

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Vermont win streak ends

The University of Vermont had its school-record, 12-game winning streak stopped by host Hartford (Conn.) in men's basketball Sunday.

Charles Ford scored a career-high 30 points to lift Hartford to a 78-65 win over Vermont in an America East Conference game.

The Catamounts had the second-longest current winning streak in the nation. It also was their first America East loss in eight games.

Trevor Gaines (Farmington) scored eight points, grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds and also had four assists. He passed Erik Nelson (1998) to move into fourth place all-time at Vermont with 748 career rebounds.

Vermont, which had not lost in 55 days dating back to an overtime loss at Duquesne on Nov. 26, fell to 14-4 and holds a slim first-place lead in the conference at 7-1.

The Catamounts play at Stony Brook today and will be in Ann Arbor to play the University of Michigan in Crisler Arena at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Scholar-Athlete finalists

Three student-athletes from Farmington schools are finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award.

The Farmington student-athletes are Jeff Shumer of North Farmington in the sport of boys soccer, Matt Elsey of Harrison in boys basketball and Randin Brown of Farmington High in softball.

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since 1989-99, honors 24 individuals, one in each sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the program and presents a \$1,000 scholarship in each sport.

The MHSAA received 2,780 applications from 469 schools this year — the third-highest total ever. Fall sports scholarship recipients will be announced on Feb. 6; winter sports on Feb. 13 and spring sports on Feb. 20.

The 24 Scholar-Athlete Award recipients will be honored at halftime of the Class C boys basketball final at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 23.

Lady Raiders beat Hawks

Oakland Community College defeated host Henry Ford CC in women's basketball game Saturday, 63-49.

Debbie Wesa scored 16 points, Ashley Lynn 13 and Tiffany Burt 10 for the Lady Raiders, who are 3-1 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 10-6 overall.

Carie Morrow added nine points and Dana Millard seven. Kate Reed and Wesa had six rebounds each to lead O.C.C.

Henry Ford's Beth Fortuna scored 23 points and Jennifer Thurman 20, but the Hawks had just six points from the rest of their team.

Henry Ford (2-2, 8-9) outrebounded Oakland, 40-30. Fortuna also had 16 rebounds.

OCC loses to Henry Ford

Oakland Community College slipped to 0-4 in the MCCA Eastern Conference men's basketball standings Saturday after a 77-63 loss to host Henry Ford.

The Hawks had four players score in double figures: Kenny Nether (19), Ezra Tillman (17), Ray Moss (16) and Eric Johnson (14).

Nether, a former all-area player from Plymouth Canton, also had a game-high 13 rebounds and Moss 11. Henry Ford (2-2, 7-10) had a 61-41 advantage on the boards.

Lonnie Jones scored 18 points, Sam Payton 16 and William Motley 12 for the Raiders (6-12). Jones pulled down eight rebounds, Eric Thomas and Motley seven apiece.

Flyers plan FHHA Night

The Farmington Unified Flyers will have Farmington Hills Hockey Association Night on Saturday, Feb. 2, when the Flyers play host to Northville at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Any FHHA participant wearing an FHHA jersey will be admitted free of charge. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. The cost of admission for adults is \$3.

To submit items to the Sports Scene, write 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150, or send via fax to (734) 591-7279.



Basketball rivalry: Harrison's Steven "Joe" McElroy looks to pass the ball while being guarded by Farmington's Ryan Kosinski. Both players scored 22 points to lead their respective teams in scoring Tuesday.

Hawks flex muscles,
win city hoop crown

BY DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

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Farmington High made it a contest for nearly one half of a boys basketball game Tuesday against visiting Farmington Harrison.

But the Hawks eventually gained

BASKETBALL

control with their size and strength in the post and pulled away to a 72-47 victory.

The win gives Harrison the city championship since it defeated North Farmington earlier in the month.

Six-foot-6 senior center Joe McElroy was the catalyst for the Hawks, scoring 22 points and pulling down 12 rebounds.

Harrison also had 13 and 10 points, respectively, from seniors Matt Elsey and Dave Condon, both of whom helped to give the Hawks an edge, physically.

"It was the factor," Farmington coach Steve Korpusik said. "We didn't have anybody who could handle them inside. That's been our problem for the most part this year."

"But it's really the first time somebody exploited it on us. I think it was just a matter of time before we had a game where it caught up with us."

The Falcons might have been worn down as the game progressed, but they were right in it until nearly halftime.

Junior Andy Brown's free throws with 20 seconds left in the first quarter cut the Harrison lead to four, 12-8.

Then, senior guard Ryan Kosinski, who matched McElroy's 22 points for Farmington, made a four-point play at the end.

He hit a three-point shot as the buzzer sounded, was fouled and sank the free throw to tie the score.

Ryan Chatman's triple even gave the Falcons the lead, 15-14, and baskets by junior Jerry Shinkonia and Brown kept them within four, 25-21.

"You know a city rivalry isn't going to be a cake-walk," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said. "Farmington deserves a ton of credit, because they scrapped and fought until we realized our size could give us the advantage we were looking for."

