

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Breast cancer fundraiser

The Farmington Tennis Club will host a charity fundraiser 6-11 p.m. Saturday, April 27, for the benefit of the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade.

Two employees of the Farmington Tennis Club, Sally DeLacy and Linda Suspek, are participating in the three-day Avon Breast Cancer Walk from Ann Arbor to Detroit May 31 to June 2.

More than 2,000 people will walk 60 miles to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and early detection. All of the proceeds raised at the April 27 event will go to the Breast Cancer Crusade.

Proceeds fund medical research and clinical care, a national financial assistance program for medically underserved women, advocacy training and community-based breast health programs.

The April 27 fundraiser will include tennis, food, silent auction, raffles and door prizes. Advance reservations are required.

Ticket prices are \$30 per person, \$50 per couple or \$20 per person without tennis. Checks made payable to Avon Breast Cancer 5-Day should be mailed with name, address and phone number to Breast Cancer Benefit, P.O. Box 510831, Livonia, MI 48151.

The tennis club is located at 22777 Farmington Rd., between Nine Mile and Grand River. For more information call DeLacy at (248) 476-3246.

OCC sponsors hoop camp

The Oakland Community College women's basketball team will have a basketball camp for kids in the third through eighth grades 5-8 p.m. Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20, at the Highland Lakes Camp.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per person. Each camper will receive a T-shirt for attending the camp, which will be run by OCC women's head coach Mary Allen and assistant coach Christine Nordstrom.

For more information or to receive an entry form call (248) 942-3179 or (248) 942-3170.

Team Michigan skaters

Several area seniors will represent Michigan next week in the Chicago Showcase, a high school all-star hockey tournament.

Earning selections for Team Michigan following tryouts included Jake Archer, Adam and Aaron Jakubowski, all of Livonia Churchill; Josh Latzman, Livonia Stevenson; Kevin Wilson, Plymouth Salem; Brad Heraghty, Farmington Unified; John Perkovich and Steven Nelson, Redford Catholic Central.

Team Michigan coaches included Kevin Ahern, Dan Phelps and Eric Popowicz. Jeff Hatley is the team manager.

GRCC signs area griddier

Two-time, All-Observer football player Steve Meadows of Livonia Clarenceville will play next season for Grand Rapids Community College.

Meadows, a 6-foot, 205-pound linebacker and fullback, was the Trojans' second-leading rusher with 1,126 yards and 18 touchdowns and the team's top tackler.

He helped Clarenceville to a 13-1 record and a runner-up finish in the Division 5 state championship game. As a junior, Clarenceville was 12-1 and reached the Division 6 state semifinals.

Clarenceville linebacker-tight end Bill Nesbitt and Redford Catholic Central's Jeff Globish will attend and play football next fall for Defiance (Ohio), an NCAA Division III school.

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) 653-0276 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

(Readers can submit information for the Sports Scene with a fax to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara at 734-591-7279.)

North's Calanchi named top coach

Farmington schools put 4 on All-Observer team

BY DAN O'MEARA
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VOLLEYBALL

A little more than a decade ago, Deb Calanchi was a standout, three-sport athlete at North Farmington High School. She's still a standout today for the Raiders but in a different capacity.

Calanchi has been chosen the Observerland Coach of the Year in girls volleyball after guiding the Raiders to their best season since she was a star setter on the North teams of the late '80s.

North Farmington made a huge turn-around this year, going from 2-9 in the tough Western Lakes Activities Association last season to a 7-4 finish.

The Raiders quickly earned the respect of their WLAA opponents, winning their first four matches and being 7-2 at one point.

North Farmington's final record of 22-14-12 represented a vast improvement overall and its best season in Calanchi's eight years as coach.

"At the point we were 4-0, we were saying how some teams, when they looked at their schedule and saw North Farmington, thought it would be a W," Calanchi said. "We were saying the same thing this year — 'This match will be a W for us.'"

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"This was such a great bunch of girls. They were always asking questions and were willing to learn. That's why they were so successful, because they wanted to do well."

The Raiders, with eight seniors, including four-year varsity player Meghan Callahan, and four underclassmen, formed a cohesive group that worked well as a unit, Calanchi added.

"They were just a team," she said. "Every day this was a team that worked hard. They got along well; there was a lot of laughter. This season

ran very smoothly. They came in and played volleyball and had fun."

The Raiders gained confidence by competing in a summer league last summer and winning the playoffs, and they went on a roll after starting the WLAA season with a win over Northville.

"Knowing they could win set the tone," Calanchi said. "I saw some fire in these girls. For the first time in eight years, I saw that in this group. They decided at the beginning of the season they could win."

