

**FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE**
Rare feat for golfer

The number 3 keeps turning up in the life of Farmington Hills attorney Jim Newhard.

First, Newhard became a father of four when his wife, Tracy, gave birth to triplets (all girls) in January. They also have a 2½-year-old son.

Then, Newhard fired a 3-under-par double eagle July 7 while golfing at the Links of Novi with his father-in-law, Wendell George, also of Farmington Hills.

Newhard needed just two shots to complete the 470-yard, par-5, No. 6 hole on the West Course. He used a three wood off the tee and a four iron for his second shot.

"I didn't see the ball go in the hole," Newhard said. "I thought the ball had rolled off the back edge of the green, so I was digging around back there for the ball."

"Finally, I decided, 'Well, maybe it's in the cup.' Sure enough, it was."

It was the first double eagle for Newhard, who had a hole-in-one in 1998 while playing golf in his native Findlay, Ohio.

Newhard, who shot 92 for 18 holes, has been playing golf since he was 14.

"It was my first time playing golf this year, because I've been home with the kids," he said. "I haven't been playing as much as I used to play."

Champion gymnasts

Six gymnasts from the Sports Club of Novi were part of a combined team that won the USAIGC national championship in Gaines City, Fla.

The Novi contingent included Farmington Hills gymnasts Mariana Knez and Jessica Oddi, as well as Karissa Pearce (Ann Arbor), Emma Platt (Novi), Nicole Roach (Canton) and Courtney Shancour (Hilledale).

The Novi group is coached by Jennifer Quinlan, Brian Lewis and Jill Hardway.

In addition to winning the first-place team award, the Novi gymnasts picked up individual awards, including first place all-around for Pearce in the 11-12 age division and fourth place all-around for Roach in the 9-10 age group.

Oddi and Shancour were ninth and 10th all-around, respectively, in the 13-and-up division.

Snider beats Borowlec

Defending champion Stacy Snider eliminated Erin Borowlec from the 85th Blue Cross-Blue Shield Women's Michigan State Amateur Golf Championship Wednesday.

Snider defeated Borowlec, a South Lyon resident who starred at Farmington Hills Mercy High School, in match play at the Medalist in Marshall, 1-up.

Hockey team starts

Mike Lautenbach is organizing an independent hockey team that will be composed of players from Farmington Public Schools.

The team will play in the newly-formed Junior Varsity Division of the Little Caesars League. Players must attend a Farmington high school and be in the ninth through 11th grades.

Interested parties should contact Lautenbach at (248) 489-8939 or (248) 619-8766.

C'ville football camp

Clarencville High School football coach Greg Hudkins will run the Third Annual Livonia Area Youth Football Camp from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 17-19 at the school.

The camp is open to all students from fourth through eighth grades. The staff will include Clarencville and Monroe high school coaches and college players.

The fee is \$40 and players will receive a T-shirt, football and a certificate. For more information, call (734) 268-6258.

Panthers fight way to East title share



The Michigan Panthers, based in Farmington Hills, battled their way through 25 innings of baseball on July 8 to gain a share of the Beast of the East championship in Wheeling, W.Va. The Panthers were 7-1-1 in the tournament.

In an unprecedented finish to the 13th Annual Beast of the East Tournament in Wheeling, W.Va., the 16-year-old Michigan Panthers from Farmington Hills and Howard County (Md.) Raiders were named co-champions.

The unlikely conclusion to the four-day event that involved 42 teams from 11 states and the District of Columbia resulted from descending darkness when the teams battled to a 1-1 draw after 11 innings.

"Baseball at any level just doesn't get any better than this," Panthers coach Jim Ferguson said. "Both teams had a

number of opportunities to score the winning run, but great plays in the field kept it deadlocked."

Tournament play began July 5 with the Panthers beating the Mountaineers from West Virginia, 5-1. Eric Theisen was the winning pitcher, going seven innings and giving up only two hits.

Later that day, the Panthers faced the Columbus (Ohio) Cobras in what turned out to be a critical game in first-round play.

With the score tied, the bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Panthers executed a

squeeze play to win the game, 4-3. Frank Whitson went the distance and was the winning pitcher.

Mike McCormick needed just 50 pitches in five innings July 6 to earn an 8-0 shutout of Northern Ohio as the Panthers invoked the mercy rule.

