

Thursday, April 11, 2002

FARMINGTON —
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

College sports update

■ Erin Spiro of Farmington (Birmingham Marian) received the Albion College women's swimming and diving team's Most Valuable Swimmer Award and was selected captain of next year's team.

Jennifer Bondick of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) received a varsity letter for her contribution to the Albion team for the past season.

■ Anthony Beal of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) placed seventh in the 200-meter dash (22.31) and 12th in the 400 (49.14) for the University of Michigan men's track team Saturday at the Duke Invitational.

Beal also helped the U-M place three relays in the top five. The Wolverines return to competition Saturday, April 20, in Walnut, Calif.

■ Redford-Detroit Catholic Central graduate Chris Woodruff was recently named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week in baseball for the week ending April 1.

Woodruff, a Madonna University junior from Livonia, batted .714 in two games that week, picking up five hits in seven at-bats. He slammed a pair of doubles, drove in one run and walked once while compiling a .750 on-base percentage.

OCC golfers 2nd at invite

The Oakland Community College golf team finished ahead of all other community colleges at the Lansing CC Golf Invitational Monday.

Unfortunately for the Raiders, Ferris State University was also at the tournament. Ferris won the title with a 303 while OCC finished second with a 318.

Dominick Vitale (Walled Lake Central) was the runner-up medalist with a 73. Justin Goyt (South Lyon) fired a 77 while Steve Larend (Oakland Christian) carded a 79. Eric Marech (Lapeer East) rounded out the scoring with an 89.

OCC is back in action today, competing in the Muskegon CC-Jayhawk Invitational.

Area grapplers fare well

Several local wrestlers of all ages competed and did quite well at the AAU Folkstyle Nationals Tournament March 29-31 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

In the Masters Division (over 29 years old), Pete Israel of Plymouth finished first in the 213-pound division. In the Senior Division (19-29 years), David Gardner of Farmington (Redford Catholic Central) was best at 167 and Brock Naysmith (CC) finished first at 213.

Other top-six placers: in the Masters Division, Mark Bartram (Redford) was second at 165 and Ron Thompson Sr. (Canton) was third at 141; in the Senior Division, Brian Hinzman (Garden City) was second at 197, Ron Thompson Jr. (Canton) was second at 141 and Leonard Morin (Redford) was sixth at 213; in the Elite Division (16-18), Matt Steintrager (CC) was second at 103, Brian Marsh (Wayne Memorial) was third at 160, and Brian Clement (Livonia Churchill) was sixth at 130; in the Cadet Division (14-15), Tim Hammer (Wayne Memorial) was second at 130 and Reece Cox (Westland John Glenn) was third at 130.

Ambassador hockey stars

The North American Hockey League has selected its all-league and all-rookie teams, and the Compuware Ambassadors are well represented.

Three Ambassadors were named to the first team: forward Dan Knapp, who led the NAHL with 62 assists and had 88 points, second best in the league; Andy Greene, who led all defensemen with 11 power-play goals and was second in scoring; and goalie Chris Davidson, who had a league-leading .915 save percentage.

Chosen to the second team was Compuware's Mike Falk, who had a league-high 27 power-play goals. On the all-rookie squad, Ambassador goalie Justin Tobe was the choice, his .914 save percentage second in the NAHL only to his teammate.

The Ambassadors, who finished first in the NAHL's East Division, will host the Soo Kewadin and the Indians in a best-of-three-games opening round in the NAHL playoffs. All three games will be played at Compuware Arena on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (if necessary). All games start at 7:30 p.m.

Falcons hope to build on last season
Farmington returns key players from 27-10 club

By DAN O'MEARA
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Following its most successful season in a decade, the Farmington High baseball team is preparing for what it hopes is an encore performance.

The Falcons were 27-10 last year, finished second in the Western Lakes Activities Association and won their first regional championship.

Farmington lost five key players to graduation — Kyle Burcar, Brad Barone, Nick Hippler, Ian Pardonnet and Bernie Brown — but has sufficient returning talent to form the basis for another good team and fine season.

"I know the players think about it," Farmington coach Pete Finn said. "To tell you the truth, I just think about the process we have to go through to get there. That's all you really can control."

"For the most part, if you have the right process, the results sometimes will follow. If you do things right, you have a good chance."

The Falcons had two players on the All-Observer first team, and both will be wearing blue and white again this year.

Seniors Tony Luttman and Chris

BASEBALL

Chesney were all-area outfielders last year. But Luttman also will be one of the team's top pitchers, and Chesney can and will play a variety of positions.

When he's not pitching, Luttman will play in left field. He batted .351 and led the Falcons with 30 RBI and 16 doubles. As a pitcher, he was 7-2 with 44 strikeouts and 21 walks in 42.1 innings, and he had an earned run average of 2.65.

"He has to do the same things he's been doing," said Finn, who was the Observerland Coach of the Year last season.

"He's been so good for us for a couple years. We just need him to do what he does and get the players around him to play the right kind of baseball."

Chesney, who played center field and third base last year, will be behind the plate this season.

The move was necessitated by a knee injury to senior Brian Bosler, who was slated to be the replacement for Hippler, a three-year starter.

