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Thursday, January 11, 2001

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

SFBI registration

South Farmington Baseball will be registering players for the 2001 season at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

Registration sessions will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

Players must bring a birth certificate. The costs are \$50 for T-ball, \$100 for all softball and baseball under age 15 and \$140 for baseball ages 15 and over.

SFBI will enlist team managers, coaches and volunteers during the registration periods. SFBI also is recruiting umpires.

Umpires can sign up at one of the registration times or call Lori McCarthy at (248) 476-7243. For more information, call the SFBI Hotline at 474-3925.

Grid honorees named

Eleven members of the Farmington and North Farmington high school varsity football teams contributed to the Falcons and Raiders earning all-state academic honors.

Both teams received Division 2 honorable mentions from the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

The selections are based on the cumulative grade-point average of the 11 players with the best academic credentials.

The players earning the honor for Farmington are Chris Ahn, Jeff Bazzi, Blake Belsky, Brett Brown, Scott Cave, Brandon Connolly, Brad Hall, Ian Konopinski, Nate Pacer, Stephen Wayne and Scott Kleinov.

It was the third year in a row and fourth in the last five the Falcons have been either first team or honorable mention all-state.

North's top academic gridders are Andrew Hathaway, Zach Agosta, Geoffrey Mwaungulu, Mike Zultak, Dan Goshorn, Marc Piper, Dan Porach, Ben Gerber, Troy Anderson, Brandon Engel and Brian Johns.

MIAA applauds Valade

Kalamazoo College's MaryJane Valade, a former Farmington Hills Mercy student, was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Player of the Week in women's basketball.

The senior forward scored 39 points in two MIAA games to become the Hornets' fourth all-time leading scorer with 1,179 points.

Valade scored 23 points in a 69-67 loss at Hope College and 16 points in a 65-42 win at home over Calvin College.

In the two games, she made 16 of 28 shots and was 9-of-13 on free throws with 13 rebounds and four steals.

Valade is averaging 14.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game, and she is shooting a team-best 52.2 percent (59-of-113) from the field.

The Hornets were 1-1 in the MIAA and 9-3 overall prior to a game Wednesday against Alma College.

Rockers just miss win

The Detroit Rockers came very close to gaining another victory Sunday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena, but they couldn't quite manage it.

Dino Delevski converted a penalty kick, awarded after Sean Bowers was called for a hand ball when he dove to stop a shot at an open net 42 seconds into overtime. Delevski converted, giving his Wichita Wings a 9-7 win.

For Delevski, it was another big day. He scored five points for Wichita (10-8), opening the scoring with a three-point goal in the first quarter. Delevski ranks third in the NPSL in scoring with 75 points.

The Rockers (2-15) took a 4-3 half-time lead on two-point goals by Martin Nash in the first quarter and Stuart Black in the second, only to surrender it on two-pointers by Braeden Cloutier 50 seconds into the third quarter and Jamie Harding (from Cloutier) midway through the fourth.

The biggest score of the match for the Rockers came with just 2:08 left in regulation, when Nash, who was acquired in the dispersal draft when the Edmonton Drillers folded, drilled a three-pointer. Nash finished with five points for the Rockers.

Dan Ili Dac made 17 saves in one of his better games in goal for the Rockers. However, the Wings' Jim Larkin, who was also acquired from Edmonton in the dispersal draft, was even better, making 22 saves.



Over the back: North Farmington's Brian Johns doesn't allow the presence of Waterford Mott's Chad Tsurui to get in the way of his reaching for a loose ball. Johns and the Raiders overcame a seven-point deficit late in the game Tuesday to win, 59-57.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEZLER

North rallies to beat Mott

BY DAN O'MEARA
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So maybe North Farmington didn't play all that well Tuesday when you consider the full 32 minutes of the basketball game.

But the Raiders did when it mattered most, and the result was a 59-57 win over visiting Waterford Mott.

North rallied from a seven-point deficit with two minutes remaining to eke out a non-conference victory, putting its overall record at 3-3.

Kenny Kasayouhannan scored all eight of his points in the fourth quarter to

BASKETBALL

spark the Raiders down the stretch.

He hit a three-point shot to get North within a point, 57-56, and his two free throws put North on top by one. Marcus McComb added the final point from the line.

"Kenny did a great job getting us into two set plays to get shots for us," North assistant coach Pete Munnily said. "He did a great job executing on both."

