

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Honeybaked girls 1st

The 12-and-under Honeybaked girls hockey team captured its third consecutive Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Tier I state championship with a 4-3 victory Sunday over the Rochester Rattlers at the Arctic Coliseum Arena in Chelsea.

Honeybaked will represent Michigan in the Nationals April 3-7 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Members of Honeybaked include goaltender Paige Koranen and left winger Carly Facchini, both of Livonia; Lindsay Courten, Adrianna Plofer, Farmington Hills; Rachel Roach, Redford; Molly Baker, Commerce Township; Lauren Kozmierski, Rochester Hills; Julie Koch, Rochester, Bailey Lane, Richmond, Aimee O'Brien, Grosse Pointe Park; Samantha Patterson, Grosse Pointe Woods; Rebecca Pyke, Auburn Hills; Adrienne Rapen, Grosse Ile; Chelsea Rapin, Walled Lake; Kimberly Theut, Harrison Township; Alisha Wilt, Clinton Township; and Chelsea Young, Orchard Lake.

The coaching staff includes Pat Rapin, Frank Wilt, Allan Pyke and Joe Theut.

Local gymnasts excel

The Level 8 gymnastics team of The Sports Club of Novi placed third with a score of 108.9 in the Salute to Michigan meet March 2-3.

Jessica Odi, 14, of Farmington Hills placed sixth in the 14-and-over, all-around competition with a score of 34.825. She was sixth on vault (8.675) and fourth on bars (8.950).

Marisa Karsz of Farmington, 13, had an all-around score of 34.55 for the Level 7 team, which finished third with a team total of 105.2. Karsz was second on beam (8.65) and fifth on floor (8.8).

Power skating classes

Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills will have a beginning power skating class on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:20 p.m. and an intermediate power skating class on Fridays from 4 to 4:50 p.m. for eight weeks starting April 12 as part of the Skate Great Training Program.

Skaters ages 7 and up are invited to enroll in the beginning skating class. The intermediate power skating class is open to elite travel and squirt house or travel players.

Pre-registration is required. For more information call Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

Suburban Hockey clinics

Suburban Hockey will offer one-day, two-hour clinics at various locations in the Detroit area during the week of April 1-5.

Suburban Training Center will host the Shoot to Score, Quick N Fast and Learn to Check clinics on April 5.

Players ages 6 and up can enroll in the Shoot to Score and Quick N Fast clinics; the Learn to Check clinic is for players age 11-14.

Players will be grouped according to age and ability. To register call (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

Blues baseball tryouts

The 14-and-under South Farmington Blues travel baseball team is looking for one or two more players and will be having tryouts in early April.

The Blues play in the Midwest Super League. Players must be age 14 or under as of July 31, 2002. Call (248) 477-3523 for more information.

Club 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 Perrin at (248) 594-4269 and contact him by e-mail at lvball@att.net.

(Readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara by fax to 734-951-7279.)

St. Fabian girls win title this time

Farmington Hills St. Fabian's seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball team took its turn at winning the Catholic Youth Organization citywide championship this year.

A year after the boys accomplished the feat, the St. Fabian girls won the title with a 46-36 victory over Bloomfield Hills St. Hugo of the Hills March 9.

BASKETBALL

The Falcons faced the daunting task of beating a team that had dealt them two losses, but they were equal to the challenge.

In a tightly-contested, spirited, 24-minute game, St. Fabian prevailed after 14 lead changes and eight tie scores in front of 1,454 fans at Dombrowski Fieldhouse on the campus of Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

St. Fabian trailed after one quarter, 13-10, but moved in front at halftime, 19-18, and extended that lead to five points — the largest for either team — heading into the fourth quarter, 32-27. There seemed little doubt about the outcome when Jessica Vihtelic scored on a floater with under four minutes left in the game to give the Falcons a 39-30 lead.

St. Hugo climbed back to within six points, 41-36, on a three-point basket by Kelsey Hart with less than a minute to play.

But the Falcons made their free throws down the stretch as Lauren Pachuta and Brigid Mulroy sank key shots to clinch the win for St. Fabian. Jenna Hart of St. Hugo led all scorers with 18 points.

St. Fabian's all-eighth-grade roster won a CYO district title on the "Road to the Finals" by beating Our Lady of the Woods and St. Stanislaus Kostka in Wyandotte.

