

# Flyers coast to 10-0, regional win

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

It took slightly more than one period of hockey Wednesday for Farmington Unified to warm up and Milford to wake up.

After that sorting-out process, the game belonged to the Flyers, who coasted a 10-0, mercy-rule victory in the Division I regional tournament at Redford Arena.

## HOCKEY

Farmington (16-8-1) will play either Walled Lake Central or Redford Unified in the second round at 8 tonight on the same ice.

The winner advances to the championship game Saturday evening against the Livonia Stevenson-Redford Catholic Central winner.

"Obviously, the kids showed they want to play tomorrow night," Flyers coach Mike Harris said. "This is a big win for us. Last year we got knocked out early by Stevenson. The kids know it's single elimination now, and they want to play a couple more weeks."

Farmington had a 1-0 lead entering the second period, and any doubt about the outcome was quickly erased.

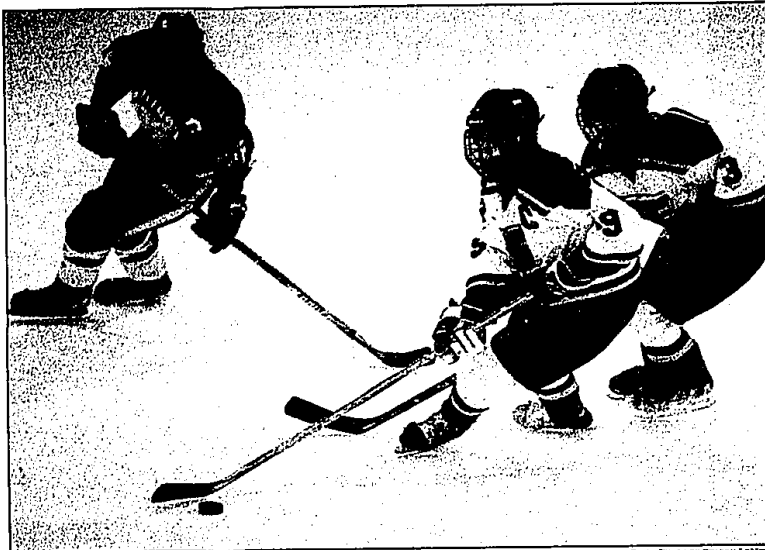
The Flyers erupted for eight goals over the next 15 minutes and ended the contest with Brad Heraghty's short-handed goal four minutes into the final.

"The second period was probably our best period all year long," Harris said. "We were moving the puck, the (defense) was executing the breakout and we were looking for the open man."

"We had pretty balanced scoring. All three lines scored. We had five goals from our top line, two goals each by the other lines and a goal by a defenseman."

Keith Hay scored the first two goals, and Matt Lee and Mike Hand also had two apiece. Marc Rauth, Sean Ellis and Brett Ramsay chipped in one each.

Jeff Tosoian recorded three assists; Heraghty and Matt Kjolhede had two apiece. Hand, Brett Laird, Ellis, Bran-



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN LEECH

Flyers romp past Redskins: Keith Hay (9) scored the first two goals and assisted on the last one Wednesday as Farmington Unified trounced Milford. Jeff Tosoian (3) had a team-best three assists.

don Luczkowski, Louie Powell and Hay were credited with single assists.

"As you see, we give up some goals," Milford coach Gary Johnson said, adding the Redskins had allowed 124 overall while scoring 40-plus.

Milford (2-21-2) was without its regular goalie and a couple skaters, all of whom were sick and unable to play.

"We were missing two thirds of our first line," Johnson said, adding the Redskins eventually got tired.

"You can hang in for a while, but once the dam breaks you're in trouble. We had some kids playing a lot who don't play a lot, and that's the way it goes."

Farmington had a 10-5 advantage in shots attempted in the first period. But, aside from Hay's first goal at 10:09, it was frustrated by Milford's tight defense in front of its own net.

The second period was entirely different as the Flyers outshot the Red-

skins, 20-3, and got behind the opposing defense numerous times for one-on-one scoring chances.

"We just told them to keep it up," Harris said. "We had to keep working hard. (Milford) only had 14 players in uniform — one goalie and 13 skaters."

"We rolled three lines and played everybody. There's no need to get any penalties; keep moving the puck, keep the pressure on," and that's what we

Please see FLYERS, D6

## FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Vermont earns top seed

The University of Vermont will be the top seed in the America East Conference men's basketball tournament, which starts this weekend at Matthews Arena in Boston.

The Catamounts (20-7) earned a share of their first AEC regular-season championship — the first conference title in the program's 102-year history — by beating Hartford in the regular-season finale Sunday, 75-66.

Vermont and Boston University tied for first place with 13-3 records, but Vermont won the tiebreaker and earned the top seed based on its two wins over Boston.

Senior Trevor Gaines (Farmington) and freshman Taylor Coppenrath scored 16 points apiece in the win over Hartford at Patrick Gym in Burlington, Vt.

The victory, in front of another sell-out crowd of 3,228, also gave Vermont its first 20-win season, topping the previous record, which had stood for 55 seasons.

Picked to finished fourth in the preseason coaches poll, the Catamounts led the regular-season race from wire-to-wire.

Gaines, who made seven of 11 field goals, also recorded a career-best five assists. He had 12 points and 15 rebounds Friday as Vermont beat host New Hampshire, 93-77.

The AEC semifinals will be played Saturday. The tournament final is set for 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, and will be televised by ESPN.

### OCC women tumble

The Oakland Community College women's basketball team fell to host Henry Ford in the first round of the MCCA state playoffs Saturday, 66-61.

Center Beth Fortuna hit seven of 12 shots, sank six of eight free throws and scored 20 points to lead the Hawks (16-11). Jennifer Thurman added 18 and Katie VanGoethem 11.

