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Ten-Pin Alley B2

Sunday, June 17, 2001

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Vardar III wins Cup

Nick Ramirez of Farmington Hills (Farmington High School) is a member of the Vardar III under-17 boys soccer team that won the Michigan State Cup June 2 at Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills.

In the championship game, Vardar III defeated the Traverse City Force, which had beaten last year's champion, the Rochester Knights, in a semi-final contest.

Ryan Alexander scored three goals to lead Vardar III to a 7-1 victory. Jordan Gruber, Robert Dobbie, Mychal Turpin and Alex Sellinger chipped in one goal apiece.

The defensive effort of Nick Ramirez, Brandon Brent, Ricky Harper, Ryan Hodges, David Leporo and Paul Omekanda shut down the Force offense for nearly the entire game.

Vardar III goaltending duties were shared by Matt Strabbing and Chris Wilson. Each held tight for most of the game, allowing one score in the final minutes of the game.

Vardar's midfield contributed to the offensive strike with ball control, possession and assists from Javier Arana, T.J. Djokic, Kiery Lampert and Lyle Lapkewych.

Ramirez, who will be a senior on the Farmington High team this fall, and his Vardar teammates advance to the regional championships June 22-27 in Springfield, Mo.

Cobras have 3-0 start

The 16-year-old NFWB Cobras travel baseball team started the season with three consecutive wins.

Matt Petry pitched six innings, striking out seven as the Cobras defeated Birmingham, 13-3.

All nine NFWB players had at least one hit. Bryan Smith and Dan Lentz led the way with three apiece; Kevin Zerbo, Andy Wingert and Evan Rodriguez contributed two hits each.

The Cobras squeaked past Lincoln Park, 4-2. Petry went 3-for-3 to pace the offense. Doug Pickens chipped in two hits, and Dan Graham struck out six as the starting pitcher.

NFWB earned its third win in as many days at the expense of the Michigan Hawks, 11-1. Ben Darga pitched a strong game, scattering four hits and striking out five.

Brendon Rosenberg and Pickens swung the hot bats, each going 3-for-4. Pickens delivered the big blow — a two-run homer.

The Cobras, who compete in the Little Caesars Elite Division, are coached by Dan Petry and Randy Rodriguez.

Taormina 5th in meet

Livonia's Sheila Taormina finished fifth among women in the Timpan Louisiana Triathlon, a U.S. Pro Qualifier event, June 3 in Shreveport, La. with a time of 2 hours, 2 minutes and 43 seconds.

The event consisted of a 1,500-meter swim, 24.8-mile bike and 6.2-mile run.

The 32-year-old Taormina garnered one of five U.S. spots for the upcoming International Triathlon Union World Championship on Saturday, July 21, in Edmonton, Alberta.

College baseball tryout

Open tryouts for the Henry Ford Community College baseball team will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the school's diamond in Dearborn. The tryout is open to all high school seniors.

Henry Ford coach Stu Rose also signed three more Observerland players: Ronnie Williams, a left-handed pitcher and outfielder from Livonia; Stevenson; Ian Pardonnet, a right-handed pitcher and third baseman from Farmington; and catcher Nick Hippler from Farmington.

They are joined by Stevenson shortstop Fete Pinto.

For more tryout information, call coach Rose at (248) 477-7747.

Marlins tumble in state semis again



She's out: Mercy's Carly Tracey holds up the ball after placing the tag on Waterford Kettering's Katie Albert, who tried to steal second base in the eighth inning of the Division I semifinal game Friday in Battle Creek.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAVLET



Sad ending: Mercy senior Krystle Shina reacts to the semifinal loss.

Kettering edges Mercy in softball



For the second year in a row, Farmington Hills Mercy's softball team lost by a run in a semifinal state tournament game Friday. It lost to Waterford Kettering in eight innings this year at Battle Creek's Bailey Park, 2-1.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Waterford Kettering got another chance at winning a state championship while Farmington Hills Mercy got another disappointing, one-run defeat in a state semifinal softball game Friday.

The Captains (35-8) were to play the Portage Northern-Escanaba winner for the Division I title Saturday after eliminating the Marlins in eight innings, 2-1.

