

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Vermont upset in tourney

The University of Vermont was upset by Maine in the semifinals of the America East Conference men's basketball tournament Sunday, 61-59 in overtime.

The top-seeded Catamounts were co-champions of the AEC during the regular season but fell short in their attempt to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament by winning the conference tournament.

The loss more than likely ends the college career of senior forward Trevor Gaines (Farmington Hills) unless Vermont should receive an NIT bid.

"The loss hurts so much because of how much I love this team and the way they never quit," UVM coach Tom Brennan said. "But each of us can hold his head high and say he was part of the best Vermont basketball team in the 102 years we have played the sport."

Gaines, who was called the "heart and soul of the team" by T.J. Sorrentino on Friday in accepting the Kevin Roberson America East Player of the Year Award, finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds for his 17th double-double of the season to establish a new UVM single-season record. The late Roberson, who twice had 16, in 1990-91 and 1991-92, held the previous mark.

The Catamounts fell to 21-8 on the season, a campaign in which they broke the school-record for victories that had stood for 55 seasons.

The fifth-seeded Maine Black Bears (12-17) will play No. 2 Boston University for the championship Saturday at Matthews Arena in Boston.

Vermont reached the semifinals for the first time since 1992 by defeating No. 8 Stony Brook in the quarterfinals Friday, 74-59.

Gaines, a unanimous all-AEC selection who led the conference in rebounding, had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Brennan, the AEC Coach of the Year, received the same award from the National Association of Basketball Coaches for the New England district, making him eligible for the national honor.

FHHA registering players

Farmington Hills Hockey Association is accepting registrations for new players for the 2002-2003 fall/winter season. Registration forms are available at the information desk at Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile Road. For more information call (248) 478-8193.

FHHA also will host the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Michigan Cup Midget A state finals this weekend starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

YMCA Stingrays sign up

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swim team is registering swimmers for its "Spring Tune-Up," a competitive swim program that runs from Monday, April 8, through Friday, May 31.

Team participation is open to anyone between the ages of 6 and 18. Participants do not need to be YMCA members during the Spring Session only. Depending on ability, participants will swim either at the YMCA or local high school pools.

For more information, call Cathy Warrick at (248) 553-0276 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Coaches soccer clinic

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association will host a soccer coaches clinic on Saturday, March 9, at Total Soccer in Wixom, located on the southeast corner of Pontiac Trail and Wixom roads.

All recreational coaches are welcome. The cost is \$10. Instructional drills and technical and tactical guidelines will be addressed. Visit the website at www.mysaa.net or call (248) 557-8220, ext. 201, to enroll.

Hurons win soccer title

While outscoring their opponents, 41-17, the Hurons won the under-19 girls varsity division at the Soccer Zone.

The members of the Hurons team, coached by Steve Montgomery, are Lisa Montgomery, Linda Montgomery and Danielle Lewis, all from Livonia; Erica Rose, Joyce Rose and Kristen Pietela, Farmington; Rachel Porey, Canton; Lauren Lobert and Jenna Bakhtina, Walled Lake.

Tri-Farmington wins regional title

By DAN O'MEARA
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Not only did the Tri-Farmington gymnastics team achieve a major goal Saturday, it did so with great acclaim and set itself up for a potentially big final this weekend.

Tri-Farmington won its first regional championship since the Farmington schools organized into a unified team by defeating two of the best in the state.

Coach Jeff Dwyer's squad posted a team-record score of 148.75 at Hartland High School. Western Lakes Activities Association champion Brighton was second (148.35) and the host Eagles third (146.35).

"(Winning) was our goal going in," Dwyer said. "We knew it would be between Brighton, Hartland and us. We just had a great meet, one of our best meets of the year."

"Everything was going our way. We stuck beam and had our highest score ever. We had one of our

GYMNASTICS

highest floor scores, and we were solid on bars and vault."

Furthermore, Tri-Farmington's team total was the best of the four regional winners. Portage Unified had 143.6, Northville-Novi 147.3 and Rochester Adams 147.85.

While that would make Tri-Farmington a mythical top seed going into the state final, each meet is different in terms of judging, and the scoring is all relative, according to Dwyer.

"You take the scores when they come your way," he said. "I think we had some higher scores than usual, but I think the outcome (order of team finish) would be the same."

"We have been averaging 146-plus, so it's not difficult to see that we could add another point. At any

regional, I think we would've been at least 147.

"I wouldn't care if we had won with 140. It's all relative. (The high score) fires up the team. We have a lot of confidence going into this weekend. The fact is that we won."

Tri-Farmington hopes to add the state championship Friday at Rockford High School near Grand Rapids. The team competition takes place that night followed by the individual event finals on Saturday.

"Do I think we'll score 148.7 at the state meet?" Dwyer said. "No! But do I think we have a chance at winning state? Yes!"

A number of Tri-Farmington gymnasts are veterans of the state meet. The team was third last year and sixth two years ago, so it's not a new experience for them.

"Anything can happen on Friday night," Dwyer said. "We're just working on staying calm, taking

Please see GYMNASTICS, D3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL TREMLER

Tourney time: Harrison senior Jeff Ross plans his next move in the face of some aggressive defense by West Bloomfield's Zach Hilbers. The host Lakers won the district tournament game, 52-10.

