasant Run in Canton Township.

Proceeds from the tournament will enhance scholarship funds for Schoolcraft students.

Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

In addition to the 18 holes, golfers can enter a putting contest for cash prizes, along with a continental breakfast, lunch, dinner and power cart.

Golfers can also use recreational end exercise facilities, including daycare, at the Summit on the Park Conference Center (adjacent to the course).

For more information, call Schoolcraft's Office of Marketing and Development at (734) 462-4790.

Men's soccer sign-up

The Metro Detroit Soccer League is searching for teams to fill out its spring/summer season, which gets under way April 30.

Games will be played Sunday afternoons throughout the metro Detroit area. Registration is open for teams in the Premier First, Premier Second, Recreational and Over-30 divisions until March 26.

Affiliation fees and registration fees vary by division. New teams will be accepted for all divisions, and individual players may register and be placed on a team.

For further information, contact the MDSL Hotline at (248) 760-1481 or (313) 876-4122.

The MDSL is an amateur men's soccer league affiliated with the Michigan Soccer Association and the United States Amateur Soccer Association. More than 500 players from the metro-Detroit area participate in the four divisions. Teams are based in several metro cities, including Livonia, Canton and Redford.

Knights spoil Falcons' title hopes

■ Bloomfield Hills Lahser scored a 48-47 victory over Farmington in boys hoop and won a district tourney Friday at West Bloomfield.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Pressure? No problem for Bloomfield Hills Lahser junior James Mathis, who scored the last point at the free throw line Friday to give the Knights a thrilling, 48-47 win over Farmington.

His three-point play in the final seconds enabled Lahser (17-6) to win its first district championship in boys basketball since 1990.

The Knights will play either Southfield-Lathrup or Birmingham Groves in a regional tournament game 7 p.m. Wednesday at Lathrup.

■ BASKETBALL

"The beauty of it is we didn't do anything different than we did the other 21," Lahser coach Chris Drogosch said. "I told the kids we had a good shot at winning, and we just had to keep playing hard."

Farmington's C.J. Whitfield had just made two free throws with 20 seconds left to give the Falcons a 47-45 lead.

On the ensuing possession, Lahser senior Brandon Cassar spotted Mathis open underneath the basket and delivered the ball from the wing.

Mathis made the layup and was fouled with 5.2 seconds on the clock. After a Farmington timeout, he converted the free throw for the winning point.

"Fortunately, I think two (Farmington) guys fell down and James was wide open," Cassar said. "I was surprised he was that wide open. I just tried to get it to him as quick as I could, and he finished beautifully."

"I was thankful my teammate was able to give me the ball in that situation," Mathis said. "I know I had to go out there and be a captain and sink the free throw."

That was the first of two big plays for Lahser at crunch time. The first was a three-point play by Cassar with 1:37 to play that tied the score at 45.

"It was supposed to be a pick and roll for (senior) Joe (Finland) or James," said Cassar, who shot the ball from the same spot he later passed to Mathis.

"I was spotting up on the block. My man got caught in a double pick, and I was wide open. When I let it go I thought it was way right, but it edged in."

"Those were two of the set plays we've run all year," Drogosch said, adding Finland set screens on both. "They're nothing I drew up special. Joe, James and Brandon executed so well."

Following Cassar's three, Farmington made a turnover and Lahser decided to play for the last shot, but Whit-



District hoop action: Farmington's Matt Mikel slides a pass by Lahser's Brandon Cassar, who made an important three-point shot Friday to help the Knights win the district tournament title, 48-47.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHAWN LEMLEY

field stole the ball and was fouled going to the hoop.

After Mathis' three-point play and a Farmington timeout, Whitfield dribbled up court and was fouled on the floor with 1.7 seconds left. The Falcons attempted to inbound the ball, but Finland knocked it away as time ran out.

Mathis and Finland scored 12 points and had 13 rebounds apiece to lead the Knights, who also had 11 from Cassar. Junior Ryan Cassar tossed in five.

Senior Justin Millus scored a game-high 16 points for the Falcons (17-6). Junior Matt Mikel had 13 (all in the second half) and Whitfield 10. Senior Chad Seaborn added six.

The Falcons took a 39-30 lead into the fourth quarter, but the Knights closed to 39-35 when Finland made three of four free throws — the last two on a technical foul.

He missed the first but was given another two-shot opportunity when a

Farmington player raised his arms while Finland was shooting. That's when Farmington coach Denny Mikel received the T for being out of the coach's box.

"I was trying to get an explanation from the official why they were giving the shooter two more shots," Mikel said. "Usually, they warn you or tell you to back up (when the coach is out of the box), but he didn't do that in that

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Warriors headed to regional tourney

BY CHRIS MAYER
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■ BASKETBALL

There's a lot to be said for depth and experience when the state tournament rolls around.

Walled Lake Western relied on both to hold off Waterford Kettering in Friday's Class A boys basketball district final at Lakeside High School. The Warriors overcame second-half foul trouble and made enough big plays down the stretch to earn a 63-59 win.

The victory enabled the Warriors (18-5) to secure their third Class A district crown in four seasons under head coach Rex Stanczak. Western resumes play at 7 p.m. Tuesday when it faces Port Huron (13-10), a 48-47 winner over Macomb Dakota on Friday, in the regional tournament at Dakota.

The other semifinal features Clerks-ton (16-7) and Pontiac Central (9-14)

Wednesday. Western's previous two trips to the regional tournament (1997, '98) resulted in final-game losses to Pontiac Northern.

"We've had great success in that first round of the regional," Stanczak said. "We just have to step it up one more time."

Western stepped up its game in the second half against Kettering (18-4). Senior guard Jenero Dawood opened the third quarter with consecutive 3-pointers, igniting a 10-2 run that gave

Western a 38-28 lead.

Kettering, which last year had its undefeated season come to an end in the district semifinals against Western, never enjoyed a lead in the second half. The Captains closed within 53-62 on senior sharpshooter Jason Rennie's putback with 3:01 remaining, but they would get no closer.

Dawood drilled a triple, his fifth of the game, with 2:07 left to make it 68-52. Kettering staged one last comeback

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He shoots; he scores: Catholic Central's Dave Moss fires the puck into the Troy net during his team's state semifinal victory Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Catholic Central whips Troy in state semifinal

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Dominating every aspect of the game, Redford Catholic Central trounced Troy 6-1 in a Division 1 semifinal game Friday at Flint's IMA Sports Arena.

The victory moved CC (25-2) within one win of clinching its second consecutive state title and fourth in seven years.

Led by senior Dave Moss's hat trick and a punishing defense, the Shamrocks opened the game up with a four-goal second period, giving them a 6-1 lead and crushing Troy's spirit.

Despite being outshot 14-3 in the first period, Troy was able to keep

■ HOCKEY

heavily-favored CC in check. Troy goalie Jim Gelfohf made several good saves in the period, but Moss was finally able to break the spell with a 4-on-3 power-play goal at the 12:45 mark.

However, Troy bounced right back on a goal by Kyle Vandenbusache with 18 seconds left in the period. The goal seemed to give the Black Hawks the momentum going into the dressing room.

"They played well in the first period," said Moss, who also had an assist. "We

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