Northern defeated Kettering in last year's championship game, 7-0. This was the second year in a row Mercy (35-8) lost by a run in the semifinals. Northern beat Mercy last year, 1-0. This year's semifinal contest at Bat-

tle Creek was a pitchers' duel between Kettering senior Jessica Brubaker and Mercy junior Megan Fedeluk.

They dominated the game until the sixth inning when things started to happen offensively and the Captains scored the game's first run.

Brubaker, who extended her state record for career victories to 139, threw a perfect game through six innings, but the Marlins sent it to an extra inning with their only hit and run in the bottom of the seventh.

"Good defense and pitching kept us right there," Kettering coach Joe Alsup said. "They're the key to these things. The most we've given up in the playoffs is two runs, so we know we can stay with most teams."

Brubaker, the daughter of North Farmington softball coach Dave Brubaker, struck out five while facing 26 batters. Neither pitcher issued a walk.

"She spotted the ball well and moved the ball around," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "She's a crafty veteran. She has the win record for a reason."

In the eighth inning, Kettering's Jamie Fryer hit a two-out single and scored the winning run on Devon Hillstrom's double to deep center field.

"Kettering did a good job of keeping the pressure on us," Falvo said. "To their credit, they put the ball in play and did what they had to do to win the game."

"They're a quality team. They're not here because they would fold."

Mercy went down in order in the bottom half of the eighth to end the game.

"We knew they had the bottom of their lineup coming up, and that was

Please see SEMI, B3

State champs lead area in All-Observer honors

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy did practically everything a team could possibly hope to do in girls golf this year.

The Marlins were Catholic League, Oakland County and Division I state champions.

That's a Triple Crown few can match.

Furthermore, it was Mercy's 10th consecutive league title, fourth county title in five years and second state title in two years.

The Marlins had the best player in the state — Division I individual medalist Erin Borowiec — but coach Vicky Kowalski always puts together a strong supporting cast.

After finishing third in the state last year, Mercy lost a pair of all-area play-

GIRLS GOLF

ers in Lindsey Densmore and LaTanya Foster.

But sophomore Christina Cibrario, juniors Jackie Shinney and Kim Warzyniec and senior Maureen McEwen were ready to take on greater roles this year.

The result was another fine season for the Marlins, and Kowalski has been chosen Observerland Coach of the Year for a job well done.

In addition to Borowiec, a four-time member of the All-Observer team, other repeat, first-team picks are Livonia Stevenson senior Katie Carlson, Livonia Churchill junior Heidi Aittama and Stevenson sophomore Kristen Polanski.

Cibrario and Churchill junior Kelley Farzuchowski were second-team selections last year, and Farmington Unified senior Sarah Laird made the jump from third team.

Erin Borowiec, senior, Mercy; Borowiec achieved her longtime goal of winning the indi-

vidual state championship in Division I. She shot 81 the first day and was two strokes out of first place, but she rebounded with a 74 second day to claim first place.

Borowiec's dual-meet low of 33 is a school record, and her tournament low of 65 is a state record.

She averaged 74.5 strokes per tournament while winning medalist honors at Grosse Ile (72), East Lansing (73), Oakland County (82), Mercy Invitational (75), Traverse City two-day (77-71), Ann Arbor (78), Flint Powers (66), Catholic League (69), regional (73) and state.

Borowiec will follow in the footsteps of two former Mercy stars — LPGA Tour member Meg Maltan and her older sister, Jennifer — and continue her career at Ohio State University.

"Erin was unbeatable in her senior year," Kowalski said. "She leaves Mercy as one of the top golfers in state history."

"Every coach who has watched her play has said, 'She's such a good player and a nice girl.' The coaches think she really sets a good standard for what a high school female golfer should be like."

"She's a good student, a good person and a good golfer."

Heidi Aittama, junior, Churchill: The repeat All-Area selection came on strong at the end of the season, placing sixth as an individual qualifier in the Division I state meet with scores of 85-85/170.

Please see ALL-AREA GOLF, B2



All-Area: Christina Cibrario helped Mercy win a state title.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAVLET

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