Playing at St. Alphonsus in Dearborn, St. Fabian defeated St. Mary's of Redford and Plymouth Our Lady of Good Counsel to capture a regional



CYO city champions: The members of the St. Fabian seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball team are (front, clockwise from left) Amy Deroo, Chris Kenzie, Jessica Vihtelic and Ashley Devereux; (second row, left to right) Emily Hunter, Brigid Mulroy, Alexis Clayton, Monica Hayworth, Alex Herzfeld, Lauren Pachuta and Katie Farnick; (back row, left to right) assistant coach Steve Hurt, Allison Hurt, Sarah Levett, head coach Walt Bzdok and assistant coach Mike King.

championship.

The Falcons knocked off crosstown rival and host Our Lady of Sorrows, 48-41, in the semifinal game on Thursday.

March 7. The Saints also had beaten the Falcons twice during the regular season. The semifinal was another tightly-

contested game that was decided in the last minutes on a difficult, under-the-

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Whalers have high hopes for playoffs

BY C.J. RISK
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It's a new season.

That's something the Plymouth Whalers must always be aware of. Because their opponents will certainly play by that philosophy.

"I'm more than ready," Whalers coach Mike Vellucci said. "The regular season was fun, but the playoffs are what it's all about."

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Mike Vellucci
Whalers coach

Vellucci wants to guide the Whalers on a three-straight trip to the Ontario Hockey League Finals. And there's one more thing: In his first year as Plymouth's coach, Vellucci would like to lead them to the Memorial Cup.

But first things first. And first the Whalers must get past the London Knights, their opening-round opponent in the OHL playoffs. First game in the best-of-seven series is 7:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Seems a simple enough task for the Whalers — if one goes by season accomplishments. Plymouth posted the best record in the entire OHL (for the



FILE PHOTO BY PAUL HEDENSTAM

Top-scoring Whaler: Stephen Weiss only played in 46 games for Plymouth but led the team in scoring with 70 points.

third time in four seasons), going 39-15-12-2 (92 points). London finished in fifth in the OHL's West

HOCKEY

Division with a 24-27-10-7 mark (65 points).

But keep in mind that "new season" stuff. "I think they are getting better," was Canton native and Whalers' standout James Waniowski's assessment of the Knights. "I know they like to play in our building. We just have to play our game, stay disciplined and use our speed."

"Keep it smart and simple."

Indeed, the Knights could be a dangerous first-round foe for Plymouth. The Whalers won the season series, 3-1-2, but their three wins came in the first three meetings of the season. In the last three, they were 0-1-2.

"They play a trap, they're disciplined and they wait for you to make a mistake," said Vellucci. "We have to stay disciplined and patient, keep pressure on them and take advantage of their mistakes."

The Whalers' tough defense was backstopped by goalie Jason Bacenshuh, who — it should be noted — started in the three wins over London (but not in the other meetings). Bacenshuh was 26-12-7 during the season with a 2.34 goals-against average and a .921 save percentage. He posted five shutouts, including an 8-0 win against London.

Offensively, the Whalers' strength is their depth. Stephen Weiss remains one of the OHL's premier forwards; he had 25 goals and 46 assists for a

Please see **WHALERS**, D4

Farmington skaters compete for state title



State-meet qualifiers: The members of the United Farmington figure skating team are (left to right) Kelly Womack, Samantha Lehto, Kelsey Ryan, Mallory Meacham, Nicole Miller, coach Susan Schnoes, Ai Kawashima and Lauren Gladney. Not pictured are Kiersten Cummings and Melissa Maxwell.

The United Farmington Figure Skating team has qualified again for the high school state championship competition 8 a.m. Saturday at the Dearborn Ice Arena.

The Level A, high team won its last regular-season meet Feb. 7 in Ann Arbor and, thereby, finished second in District 3, coming within three points of winning the title. The high team will compete against 10 other high school teams at state.

FIGURE SKATING

Farmington's Level B, low team ended the season with a fifth-place finish in District 3, which includes teams from Ann Arbor Huron, Dearborn Divine Child, Farmington Hills Mercy, Livonia Ladywood, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton and Walled Lake. Farmington also won the Team Spirit Award, which was voted on by the coaches in the district.

The team members are, from Farmington High, senior Melissa Maxwell, sophomore Kelly Womack and freshman Mallory Meacham. North Farmington has six skaters on the team: senior Kiersten Cummings, freshman Lauren Gladney, sophomore Ai Kawashima, sophomore Samantha Lehto, freshman Nicole Miller and freshman Kelsey Ryan.

Seven of the nine members of the team have also qualified to compete for top state honors in individual, solo skating events to be held Saturday, too. They include Womack, Meacham, Gladney, Kawashima,

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