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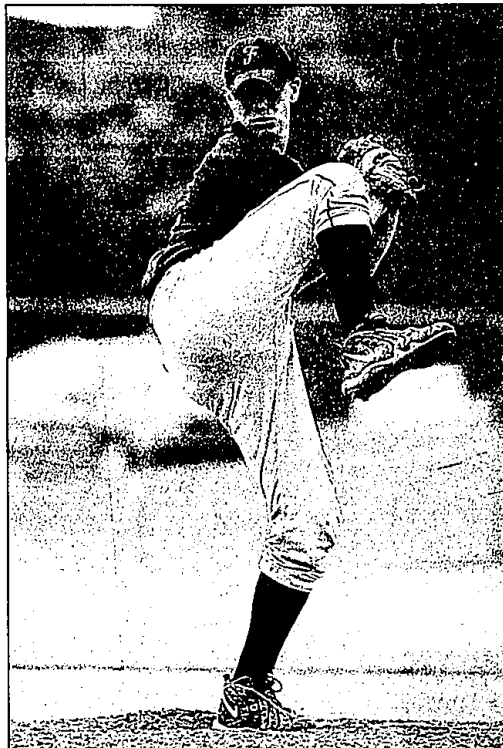
Pete Finn
Farmington coach



Chris Chesney
Farmington senior



Tony Luttman
Farmington senior



FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CANNON

All-Observer player: Senior pitcher and outfielder Tony Luttman is among the top returning players on the Farmington team.

Shamrocks open with pair of victories

By BRAD MONASTIERE

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The Redford-Detroit Catholic Central baseball team didn't play two full, seven-inning games in its season opener, but it was for good reasons.

The Shamrocks kicked off their 2002 campaign with a bang, wiping out U-D Jesuit 10-0 and 15-1 in a pair of mercy-shortened games Sunday at the University of Detroit-Mercy baseball field. CC, 2-0 on the season, next plays today against Ann Arbor Pioneer.

BASEBALL

Pitcher Jeff Niemier pitched a complete-game one-hit shutout in the opener, striking out 10 while allowing five walks in a solid first-day performance on the mound. At the plate, CC used a balanced offense to spread the scoring around much of the lineup, something that pleased coach John Salter.

"I was definitely pleased," he said. "Jeff had some control problems, but he only

needed 65 pitches, and located his pitches pretty well on a cold day."

Senior Ryan Rogowski went 2-for-5 with a pair of RBI, while Eric Vojtkosky went 2-for-4 in the game. Mike Monterey added a two-run double for the Shamrocks in the opener.

In game two, a 15-1 rout, Jeff Schulz came out the winner on the mound, striking out six batters in six innings of work, the last five very efficient after struggling in the first inning.

In that first inning, Schulz allowed a

pair of hits, and two errors in the field led to the Cubs' only run. "He settled down after that," Salter added. "He only allowed two baserunners after the first inning."

Rogowski again picked up two hits and two runs batted in, along with a pair of runs scored in the nightcap. Derek Brooks had a nice offensive game, going 2-for-3 including a bases-loaded double in the fifth inning that blew the game wide open. Kyle Crepeau went 2-for-4 with two RBI, and Monterey added two more hits.

All-Observer trio sets pace for Mercy

By DAN O'MEARA
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With some of the top individual athletes in the area, Farmington Hills Mercy coach Gary Servais hopes 2002 will be a good year for the Marlins in track and field.

Mercy, which just missed winning a regional championship last year, returns three All-Observer athletes in juniors Alexandria Marshall, Anne Roosevelt and Whitney Johnson.



Alexandria Marshall
Farmington Hills Mercy

Marshall finished fourth in the 400-meter dash at the Division I state meet and set the school record with a time of 57.4. She is the defending Catholic League champion in the 100, 200 and 400.

"She's running real well," Servais said. "She had a good indoor season and looks real strong in practice."

The Marlins graduated the all-area pick in the shot put — Judy Telford, who is competing for Loyola University — but return the No. 1 thrower in the discus in Roosevelt.

Roosevelt was a regional champion and finished ninth in the state. She was second in the discus and fifth in the shot put in the league.

"Last year it was all new for her," Servais said. "It will be tougher this year because we'll be expecting a lot from her. Now that she has experience, it will be more of a challenge, I think."

Also in her first year of competition, Johnson set the school record of 46.4 in the 300 hurdles and shattered the old record of 49.1 that was shared by Tracy Balog and Jami Snow.

Her best time in the 100 hurdles was 15.7. She was second in the 300 hurdles and third in the 100 at the regional, qualifying for state in both.

"We're expecting big things from her," Servais said,

Girls track preview



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

Hawk runner: Senior Clara Fletcher is the top 800-meter runner for the Farmington Harrison girls team and is a key member of its 3,200 relay squad. Read about the Hawks on Page D2.

adding Johnson will run the 200 and relays more. "We'll keep her out of the high jump. That will help her more in the hurdles if we run her in the open sprints."

The Marlins also return junior Sharifa Crawford, who was on the all-area 1,600 relay team with Marshall and Johnson. The fourth member of that team, Deirdre Jones, is not competing this year.

In the throwing events, Mercy returns sophomore

Valesha Turner, and Servais expects freshmen Erin Vogler and Shannon Harris to provide immediate help.

Sophomore Carrie Roble is the top long jumper with backup from freshman Amanda Nagy. The Marlins will look to sophomores Ashley Kasprovic and Ashleigh Worford in the high jump. Freshman Cathe Shubert

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