

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Falcons romp in opener

Farmington High opened the 2002 baseball season Wednesday with a solid performance as the Falcons crushed visiting Redford Union, 11-2.

Catch Pete Finn's team jumped out to a 5-1 lead after the first inning, thanks mainly to a grand slam by sophomore shortstop Jeff Fischer.

Pitcher Tony Luttman got the win for Farmington, working five innings while giving up four hits and striking out four. Bob Houchins struck out four in two innings of relief without allowing a baserunner.

Mike Kiah went 2-for-3 with a pair of RBIs on a double and a squeeze bunt for the Falcons. Fischer had two hits and four RBIs, and Brian Dickey hit a two-run single.

RU's Shawn Meyers went 1-for-3 to stretch his season-opening hitting streak to six games and added an RBI for the Panthers (4-2).

Jason Dunning drove in RU's other run, and John Hageman went 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Gaines named co-MVP

Trevor Gaines (Farmington Hills) and T.J. Sorrentine of Pawtucket, R.I., topped the award winners at the University of Vermont men's basketball postseason dinner last weekend.

Gaines, a senior who was a unanimous, first-team, all-America East Conference selection, shared the John C. "Buzzy" Evans Most Valuable Player Award with Sorrentine.

Gaines, a graduate of Farmington High School, also received the Thomas O'Shea Coaches Award for exemplary dedication, courage and commitment to the program.

Gaines, a 6-foot-7 forward, led the Catamounts in rebounding with 11 per game and was third in team scoring with an average of 15.5 points while helping Vermont win the AEC regular-season championship.

Girls golf season openers

Defending Division I state and Catholic League champion Farmington Hills Mercy opened a new season in girls golf Wednesday by defeating Birmingham Marian at Glen Oaks Golf Course, 182-211.

Christina Cibrario shot 42 to lead the Marlins. Kim Warzyniec had 45, Monica Pilzner 47 and Jackie Shinnery 48. Also representing Mercy were Caitlin Kelly (52) and Angela Leon (59).

Posting scores for Marian were Jessica Adams, 51; Kathryn Lucas, 52; Julie Kluczynski, 54; Emily Miller, 54; Katie Schultz, 56; and Meghan MacGuidin 58.

Farmington Unified began the season Thursday by defeating the Farmington Hills Mercy B team at Glen Oaks, 185-193.

The match medalist was Farmington's Andrea Mazanka with 44 strokes. Kelly Raymond and Angela Palacin shot 45 apiece, Ashley Ketto 51, Brittany Nuccitelli and Emily Laird 52 each.

Scoring for Mercy were Carrie Tashjian, 45; Leon, 46; Sara Larson, 50; Kelly, 52; Pam Roxas, 52; and Lisa Rodriguez, 56.

Stambouljan 6th in nation

The Wayne State University cross country teams, under the direction of fifth-year head coach Rick Cummins, have received national academic recognition from the NCAA Division II Cross Country Coaches Association.

The WSU men's team placed 18th in the nation with a team grade-point average of 3.207. The Warriors finished 11th at the NCAA Championships and had the highest team GPA of any school among the top 15.

Individually, Charlie Stambouljan of Farmington Hills (North Farmington) was sixth in the country with a 3.97 GPA. Also receiving honors from the coaches association were Brian Goodwin (Dearborn Heights Annapolis), Chris Burns (Flat Rock), Mike Busalepp (Warren Cousino) and Joe Verellen (Livonia Stevenson).

The Warrior women's team placed 21st in the nation with a team GPA of 3.461. WSU finished sixth at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships.

(Observer readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene by sending a fax to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara at 734-591-7279.)

Marlins seek state title repeat

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Nobody should expect less of the Farmington Hills Mercy golf team just because individual state champion Erin Borowiec has moved on to play at Ohio State University.

The Marlins are the defending Division I state champions, and they're not planning to concede the title.

In fact, they expect to be in contention for their third crown in four years. The team makeup will be a little different this year, that's all.

"We're just going to have four solid players, and they want to go out and show you just need four solid players and not necessarily a superstar," coach Vicky Kowalski said.

Mercy also lost Maureen McFawn (all-area second team) and Katie Dinamore (all-area third team) to graduation, but they return a first-team, All-Observers player in junior Christina Cibrario.

She finished ninth in the state tournament and posted a two-day total of 175. Cibrario, who averaged 88.5 in tournaments, placed fifth in Oakland County and sixth in the Catholic League.

"She does have goals for herself," Kowalski said. "Christina knows she should be one of the top players in the Catholic League, and the question is how much farther can she take her game?"

Mercy's top four players will include seniors Kim Warzyniec, Monica Pilzner and Jackie Shinnery.

GIRLS GOLF

Warzyniec and Shinnery were second-team, all-area players, and Pilzner was an honorable mention.

