

FARMINGTON HILLS
32737 West Twelve Ave., Ste. 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1307FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

S. Farmington sign up

South Farmington Baseball will be registering players for the 2002 season in early January at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt.

Registration sessions will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5; 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Jan. 12.

Players must have a birth certificate with them. The costs are \$50 for tee-ball, \$100 for all softball players and baseball players under age 15 and \$140 for baseball players age 15 to 18.

For additional information, call the SFBH Hotline (474-3925) or see the Web site at www.teamz.com/sfbh.

SFBH will also enlist team managers, coaches and volunteers during the registration sessions. Individuals interested in umpiring league games can sign-up at registration or call Lori McCarthy at (248) 476-7243.

All-conference soccer

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference has released its all-conference selections in men's and women's soccer, and the Madonna University teams — both of them conference champions — are well-represented.

On the women's team, selections to the 22-player squad from Madonna included Christen Shull, a sophomore defender from Canton (Plymouth Salem); Sarah Pack, a freshman forward from Canton (Westland John Glenn); Emily Jackson, a sophomore midfielder from Farmington Hills (Harrison) who had four goals and eight assists; and Jennifer Barker, a senior keeper from Livonia (Stevenson).

For the men, All-WHAC choices from Madonna included Patrick Griffin, a sophomore midfielder Plymouth (Redford Catholic Central). Andy Power, a senior midfielder at Siena Heights from Plymouth (Salem) also made the All-WHAC team.

Mercy softball clinic

There will be a softball clinic for girls in grades 5 through 12 at Mercy High School in six, three-hour sessions 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 12, 19 and 26, Feb. 2 and 16 and March 2.

The clinics will focus on throwing, fielding, hitting, running and bunting. Thirty spots are available. The fee is \$50. To register call Jack Falvo at (248) 471-1748 or Sue Graves at (734) 981-5455.

Hoop tourney series

The "Just Play Ball" Championship Series plans to host youth basketball tournaments across Michigan between Jan. 5 and May 18 for boys and girls in grades five through eight.

There will be school and all-star divisions. Most tournaments guarantee four games; all guarantee at least three.

For more information call (989) 798-7676 or send an email to magic@journey.com.

FPS seeks coaches

Farmington Public Schools has need for coaches in the following areas: girls track, girls soccer and boys diving. Anyone interested in the positions should contact Athletic Director Brian Swinehart's office at (248) 489-3362.

Adult hockey players

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association needs additional players for the current season in the over-30 and over-40 age groups. Players of all skill levels are needed; however, the association has a sufficient number of goalies. To inquire about playing, call the FHAHA at (248) 471-6004 and leave a voice-mail message.

Gymnasts could be even stronger

KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER
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With everyone coming back from a team that placed third in the state last year, Farmington Unified gymnastics coach Jeff Dwyer is expecting big things from his squad of 20 girls.

Dwyer, the reigning Observer-land coach of the year, returns four All-Observer performers from last year, including seniors and returning team captains Chelsea Keosling and Kristin Ulewicz, junior Clara Seymour, and sophomore Sara Houchins.

Keosling, who is a Division I gymnast, proved her worth at last year's state meet, placing second on the balance beam (9.55), ninth on the bars (9.35), and tenth in the floor exercise (9.25). In all-around competition, she was eighth at both the state regional and the Western Lakes Activities Association meets. Her average overall score from last year was 36.24.

Ulewicz, a Division II gymnast, qualified for last year's state meet in both the beam and floor exercises. She averaged mid eights on

GYMNASTICS

vault and low nines on beam and floor, on her way to a top ten finish at the league meet.

Seymour scored 9.2 in the floor exercise and 9.0 on vault at the state meet. She was also impressive at the regional, placing fifth in the all-around (36.875). In the WLAA championships, she placed third on beam, sixth on bars and floor, and seventh on vault, on her way to placing fifth in the all-around (36.875).

