

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Beal stars for Wolverines

Anthony Beal of Farmington Hills was part of a small but successful contingent of University of Michigan trackmen who participated in the Florida State University Relays last weekend.

Beal, who attended North Farmington High School, anchored the winning 800-meter relay that posted a 1:27.60 time.

The relay team included Nathan Taylor of British Columbia, Ike Okenwa of California and Kevin Lamb of East Lansing (Hazelton High).

The Wolverines won three events and finished third in four others. They compete in the Stanford Invitational this weekend in Palo Alto, Calif.

Shock basketball clinic

Former University of Georgia All-American and WNBA player Deanna Nolan of the Detroit Shock will stage a basketball clinic for boys and girls in grades 2-8 from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton Township.

The cost is \$15 (includes ticket to an upcoming Shock game and prizes, instructional and technical drills will be offered).

For more information, call Paul Brotz at (734) 821-1368 or Alan Kruck at (313) 720-5624.

Soccer officials class

The United Federation of Officials, in conjunction with the Catholic High School League (CHSL) and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) will host a soccer officials class on Monday, April 1, at Allen Park Cabrini High School.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association class is open to adults wishing to officiate varsity, sub-varsity and CYO games and high school juniors and seniors interested in officiating sub-varsity and CYO games.

Those completing the course will be eligible to officiate the 2002 season. For more registration information, call Byron Beattie at 734-281-3461.

Women's soccer league

The Great Lakes Women's Soccer League is seeking players for the outdoor season, Sunday evenings, June through August, for 18-and-up competitive, 30-and-up competitive and recreational.

Teams or individuals, experienced or novice, are invited. For more information, call (248) 624-7615 or fax (734) 207-1656, or visit www.GLWSL.com.

New men's baseball loop

Players between the ages of 18 and 28 are needed for the new Men's Amateur Baseball League in southeast Michigan. Anyone interested in playing should contact Doug Zuba at 734-383-3402.

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.

Stampede of Races

The Fourth Annual Stampede of Races 20-kilometer, 10K, 5K and Mitral Mile will be Saturday, April 6, at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor.

The event will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley and Project Hope. Participants may run three races in one day. There will be Champion chip timing.

The first registration deadline is Monday, March 4. You can enter online or print an entry at www.AthleticVentures.com at no extra fee. For more information, call (734) 482-4388.

Travel 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.

Smooth as ice

United Farmington skaters take No. 1 in state

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Figure skating is a relatively new sport on the high school scene, and Farmington finds itself right on the cutting edge of competition.

In only its second year of existence, the United Farmington team won the Level A, high-team state championship Saturday at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center.

FIGURE SKATING

United Farmington won the title by one point over Grosse Pointe South, 11-10. Provincial champion and meet host Dearborn Divine Child was third with nine points.

"We were absolutely ecstatic," coach Susan Schnoes said. "I wouldn't say it was unexpected but we were very much surprised, and our girls worked very hard for it."

Farmington Hills Mercy won the Level B, low-team state championship, but details of that meet were unavailable at press time.

United Farmington, a unified team of nine girls from North Farmington and Farmington high schools, rallied in the last of three events to win the meet.

After the jumps and moves competition, United Farmington was tied for fourth place with Grosse Pointe with five points apiece behind co-leaders Divine Child and Marquette (8) and Grosse Ile (6).

United Farmington won the spins competition with six points to move ahead of the others. The order of finish in spins was Grosse Pointe (5), Port Huron Northern (4), Birmingham (3), Grosse Ile (2) and Divine Child (1).

"We made a couple errors, but they



State champs: The members of the United Farmington figure skating team posed for a picture Sunday at their team banquet, a day after winning the state championship. They are (left to right) Ai Kawashima, Melissa Maxwell, Samantha Lehto, Lauren Gladney, coach Susan Schnoes, Kelly Womack, Kelsey Ryan, Nicole Miller, Mallory Meacham and Kiersten Cummings.

must have been smaller than those of other teams," Schnoes said. "All the teams were very good and, basically, it came down to who faltered and who didn't."

The points United Farmington earned in moves (1) and jumps (4) proved to be crucial in the final outcome.

"We didn't do as well as we

would've liked, but we still got some points," Farmington team spokesperson Robin Womack said. "If we hadn't, we wouldn't have placed first."

"What really shocked us was spins. We were worried when one of the girls had one little bobble, but she finished strong."

"We were thinking about all the little things. You just never know what

the judges will see or think is important. But we placed first and did a lot better than we thought."

The United Farmington team members are Kiersten Cummings, Lauren Gladney, Ai Kawashima, Samantha Lehto, Melissa Maxwell, Mallory Meacham, Nicole Miller, Kelsey Ryan and Kelly Womack.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARREKE
Playoff action: Whalers goalie Jason Bacashihua makes a save Tuesday.

Whalers fall behind in series

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
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The Plymouth Whalers burned through the Ontario Hockey League regular season, finishing with the best overall record. Apparently, the London Knights aren't impressed.

