

Sorrows girls undefeated again

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Once was really great, and twice was pretty amazing. But three in a row! Well, that's "almost unbelievable," according to Our Lady of Sorrows coach James Risk.

BASKETBALL

The girls who comprise the fifth- and sixth-grade Sorrows basketball A team have done it again.

The Saints recently completed their third consecutive season without a loss, extending their combined record during the winning streak to 68-0.

"It's incredible," Risk said, adding the Saints weren't shoe-ins for another perfect season when it started. "We knew we had a good core group of kids, but we weren't sure we had the quality team we had the year before."

"But all the girls stepped up really big and played well for us."

Risk's teams have an 85-8 record in his five years as coach. The Saints were 11-5 his first season, 16-3 the next, then 20-0 and now 19-0 the last two.

"We certainly never expected to do it the first time," Risk said. "We did it two years ago and to have another undefeated season last year was a blessing."

"I thought, 'No way can we continue the streak,' but as the season went on every week we kept winning and, sure enough, we were able to do it again."

The team roster consists of sixth graders Jenna Anastos, Zosia Casterline, Kelsey Doyle, Kara Hammer, Shannon Landsberg, Clare Martin, Keley Maxwell and Noelle Mulqueen.

The fifth graders are Marie Bergeron, Andrea Conover, Julia Kenney, Courtney LaValley, Marissa Martz, Jordan Mueller and Noelle Mulqueen. "We told our girls at the beginning of the season and before each game that winning was not our focus," said Risk, who was assisted by coach Paul Mueller.

"Our measurement of success for the



Undefeated team: The members of the Our Lady of Sorrows fifth-sixth grade girls basketball team are (seated, left to right) Jenna Anastos, Kelsey Risk and Kelsey Doyle; (kneeling, left to right) Marissa Martz, Julia Kenney, Jordan Mueller, Clare Martin, Andrea Conover, Shannon Landsberg, Kelsey Maxwell and Noelle Mulqueen; (standing, left to right) assistant coach Paul Mueller, Marie Bergeron, Kara Hammer, Courtney LaValley, head coach James Risk and Zosia Casterline.

team would be if the girls tried their best in every practice and game and were able to take their skills to the next level. They did just that and as a result we had another fantastic season."

Sorrows was 10-0 and won the Catholic Youth Organization's Western Suburban No. 1 Division, defeating Livonia St. Edith, Farmington Hills St. Fabian, Novi Holy Family, Redford St. Mary and Clarkston Everest Academy twice each.

The Saints won their own Thanksgiving tournament in November with wins over Southfield St. Michael, 28-

14; St. Clair Shores St. Jean of Arc, 25-12; and Novi St. James, 23-7.

Sorrows added the SCS St. Margaret Christmas tournament title in December with wins over St. Kiern, 23-6; Center Line St. Clement, 25-9; and Warren St. Anne, 24-13.

The Saints concluded their unbeaten season by winning the Livonia Ladywood tournament, earning victories over St. James, 9-6; Dearborn Heights St. Sebastian, 23-16; and Livonia St. Michael, 17-6.

Risk attributed the low score against St. James to a two-week layoff when there were no games during the city-

wide tournament for seventh and eighth graders.

"From a basketball standpoint, we played great defense," Risk said. "Generally, we never gave up more than 10 points a game."

"The days we couldn't score the defense was very tough at shutting teams down. The girls were very aggressive and, at this age group, that's a tremendous factor to have."

The 19th victory might have been the biggest, according to Risk, and not just because it completed the undefeated

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Athletes of the Month

Farmington Public Schools has chosen seniors Meghan Callahan and Brad Horaghty as its Athletes of the Month.

Callahan, a student at North Farmington High School, is a middle hitter on the volleyball team; she is an all-city and all-Western Lakes Activities Association player.

She has been a team captain the last two years and is a three-time most valuable player. Callahan is a member of the National Honor Society and has achieved a 3.8 grade point average.

"Meghan models what a student-athlete should represent," North volleyball coach Deb Calanchi said.

"She works hard on and off the court. She is a team player, a leader and she has fun. Meghan works hard and expects the best from herself and her team."

Horaghty, who attends the Farmington Alternative Academy, is a left-wing forward on the Farmington Unified hockey team, which finished the season with a 17-9-1 record.

He served as team captain of the Flyers, was their leading scorer the last two seasons and was named to the all-WLAA team this year.

Horaghty's favorite class is English — mass media; he has a 2.889 GPA. His favorite athlete is Joe Sakic, favorite music is alternative rock and favorite group is Red Hot Chili Peppers.

"Brad is an outstanding young man who has exceptional hockey skills," Flyers coach Mike Harris said. "We will miss Brad greatly, his leadership and personality especially."

Skating club plans clinic

As part of National Skating Week, the Farmington Hills Skating Club will sponsor the "It's Great to Skate Clinic" 9-11:20 a.m. Saturday, March 30, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The clinic is free and open to the public. There will be a \$2 charge for skate rental, however. The clinic will have an agenda of activities, so participants are asked to attend the entire session.

Door prizes will be awarded and instructors will be available to answer questions and assist skaters. Ages 3 and up are welcome. Participants should arrive early to sign in. The clinic is limited to the first 250 skaters.

