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Outdoors B6

Sunday, January 14, 2001

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

All-stars in parade

The Mid-American Pompon All-Star Team, based in Farmington Hills, has been selected to perform in the 64th Presidential Inaugural Parade Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.

It's the third consecutive inauguration in which the team will perform, and it will join the North Farmington High School band representing Michigan in the parade.

The pompon team, whose parade routine will be performed to "Don't Stop Me Now" will assemble for a rehearsal on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Afterward, the team will travel by bus to Washington, D.C.

"We are honored to once again be invited to perform," Mid-American President Karan Blazitsis said, "and are confident our team will continue its tradition of outstanding precision, bold color, energy and enthusiasm that represents America's youth."

The all-star team is comprised of 249 high school girls and dancers from more than 40 high schools in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

Flyers welcome FHHA

Farmington's unified high school hockey team will have a pair of Farmington Hills Hockey Association appreciation nights in upcoming weeks.

The first will be Friday, Jan. 19, when the Flyers play host to Livonia Franklin, and Friday, Feb. 2, when Northville pays Farmington a visit. Both games begin at 7:30 p.m. at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Any FHHA team member wearing a FHHA jersey will be admitted free of charge.

"We'd like to motivate and encourage them to one day try out for the (high school) team," Flyers coach Mike Harris said.

"Hopefully, we'll have three teams in the future. We just want more kids to play high school hockey."

Toughman entrants

The 2001 Original Toughman Contest series returns at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2-3, at Detroit's Cobo Arena.

Among the local heavyweight division entrants are 6-foot-1, 215-pound Tony "The Tiger" Collins, 34, of Westland, and 6-3, 220-pound Chris Gibbons, 34, of Farmington Hills.

Entries in the light-heavyweight division include 5-10, 180-pound Kevin "Silky" Sullivan, 26, of Westland; 5-8, 160-pound Matt Christopher, 21, of Garden City; 5-8, 165-pound Danny "Bad Boy" Baabe, 21, of Redford; and 5-11, 175-pound Ken Krzyzanowski, 33, of Livonia.

Tickets are \$25 (VIP tables and chairs), \$20 and \$12 on sale at Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices, along with all Ticketmaster locations.

For more information, call the Olympia Entertainment event hotline at (313) 983-8616.

Female officials clinic

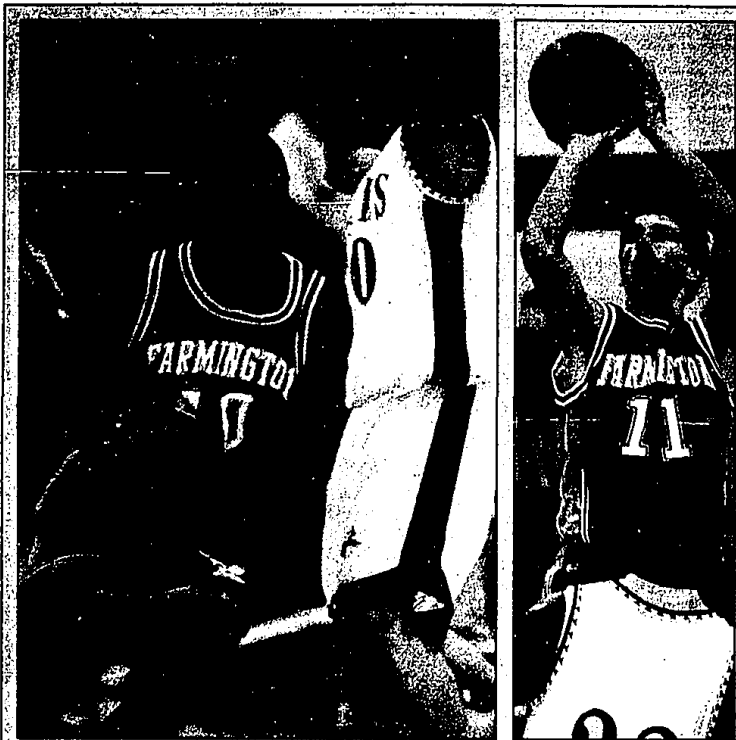
The Michigan High School Athletic Association will have a one-day clinic for women interested in becoming officials from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at DeWitt High School.

The program, titled Two-Dae, Trained Women Officials: Dedicated, Accomplished, Educated, will provide insight, encouragement and training to become an entry-level candidate to launch a career as an MHSAA official. All 12 MHSAA sports are offered.

The \$30 registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and a gift. The clinic is being held in conjunction with the MHSAA's annual Women in Sports Leadership Conference Sunday and Monday, Feb. 4-5, at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel.

For more information, call the MHSAA at (517) 332-5046.

(Sports fax number: 734-591-7279.)



Intra-city rivals battle on hardwood: Farmington's Mike Griffie (upper left) maneuvers for a shot Friday while Matt Elsey defends, and teammate Matt Mikel takes a jump shot (upper right).

Falcons start fast, roll to victory over Hawks

BY DAN O'MEARA
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BASKETBALL

On Tuesday of last week, Farmington and Farmington Harrison went to overtime in a pair of boys basketball games.

It was a little different Friday when they played each other. Instead of the last four minutes being the most important, it was the first four.

Farmington grabbed a commanding early lead and Harrison never caught up. The result was a rather easy victory for the visiting Falcons, 65-51.

