Observer Sports

Dan O'Meara, Editor 734 953 2141, domeara@oe.homecomm.net on the web: http://observer.oeccentric.com

The Farmington Observer

INSIDE:
Whalers hockey, C2
Boys track times, C7

Page 1, Section C

Thursday, April 27, 2000

FARMINGTON – FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Cops For Kids Run

Farmington Hills Police will conduct their 11th Annual Cops For Kids Run to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The police department invites all runners from beginners to masters to participate in the 10K event.

The course combines paved and dirt surfaces, and it runs through quiet subdivisions on winding, hilly roads.

The run will start and finish on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

There will be awards for the top three finishers in each individual age group and special team awards for the top law enforcement teams only. There is a non-competitive 5K run-walk that starts at 9 a.m.

All registered participants will receive a T-shirt. The race entry fee is $16 before Tuesday, June 6, and $20 on race day.

For more information and applications, call (248) 473-9615 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Roller hockey champs

RoJean Tremblay of Farmington Hills coached the Michigan State University men's roller hockey team to its second straight national collegiate championship April 16 with a 5-4 win over Colorado State in Eilenton, Fla.

The Spartans, who were seeded No. 1 and are repeat champions in the Midwest Collegiate League, finished the year at 37-3 overall.

Ed Kruschka of Livonia scored the game-winning goal against Colorado State with just 3.9 seconds left. Trenton's Dante Daminani assisted on the goal; it was his second of the game.

The MSU roster also includes Nick Lewarne and John Hunt, both of Livonia, and Dan Tremblay of Farmington Hills.

In pool play, MSU defeated Texas A&M, Central Florida and Rochester Institute of Technology. The No. 1-ranked Spartans went on to defeat Kansas, the University of California-Davis, Penn State and Penn State-Altoona en route to the title.

The other team members are Alan MacMillan and Mike Penner, both of Brighton; Jamie Bufalino, Grosse Pointe; Justin Bayer, Bloomfield Hills; Dan Morrell, Novi; John Schroder, Grand Rapids; Erik Swonder, Dearborn; Kyle Milley, Kalamazoo; Mike Mackert, Wakasha, Wis.; Dave Thomas, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Tyler Miles, Waterdown, Ontario.

Marathon runners

Six runners from Farmington Hills completed the Boston Marathon on April 19. Herman Smith was the city's top runner, finishing in 1,487th place with a 3:02.57 time.

Ben Greinke was 1,852nd (3:05.57), Joe Denton 7,302nd (3:38.22), Tom Butler 7,584th (3:39.47), Doug Bopp 11,255th (4:01.46) and John Escott 13,786th (4:31.43).

Rice basketball camp

Brother Rice High School will conduct a summer basketball camp June 19-30 for boys entering grades five through 12.

The camp will take place at the school and will be taught by Brother Rice varsity coach Donald MacAloon.

The camp will focus on the development of fundamental offensive skills. The cost is $150. To receive a camp application call(248) 642-9010 or (248) 540-4845.

Lady Raiders win 2

Oakland Community College swept a women's softball doubleheader from visiting Henry Ford Tuesday, 14-4 and 9-5 at Shell Park in Waterford.

Rachel Fuller allowed 10 hits but only two walks in the opener.

Carrie Sugden and Courtney Sisk knocked in three runs each for the Lady Raiders, who are 9-5 in the conference and 14-14 overall.

LeeAnn Domke, Mandie Harrison and Sugden had two hits each. Harrison also had two RBI and scored three runs.

Lindsay Bzdok was the winner in the second game in relief, working the last three innings.

OCC took the lead, 6-5, with a run in the bottom of the fifth inning and iced the win with three in the sixth.

Kristina Wilson (two) was the only player with more than one hit. Harrison and Schulte had two RBI apiece.

Gloves title is Maniaci's reward

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

If he hadn't made the effort and tried now, amateur boxer Steve Maniaci might have always wondered if he should have, could have, done it?

Those questions no longer exist. There will be no second guessing for the 22-year-old Farmington Hills native, who decided to strive for the mountain top and got there.