Forward Debbie Wesa tossed in a game-high 24 points for OCC (14-13); Jennifer Tuttle added 10, Dana Millard eight and Tiffany Burt seven.

Fortuna also had 11 rebounds and Wesa eight. Henry Ford had a 39-31 rebounding advantage and led at half-time, 34-25.

In a non-conference game Saturday, Carrie Morrow scored a game-high 18 points as the Lady Raiders trounced visiting Rochester College, 82-42.

Wesa added 16 points; Ashlee Larsen 13, Tuttle 10 and Kate Reed seven. Tuttle also had nine rebounds. Kristen Debrandt had nine points (4-20).

### Scholar-athlete finalists

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has selected its nine honorees for the Scholar-Athlete Award program for the 2002 winter sports season. Sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance, each of the winners will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship, presented during halftime of the Class C boys basketball final March 23 at Michigan State's Breslin Center in East Lansing.

A pair of Observerland boys basketball players, Farmington Harrison's Matt Eacey and Plymouth Salem's Ryan Williams, were among the seven finalists in their sport.

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must carry at least a 3.5 grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) and have previously won a varsity letter in a sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a post-season tournament. They must also be active in other school and community activities and produce an essay on the importance of sportsmanship.

### Gymnastic standouts

Some local gymnasts were instrumental in the fourth-place finish of the Sports Club of Novi at the Paige Smith Winterfest Classic Jan. 26-27 in Denver.

Among those competing for the Sports Club at Level 8 were Alyssa Kelley, 12-years-old, from Plymouth and Jessica Oddi, 14, from Farmington Hills.

Kelley, in the Junior Division, placed fifth in the vault (9.250) and had a 35.475 all-around score. Oddi, in the Senior Division, was sixth in the balance beam (9.075) and had a 35.125 all-around total.

In the Level 7 Senior Division, Marianna Karaz, 13, of Farmington finished eighth on beam (8.8) and posted an all-around score of 34.750.

The Raiders had to be content with being the best of the rest, finishing a solid third in a meet dominated by host Plymouth Salem and Canton.

Salem won its 10th consecutive WLAA championship and 16th overall with an impressive total of 603 points.

Canton was its only real competition, and the Chiefs were nearly a hundred points behind with 517. North's tally was a little more than half that of Salem at 338.

The Raiders had one winner — junior Matt Newman, who won the 100-yard

# Falcons reach semis but fall to Chargers

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Farmington cruised to a first-place finish in pool play Saturday in the Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball tournament.

But the Falcons ran into a red-hot Livonia Churchill team in the semifinals at Walled Lake Central and were defeated.

Farmington was 6-0 in total pool-play games with victories over Walled Lake Western, Westland John Glenn and North Farmington.

The Falcons avenged a January loss in the city tournament with a 15-9, 15-3 victory over their cross-town rivals, the Raiders.

"We were disappointed in our performance the last time we played them, and we wanted to make up for that," Farmington coach Alex Perrin said. "They were the only team in the conference we hadn't beaten. Obviously, we wanted a little bit of revenge."

"The first game was a really tough game, and we got the benefit of a couple of questionable calls, to be fair. Both teams were evenly matched, but we had a little more firepower than them."

Farmington made a lot of serving errors in the Jan-

## VOLLEYBALL

uary match and played into the hands of North, which plays consistently and waits for the opponent to make the mistake, he added.

The Raiders became a little discouraged in the second game, according to Perrin, after Julie Kimmel served eight straight points at the beginning for the Falcons.

"That pretty much took the wind out of North's sails, because as long as they hung with us they knew they could," he said. "Once we got the lead, I think they realized it would be tough to come back."

The Falcons sat for the next two hours while WLAA officials presented all-league awards and they waited for the Churchill-Central playoff match to be completed.

Farmington, which defeated Churchill earlier in the week, lost in the semifinals, 15-5 15-7. The return of senior hitter Sheila Gillies from injury — she didn't play in the previous contest — made a difference for the Chargers.

"If we had played well, I don't know if we could

have beaten Churchill; Churchill played that phenomenally," Perrin said.

Churchill started the day slowly but was on a roll by the time we played. They came charging into our match, and we never matched their intensity.

"Even if they had Gillies on Monday, it would have been a good, tough match, because we played well. But our serve receive broke down against them Saturday, and that's the first time that's happened all year. That was pretty much the match."

Churchill went on to defeat regular-season champion Plymouth Salem in the final, however, the Chargers had to forfeit the title Tuesday for using ineligible players in the tournament.

Churchill reported itself for using a pair of JV players who had used up their allotted 18 playing dates in junior varsity events.

Kimmel had nine kills and 22 digs in the tournament; Jocelyn Atkins had 10 kills and eight blocks; Deanna Gauer had 12 kills, four blocks and seven digs; Jessica Janowicz and Meghan Young had 11 kills each, and Young also had 11 digs; Randin Brown had 41 assists, four kills and 20 digs. Kelsey

Please see SPIKERS, D4

## North earns solid 3rd in WLAA

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

North Farmington had a good performance Saturday in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys swimming and diving championships.

One might even say it was outstanding, if it were possible to exclude the Plymouth-Canton schools.

## SWIMMING

The Raiders had to be content with being the best of the rest, finishing a solid third in a meet dominated by host Plymouth Salem and Canton.

Salem won its 10th consecutive WLAA championship and 16th overall with an impressive total of 603 points.

Canton was its only real competition, and the Chiefs were nearly a hundred points behind with 517. North's tally was a little more than half that of Salem at 338.

The Raiders had one winner — junior Matt Newman, who won the 100-yard



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Point scorer: North Farmington's Jeff Mataya, who swims the 200-yard freestyle, scored in two individual events for the Raiders.

Please see SWIMMING, D2