

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Triathlon events at YMCA

The Team Challenge Tri 2002 and Y-Tri will take place Sunday, March 24, at the Farmington Hills YMCA at 12 Mile and Farmington roads.

The two triathlon events are sponsored by the YMCA, Sunrise Runners Club and Ford Athletic Swim and Triathlon (F.A.S.T.). Participants can do one or both races.

The Team Challenge event (three athletes per team) consists of a 1K swim, 30K bike and 5K run, plus three modest-intensity mystery events of endurance, strength and coordination.

Each athlete participates in each event. Scores are based on time. Bonus points are awarded for coed, youngest and oldest teams.

The Y-Tri consists of swimming, riding a stationary bike and running/walking on a treadmill for 15 minutes each. Scores are based on distance.

There will be a mandatory, pre-race meeting and bike setup at 7 a.m. for the Team Challenge.

The event starts at 7:30 a.m. The start time for the Y-Tri will be on a first-come basis between 9 a.m. and noon.

The entry fee is \$15 per triathlete and should be payable to Farmington Hills YMCA. Mail or deliver to: Y-Tri, 28100 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334, attn: P.J. Jones. For more information call Jones at (248) 553-4020, ext. 122.

### Sports events postponed

A late-week, snow-and-ice storm forced postponement of many sporting events involving Farmington high school teams.

North Farmington's boy swim team will be at Farmington High to compete against Farmington-Harrison on Tuesday starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Farmington-Walled Lake Central basketball game has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Central.

The Walled Lake Western-Harrison game will likely be played either Feb. 14 or 16.

New dates for the Central-Farmington hockey game and Farmington-Plymouth Salem gymnastics meet are still to be determined.

The wrestling dual meets from Jan. 31 will not be rescheduled.

### Football trio earns letters

Former Farmington High School football players Mark Ostach and Patrick Klein and Orchard Lake St. Mary's graduate John Sgalin received varsity awards at the Albion College football banquet Jan. 20.

The Britons claimed their 32nd Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship in 2001 by posting a 5-0 league record. Albion defeated Alma (29-19), Adrian (31-14), Olivet (44-16), Kalamazoo (30-28) and Hope (42-11).

The Britons had non-league victories over MacMurray (Ill.) College, Tri-State (Ind.) University and Buffalo (N.Y.) State College to finish the season with an 8-2 overall record.

### Albion college swimmers

A pair of Farmington swimmers contributed to an Albion College dual-meet victory over Hillsdale College in women's swimming Jan. 26.

Jennifer Bendick (North Farmington) and Erin Spiro (Birmingham Marianne) won individual events and helped the Britons win the 400 medley relay.

Bendick won the 200 breaststroke (2:40.51) and Spiro the 200 individual medley (2:17.45). Each posted her fastest time of the season in her event.

They teamed with Liz Groth (Bloomfield Hills) and Becky Pierce (Rochester) to win the medley relay with a season-best time of 4:16.07.

### Mid-winter workshops

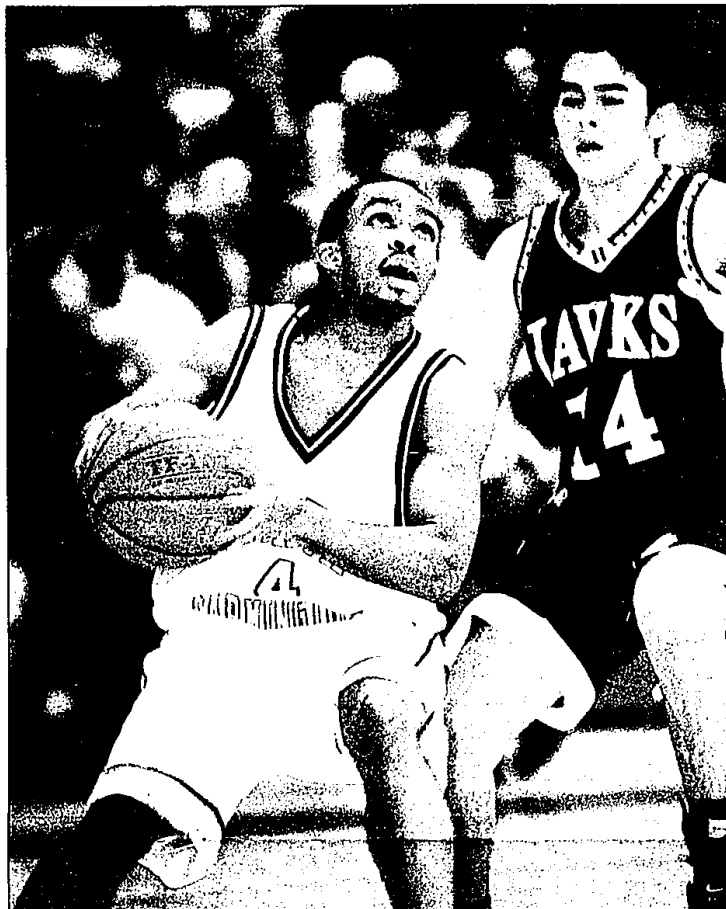
Suburban Hockey will have three one-day, mid-winter workshops at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills on Thursday, Feb. 14.

The Defense, Quick 'N' Fast and Shoot To Score workshops are for players age 6 and up.

The workshops will be two hours, and each one is \$45 per player.

For more information or to enroll, call Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1600 or see the Web site at [www.suburbanhockey.com](http://www.suburbanhockey.com).