With a window of opportunity open to him, Maniaci entered the annual *Michigan Golden Gloves Tournament* and won the 165-pound state title in the Novice Division on April 15.

"I always wanted to do it; it was always my goal," said Maniaci, who graduated Saturday from Western Michigan University. "I never thought I would get around to doing it because of the high level of training you have to do."

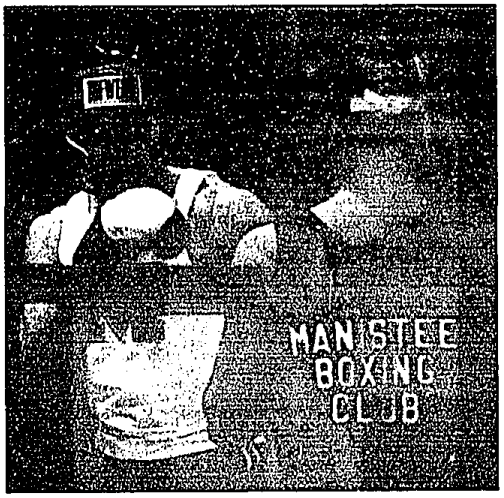
"It's a big commitment. Luckily, I had time in my senior year in college. I already had a job and didn't have to worry as much about school work and could train as much as I wanted. It was a goal of mine, and I went for it."

The rules limit novice fighters to 10 or less amateur fights, and Maniaci was fighting his first registered bouts in the tournament.

He started in boxing six years ago with metro-area clubs and trained with the University of Michigan club team while attending community college, but Maniaci's first true test was as a Golden Gloves boxer.

"I didn't know if I would win the state championship, depending on the level of competition, but I thought I would do pretty well," said Maniaci, a 1995 graduate of North Farmington High School.

"I trained really hard for it. I just think I've been around the sport and sparred a lot of people. I've had a lot of experience. I think I had more ring savvy than most people do."



State champion: *Steve Maniaci competes in an early-round bout, which he won en route to the Golden Gloves 165-pound title.*

Maniaci won the title on a decision over Anbrocio Ledesma of Grand Rapids, whom he had beaten earlier in the tournament, at the Grand Valley National Guard Armory in Wyoming.

The age range for fighters is 18 to 34 with most being in their early 20s, according to the 6-foot Maniaci, who had a considerable height advantage over the 28-year-old Ledesma, who stands 5-7.

"He was very strong in the legs and upper body," Maniaci said. "He was built like a tank. Everyone else he had knocked out, because he's so strong.

"I was able to take a punch and outbox him. Most guys were just not strong enough for him. I was able to hold my own in the strength department and beat him in speed and scoring."

Maniaci had to be tough mentally, too. While he was fighting a semifinal bout the previous night of Friday, April 14, Ledesma was resting and scouting Maniaci.

The East Michigan champion who would have fought Ledesma, the runner-up from the western half of the state, had withdrawn from the tournament, giving Ledesma a bye into the final round.

"Originally, I was upset about it," Maniaci said, "but you can't worry about things you can't control. I had to fight two nights in a row, and that's not something I could control. I went about my business and did what I had to do.

"It was tough. Any time you fight you get banged up. Even the wear and tear on your legs is not easy. I think it made it a closer fight the second time, but I was able to persevere. I would have been better off fresh, but that's how it goes."

Maniaci's ability to overcome a disadvantage like that and still win says something about his training and stamina in the ring.

"I'd like to think so," he said. "You gotta have something left in the tank in case of those situations. Both fights came down to the third round, and each time I was able to pull it out."

Maniaci, who defeated Joel Hernandez in the state semis, had to win two bouts to capture the West Michigan title.

The first ended in a technical knockout in the third round over Manistee's Mark Pettinato. He beat Ledesma in the April 7 final in another close decision.

"It was pretty much like the second fight, except we both connected more the second time," Maniaci said. "It was a little more of a war."

Please see MANIACI, C2

BOXING

Mercy's Ramsey excels in field, too

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Though she was an accomplished athlete in two sports, Kristy Ramsey has surprised even herself with what she has done in her latest endeavor.

