

MHSAA ruling disappoints many

Case closed. Worms' can open.

Believe me, the U.S. District Court ruling issued Monday foreclosing the Michigan High School Athletic Association to alter its seasonal schedules ends nothing. Indeed, the ruling is truly baffling since it benefits so few at the expense of so many.

You'll hear all sorts of folks who demand equity for girls in sports screaming this is their victory. If you believe in girls athletics, if you believe in giving kids

(whatever their gender) a chance to play, you'll realize that's a lie.

The bottom line is this: Fewer kids, male and female, will get a shot at competing.

This all started because a group of self-absorbed parents thought their daughters deserved athletic scholarships and they were being slighted by an association that scheduled the sport for the winter instead of the fall, when colleges and most other states played it. They felt their poor girls were out of the college recruiting picture because all the scholarships were gone by the time they started playing.

The motives of the people who filed the lawsuit, who cloak themselves with

a self-effacing Communities for Equity (CFE) label, are purely mercenary. It's doubtful a half-dozen volleyball players a year are affected by the system as it currently stands.

All they ever wanted was their kids to get a scholarship. Never mind how this ruling will affect thousands — that's right, thousands — of other athletes, male and female.

That doesn't mean a thing to them. My kid couldn't get a scholarship. She couldn't be a star! I couldn't be on Letterman!

Start with girls basketball. Going by the letter of the law as dictated by CFE, they should play at the same time of year as the boys do, just like

the colleges do.

Ask any veteran girls basketball player if she thinks she'll get as much media and recruiting attention if the seasons change and she'll say no. What will help the volleyball players will hurt the basketball players; Michigan female cagers currently have the advantage of playing earlier in the school year than their counterparts in other states, thereby gaining more attention.

How many scholarships will the change cost the basketball players, CFE?

But those two sports aren't the real

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C.J. RISAK

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Suburban offers classes

Suburban Hockey is holding several clinics for young hockey players over the holidays.

The clinics, for ages 6-14, will be held Dec. 26-29 at the Suburban Training Center, located at 23996 Freeway Park Drive in Farmington Hills.

The clinics will also be offered on the same days at the Eddy Edgar Arena in Livonia and Rochester Ice Arena in Rochester.

The three-day clinics will be split up into three different age groups:

■ Mito power skating and puck handling, for ages 6-8, will focus on individual skill development, and teach stickhandling and puck control. Classes run from 9-10:50 a.m.

■ Squirt power skating and stick skills, for ages 9-10, will develop each player's skating skills with a focus on control, power, acceleration and speed, as well as stickhandling skills. Classes run 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

■ Pee Wee/Bantam checking and scoring, for ages 11-14, will enhance offensive and defensive skills. Classes run 1-2:50 p.m.

There is limited class space.

In addition, the Suburban Training Center will hold a 10-week Intermediate power skating class for ages 9 and older of Fridays from 4-4:50 p.m. beginning Jan. 11.

Instructor Geoff Bennetts will teach proper skating techniques.

Full equipment is required, and skaters must know how to stop in both directions and have experience with forward crossovers to take this class.

For more information, call Suburban at (248) 478-1600 or visit its Web site at www.suburbanhockey.com.

Winter baseball camp

Madonna University's sixth annual winter hitting camp for ball will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 22-23 (ages 8-13) and 2-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 22-23, at the Activities Building.

The cost is \$110 per player. Checks should be made payable to Madonna University, C/O Baseball Office, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150.

Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 50 campers per age group.

The camp features two full-length batting tunnels; three-to-one camp instructor ratio; short toss drills and tee work; videotaping of each participant.

For more information, call coach Greg Haeger at (734) 432-5609.

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) 489-3352.

Baseball camps

Eastern Michigan University will again host winter baseball camps for boys and girls 8-18 years of age at Bowen Fieldhouse.

Camps will be Dec. 22 and 23, Jan. 19 and 20, Feb. 10 and 11 plus another on May 11.

Workouts begin at noon at Bowen, or outside at Oostrik Stadium weather permitting, and conclude at 4 p.m.

Single day camps cost \$45, \$85 for two, \$120 for three, \$155 for four and \$175 for five or \$200 for all seven. Applications must be sent in a week prior to camps to avoid a \$10 late registration fee.

Coach Roger Coryell and his EMU staff will conduct the sessions, which feature position and team fundamentals.

Topics include hitting and bunting, catching, baserunning, pitching, infield play, outfield play, strength and conditioning, arm and bat speed development.

To register or for more information and applications call (734) 487-0315, fax (734) 487-4508 or e-mail roger.coryell@emich.edu.

To submit items to the Sports Scene, write 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI, 48150, or send via fax to (734) 691-7279, attn: Dan O'Meara.



STAFF PHOTO BY DYLAN MITCHELL

Digging deep: Harrison's Mike Bathie competes in the 200 breaststroke during the conference relay meet at Plymouth Salem on Saturday. The Harrison/Farmington team finished eighth at the meet.

Raiders 3rd at WLAA Relays

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS WRITER
cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

One gap narrowed. The other increased.

The gap Plymouth Canton swim coach Ed Weber hoped to slice into — the one separating his team and perennial Western Lakes Activities Association champion Plymouth Salem — did indeed shrink. But the gap between Salem and Canton, and the rest of the WLAA, seems to be growing.