All eight runs came in the fourth inning after John Roessler crushed a two-run homer to get the Panther rally going.

In a game that immediately followed, the Panthers merited the Southern Maryland Senators, 10-2. Will Kennedy was on the mound and got the win.

The Panthers had to come from behind July 7 to beat the Indianapolis Bulldogs, 8-5. Pitchers Adam Millinger and Theisen had a combined effort for the win.

With a 5-0 record, the Panthers went into a Saturday evening game against

the Kent (N.Y.) White Sox having clinched first place in pool play.

Saving pitchers for the single-elimination championship round, the Panthers suffered their only setback of the tournament with a 12-1 loss.

Failing to draw a bye in the championship round, the Panthers needed to win three games to come out on top.

In the first game early Sunday, July 8, McCormick went the distance as the Panthers defeated Neff's Ohio Legion, 9-1.

The Panthers then had to wait five hours to see who their next opponent would be before facing the Pennsylvania Diamond Dawgs.

Whitson pitched his second complete game, and the Panthers came away 10-4 winners.

The Panthers and Raiders, who had

Please see BASEBALL, B3



Summer hockey: Jim Spiewak of the Warriors carries the puck to the Huskies net, which is guarded by goalie Rick Marnon. The Huskies won the Metro Summer Hockey League game, 14-4, Thursday at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

STAFF PHOTOS
BY BILL BRISLER

Whalers edge Wildcats with late goal in MSHL

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Lars Helminen's goal with 1:47 remaining in the game Wednesday gave the Whalers a 6-5 victory over the Wildcats in the Metro Summer Hockey League.

Rich Storm led the Whalers with three goals, while Tim Kostamo and David Gill (Canton) also contributed to the scoring.

Kirk Pietila had three assists, Helminen and Mike Crowley (Canton) two each at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The Wildcats took a 2-0 lead, but Storm's first goal with one second left in the first period started the Whalers rolling.

They scored the first four of the second period and led 5-2. But the Wildcats cut it to 5-4 at the end of the second and tied it with Kirk Gurney's goal at 3:05 in the final.

Helminen (Brighton) produced the game-winner a minute and a half later, however.

HOCKEY

Jeff Paison (Livonia) scored two goals for the Wildcats, and Darrin Fisher and Dnyl Keysa chipped in one each.

In a pair of complete-game performances, Whalers goalie Art Baker (Canton) edged his Wildcats rival Jamie Ferrara.

Spiewak leads Warriors

Four goals by Jim Spiewak (Northville) paced the Warriors to a come-from-behind victory Wednesday over the Bulldogs, 11-8.

Ian Smith (Rochester) scored the first two goals of the game and sparked the Bulldogs to a 3-0 lead.

The Warriors scored four of the last five goals — Spiewak netting three — and forged a 4-4 tie at the end of the first period.

The Bulldogs pulled ahead twice in the second, but the Warriors tied it each time and finally took the lead, 7-6.

Please see HOCKEY, B2



Lakers win: The Spartans' Adam Jakubowski has the puck, but Josh Shuryan and the Lakers won the game Thursday, 11-2.

Ex-area coach, player inducted into hall of fame

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
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Bob Atkins will be the first to tell you that he rarely ventures south of West Branch anymore.

But the former Redford Union baseball coach found a reason to do it last weekend.

Atkins and his one-time player and junior varsity coach, Lee Bjerke, were

inducted into the Michigan Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame last week.

"It's a great honor," said Atkins. "I think it's probably nicest for my family and the kids who played for me. They take a lot of pride in it and I was pleasantly surprised by all of the kids who came back from out of state for it."

Atkins coached for 38 years — beginning as an assistant at RU in 1958 and

ending as an assistant under Bob Miller at the University of Detroit Mercy, with stints in the Free Press, Adray, and Connie Mack summer leagues as well as a five-year stretch in Walled Lake. Between RU (1961-78) and Walled Lake (1978-83), Atkins compiled a 250-141 high school record and had over 1,200 wins in all his coaching efforts.

Bjerke played under Atkins from

1965-67 and was his assistant at RU from 1972-77, before getting the head coaching job at Willow Run High School, where he racked up a 289-129 record from 1978-83. He left WR in 1984 to coach at Henry Ford Community College, then spent a couple of seasons assisting Miller at UDM.

"It's a nice honor not only because you've been rewarded by your peers,

Please see HALL OF FAME, B6

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