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Bowling B8

Sunday, February 4, 2001

## Barenie sparks Falcons to city title



Senior guard Brad Barenie's 20 points paced host Farmington to a 62-50 win over North Farmington and the city championship in boys basketball Friday. Barenie scored 16 of his team's 21 points in the third quarter.

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Couch Denny Mikel knew Brad Barenie was fully capable of having a big basketball game; he just hadn't seen it from him this season.

That changed Friday night when Barenie put on an impressive offensive performance and led host Farmington to a 62-50 win over crosstown rival North Farmington.

Barenie, a 5-foot-11 senior guard, scored 16 of his game-high 20 points in the third quarter, which turned the game in favor of the Falcons.

He made six of seven shots in that period, and his first four were three-pointers that fueled a 17-0 Farmington run.

"Obviously, that's the best game he's played all year, as far as shooting goes," Mikel said. "He had a couple 30-point games on the JV where he was

making those kind of shots.

"But he had not been able to get in the groove (on the varsity). He's done it in practice, but it didn't come out in a game.

"All of a sudden, tonight he found his stroke. He gave us momentum and a lift when our chins were dragging on the floor."

North's Marcus McComb hit a three to start the second half and put the Raiders up six, 29-23.

But they didn't score in the next 4 minutes, which proved to be the turning point in the game. When it was over, Farmington was on top, 40-29, and the game was all but over.

Barenie scored 12 of his team's 17 points during that stretch of time.

After Blair Weiss sank a three for North, Barenie scored the last four points of the quarter on two layups — one off the fast break and the other on a baseline move — to send the Falcons into the fourth with a 44-32 lead.

"When Brad hit those shots, you could see the kids' attitude become so much more positive, and we fed off that for the rest of the game," Mikel said.

Farmington's Curtis Tillman scored 13 points, Matt Mikel 11 and Mike Griffie nine. Jawoin Spinks added six.

The Falcons also had a good game from Scott Cave, who grabbed 10 rebounds and tossed in two points as a replacement for injured starter Jeremy Mazes, who has a hamstring injury.

Please see BASKETBALL, B3

### FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### Girls golf meetings

Ann Marie Sopha, coach of the unified Farmington girls golf team, will have organizational meetings with players at each high school this week.

All returning players and any girls interested in being on the team should attend a meeting.

Sopha will meet with Farmington girls at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the mediated classroom and North Farmington girls at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, in the media center. She met previously with the Harrison girls.

Prospective players or parents who want more information can call Sopha at (248) 220-1178 or her school voice mail number at (248) 426-2741.

#### Rockers lose in OT

The final minutes of Friday's game against the Kansas City Attack, a game played at Compuware Arena, was just too typical an ending for the Detroit Rockers.

With less than four minutes remaining in a match that could draw the Rockers to within one game of the final NPSL playoff spot, Detroit was clinging to a 16-12 lead.

But with 1:22 left in regulation, the Attack's Wes Wade nailed a three-pointer to force overtime, and in the extra period Miroslav Dzilic netted his second goal of the game (and just his third of the season) to lift Kansas City to a 17-15 victory.

It was no way to go into the two-week break for the all-star game. Then again, nothing thus far this season has gone well for the Rockers, who have the league's worst record: 5-19. Kansas City is 7-16.

Overshadowed by the loss was a tremendous fourth-quarter effort by the Rockers, who overcame a four-point deficit.

Detroit's Matt Knowles scored a pair of two-pointers early in the game, but the Attack took a 7-4 lead into halftime. They led 12-8 entering the fourth.

Joel Shanker's douce and a one-point shootout goal pulled Detroit to within a point of Kansas City. Drew Callahan took over for the Rockers after that, scoring one two-point goal at 5:12 of the period to take a 13-12 lead, then getting another with 3:14 left in regulation to make it 15-12.

Callahan's heroics went for naught, however, when Wade — on as a sixth attacker — scored his only goal of the game to tie it.

Detroit is now idle until Feb. 16, when it again hosts Kansas City at Compuware Arena.

