

Sports & Recreation

The Farmington Observer

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Rockets registration

The Farmington Rockets will register players for the 2000 season on Saturday, May 20, and Saturday, June 3, at Farmington High School. Returning players can register from 9 a.m. to noon either day, new players from 1-3 p.m. Youths between the ages of 8 and 14 are eligible. Registration will take place at the blue equipment shed next to the Farmington football field. The fee is \$180 per player.

Coaching excellence

The Farmington Public Schools Athletic Department has announced the creation of the Excellence in Coaching Award.

The award was established to recognize the efforts and dedication of coaches in the Farmington school district. Each nominee will be evaluated on the following criteria: rapport, cooperation, leadership, public relations, discipline, sportsmanship, improvement and coaching techniques.

If you would like to nominate a coach, please contact FPS Athletic Director Brian Swinehart at 248-489-3352 or send an email to brian.swinehart@farmington.k12.mi.us

Raiders win tourney

Oakland Community College won its own golf invitational Thursday at Pontiac Country Club by four strokes over Mott CC and Muskegon CC.

The Raiders shot a 307 team score, Mott and Muskegon 311. Schoolcraft College was fourth in the eight-team tournament with a 320 total.

Oakland's J.R. Starnes tied Wayne CCC's Marcus Myers and Muskegon's Scott Volkman for low score with a 73, but Starnes finished third as a result of a sudden-death playoff.

Davin Dobrin of OCC tied for fifth place (76). John Hall and John Nolan were part of a three-way tie for 13th (79). Josh Bauer and Frank Syron tied for 16th (80), and Ryan Alsop was 21st (82).

OCC sweeps twinbill

Oakland Community College swept a doubleheader from host Mott in softball Thursday, 3-2 and 5-2.

The Raiders scored three times in the top of the seventh inning to break a 2-2 tie and win the nightcap.

Lindsay Bzdok (6-2) was the winning pitcher, scattering five hits over six innings. Rachel Fuller, who threw a complete game in the opener, held Mott scoreless in the bottom of the seventh. Fuller (2-5) also allowed five hits in the first game.

OCC's Nicole Schulte and Megan Earhart had two hits apiece in the nightcap. Stephanie Levine drove in two runs. Schulte had two hits and two RBI in the opener.

The Lady Raiders are 6-3 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 10-9 overall. Mott dropped to 0-8 and 4-18.

Shock ticket blitz

The Detroit Shock will conduct a ticket sales blitz telethon on Monday, April 17, to promote the team's opening night contest against the Sacramento Monarchs on Saturday, June 3, at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Interested fans can call (248) 377-0632 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to order tickets. Ticket prices for the home opener are \$20, \$15, \$12.50, \$5 and \$5.

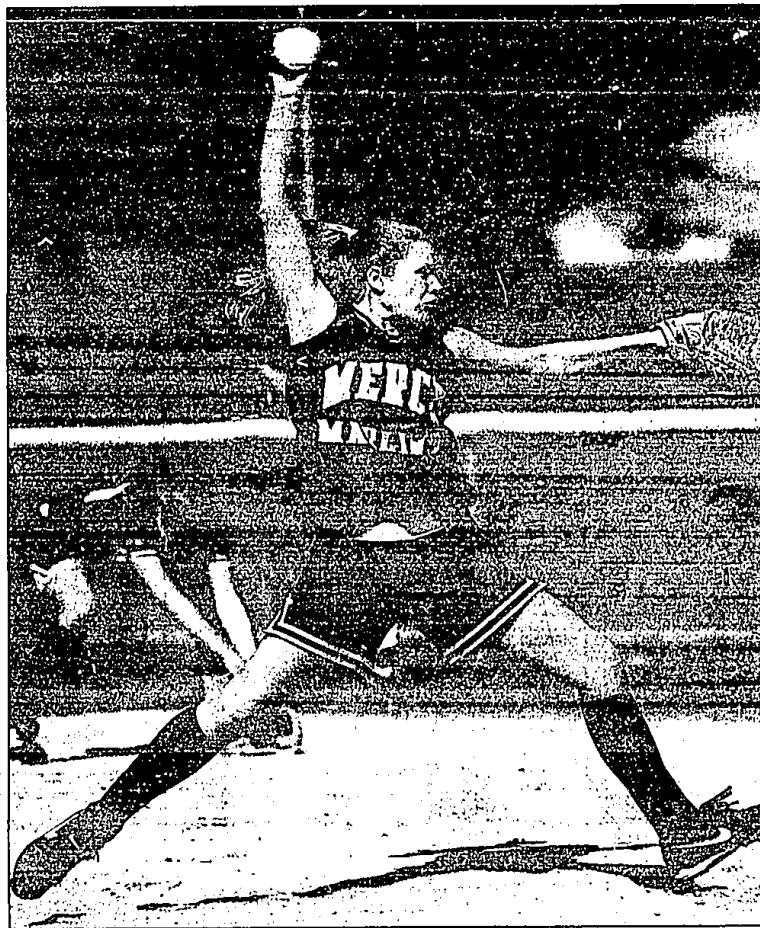
All fans ordering tickets through the telethon will receive a highlight video of the Shock's 1999 season. Shock general manager and head coach Nancy Lieberman-Cline will answer phones during the event.