Houchins, who gave the team some needed momentum when she returned to the area in January after training in Texas, was the highest-scoring all-arounder in the state team meet with a 37.65 total. In the individual state meet, she was sixth on bars (9.4), but an ankle injury kept her out of the floor exercise. She was also the team's top all-arounder in the WLAA meet, finishing third (37.05). Dwyer said he expects Houchins to compete for the state

Please see GYMNASTS, B6



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACKSON



Mid-air: Sara Houchins (top photo) and Samantha Sherry (photo at left) are strong performers on the balance beam, while Clara Seymour (photo at right) is a high flyer on the uneven bars.



GYMNASTICS RESULTS

Farmington Unified 141.5	Balance beam: 1. (tie) Lindsay Smith (F) and Kristin Ulewicz (F), 9.0 each; 3. Wilchowski (N), 8.85; 4. Seymour (F), 8.7; 5. Houchins (F), 8.65.
Northville-Novi Unified 138.5	Floor: 1. (tie) Houchins (F) and Keosling (F), 9.5 each; 3. (tie) Seymour (F) and Ledbetter (N), 9.05 each; 5. Carlson (N), 9.0; 6. Annie Lieberman (F), 8.75.
Dec. 13 at Novi	
Vault: 1. Lindsey Carlson (N), 9.0; 2. Clara Seymour (F), 8.75; 3. Chelsea Keosling (F), 8.65; 4. Sarah Houchins (F), 8.6; 5. Andrea Ledbetter (N), 8.55.	
Uneven bars: 1. (tie) Seymour (F), Carlson (N), and Sara Wilchowski (N), 9.15 each; 4. Ledbetter (N), 8.55.	

Shooting star:
Farmington
Harrison's
Ayana
Richmond
was named
to the
Observer's
2001 All-
Area Girl's
Basketball
team.



Simply the best

Richmond joins 2001 All-₇₁₀ area hoops teamBY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisak@oc.homcomm.net

Fred Thomann has coached Plymouth Salem's girls basketball team for the past 18 seasons. In that time, his teams have averaged nearly 18 wins a year.

Yet none of his previous teams managed to accomplish what this season's squad did. The Rocks went undefeated through the regular season, winning both the Western Lakes Activities Association regular-season title and the WLAA Tournament. They also captured their Class A district crown before finally losing in the regional tournament.

Salem's final record: 22-1. Which is why Thomann is this year's Observer coach of the year.

"We've had more talented teams," Thomann admitted. "But I've made it a point not to compare this team with other teams."

"This team won every close game. Now, often they weren't the prettiest of games. But they played great defense and they rebounded just enough. They got after the ball and put pres-

sure on teams to make plays. Often, they couldn't."

Putting together a team that goes unbeaten through a regular season that includes a difficult non-conference schedule to go with a tough league slate takes both talent and luck. Salem had both.

This team was quick, this team was experienced, this team was versatile, and this team was well-coached. Which is why it was the best team Observerland had to offer.

Now here's the all-Observer selections.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Liz Obrecht, senior, Ladywood: A broken foot cost the 6-foot-2 center, headed to the University of Missouri-Kansas City, four games and parts of two others during a five-week span.

Before the injury, Obrecht averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds. She finished with nine points and eight rebounds per game.

Obrecht, a three-year starter and All-Catholic League selection, shot 72 percent from the free throw line and 43

Please see ALL-AREA, A3

First Team

Ayana Richmond
Farm. Hills HarrisonLiz Obrecht
Livonia LadywoodKelly Jaskot
Plymouth Salem

Second Team

Deanna DeRoo
Livonia ChurchillMaggie Condell
Farm. Hills HarrisonWhitney Johnson
Farm. Hills MercyMaryLou Liebau
Plymouth SalemRuth Sveticikas
Livonia LadywoodFred Thomann-Salem
Coach of the YearTara Charles
Bishop BurgessKristin Lake
Plymouth Canton

The 2001 All-area girls basketball team was chosen by the Observer sports staff