He hit a three on one and attacked the basket and got fouled on the other

at a time when we needed someone to take charge."

Dante Sanders scored 10 points to lead the Raiders. Mike Leach had nine; Brian Johns and McComb also had eight apiece, and Mike Patterson and Jason Neal added seven each.

Brett Myers scored 12 points and Rodney Credit 11 for the Corsairs, who are 3-4.

North led 29-24 at halftime, but Mott came back to take a 39-37 lead entering the fourth quarter. North outscored Mott in the finale, 22-18.

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Player of the game: Curtis Tillman, who scored 32 points for Farmington, takes a rebound away from WB's Warren Woodruff.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFMEYER

Farmington dumps W.B. in overtime

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Curtis Tillman played the best game of his high school basketball career, and Farmington High needed every bit of what he could produce Tuesday.

The 6-foot-2 senior scored a career-high 32 points to lead the Falcons to a 61-59 victory over host West Bloomfield in double overtime.

"He was outstanding," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "Curtis basically carried us offensively, and he did a nice job for us on the boards, too. No doubt about it; he played an outstanding game."

BASKETBALL

A big game from Tillman, who made 10 field goals and 12 of 15 free throws, was especially helpful since senior guard Matt Mikel, the team's leading scorer, was sick with the flu.

Mikel still played but was limited to four points on 4-of-5 free throw shooting. Brad Barencie added eight points and Layne Bodily seven.

It was Tillman's layup at the buzzer at the end of the second overtime that won the game for Farmington, too.

Following a turnover by the Lakers, the Falcons inbounded the ball with five seconds left and had to go the length of the court.

They got the ball to Tillman at the

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Falcons tourney champs

BY DAN O'MEARA
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When the going gets tough, the tough get going! It's a time-worn cliché, but it does apply to the Farmington High School volleyball players.

Couch Alex Perrin issued a challenge to the Falcons late Saturday, and they responded with a positive result.

Farmington overcame fatigue and a good Romeo team to win the Silver Division in the Walled Lake Central tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

The Falcons lost the first game, 8-15, but won the next two, 15-11 and 15-13.

"I don't know the history of Farmington, but when I look in the trophy case there's no trophy as big as this one," said Perrin, adding the Silver Division at Central is stronger than the Gold in a lot of other tournaments.

In the second game of the championship match, Farmington trailed Romeo, 7-3, when Perrin called a timeout.

"I could see my girls' effort level wasn't there," he said, adding the Falcons appeared tired and resigned to a losing fate.

"I said, 'When you're playing at the end of a tournament, you're going to be tired. It's up to you if you want to go home tired or find a way to dig deeper and win this game.'"

"From that point on, they played a lot harder."

The third game was a see-saw contest, and the turning point might have been Farmington's refusal to yield a point at a crucial juncture.

Romeo had seven to nine swings at the ball — most of the time with no block — and every time the Falcons managed to dig the ball and return it.

"It was incredible," Perrin said.

"I've never seen that many pure swings and so many crazy digs. We found a way to get an arm on the ball and send it over."

Eventually, the Falcons bumped the ball into the net, conceding the point, but Perrin sprang from the bench, clapping and cheering the effort of his players.

"Romeo had to be thinking it didn't earn the point and we gave it to them," Perrin said. "They couldn't get the ball down. That had to be going through their heads at that time."

The Falcons, who are 4-6-3 overall, apparently took heart and rallied to win the game, match and championship.

Sophomore Jessica Janowicz had a coming-out party in the tournament and was outstanding in the Romeo match, according to Perrin.

Janowicz, a 6-foot, left-hand hitter playing on the right side, had a .750 hitting percentage and 11 kills in the division final.

"Jess is a big, athletic kid, and she was putting the ball right down the seam, straight in the middle of the court," Perrin said. "They could not defend her. In that respect, she was the difference-maker."

Farmington's team MVP and representative on the all-tournament team was 6-1 senior Lyndy Howard, who had 23 kills overall despite missing two games, nine blocks and 28 service points.

Janowicz had 20 kills, six blocks and 17 points, Julie Kimmel 13 kills and 28 points and Jocelyn Atkins 12 kills and seven blocks.

Doing all the setting was Randin Brown, who is new to the position this year and had only a couple weeks of practice prior to Saturday due to an injury.

Her inexperience showed in the first pool-play match, Perrin said, but "she started getting more comfortable and making better decisions" by the second game of the second match.

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