

Farmington has positive outlook for '02

Editor's Note: A portion of the following story was inadvertently omitted from the Sunday Observer. For the benefit of our readers, the story is being reprinted in its entirety.

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There's nothing like a come-from-behind victory in the season opener to build team confidence for the upcoming campaign.

That's what coach John Fillion's Farmington United boys lacrosse squad did March 19 when it defeated Orchard Lake St. Mary's in its first game, 13-12.

"We were not expected to win that game," Fillion said. "Nobody believed we would win. St. Mary's is supposed to be a pretty good team with a solid program."

Farmington was down two goals with a minute remaining, but it rallied to win with three straight goals by juniors Jeff Tosoian, Vince D'Angelo and Mike Landsberg.

Landsberg, the only new member of the varsity this year, is quite an addition; he scored five goals and had one assist in the St. Mary's game.

The remainder of the team's 24-man roster consists of returning players from a winning team, which bodes well for Farmington this year.

"I feel very confident with these guys, I believe they're up to the challenge," Fillion said. "I expect to have a very successful season."

Farmington lost its leading scorer to graduation in Brian Kozanecki, who scored 60-plus goals in each of the last two seasons.

But it's unreasonable to expect anyone to match those numbers, Fillion said, since Farmington has a lot of new, bigger-school opponents on its schedule this year.

"We won't have as many blowouts," Fillion said. "Games will be tighter like the one with St. Mary's."

Farmington is still in Division C of the Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association, but the league has realigned itself based on enrollment instead of the years each program has been in existence.

"Last year we were defined by experience level," Fillion said. "This year we're defined by the size of the program or the number of kids we can draw from, like the MHSAA. We're trying to be more in line with the MHSAA, because we're trying to be part of their program, also."

"You play better if you're playing against better teams," he added. "The level of play comes up, because the competition is better. Last year we kind of dominated teams except for Rockford and Waterford, who also are moving up this year."

Farmington's starting attackers are the three who scored the last three goals against St. Mary's. Tosoian and D'Angelo had two goals apiece in that game. Tosoian, one of four captains, also had two assists.

Three midfielders can play at one time, but Fillion has an offensive line consisting of juniors Mike Hase (captain) and Matt Balla and sophomore Mike Murphy and a defense-oriented group that includes senior captain Chris Kuclo and juniors Brandon Thompson and Kyle Hart.

Kuclo, Thompson, Hase and Balla scored one goal each in the season opener.

The defenders in the first unit will be seniors Brian Doughty (captain), Paul Hart and Mike Kloosterman. Junior goalie Joel Rosen replaces two-year starter Francisco Berrancon, who graduated.

"(Rosen) had a spectacular second half," Fillion said, referring to St. Mary's game. "He kept us in the game right up to the end."

The other players are senior midfielder Nate Miller, sophomore attacker Adam Keesling, junior midfielders Peter Galopin, Matt Ehrlich, Jonathan Cave and Tony Ward, junior defenseman Lucas DiGlia, sophomore mid Brad Jaffe, Brian Catinar and Mike Deskins and sophomore defenseman Jake Grubbs.

Having an experienced team means Farmington "can move on to (more complicated) offenses and defenses," Fillion said.

"That confidence will help us this year. Now that the skill level has come up along with the confidence we're a lot more competitive."

Michael White will assist Fillion with the varsity; Mike Cahill and Ryan Jay will coach the new JV team.

Farmington's next game is Tuesday on the road. The first home game is April 16 against East Lansing. Home games will be played at Harrison High School.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for making the 2002 Women's Wellness Conference featuring Christiane Northrup, M.D. a success. Without their support, this wonderful event would not have been possible.

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No shortage of interests for naturalists

The natural world is full of opportunities for investigation, observation and surprises. To take full advantage of these free opportunities, all it takes is some practice in the powers of observation.

It also helps to have an interest, even if its only a passing interest, in a variety of subjects. Naturalists typically are not interested in just one group of living organisms.

Just by the very word "naturalist," it implies that the person is interested in nature.

Nature includes so many subjects and topics, it's hard to explore them all in one lifetime.

I've found a well-rounded person has many interests and is seldom bored because no matter where they are and what they do, they find something of interest.

By having a variety of interests in the natural world, no matter where you go you will likely find something of interest.

But you have to be observant!

On a recent trip to Florida, my family and I took a short, self-guided air-boat ride along a river on the outskirts of Orlando.

While waiting our turn in the parking lot, we enjoyed watching the Anolis lizards climbing up the trees and sometimes falling down from the trees.

It was amazing to see how well camouflaged they were against the bark of the live oak trees, or the dead leaves on the ground.

Our observations even extended into the men's room. A wheel bug was walking on the trash basket, so I brought it out on a sheet of paper for everyone to see.

When we got our boat, and after I got the "hang" of pushing the steering rod forward to go right and back to go left, we proceeded, generally, forward.

Our first big land mark was the overpass of a major road. Our goal was to see some wildlife, but the area was not exactly wild.

Since our time was limited to an hour I decided to ask the people in a returning boat if they had seen any wildlife. Their response was "no," which did not sound encouraging.

But as we proceeded and became familiar with the surroundings, we began to see more than the returning boat.

An adult white ibis was our first sighting and then we saw a half brown and half white juvenile. They must have been accustomed to the air-boat because we were able to get quite close.

One of the nice features of an air-boat is that it allows access to very shallow waters. Though the cove we explored had dense aquatic vegetation, we were still able to see the long, narrow body of the Florida gar. Some were 12-14 inches long, while a couple were close to 30 inches long.

It did not take much effort or time for them to disappear in the vegetation with their spotted coloration.

In addition to gar we saw large turtles, bass, carp and sunfish in the shallow water.

All the time we were also catching glimpses of green from dragonflies called pond-hawks and red from the roseate skimmers flying nearby.

As we slowly moved through the water and trained our eyes to scan the water and the shoreline we spotted an alligator sunning on the shoreline. Only its head and front feet were in the water. I estimated it to be about 8 feet long.

Though we had traveled the same route as the returning party we asked about wildlife, we saw enough animal life to return feeling good about our first air-boat ride.



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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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All deadlines for the Camp Corner will be on Friday before the Thursday Edition.

Look for this corner to appear in the Sports Section every Thursday until July 18th!

Professional Secretaries Week

April 21-27

Whether you say "Professional Secretaries Week" or "Administrative Professionals Week" the point is to praise the individual who makes your job easier from day to day. Whatever title you give the week of April 21-27, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has a great and affordable way for you to say thank you for all that individual's hard work.

On Thursday, April 25th you can let all of Wayne and Oakland Counties know how much that person really means to you. This directory will appear in the front of the newspaper, and you can choose from the ad sizes below. (Deadline is Thursday, April 19th)

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