Girls volleyball tryouts

The Farmington Juniors Volleyball Club will have tryouts Friday, March 22, and Monday, March 25, at Farmington High School.

Tryouts for girls in grades 5-8 will take place 6-8 p.m. and grades 9-12 will be 8-10 p.m. The times are the same for both days. Girls can attend either tryout.

For more information call Alex Perin at (248) 694-4269 or contact him by e-mail at lexball@att.net.

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.

YMCA Stingrays signup

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 Warnick at (248) 553-0276 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Baseball registration

South Farmington Baseball is accepting late player registrations for the upcoming 2002 season.

The costs are \$60 for T-ball, \$110 for all softball and baseball players under age 15 and \$140 for baseball players age 15 to 18. Contact Greg Pochmar at (248) 473-2058 to register.

(Readers can submit Sports Scene information by fax to (734) 591-7279.)

BASKETBALL

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Out of the fire and into the frying pan?

That's what the Schoolcraft College is facing next when it returns to Hutchinson, Kan. for the second straight trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I men's basketball tournament.

The 32-0 and No. 1-ranked Ocelots, who recently completed a grueling five-game, eight-day stretch — traveling from Muskogee, to Cincinnati and finally to Wahpeton, N.D. — open first-round action against last year's NJCAA runner-up, 31-2 Alleghany (Md.), 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Sixteen teams from across the country are vying for the coveted crown, including defending champion Wabash Valley (Ill.), sporting a 30-4 mark.

Alleghany, located in Cumberland, Maryland, has a strong tradition in the JUCO ranks. NBA All-Star guard Steve Francis played for the Trojans before going on to the University of Maryland.

Alleghany coach Bob Kirk is in the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

"The first game is where teams are most vulnerable and I like that fact that we're playing Alleghany

first because we have to play them somewhere in the tournament anyway," said Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs, who is 138-23 in five seasons with the Ocelots. "They have a lot of history going for them and they're one of the winningest programs."

The two schools have a common opponent.

Alleghany's chief in-state rival, Hagerstown, took the Trojans to overtime before losing in the Region 20 championship, 80-73. Alleghany won three of four meetings this season against Hagerstown, while Schoolcraft beat Hagerstown, 90-84, in the College of Southern Idaho Tournament over Thanksgiving weekend.

"We have to be well prepared because they're a tough team, they're big and they're athletic," Briggs said. "To say the least we have our work cut out for us in the first game."

In a 92-85 victory over Westchester (N.Y.) in the District 3 Inter-region final, Alleghany's Troy Goodwin, a 6-foot-6, 304-pound center from Suffolk, Va., scored a game-high 29 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Point-guard Erick Willis (Laurel, Md.) added 15 points and nine assists, while 6-7 guard Trello Galoway (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) contributed 13 points, 20 rebounds and four assists. The team's other standout is 6-9, 230-pound forward Jamar Smith (Sicklerville, N.J.), who finished with 12 points and 21 rebounds.

"The big kid (Goodwin) has good hands and runs the floor," Briggs said. "Smith is smart, athletic and can shoot the 'three.'"

"Their guard play is good. They like to score off dribble penetration."

Schoolcraft will counter Alleghany's attack with full-court pressure and rely on its bench.

"Our defense has been consistent all year," Briggs said. "Our depth and our consistency with the way we've played down the stretch has helped us win games."

"Our guys understand the system defensively. We try and keep guys in front and we help out as much as possible. In the Vincennes (Ind.) game (the Region 12 final) nobody scored for 4 1/2 minutes, but our defense kept us in the game."

Schoolcraft has relied on a number of players to get

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Warriors win state title



The Fab Four: Farmington Hills hockey players (left to right) Adam Chornoby, Victor Calagias, Danny Zeldes and Ian Chornoby are members of the Southfield Warriors who won the Midget AA state title and are headed to the national tournament starting April 3 in San Jose, Calif. The Warriors defeated the AFI Thunder Sunday, overcoming a 3-1 deficit and winning the game in a second overtime. The Warriors defeated Grosse Pointe, Lansing, Mount Pleasant and Traverse City before AFI Southfield won the district championship Feb. 20 by defeating the Canton Crush, 4-1. The game was made necessary when the Feb. 17 final ended in a 1-0 loss to the Crush after six overtimes. Adam Chornoby, who was named the most valuable player of the district tournament, Calagias and Ian Chornoby attend Harrison High School; Zeldes is a student at North Farmington.

Whalers win 4th division crown in row

The streak continues.

For the fourth-straight season, the Plymouth Whalers won the Ontario Hockey League's West Division championship, clinching the title with a convincing 4-1 victory over the second-place Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds Wednesday in front of a raucous crowd of 3,867 in Sault Ste. Marie.

HOCKEY

It was the second-straight disappointment for the Greyhounds, who entered the final two minutes of last Sunday's game against the Whalers at Compuware Arena with a two-goal lead. A win would have narrowed the gap between the teams to just two points; instead, the Whalers got a pair of goals in those last two minutes from Damian Surma to pull off a 3-2 tie.

That meant four points separated the two teams prior to Wednesday's game, a margin that — with three games remaining — would be difficult to overcome, but not impossible.

Alas, Plymouth was not about to allow that to happen. The Whalers

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