Calanchi, a 1989 graduate of North, also played intramural basketball, volleyball and softball at Michigan State while earning a BA in mathematics with a minor in business administration.

She also has a masters degree in curriculum and teaching. Calanchi teaches seventh-grade math and pre-algebra at Power Middle School in Farmington.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Kristin Lordas, OH, Mercy. The third-team, all-state selection is a devastating hitter with a tremendous wrists and follow-through. Lordas, an all-area repeat honoree, led the Marlins in kills and was third in blocks and digs. She averaged almost four kills and 0.7 blocks per game.

She suffered a knee injury that will require surgery in a first-round, regional match with Walled Lake Central, forcing her to miss the final against Birmingham Marston.

Lordas, an all-Catholic and all-region player, is also a four-time, all-area swimmer, but she plans to play volleyball in college.

"She was our overall leader," coach Ed Ruhl said. "She was the defining person for Mercy volleyball. She defined how Mercy did, basically. She just hits really high and hard."

Mary Lou Liebau, MH, Py. Salem. Liebau was a four-year varsity player on Salem teams that either won the WLAA title or were runners-up every year. The Rocks were 46-6 this year.

A three-year starter at middle blocker, Liebau had a .413 hitting percentage in the WLAA. In 18 league games, she had 150 attacks, 72 kills, 52 digs and seven blocks.

"Mary Lou's strengths are her ability to use her height and arm swing," coach Tom Teeters said.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

All-Observer player: Farmington senior setter Randin Brown earned a place on the all-area first team in volleyball.

New coach takes charge of Harrison team

BY DAN O'MEARA
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GIRLS SOCCER

Stacey Lange-Punzal will be working with a young team as she takes over the head coaching duties of the Farmington Harrison girls soccer team from Greg Strickland.

The Hawks have just one senior on their 17-player roster, which includes six juniors, three sophomores and seven freshmen.

"I'm real excited," Lange-Punzal said. "I've been biding my time for the

opportunity to coach at the varsity level, especially in Michigan. Soccer has become very competitive here."

"We have a nice group of girls, and I can't believe how hard-working they are. I'm very pleased with their effort."

Lange-Punzal, who was the girls JV coach at North Farmington last year, teaches health and physical education at Power Middle School.

A native of the Buffalo, N.Y., area,

she played soccer at Division III Cortland (N.Y.) State and has had coaching stops at Williamsport (N.Y.) East and Crawfordsville, Ind. This is her sixth year of coaching.

Senior Beth Diehl and junior Alex Cicci, the Harrison co-captains, will play key roles in Lange-Punzal's plans for the Hawks. Both are midfielders, though Diehl will push up on the attack.

Junior Diana Platt, a smart player with good skills, according to the coach, will be another key player as a mid-

fielder or defender, and junior Jakki Waldecker returns to the goalkeeper position.

"Between Diana, Alex and Beth, we'll look to build the team around those girls," Lange-Punzal said, "and we have Jakki, who is doing very well in goal. She's very athletic."

The other returning players are junior midfielder Rachel Liberty, sophomore forward Arianna Sundick, junior defender Michelle White, sophomore defender Taylor Wong and sophomore defender Taylor Wong and sophomore defender Taylor Wong.

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Mercy skaters crowned 'B' state champions



State champs: The members of the Mercy High School figure skating team are (front row, left to right) Erin Genrich, Ashley Fons, Jessica Start, Kelly LaBelle (staff moderator), Katie Schmenk and Jessica Courtland; (back row, left to right) Nicole Zaleski, Allison Mooney, Marie Pacini, Kayla Bridges and Andrea Roman.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Hills Mercy overcame huge odds with some first-rate performances to win the Level B state championship in high school figure skating March 23 at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center.

The Marlins finished ahead of Dearborn Divine Child, a perennial power in the sport and the pre-meet favorite, to win this year's title. Southgate was third in the low-team competition.

FIGURE SKATING

"Divine Child has a very strong team and a large team as well," Mercy coach Ann Seror said. "It was a matter of our girls outperforming them that particular day. They're a very good team, but skating is always about the moment."

"They have dominated the past couple years, both high and low events. That's why it's so good Farmington was able to surpass them as well."

United Farmington, a unified team with girls from Farmington and North Farmington high schools, won the Level A state championship.

A school that has serious, competitive skaters has a distinct advantage over the opposition, Seror added.

But all of the Mercy team members are test-level skaters who enter local events. The Marlins have no sectional or national competitors.

"In any given year, you never know how that

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