

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Farber 3rd in state

North Farmington junior Adam Farber finished third and earned all-state swimming honors in the breaststroke Saturday.

Farber was fourth (59.71) in the prelims Friday at Eastern Michigan University but moved up one place in the Class A finals Saturday with a better time (59.40).

Farber also was 18th in the butterfly prelims (54.15) and competed for the Raiders in the medley and 200 freestyle relays.

North senior Brandon DiGia and Farmington-Harrison senior Devin Hopper just missed making the finals.

DiGia was 14th in the 100 freestyle prelims (48.89), and Hopper was 14th in the backstroke prelims (55.49).

In the 200 freestyle, DiGia was 21st (1:48.44) and Hopper 22nd (1:48.84); North senior Dan Gabriel was 19th in the backstroke (56.20).

### Gymnastic state finals

In the state gymnastics finals, sophomore Kristin Ulewicz fared best among members of the Farmington unified team.

Ulewicz finished in a tie for fifth place on balance beam with a 9.2 score in Division II competition at Hartland High School.

In Division I all-around, freshman Clara Seymour tied for 17th (36.10) and sophomore Chelsea Keeling was 19th (35.925).

Seymour was 23rd on bars (8.95), tied for 14th on beam (9.1), tied for 23rd on vault (8.95) and tied for 22nd on floor (9.1).

Keeling tied for 31st on bars (8.56), tied for 17th on beam (9.05), tied for 20th on vault (9.1) and was 15th on floor (9.225).

### Girls 12-under hockey?

Suburban Hockey is conducting inquiries as to the feasibility of a fall hockey league for girls 12 and under. All games would be played at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and the Novi Ice Arena.

The league would adhere to all Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey rules, which means there would be no checking.

Girls interested in such a program should contact Amy Jones at Suburban Hockey (248-478-1600) and indicate their interest by April 15. If there is enough interest, a registration period will begin immediately.

### Spring baseball camp

Total Baseball's Spring Break Baseball Camp (ages 7-17) will be 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, April 24-26, at Powers Park in Novi. The cost is \$100 per player.

University of Detroit Mercy assistant coach Lee Bjerke and former Montreal Expo farmhand Aaron Knepper will be the instructors for the camp, which covers fielding, hitting, pitching and base running.

Drills will also be implemented to help improve each individual's game. Registrations will be taken by phone at (248) 658-0166 or via mail at Total Baseball (inside Total Soccer), 30990 S. Wixom Road, Wixom, MI 48393.

### Blues baseball tryouts

Tryouts are planned for the South Farmington Blues 13-year-old baseball team 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26, at Drake Park, field No. 1.

The Little Caesars Federation team has all new players and managers this year. For more information call coach Ed Lamb at (248) 478-3393 or coach Len Clapp at (248) 476-1028.

### Learn to Check clinic

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct its "Learn to Check" clinics at area sites in the upcoming weeks.

Classes are offered 6:30-8:20 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, and 5:30-7:20 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills; and 6:30-7:20 p.m. and 7:30-9:20 p.m. Monday, March 20, at Novi Ice Arena. The cost is \$40 per player. For information call (248) 478-1600.

## State champions join elite group

■ Redford Catholic Central became one of the few schools to win consecutive state titles in prep hockey Saturday night in Flint.

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
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Until Saturday, only two high schools in state history had ever won back-to-back Division I hockey titles. Detroit Catholic Central made it three.

The No. 1 Shamrocks powered their way past Alpena, 5-2, before an estimated 4,100 fans at Flint's IMA Arena to finish their 1999-2000 season the same way they ended it the year before — with a state championship.

By doing so, the Shamrocks joined Trenton (1979-80) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (1984-85) as the only Division I teams to win back-to-back championships.

### HOCKEY

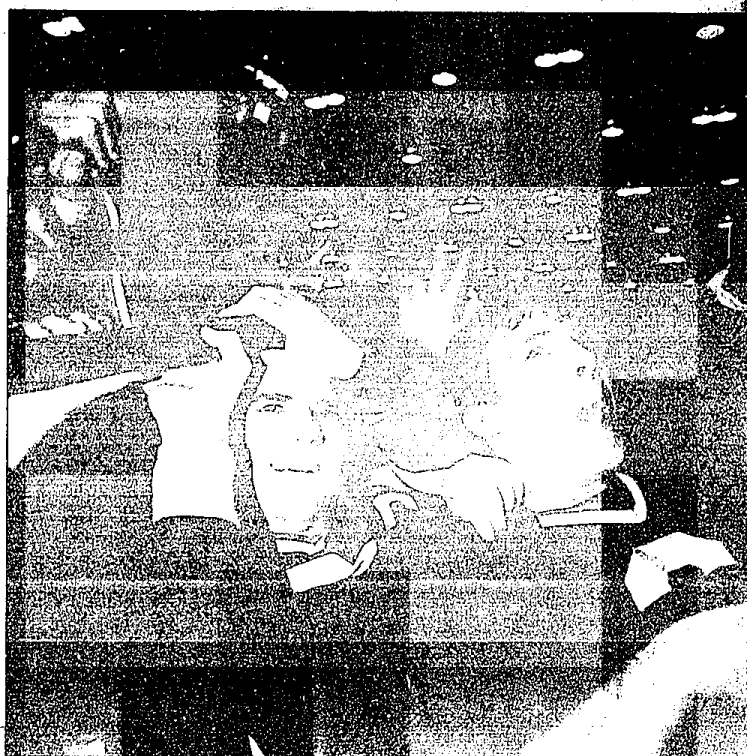
"I don't know if it was expected by anyone else, but it was expected by the coaching staff and players," said CC coach Gordie St. John, whose team won its fourth title in seven years. "On June 1, we made the goal up. We started off-ice training on June 1 and we didn't stop until today."