The Knights took a 2-1 series lead on the Whalers with a 3-2 comeback victory Tuesday night at Plymouth's Compuware Arena in first-round playoff action. Game 4 is scheduled for tonight in London.

For the second straight game, the Knights used a big third period to rebound and win the game, only this time it was on Plymouth's home ice. The Whalers held a 2-1 lead after one period, but a pair of third period goals gave the Knights the series lead.

London's Kyle Piwowarczyk and Rick Nash scored 69 seconds apart midway through the third period to provide the difference. Nash scored a

OHL HOCKEY

pair of goals in the game to lead London.

The Knights made the most of their chances in the third period, scoring on two of their three shots. At the other end, London goaltender Chris Houle came up huge, stopping all 10 Plymouth shots in the third period to help secure the win.

Nash's first goal at the 8:04 mark of the first period gave the Knights a 1-0 lead, but the Whalers struck back later in the period with a pair of power-play goals, by Kris Vernarsky and Chad LaRose, to give them a 2-1 lead at the first intermission.

They each had a goal and an assist for the Whalers. The game featured 19 penalties, 10 committed by Plymouth, showing that the Knights are dictating the style of play through the first three games. The Whalers outshot

London 23-22 in the contest. LONDON 4, PLYMOUTH 1: The Knights busted open a 1-1 game with three third-period goals in Sunday's Game 2 at London, knocking the series 1-1.

Nash was again the offensive catalyst for the Knights, notching two goals and one assist, including two of the team's three third-period goals. London picked up a pair of goals less than a minute apart halfway through the third period to break open a 1-1 game. Nash's second goal was an empty netter.

Plymouth's Damian Surma scored the lone goal for his team, at the 1:57 mark of the second period. That period saw both teams wear pants to the penalty box, with a total of 72 minutes in penalties called in that period alone. Houle again came through for the Knights, making 25 saves in the game. He's stopped 46 of Plymouth's 49 shots in Games 2 and 3.

Versatile prep star excels in many fields

BY TIM SMITH
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Playing the field means something totally different in the case of West Bloomfield's Stephanie Yuhasz.

When the 6-foot-2, 115-pound Yuhasz isn't guarding a 7-by-12-foot goal for Mercy High School's field hockey team, she's on the prowl as a speedy lacrosse forward for the Marlins.

If there remains any doubt about her athletic versatility, the 17-year-old plays varsity volleyball, and competed for a number of years as a softball player in the North Farmington-West Bloomfield League.

"Her competitive juices started flowing when she was two years old," said Stephanie's dad, Kirk, a former NFLVB commissioner.

Next year, Stephanie will take her myriad, all-star skills to East Lansing. After graduating from Mercy, she will go to Michigan State University and join the Spartans' field hockey team.

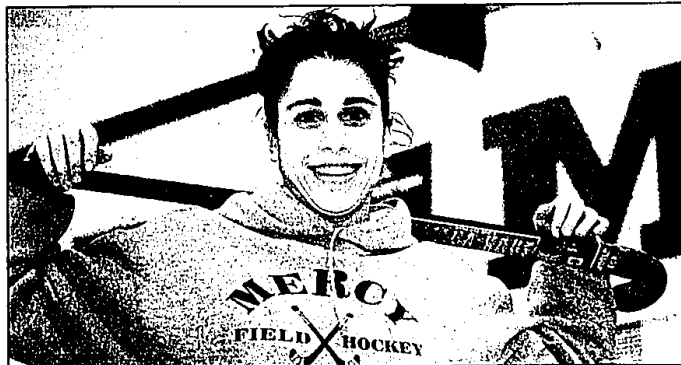
That alone is worth shouting about on the Farmington Hills-based campus of Mercy, an all-girls Catholic school.

"This is the first time we've ever had someone recruited for Division 1," Mercy field hockey and lacrosse coach Kim Norton said.

Many high school athletes show multi-sport ability. But diminutive Yuhasz excels in two completely different sports among girls who usually are bigger and stronger than she is.

"It's two completely different positions that she plays and that shows her athleticism," said Norton, listing athleticism, quickness, balance, flexibility, leadership and anticipation among the goaltender's attributes. (As a lacrosse forward, essential elements are speed and strength — to whip shots at the net.)

Taking that a step forward, Norton said the goalie



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HORTWORTH
Moving on up: Stephanie Yuhasz, a three-sport prep star, will join the Michigan State University field hockey team following her graduation from Mercy High School.

nicknamed "U-E" never played field hockey until ninth grade — an early disadvantage because some of the other teams have middle school feeder teams. On the first day of practice for that freshman team, Yuhasz decided to try the goaltender position.

Nobody else would.

"The coach said she needed a goalie," Stephanie

said. "I played roller hockey with my brother (Steven) when I was younger and I played goalie. I was always a goalie."

She described how she goes about stopping a hard rubber ball. It entails rushing out at opponents to

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