

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Sunday adult soccer

The Farmington Soccer Club is looking for adults to play soccer every Sunday at 5 p.m. The games are played at the Little Caesar Fields at 12 Mile and Drake roads in Farmington Hills. If you're interested in playing soccer, please call Dale at (248) 474-8815.

### Loss means little

It was a loss, but it didn't mean a whole lot. The London Knights popped in four first-period goals Friday night and rode the onslaught to a 5-1 victory over the Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game.

The Whalers had already assured themselves of having the best overall record in the OHL, giving them home-ice advantage through every playoff round. Coach Peter DeBoer thus decided to rest his mainstay players for Saturday night's playoff opener. (Results of Plymouth's first three post-season games will appear in Thursday's Observer.)

### Track happenings

Former Farmington Harrison track standout Devon Kennedy and Western Michigan University teammates Jessica Davis, Allison Langworthy and Kim Edwards set a school record of 11:46.12 in the distance medley relay at the Mid-American Conference indoor championships.

Alma College senior Anne Grimaldi (Farmington High School) was the top performer for the Scots in the Polar Bear Invitational hosted by Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind.

Grimaldi captured first place in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 11:14.81, and she was fifth in the 1,500 race with a time of 5:11.10. No team scores were recorded.

### CC opens with victory

Billy Voyles and Joe Haller combined for nine of Redford Catholic Central's 14 goals as the Shamrocks opened the lacrosse season Thursday with a 14-7 win over Troy.

Voyles, a senior midfielder, had five goals and two assists for the Shamrocks, while Haller, a senior attacker, came in with four goals.

"We came out and looked sharp," said CC coach Darren Murray. "We stepped it up on the attack and probably played better than I expected."

Senior attacker Derek Tacey had a goal and four assists; junior midfielder Matt O'Connor had a goal and three assists, and junior attacker Matt Reid had a goal and an assist. Kevin Cox and Brad Jarzembowski both had solo goals for CC.

### Spring Forward 5K

The Spring Forward 5K Run/Walk will be at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 2, at the Running Fit store in West Bloomfield, located on Orchard Lake between 4 Mile and Maple roads.

Proceeds will go to the Michigan Running Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The pre-registration fee (before March 28) is \$16. The race day registration fee (at Running Fit) is \$20. The entry fee includes a T-shirt. Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age division.

For more information, call Chuck Block at (248) 478-3596.

### Learn to Check clinic

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct its "Learn to Check" clinics at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills this week.

Classes are offered 8:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, and 6:30-7:20 p.m. Wednesday, March 29. The cost is \$40 per player. For more information call (248) 478-1600.

(Observer readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene by fax to (734) 591-7279.)

# Mercy challenge to mold winner

Farmington Hills Mercy coach Gary Servais is trying to rebuild his team as the Marlins try to regain their past glory in track and field. Mercy was runner-up in the Catholic League last year to Dearborn Divine Child.

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domears@oc.homedomain.net

Two things the Farmington Hills Mercy track-and-field team usually never lacks are depth and talent.

But the Marlins, perennial contenders for the Catholic League crown, find their ranks are shallower and thinner as they prepare for a new season.

Mercy must do without All-Observer sprinter Angia Morris, who was one of

several major graduation losses.

Morris was the league champion in the 100, 200 and 400 dashes last year, and she finished third in the Class A finals in the 100.

The Marlins also lost Carey Czech and Jami Snow, both of whom were top-six hurdlers in the 100 and 300 races at the league meet.



Throwing champ: Judy Telford is one of area's best in discus.

Both were standouts in the high jump, too. Czech competes for Albion College this year and Snow at Western Michigan University.

"In past years, we had three or four people in events," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "This year it seems we have one or two quality, experienced people."

"We're going to be spread pretty thin, and those people are going to have to perform at a high level for us to have a chance. The newcomers are going to have to come a long way."

The Marlins do have a bonafide, returning talent in junior Judy Telford, the defending league champion in the discus and runner-up in the shot put. She also was second in Oakland County in the discus.