The Shamrocks (28-2) hit their goal by doing things pretty much the same way they had all season — playing physical, using strong defense and taking advantage of opportunities.

"They're almost a college team out there," Alpena coach Chris Limback said after his team ended its season at 19-7-2. "I was looking for a line to drop off, but I didn't see any drop-off. I think they could beat some Division III college teams. I'm proud of (our) boys for making it a game."

It didn't start out that way. CC outshot Alpena 12-7 in the first period and didn't allow a shot on goal until 2:07 left. Despite the advantage, CC led just 2-0 through the first 15 minutes thanks to some outstanding play by Wildcats' goalie Eric Pernie, who wound up with 26 saves for the night.

Brian Williams opened the scoring with 4:24 gone in the game after one-timing a pass from Jared Ross for the first of three power-play goals for the Shamrocks. Brandon Kaleniecki made it 2-0 at the 9:41 mark, lofting a wrist shot past Pernie just as the Shamrocks killed off a penalty. Kaleniecki picked up the puck just inside the blue-line and beat Pernie on the glove side, with



Post-game celebration: Catholic Central hockey team captain Brandon Kaleniecki (left) and teammate Jim Spiewak celebrate the team's second state championship in two years Saturday night.

assists going to Dave Moss and Ryan Yost.

"It was rough for me," said CC goalie Ben Dunne after making 13 saves in the game. "The hardest thing on a goalie is not facing any shots. You want to get into the flow and into the game."

Dunne got into the game in the second period — whether he wanted to or

not. In a complete turnaround, Alpena dominated play in the second period, although it didn't show up on the scoreboard. The Wildcats outshot CC, 10-3, and managed to get on the board with 2:26 gone as Adam Carpenter stood at the edge of the crease and slid the puck past a diving Dunne to cut the lead to 2-1.

"I wish I knew what happened," said St. John. "We just plain lost momentum. They came out charged up and we were back on our heels a bit."

But as quickly as they lost momentum in the second, the Shamrocks got it back in the third. With CC on a power play and the play in Alpena's

Please see SHAMROCKS, C4

### Volleyball tourney action



Senior Jon Simmons capped a short but successful high school wrestling career Saturday by finishing fourth in the Division 2 state tournament.

## Farmington High's Simmons caps short, successful career

Senior Jon Simmons capped a short but successful high school wrestling career Saturday by finishing fourth in the Division 2 state tournament.

Simmons, who didn't wrestle his first two years at Farmington High, won three of five bouts last weekend at Joe Louis Arena and ended the season with a 42-12 record.

"For a year and a half of wrestling — he came out January of last year — what he accomplished, going to the state meet last year and placing this year, was phenomenal," coach Al Beyer said.

"He's a senior in age but not experience. He's somewhere between a freshman and sophomore in that regard, but he has tremendous athletic ability."

"You wonder where he would have been if he had the other years in."

Competing in the 119-pound division, Simmons began the tournament by winning his first two

### WRESTLING

bouts and reaching the semifinals.

He defeated Fenton's Adam Pushman in his first match, 17-3, and then won a hard-fought, 5-4 decision over Phillip Plowman of Lakewood Lake Odessa.

Simmons lost in the semis to Jason Fellows of Lapeer West, 12-6, but came back in the consolation rounds to defeat Fowlerville's Bill Devine and stay alive for a top-eight finish with a 6-4 win.

In his final bout, Simmons faced Plowman again and lost a 12-3 decision this time, however.

"The other kid figured out he could take Jon down," Beyer said, adding three takedowns were the difference in the rematch. "Jon is a better mat wrestler than a takedown man; plus, it's hard to

Please see SIMMONS, C2

## Warriors beat Big Reds, earn shot at regional crown again

BY CHRIS MATYER  
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The Class A boys basketball regional finals are becoming a familiar spot for Walled Lake Western.

The Warriors are headed there for the third time in four seasons following Tuesday night's 71-62 victory in a semifinal win over Port Huron, at Dakota High School, Western (19-5), which was eliminated in the regional final round in 1997 and '99, is scheduled to play yesterday's Clarkson/Pontiac Central

### BASKETBALL

winner at 7 p.m. Friday with a berth in the state quarterfinals at stake.

"We've come up short in this round the last few years, but we're looking forward to Friday," Warriors head coach Rex Stanczak said. "This group of kids has worked very hard and this is their chance to establish their own identity and separate themselves from last year's team. Sometimes when you have

success people tend to think it's just a continuation of last year, but this team has a chance to do something special on its own."

Senior guard Jenero Dawood led the charge Tuesday by scoring a career-high 37 points, prompting Stanczak to call it "probably one of the best performances in school history."

Port Huron (13-11) didn't make it easy for Western, though. The Big Reds enjoyed a 34-32 halftime lead and were ahead 50-49 late in the third

Please see WARRIORS, C6