### The only game in town



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREAKER

**Basketball news:** Senior Jason Neal and his North Farmington teammates were the only basketball team among the three city schools to play Friday night. Neal, shown here trying to elude Ralph Plumley in an earlier game with Harrison, and the Raiders were at league-leading Livonia Stevenson. Harrison and Farmington were idle because there was no school in Walled Lake Friday.

## N. Farmington notches 6th league victory

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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North Farmington achieved yet another volleyball victory in what is shaping up to be a highly-successful, turnaround season for the Raiders.

Coach Deb Calanchi's team is 6-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and is working on its best league record in many years.

The Raiders won their second straight in the WLAA Wednesday when they defeated host Livonia Stevenson, 8-15, 15-5, 15-6.

North had its usual slow start but rebounded nicely to win the next two games.

"I thought, at the end of the first game, we had momentum," Calanchi said. "That sounds weird

because they won, but we started to pick up the pace.

I was real impressed (by the last two games). Our experience has to come through at some point. We need to be more effective hitting the ball instead of just putting it in play, and that's what we did.

"That's a credit to our setters. As a former setter, I'm the first one on their case when they make mistakes.

"After Monday's match, when we were very predictable in our offense, they made some great calls. They ran a lot of different options, and that's what led us to victory."

### VOLLEYBALL

Nicole LeClerc was 17-for-18 serving with eight aces, Elina Pilnits 16-for-19 with seven aces and Amy Berke 11-for-11 with two aces. Melissa Traczyl was 8-for-8 serving.

Meghan Callahan recorded 10 kills, Traczyl eight and Pilnits five. Lisa St. Charles and Lisa Scher had 10 assists each.

Berke was 25-of-27 digging, and LeClerc had five solo blocks. Brittany Pajewski played in the back row in the second and third games; she was 5-for-5 digging and 3-for-3 serving.

"The bottom line is it was a team victory," Calanchi said. "I wish we had it on video tape because we played as a team, and I hope we stay at that level."

"This was a division game, not just a conference match. The seniors had never beaten (Stevenson).

## Harrison's Shabaj has Georgia on his mind

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Everyone thought Farmington Harrison football player Agim Shabaj was all but signed, sealed and delivered to Michigan State University, including Shabaj himself.

But the speedy wide receiver Agim Shabaj widened his scope of potential schools to include the University of Georgia last week.

With high school seniors due to sign national letters of intent Wednesday, Shabaj is undecided now and facing a major decision.



### FOOTBALL

"I'm still very confused in the whole matter," Shabaj said Friday night. "Both teams have outstanding programs. Both pass the ball; both are known for winning and sending athletes to the NFL, and both have great academic systems."

"I have to pick the one where I see myself going for four years and being happy there."

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Shabaj gave a verbal commitment to MSU last summer, so it was a surprise last week when it was learned he was wavering and still considering another school.

Shabaj said Georgia coaches had continued to call, and he told them he

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## Clarenceville's Shaw to attend Penn State

BY BRAD EMOUS  
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The Tim Shaw sweepstakes are officially over.

The 6-foot-2, 221-pound running back and linebacker from Livonia Clarenceville has cast his lot with legendary coach Joe Paterno and the Penn State.

He is expected to sign an NCAA letter-of-intent on Wednesday, Feb. 6 with the Nittany Lions.

Shaw, the state's all-time career leader in yards rushing (7,523) and touchdowns (131), made his decision Sunday evening shortly after returning from Michigan State on his fifth and



Tim Shaw

final official recruiting visit.

Shaw visited Boston College, Stanford, Michigan, MSU and Penn State. He also considered taking an unofficial trip to Notre Dame after Tyrone Willingham got the head coaching job, but decided to forego the idea last week.

Shaw, who led Clarenceville to a 13-1 record and a runner-up finish in the Division 5 state championship game, even got the blessings from his grandmother, a Michigan grad.

"I just think about the people I'll be around and how much coach Paterno is concerned about what you become other than a football player," said Shaw, who carries a 3.87 grade-point average. "I just think it's the right place for me."

Shaw leaned heavily on the advice of

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## Raiders topple WLAA leaders

BY BRAD EMOUS  
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Everybody in the Western Lakes Activities Association has at least one loss now in boys basketball.

Livonia Stevenson was the final team to go down Friday as visiting North Farmington kept its WLAA playoff hopes afloat with a 63-52 victory.

### BASKETBALL

The Raiders, now 6-7 overall and 3-4 in the Western Lakes, also torpedooed Stevenson's 10-game winning streak in the process.

Meanwhile, the Spartans dropped to 10-3 overall and 6-1 in the league but remained a half game ahead of idle Plymouth Salem in the battle for the top seed with four games left.

Senior Earle Higgins, Jr., playing his first season of high school basketball, led the Raiders with 17 points. Junior guard Marcus McComb added 15, while senior center Mike Leach had 12.

Needless to say, it was a big win for North, which is trying to garner one of the eight playoff berths, which remain up for grabs in a league that appears to have plenty of parity this season.

"We were playing for two things," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "We were trying to stay in the playoff chase and trying to remain in the division (Lakes) hunt."

"I thought our kids played hard the whole game against a well-coached team. Bill Dyer (Stevenson's coach) is doing a great job. (Stevenson) made a great run; we were able to respond with a run of our own against them. We just made better mental decisions after they made their run."

North trapped and double-teamed Stevenson's offensive attack all over the floor. Offensively, the Raiders cleared out a side while letting point guard Jason Neal (eight points) operate and create from the wing.

"It's 32 minutes of trapping full court

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