At the urging of coach Gary Servais, the Farmington Hills Mercy senior decided to try track and field this year, and the results have been impressive to say the very least.

TRACK & FIELD

Ramsey, who played basketball and volleyball for four years, was an immediate success and quickly established herself as the best all-around athlete in Observerland in the field events.

"We didn't have track at my elementary school, and it never dawned on me to take up track until coach Servais came to our basketball games and asked me to come out for track," she said.

"I was going to do it last year, but my parents wanted me to focus on my studies. I did it this year primarily for conditioning for volleyball. I didn't want to stop doing sports."

Servais, obviously, is thrilled to have Ramsey on his team at last.

"I've been talking to her about this since she was a freshman," he said. "I'm glad she finally listened and came out.

"What makes her so good is she focuses and works hard. She's very determined when competition starts."

Ramsey does everything but the pole vault; she ranks among the top 10 in the area in three of the other four field events and is not much further down the list in the shot put.

"I love sports so much, and they came to me so easily," Ramsey said. "Sports are my life and without them I don't think I'd be Kristy. I wouldn't be myself.

"With her background in the other sports, Ramsey adapted rather easily to the high jump and long jump.

She set a school record Tuesday in the high jump (5-5) during dual-meet wins over Birmingham Country Day and Riverview Gabriel Richard.

That's the highest anyone in Observerland has jumped this year and was done despite cool, windy weather conditions.

Ramsey's jump broke the record of 5-4 set by Carey Czech last year and tied earlier this season by Ramsey.

She is also ranked No. 3 in the long jump after reaching a distance of 15-8 on Tuesday.

What makes her unique in the 5-foot-10, thin/y-built Ramsey has the ability to throw the shot and discus credible distances — a truly rare combination, especially for a high school athlete.

"I knew I could pick up the two jumps, but I thought the shot and discus would be harder because there's a lot more skill and technique involved," Ramsey said. "But it did come as a big surprise.

"It helps playing other sports. You have to rebound and jump in basketball. It helps because you already have those leg muscles.

"It goes back to sports coming easily. I was confident I'd be able to throw (the shot and discus). I didn't know how far, but I knew I would."

Ramsey's best throw in the discus is 96-8; she has thrown the shot put 29 feet. She is among the top 10 in the former and about 6 feet from being listed in the latter. Her jumps

Please see Ramsey, C4

Staff Photo by Bill Brooks

Senior standout: *In just her first season of competition, Kristy Ramsey has demonstrated unique ability in the field events.*

CC wins twin bill from RU

By Paul Beaudry
Staff Writer
pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net

Usually, Catholic Central pitcher Andy Smith has one of his coaches determine what he is going to throw.

After Tuesday, Smith might get to call his own game more often.

Smith struggled early but wound up with a two-hitter on the mound and helped his own cause at the plate as the Shamrocks mercied visiting Redford Union in the first game of a doubleheader, 10-0.

BASEBALL

In the second game, teammate Kevin Entsminger matched Smith on the mound with his own two-hitter as CC earned a 9-1 win over the Panthers.

"I had to do something," said Smith after he improved his record to 4-1 and the Shamrocks moved to 10-2. "I wasn't getting much on my fast ball and had to rely on my curve late. Today's (pitches) were pretty much up to me. I was in sync with (catcher John Hill). I only shook him off once today."

Smith only allowed one walk and struck out seven in the opener, allowing just two hits – a second inning single by Jason Dunning and a third inning single to Mike Dmytro, but no base runner got past second base.

CC, meanwhile, scored early and often against RU (7-4), with a run in the first and cracking three more in the third and four more in the fourth.

"We played poorly and they didn't," said Union coach Rick Berryman. "The kids who I expected to play well didn't. I'm disappointed but, hopefully, we'll use this as a wake-up call."

The Shamrocks opened the scoring in the first when second baseman Dave Tovey reached on a walk and eventually scored on a groundout. The beginning of the end came in the third, as Smith opened the inning with a 385-foot homer to left and Tovey followed with a walk that chased RU starter Mike Macek (2-1). Mike Wadowski's single scored Tovey and Charlie

Please see SHAMROCKS, C4