A big momentum shift followed as the Hawks went on a 12-0 run to finish the first half. That gave Harrison a 15-point halftime lead and decided the issue.

"Sure, you're concerned," Turnquist said of the game to that point, "because they did a very nice job defensively and took away the things we wanted to do. You never want to give a city rival

Please see HOOPS, C3



Hoop challenge: Farmington's Robert Nagy attempts a block on Matt Elsey's shot. Elsey contributed 13 points to the Harrison win.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

'Joe Pa'
puts you
at ease

I have no idea where Clarenceville's Tim Shaw is going to play college football the next four or five years.

And if he's a little confused right now, I couldn't blame him. By Wednesday, Feb. 6, the NCAA letter-of-intent signing day, that's when Shaw and many blue-chip football players will make their decision.

Many of the top players have already committed, but Shaw right now appears to be undecided at the moment between Michigan, Michigan State, Penn State and Notre Dame. He's also made visits to Stanford and Boston College.

His final two trips are this weekend, first to East Lansing, then to South Bend.

Last weekend he was treated at Michigan where I bumped into him at the UM-Minnesota basketball game.

"Tired of being wind and dined!" I asked Michigan's all-time leader in touchdowns, yards rushing and points scored.

"No way," said the 6-foot-2, 221-pounder.

So how can you say no to a Lloyd Carr, a Joe Paterno, a Bobby Williams or a Tyrone Willingham?

Lloyd Carr may be the main man at Michigan, but he's still the same guy I knew back in his days as an assistant.

Westland John Glenn coach Chuck Gordon will tell you Carr hasn't changed a bit since he left the school in 1975.

The guy is always approachable, always willing to reach out, even with all the demands on his time.

Sunday night I got a heads-up from Clarenceville coach Greg Hudkins that Paterno would be at his school the next day.

I debated whether it was worth a story, because God knows we've written enough about No. 8.

But who wouldn't jump at the chance to meet Joe Pa himself. Am I crazy or what?

Paterno and his linebackers coach, Ron Vanderlinden, a Livonia native himself, flew in on a private plane Monday afternoon to Metro from Happy Valley to meet Shaw at school and have dinner with his family.

Vanderlinden, who coached at Colorado, Northwestern and most recently was the head coach at Maryland, asked if I wanted to interview Paterno, who has a record of 327-96-3, has been in 30 bowl games and has coached 682 games in 52 years at the same school, not to mention two national championships and five unbeaten seasons.

I rushed out to my car to get a notebook, but I had to go back inside and ask an old neighborhood pal, Ken Fry, a special education teacher and co-op coordinator at Clarenceville, to borrow a pad.

"It doesn't get any bigger than this at this school," said Fry, a former coach who played football at Franklin High School.

The 75-year-old Paterno is in the second year of a five-year contract extension. He apparently has never heard of the word retirement.

I asked my dad, now 78, when he retired a few years back how it felt.

"Every day feels like Saturday," he said.

For Paterno, every day is a special day, whether it's coaching, speaking or recruiting.

During his 90-minute visit at Clarenceville, I found Paterno to be engaging, personable, attentive and

Please see EMONS, D5

CC favored to win 5th Observerland title

BY DAN O'MEARA

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Redford Catholic Central's wrestling team is building momentum and could be reaching its potential just in time for the 11th Annual Observerland Tournament.

The Shamrocks, who have made gains following a slow start in December, are considered a top contender to win the 2002 championship — a role not unfamiliar to them.

CC has won the tournament more times (four) than any other school. Livonia Stevenson has three titles; defending champion Plymouth Canton, Plymouth Salem and Farmington have one each.

"They're just starting to come around," said CC coach Mike Rodriguez of his wrestlers. "We took a

licking in the beginning.

"We lost our first four matches up at Bay City in the Michigan Tournament, and then we got wiped out by Hartland."

But the Shamrocks have come back to post a 13-6 record in dual meets, which includes wins over Canton, Salem and Stevenson, as well as wrestling powers Dundee, Roseville and Novi.

"We're late bloomers," Rodriguez said. "It's getting to be that time of the year."

That means the league, district, regional and state tournaments are in the near future.

"This is a team that went to the state last year," Rodriguez said. "That's where their mind is set again this year."

One reason CC had a slow start was the absence of senior Ryan Rogowski, who had surgery to repair a

hernia immediately after the Shamrocks won the Division I football title in November.

Rogowski is 12-1 since his return and will be favored to win the 189-pound title Saturday as the area's No. 1-ranked wrestler at that weight.

He is one of two CC wrestlers and five overall who are defending champions, although most won't be back at the same weights.

Canton's 215-pound Phil Rothwell is the only one who will be. Rogowski won at 171; Garden City's Jacob Davis (103) has moved to 112 bracket; Livonia Churchville's Brian Clement (119) is now at 125 and CC's Blain Naysmith (159) has made the jump to 215.

"We're pretty solid from 140 on up," Rodriguez said, adding Naysmith pinned a defending state

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