"I didn't expect that to happen," Farmington coach Benny Mikel said. "I thought it would be a pretty close ballgame all four quarters, with the rivalry what it is."

"I felt good about the first quarter, but I didn't know if we could sustain it for three more."

The Falcons, who are 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 6-2 overall, had no trouble holding on. Their lead never slipped below 10 points from the mid second quarter on.

"Obviously, the start put us in a big hole," Harrison coach Dave Turquist said after the Hawks dropped to 0-2 and 2-6. "We have to take a lot of responsibility for that."

"I have to take a lot of responsibility for that. I didn't have them ready to play that team tonight, and I'll have to find out why."

Matt Mikel scored a game-high 18 points to lead four Falcons in double figures. Curtie Tillman and Layne Boddy scored 13 apiece and Jeremy Masas 10. Mike Griffie and Scott

Cave added four each.

Matt Elsey was Harrison's leading scorer with 10 points. Dave Condeni had nine, Terrill Mayberry eight, Jeff Rose seven and LeDarius Brown six.

Boddy started the scoring with a triple and had half of his team's first dozen points. Mikel also made a three as the Falcons shot in front, 12-2.

Back-to-back baskets by Tillman — the second after a Harrison turnover — extended the Farmington lead to 16-4 before half the first quarter was gone.

Coach Mikel was pleased to see his players working the ball offensively and attacking the basket aggressively but under control.

"Our position on offense against their zone defense was the key for us," he said. "We did a great job of

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Flyers defeat Rocks

Farmington avenged an earlier loss to Plymouth Salem with a 7-1 hockey victory Friday night at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Mike Harris, who took over as coach one day before the Flyers suffered a 4-3 loss to the Rocks in late November, saw it as a sign of progress.

Farmington improved its record to 4-3-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 6-4-2 overall.

"The kids were fired up," Harris said. "The team really wanted to show up the coaches, we've come a long way. It was like a fresh start, because we were .500 going into the game."

HOCKEY

"We had two goals in mind — obviously to win at home and get over the hump and to show the coaching staff the hard work we're doing is paying off."

Farmington's first three goals resulted from power-play opportunities, and Devin Baker scored the first two for a 2-0 lead after one period.

Matt Lee assisted on both Baker goals, which came at 7:41 and 8:26. Preston Picard also earned an assist on the first and Brad Heraghty the second.

The Flyers put the game out of reach with four second-period goals, the last three coming within 63 seconds of each other.

Lee scored at 12:55 with another assist by Heraghty, and it stayed 3-0 until Heraghty scored an unassisted, breakaway goal at 3:50.

Brett Ramsay scored just 21 seconds later with a blistering shot that earned an assist for Brandon Belknap.

A short time later, Ramsay set up Mike Frayne for the team's sixth goal at 2:57. Steve Bratcher also assisted on the play.

Salom averted a shutout and denied one for Farmington goalie Danny Zeldeu when Steve Nagel scored an unassisted goal at 10:49 in the third period.

The Flyers got their last goal when Tim Dupuis scored without benefit of an assist with 8:57 remaining in the game.

"I do think the kids are starting to jell," Harris said. "They're working hard; they're working together, and they're believing in themselves."

Heraghty and Frayne had hit tricks Jan. 6 when Farmington defeated Walled Lake Central in a WLAAs contest, 16-3.

The Flyers, who were playing their first game since Dec. 20 due to the holiday break, trailed after one period, 3-2.

"To come out and play the way we did in the second and third periods was a pleasant surprise," Harris said. "I told them not to turn it off, to play our game (Friday) and not theirs (Rocks)."

Raiders have successful home opener

It wasn't easy, but it was a win. North Farmington opened its Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball season Wednesday with a 16-14, 14-16, 15-7 victory over Westland John Glenn.

"We're thrilled to win, of course," Raiders coach Deb Calanchi said. "The girls earned it. I'm extremely happy for them."

"We did make it tough on ourselves by giving up a 14-12 lead in the second game. But I give them a lot of credit for staying upbeat, sticking together and pulling the match out."

The host Raiders, playing their first home match of the season, got three service aces from three different servers. Amy Berke went 9-for-10 serving, Elina Pilita was 13-for-16 and Nicole LeClerc 10-for-11.

Two Lisa — Scher and St. Charles — had efficient games setting. Scher went 22-for-26 with eight

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

assists, and St. Charles was 22-for-26 with nine assists. Melissa Traczyk led the hitters with eight kills and was 11-of-16 on the attack. Pilita had three kills out of 17-for-20 hitting, and LeClerc was 11-for-14 with three kills.

"It was a team win," Calanchi said. "They were fired up and emotional, and that added a new piece to our game that we'd been lacking earlier at tournaments."

"We were in the game mentally. John Glenn was making some spectacular plays — sensational digs, diving out of bounds for balls — and we kept our

composure and finished a point."

It was the first conference match for both teams. North is 2-6-3 overall.

Marlins start 2-0 in dual matches

Farmington Hills Mercy had a successful first week of dual-meet competition, winning a pair of Catholic League matches.

The Marlins began by beating host Harper Woods Regina in a Central Division opener Tuesday, 16-9 and 15-3.

"We played really tough; we just pulled away and served them off the court," Mercy coach Ed Ruhl said. "That was a huge victory."

"Both were big tests. That was the first league

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