Martin Nash, the Rockers' midfielder, has been chosen as a commissioner's pick to the National Conference all-star team. Nash joins Sean Bowers as a Rocker all-star.

Nash, chosen in the dispersal draft when the Edmonton Drillers folded, has 53 points, including 23 in his nine games with the Rockers.

The NPSL all-star game will be televised from Buffalo by Comcast Cable on Feb. 14.

#### Grid coaches sought

North Farmington High School needs assistant football coaches for next season at all three levels — freshmen, JV and varsity.

Interested coaching candidates should contact Farmington Public Schools Athletic Director Brian Swinehart at (248) 489-3352.

#### Winterfest 4-mile race

The Downriver Runners will be staging a four-mile run starting at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Seitz Junior High in Riverview.

Late registration (Feb. 5-10) is \$16 per person at Total Runner in Southgate. Included in the cost is a pancake breakfast, long-sleeve shirt, raffle, awards and mailed race results.

Race-day registration is \$18. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 282-1101 or (248) 354-1177.

#### Marlins prepare for important meets



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEZLER

It's all downhill: Nicole Zaleski and her Farmington Hills Mercy teammates enter the championship portion of their schedule, starting with the division ski meet Thursday at Mount Brighton Ski Area. The Marlins are currently in first place.

## Stevenson has narrow victory over North

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

A close-as-can-be dual meet was decided by a race to the finish line Thursday night. It was host Livonia Stevenson touching the wall first and edging North Farmington in boys swimming and diving, 96-89.

The Spartans, who had an 88-83 leading going into the final event, won the 400-yard freestyle relay by .35 seconds over the Raiders.

Stevenson's relay time was 3:28.13 and North's 3:28.48. Both times were season bests.

"It was a very good meet, and both teams performed very well," North coach Pat Duthie said. "Our freestyle relay swam three seconds faster than its

#### SWIMMING & DIVING

previous best, so it was a good race."

Having the best swimmer from each team going head-to-head on the anchor leg of the 400 relay added to the drama.

Stevenson's Joe Bublitz finished in 47.05 seconds and North's Adam Farber in 49.10 — his best split time of the season.

"He was sick all last week, and we just got him back in the water Monday," said Duthie of Farber. "His split time) was nothing too shabby."

"Bublitz is one of the top swimmers in the state this year, so he didn't feel too bad about it. Adam was almost seven 10ths faster than his best time this

## Whalers have slow start but rally to down Rangers, 6-2

By C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER  
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

The Kitchener Rangers started quickly Friday when they hosted the Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game. The Rangers scored the game's first two goals.

After that, however, the Whalers dominated, scoring six unanswered goals to pull away to a 6-2 triumph.

Stephen Weiss and Chad LaRose led the Whaler assault. Weiss scored two goals and assisted on two others, while LaRose had two goals.

#### JUNIOR HOCKEY

Kitchener took the early lead on first-period goals by Derek Roy and Andre Benoit.

But Plymouth countered quickly. Weiss narrowed the gap to 2-1 with his first goal, and LaRose knotted it with his first. Chad Wiseman assisted on both goals, and Nate Kiser picked up an assist on LaRose's marker.

Stacey Britstone got what proved to be the game-winner before the first period was over on the power play. Tomas Kurka and Weiss earned assists.

Plymouth added two second-period scores to expand its lead to 5-2, with Preston Mizzi (from Rob McBride) and Weiss (on the power play, from Dami-an Surma and Ryan O'Keefe) netting the goals.

LaRose capped Plymouth's scoring in the third period with his second goal of the game, with Weiss getting his second assist and Wiseman collecting his third.

The game was the second in a four-games-in-five-days stretch. The West Division-leading Whalers played the East Division-leading Belleville Bulls last night and host the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds at 6 p.m. tonight at Compuware Arena.

#### Whalers lose OHL showdown to Otters

The end result wasn't that surprising. The final score? That was a shock!

For the first time this season, the Plymouth Whalers failed to put the puck in the net, and it couldn't have come at a worse time.

In a battle between the two top teams in the Ontario Hockey League, the Erie Otters came out the winner Wednesday at Plymouth's Compuware

Please see WHALERS, B4

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