"They're all pretty even, ability-wise," Kowalski said. "Christina is a little more experienced. She's been playing on the Power Bilt Tour since the fifth grade in the summer."

"Jackie played in the state final and shot 88 the first day and helped us to our big lead. She played in a lot of tournaments over the summer and has gained that needed experience; so I think she's going to do real well this year."

"Kim and Monica are just as good as Maureen and Katie were. They got to play in the state final, because they were seniors but, realistically, they're pretty equal. I don't think we'll be losing anything in those spots."

Please see GOLF, C3

Opening Day for track & field athletes



Raiders in action: North Farmington's Sue Hand (above) won the shot put with a toss of 28 feet, 11 inches, and she also took first place in the discus. Sable Burley (right) ran the anchor leg of the 400-meter relay and finished off a Raider victory in that race. Despite the efforts of Hand and Burley and others, North Farmington lost its first girls dual meet of the new season to visiting Northville, 74-61. See complete girls and boys results involving Farmington teams inside today's sports section.



Raiders ground Rockets

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

North Farmington went right to work in its season opener Wednesday, trouncing host Westland John Glenn in a Western Lakes Activities Association girls soccer game, 6-0.

The Raiders scored their first goal with a quick strike from the defense with 12:28 left in the first half.

On an overlap from her stopper position,

SOCCER

Ashley Lynch sent a pass forward, received a through ball and broke free on the keeper. When the keeper came out too fast, Lynch put a long shot behind her.

The Raiders led 2-0 at halftime when Catherine Munaco knocked in a rebound off a shot by Nicole Adena.

In the second half, Lauren Hogan scored from Jenna Street, Amanda O'Steen from Hogan and Christine Taylor from Meghan Callahan.

Adena, who had an unassisted goal, broke free on the right wing, was not picked up by any defender, dribbled to the 18 and drilled a shot into the left corner.

On the O'Steen goal, Hogan moved the ball through the middle of the field and, when she was marked by a defender, spotted her teammate breaking toward the goal. O'Steen finished the play off the far post.

"Everybody on the team had playing time," North coach Tim Russell said. "The girls did a great job of making sure everybody got in and had a chance to compete."

"It was a great first game for us. We weren't able to scrimmage because of the weather, so we got to work some of the bugs out."

"We got to see people in a game situation, and I was happily surprised to see some of the bench players are going to step in very well for us this year."

Freshman goalie Bridgette Bearas earned a shutout in her first high school game, stopping a Glenn penalty kick and making several other key saves.

STEVENSON 3, FARMINGTON 0: The host Falcons played a better second half Wednesday.

Please see SOCCER, C3

Star pitcher gives North jump on the competition

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

One thing is certain about the North Farmington softball team, according to coach Dave Brubaker. The Raiders have pitching!

In a sport that revolves so much around that aspect of the game, the ability of junior pitcher Beth Danielewicz gives North an advantage over most teams.

The two-time, All-Observers player was 21-10 last season with 248 strikeouts and only 24 walks in 202 innings. Her earned run average was an impressive 0.44.

"She's going to carry the load as far as being our No. 1 pitcher," Brubaker said. "When you have someone like her, you have to give her the rock every time unless you have three or four games in a day."

"Like I said, I've got pitching!"

The Raiders, who have posted 20-win seasons in three of the last four and were 23-13 last year, must replace all-area catcher Jasmine King, as well as starters at second and third bases and center field.

Junior Amy Berke, who moves up from the JV, is the new catcher. Brubaker was encouraged when she ripped a double in a scrimmage with Waterford Kettering.

"Offensively, I think she'll come in and fill the shoes," he said. "Defensively, she has the tools; we just have to refine her a little more. She's going to be a key part of the defense and offense."

Please see SOFTBALL, C4

OCC's Grinnell gets 300th career victory

One day after becoming the winningest coach in Oakland Community College history, softball coach Paul Grinnell chalked up career win No. 300 Friday.

The Lady Raiders trounced visiting Alpena in five innings, 9-1. Grinnell had to wait for his 301st victory, however, since the nightcap was suspended in the bottom of the third with OCC leading, 1-0.

Kasey DeSutter went 3-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs to lead the Lady Raiders, who are 5-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 12-6 overall.

Kristie Richmond was 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Jenna Little also had two hits. Kelly Nilson pitched four innings of one-hit softball for her sixth win of the season. She struck out three and walked one.

Grinnell, who became an OCC assistant coach 21 years ago, is 300-197-1 in 11 seasons as the head coach heading into a game today with St. Clair.

On Thursday, Grinnell surpassed his former mentor, Steve Ogg, who compiled 298 wins in 11 seasons, when OCC swept a doubleheader from visiting Henry Ford, 9-1 in five innings and 4-0 in the second game.

In the opener, the Lady Raiders broke open a 1-0 game in the third inning with six runs. The big hit of the inning came from Emily Bell, who

Please see VICTORY, C3