The Shock will host its first preseason game at The Palace May 17 versus the Phoenix Mercury. Tipoff is 11 a.m. All tickets for the Shock's preseason home opener are priced at \$5.

Season tickets and individual game tickets may be ordered by calling (248) 377-0100. Group tickets may be ordered by calling (248) 377-2055.

Fox hockey rankings

Fox Sports released its national high school hockey poll with two Oberverland teams cracking the top 50, including Division I state champion Bedford Catholic Central (No. 35) and state quarterfinalist Livonia Churchill (No. 49). Tronton made the top 50, too. The Trojans were No. 41.



Some kind of pitching: Senior Erin Howard threw a one-hitter that included 11 strikeouts and no walks in the opener Friday. Mercy won both ends of the softball doubleheader, 1-0 and 6-1.

Mercy sweeps 2 from Ladywood



Pitchers Erin Howard and Megan Fediuk had superb pitching efforts in back-to-back games Friday, leading Farmington Hills Mercy to a doubleheader sweep of Livonia Ladywood in Catholic League softball action.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
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A pair of outstanding pitching performances carried Farmington Hills Mercy to a softball doubleheader sweep of host Livonia Ladywood in softball Friday, 1-0 and 6-1.

Senior Erin Howard threw a one-hit shutout in the opener, and sophomore Megan Fediuk tossed a six-hitter in the nightcap.

As if that wasn't impressive enough, both pitchers had 11 strikeouts apiece, and neither one issued a walk.

Howard is 3-0 with all three wins being shutouts.

"I just can't say enough about our pitching," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "Anytime you have 22 strikeouts in a doubleheader, that takes a lot of pressure off the defense and allows you to be in the game. Both pitchers did a super job."

In the first game, Mercy scored the winning run in the top of the seventh inning on Erin Carson's two-out, suicide squeeze bunt.

Lauren Monterey singled, stole second and was sacrificed to third by Dana Falvo, setting the stage for Carson's clutch play.

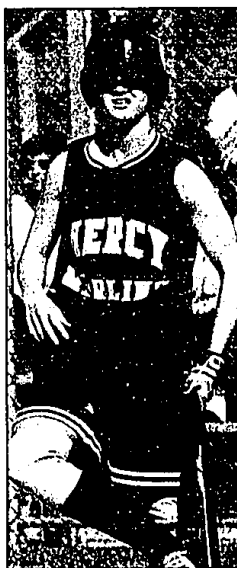
"The pitch was in the dirt, and Erin was able to get the bat on the ball," coach Falvo said. "Lauren was all the way into the plate before (Ladywood) could get to it."

Mercy had seven hits off Ladywood's Shelly Moros, who fanned four and walked one. Megan Wilkenson had the lone hit for the Blazons.

The Marlins began the second game with a four-run first in which Nuverre Naami hit a two-run triple.

Carson was 3-for-4 and scored three runs; Monterey, Carrie Brankiewicz

Please see SOFTBALL, B4



Looking for a sign: Erin Carson had a squeeze-bunt single.