"I'm hoping for bigger and better things at the regional this year and something big at the state meet," said Servais, adding Telford, who missed going to state, should be more consistent as a third-year thrower.

Junior Melissa Ivy also returns in the throwing events. Senior Kristy Ramsey and junior Alexis Dunn are first-year participants who could help.

Ramsey, who also played basketball and volleyball, will do all four field events for the first month, and Servais said he will decide then where her talents can be best used.

Senior Sarah Smart and Ramsey are the top long jump prospects. Ramsey looks like natural in the high jump, according to Servais.

"If all the new people develop as quickly as they can — they're working hard and seem pretty focused — I think we'll be all right (in the field events), maybe a little better than last year," he said.

Senior Laurice Thrasher and sophomore



Veteran hurdler: Mercy will count on senior Laurice Thrasher (above) and sophomore Erriane Bundle in the hurdle events.

# Senior sprinter sets pace for Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domears@oc.homedomain.net

It was an afterthought that prompted Anthony Beal to give track and field a try last year. It wasn't his first choice for a spring sport.

"He thought he was a baseball player," North Farmington boys coach Jeff Simpson said.

Beal didn't make the last cut, and Simpson is glad for that. It turned out to be a major gain for the track team.

## TRACK & FIELD

"He had some success and now he really enjoys it," Simpson said.

How's this for success? Beal recently set an indoor record and won the state title in the 300-meter dash with a time of 36 seconds flat.

With that single feat, he went from being a good high school athlete who was unknown outside the immediate area to a potential college recruit.

"It's amazing what one performance can do to get college coaches looking at you," Simpson said. "He's just starting to realize how good he can be."

Beal's forte is the 400 dash and, keeping with the established pattern, he stumbled into that event almost by accident.

"Last year he started running the 100," Simpson said, "and there was one meet I said, 'I need someone to run the quarter.' He looked at me like I was crazy."

"He just lit 'em up and progressed during the year. In the county meet, he ran a 49 split for the 1,600 relay. He worked hard all winter, and he's in great shape right now."

With Beal leading the way, the 400 could be North's best event this year. Beal was fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association and regional meets. Senior Mike Millat was seventh in the WLA, and senior Jimmy Lala also runs that race.



Defensive standout: Sophomore Julie Gottlicher (left) returns to play for Farmington High as does Amber Kosis for Harrison.

# New coach takes charge of Farmington program

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domears@oc.homedomain.net

Steve Montgomery is ideally suited to be the new Farmington High School girls soccer coach.

Besides having an extensive coaching background, he is also the father of five daughters.

"Yeah, it's helped me; I've watched them grow," said Montgomery, who coached his 8-year-old twins in youth soccer. An older daughter, Mariassa, is a standout runner at Livonia Stevenson.

"I'm excited about the opportunity; I'm very comfortable with it. I've coached other sports for years; I'm used to coaching."

Montgomery, who was the Farmington boys JV coach last fall and the North Farmington girls JV coach last year, replaces Bob Neff, who retired at the end of last season.

The Falcons were 9-8-1 and won a district championship last year before losing to Trenton in a Division 2 regional contest.

They also lost five players to graduation, including their leading scorers — Emilie Villemonte, who plays for Central Michigan University, and Jami Jakacki. The others were key defenders

## SOCCER

Claire Lockhart, Olivia Nellums and Brynn Maki.

Among the 11 returning players are seniors Dana Wantin, Kara Tweedey, Melissa Nino and Melissa Smart.

Wantin, a co-captain with Tweedey, earned second-team, all-state honors last year and anchors what should be a good Farmington defense.

"We're looking pretty solid there," Montgomery said. "I really like how she handles herself out there. Her first move to the ball is excellent. I'm real happy with her."

Tweedey will play an outside wing in the midfield and is one of the fastest girls on the team, according to Montgomery.

"She's super fit; she's in top condition all the time and takes pride in being fit," he said. "I'm counting on her to hold the outside again."

"I'm trying to get her involved in the scoring a little more, because she does have a good shot. I'm giving her the green light when she has the opportunity."