Salem finished first at Saturday's WLAA Relays meet, which it hosted, scoring 265 points. Canton had 245, trimming the 36-point difference between the two in 2000 to 20.

Still, that might be due more to the rest of the conference's faltering than

SWIMMING

Salem slipping. There's no doubting the Chiefs' ability, but there's no doubting Salem's, either.

Like last year, the Rocks again won five of the 10 relays, finished second in another and had two thirds. Canton had one win and seven seconds. North Farmington (180 points) and Walled Lake Central (164.5), third and fourth respectively, each had two first-place finishes.

In fourth was Livonia Churchill, followed by Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Farmington Harrison/Farmington, Walled Lake Western, Livonia Franklin and Westland John

Glenn. See statistical summary.

North got a first in the 200 backstroke relay, from Brian Clayson, Thomas Naughton, Jason Bank and Mohamed Bachrouche (1:50.99), and in the 400 individual medley relay, from Sermet Alver, Matt Newman, Clayson and Bachrouche (4:05.34).

"That was what we wanted to do — win," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "It's a fun meet, but it gets pretty competitive. We got medals (a top-three finish) in eight of the 10 events. We won, and I figured if we swam well we'd win."

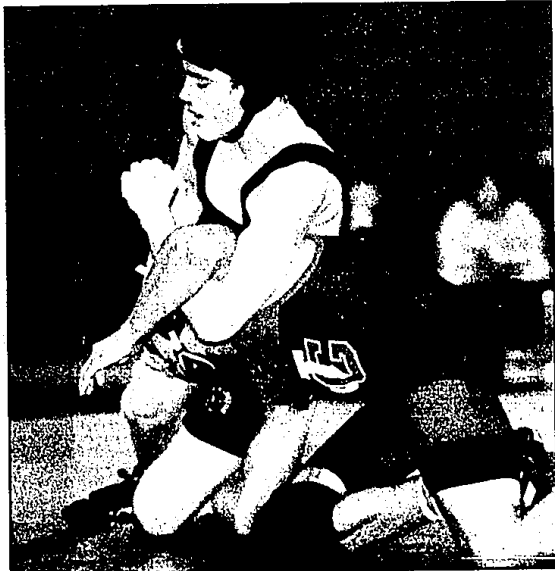
Which they did. The Rocks set the standard early, winning the first two relays: the 400-yard medley relay, with

Please see SWIM, D2

Calm before the storm

Best move: Despite putting his best moves on John Glenn's Enrique Garcia, Farmington grappler Mike Kish ultimately lost by a pin when the two schools met on Tuesday night.

With just two seniors in the lineup, Farmington lost to Glenn at home, 79-0, dropping the Falcons to 0-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, and 1-4 overall. For complete results of the match, see wrestling roundup on page D-X.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAKERLIN

North spikers fall in semis

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER
kkuban@oe.homecomm.net

After dominating in its early matches, North Farmington's volleyball team lost to Traverse City West in the semi-finals of the 10-team Saginaw Valley State University Tournament Saturday in University Center.

The Raiders went 7-1 in pool play, before facing Traverse City West in the semi-finals, losing 15-6, 15-9.

VOLLEYBALL

In pool play, North Farmington took two games from Swan Valley (15-13, 15-11), Merrill (15-9, 15-4), and St. Charles (15-1, 15-0), before splitting with Atherton (13-15, 15-9).

Seniors Melissa Traczyk (10-for-10 serving) and Meghan Callahan (4 aces, 4 kills) led the way against Swan Valley. The Raiders (4-3-4) used a 98-percent serve efficiency to beat Merrill, with Traczyk getting six aces on 15-for-15 serving.

In the victories over St. Charles, North Farmington got 14 aces on 21-for-21 serving from Traczyk and 6-for-6 serving from Lisa Scheri.

After losing the first game against Atherton, the Raiders stormed back to win the second, behind Scheri's 16-for-19 setting and six assists, and two big blocks from Callahan, who also had 4 kills. North coach Deb Calanchi said the team's effort in the second game was its most inspired play this season.

"It was the most fired-up we've played all season. We really need to play like that for the rest of the year," Calanchi said.

Calanchi said the team, which committed 20 service errors against Traverse City West, ran out of gas in the semi-finals.

"We looked exhausted. We lost focus of our game plan and our serve reception," she said.

Hawks win 1st, 68-63

Farmington Harrison, playing Tuesday in its first game of the season, won at South Lyon, 68-63.

The Hawks were led by senior forwards Matt Elsie (13 points, 9 rebounds), Dave Condon (12 points, 15 rebounds), and Steven (Joe) McElroy (12 points, 9 rebounds).

Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said he was most pleased with the way his defense took away South Lyon's 3-point threat. South Lyon shot just 4-for-21 from behind the arc.

BASKETBALL

"The 3-point shooting was the key to the game. We went into the game with the goal of contesting every shot, and we did a pretty good job of it," Turnquist said.

Harrison also controlled the boards, outrebounding South Lyon 42-24.

South Lyon (3-2), playing in its fifth game, took advantage of Harrison's early rust and jumped out to a 14-5 lead to begin the game. Turnquist credited junior guard Mike Bartley's defensive pressure with getting the team back in the game. Harrison tied the game at 18, when senior center Steve Mills scored on his second straight put-back to end the first quarter.

"Our guys really gritted it out. It wasn't pretty, but they did what they had to do to win," Turnquist said.

The Lions' Matt Friel had 29 points.