Harrison has solid, 3-0 start

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison baseball players, coaches and fans have to be surprisingly pleased with the results of the first week of the season.

It was a huge success for the Hawks, who capped a 3-0 start Friday with a 10-0, mercy-rule victory over visiting Livonia Franklin.

"It wasn't just pitching (that was a concern entering the season)," coach John Herrington said. "We were so inexperienced."

BASEBALL

"I didn't think we would be hitting the ball the way we are. But we needed two teams and the other was 9-3, so we're real happy with the way we're playing. But we know tougher times are ahead."

Junior pitcher Tim Doig won his second game, working the first 4 1/3 innings Friday. He walked seven and allowed all three Franklin hits, but he and the Harrison defense stopped Franklin when they had to do it. Robert Whipple finished the game on the mound.

Seniors Kevin McNay, who had a pair of doubles, and Lou Hadley had two hits and two RBI apiece. Senior James Kay invoked the mercy rule in the bottom of the sixth inning with an RBI single.

Joe Ruggiero was the losing pitcher. He went four innings and allowed six runs on three hits.

The Hawks are 2-0 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Patriots are 1-1 and 1-4 overall.

"We're off to a very good start and looking forward to the Walled Lake Western game on Monday," Herrington said.

On Wednesday, Hadley had three hits, stole three bases and scored three runs as Harrison defeated host Westland John Glenn, 9-3.

Kay pitched the first four innings and earned the win. Hadley worked the final three. Doig drove in three runs and Ed Cleland two. Each had one hit.

The Hawks led 4-0 after scoring three times in the top of the third inning. Glenn got two in the bottom half, but Harrison followed with singles runs in the fourth and fifth innings and three more in the sixth.

Goodman to the rescue

Ethan Goodman was a winner in his pitching debut Wednesday, helping North Farmington defeat visiting Livonia Franklin, 4-2.

Goodman wasn't overpowering but was good enough to get the Raiders through five innings. He gave up three of Franklin's five hits and both runs, walked six and struck out four.

"It's the first time he's pitched," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "We were looking for somebody to pitch; he said he could do it, so we thought we'd give him a chance. He did a nice job."

Since Goodman is also the regular catcher, Horwitz brought up freshman Matt Clark from the JV to do the catching.

Clark "did an excellent job" in his debut, too, throwing out three baserunners — one at second and two at third.

Miko Rosenberg finished up on the mound for the Raiders. Shawn Middleton took the loss, leaving after five innings with North ahead, 3-2.

Goodman helped his cause with an RBI double; Jeff Vieder doubled and scored the first North run.

Rosenberg and Mike Sack had one RBI apiece with a sacrifice squeeze bunt and a sacrifice fly, respectively.

Please see BASEBALL, B6

Marlins expected to repeat as county champions

BY DAVID SANDERS
STAFF WRITER

GIRLS GOLF

A veteran Farmington Hills Mercy girls golf team will be highly favored to defend its Oakland County Division I championship when play gets under way at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Pontiac Country Club.

The Marlins won last year with a 341 score; Rochester Adams placed second at 367. The area's other finishers were Walled Lake Central (397), Bloomfield

Hills Lahser (400), Rochester (408), Birmingham Marlan (408), Cranbrook Kingswood (411), Troy (419) and Walled Lake Western (479).

Adams, which also placed second to Mercy in the Division I state tournament last year, is playing this spring without graduated all-star Kim Benedict, who won the individual county

title last season with a 76. Benedict plays for the University of Michigan this year.

Adams coach Carl Pasbjerg is realistic about this year.

"We said 'if we can finish in the top 10 in tournaments, that's realistic.' We'll be in there with a lot of teams falling behind the top teams, but we're not going to win any tournaments," he said.

Adams returns All-Eccentric Lindsay

Drewes, but Pasbjerg said, "I don't think one player can carry the team, and my other players are inexperienced."

Pasbjerg likes Rochester's team with all-star Carr, Christensen, but the odds on favorite Mercy, he said.

"They lost a player or two, but they're very strong. They're the class of the county," he said. "There are other strong teams on the west side of the

Please see GIRLS GOLF, B4