Lakers bounce Hawks

By DAN O'MEARA

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West Bloomfield executed its game plan perfectly and parlayed that effort into a 52-10 victory over Farmington Harrison in a boys district tournament basketball game Monday.

BASKETBALL

The Lakers (14-6) advanced to a second-round game on their own floor Wednesday night against Farmington.

Coach Larry Moore's strategy called for West Bloomfield to take away Harrison's post-up offense and have a patient approach itself offensively.

"Physically, they're a lot bigger and stronger than we are inside," Moore said. "We had to work on a few things Sunday, and we concentrated on stopping their inside game."

"We stuck to the game plan, and it worked out for us."

Senior Matt Elsey scored 14 points to lead the Hawks (11-10), but the Lakers focused on stopping the combination of 6-

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Raiders shoot their way into title game

By DAN O'MEARA
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Simply stated, it was one of those basketball games when everything was falling just right, in this case, for North Farmington.

Specifically, it was the many three-point shots by the Raiders that were falling Wednesday in a Class A district tournament game at West Bloomfield High School.

North started making them early against Bloomfield Hills Lahser and connected on 11 of 23 while racking up a 72-58 victory.

The Raiders (11-10) advance to the championship game and will play the host Lakers (16-0) at 7 p.m. Friday. North junior Marcus McComb made five three-pointers, seniors Earle Higgins Jr. and Jason Neal two apiece, senior Scott Bernstein and sophomore Gary Kennedy one each.

McComb and Neal finished with 19 points apiece to lead the Raiders. Higgins scored 10 of his 12 in the first half,

BASKETBALL

and senior Mike Leach added nine.

"I thought we shot better than we normally do, but the kids took some uncontested shots and didn't force many," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "We were the moving ball and hitting the open man."

North's good shooting — the Raiders made 20 of 45 shots overall for 44 percent — wasn't something for which he could take credit, Negoshian added. His team had a hot night and the game unfolded in a fortunate way.

"It just happened," Negoshian said. "Marcus had some good looks and shot the ball well. We knew (Lahser) would be going zone and they had a solid big kid in the middle. It would be hard for us to attack him."

"Some days you're a hero and some days you're not as a coach."

North made a 15-0 run in the first quarter, holding Lahser scoreless for

Please see RAIDERS, D4



Sharp shoot-

er: Senior guard Jason Neal scored 19 points, as did junior Marcus McComb, to lead North Farmington to a 72-58 victory over Bloomfield Hills Lahser Wednesday in a district tournament basketball game at West Bloomfield.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL TREMLER

Mercy reclaims district tournament throne

By DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy is once again a district champion in volleyball, but the Marlins won't be content to let their post-season success end there.

The Marlins regained the district title they lost to Farmington a year ago by avenging that loss Saturday in the final of the Class A tournament at Berkley.

Mercy is hoping for a rematch tonight with Catholic League rival Birmingham Marian in the regional at Troy Athens.

But coach Ed Ruhl's team must get past Walled Lake Central in a first-round game at 5 p.m. before it would see the Mustangs in the final.

"Hopefully, no team can beat us six times in a row," Ruhl said. "But that's what I said before the fifth time. Beating Marian is one goal we haven't achieved."

Regaining the district crown — the Marlins had won 11 straight until last year — was a Mercy objective from the start of the season.

After breezing past Southfield in a semifinal, 15-2, 15-2, Mercy had a much tougher match with Farmington but prevailed in two games, 15-12, 15-12.

VOLLEYBALL

Revenge wasn't a motivating factor, Ruhl said, since the Marlins had played the Falcons in a scrimmage match and defeated them in the January city tournament.

"Overall, we had the horsepower," Ruhl said. "I think we have more hitters — not better hitters but more hitters who put the ball away — and Tessa (Kuykendall) is in a class by herself. She should be a legitimate all-star."

The 6-foot-3 junior middle had seven kills and four blocks in the final. Her two-match totals were 11 and seven, respectively.

Anne Roosevelt had nine kills, 12 aces and six digs in the tournament; Kristin Lorida had 11 kills, one solo block and six aces; Stephanie Yuhaz had 11 digs, and Sarah Larson had five digs in the final.

In the first game, Farmington rallied from a 4-0 deficit to take a 7-4 lead with six straight service

points by Julie Kimmel.

The Marlins got within two, 8-6, and then took a 14-8 lead. Roosevelt served five in a row and Larson three.

But the Falcons refused to fold as Kimmel served up four consecutive points before a Kuykendall block won the serve back and a Farmington hitting error ended it.

"The difference in the match was they had a short serve and we didn't adjust," Farmington coach Alex Porin said.

"When you're giving away 3-4 points a game to the short serve, that's an obvious difference in a match like that."

Kimmel started the second game serving three points, including two aces. Mercy came back to claim leads of 7-3, 9-5 and 14-9.

Again, Kimmel kept her team in it. After the Falcons forced two aces with the game on the line, she served three in a row.

Kuykendall won back the serve with a kill, and the match ended with a Farmington block going out of

Please see VOLLEYBALL, D3