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"I expect those four girls to be in the same range all the time, anywhere from 42 to 48."

"The other varsity golfers are seniors Tiffany Graham and Carrie Tashjian and juniors Sam Talbot, Caitlin Kelly, Lisa Rodriguez, Pam Roxas and Nicole Zaleski. Kowalski might have two sophomores on the varsity, too."

"We'll rotate the last positions around, and the other girls know they have to earn a spot to be the No. 5 or 6 players in some tournaments," Kowalski said. "But, overall, it makes us a better team because those girls know those spots are available."

The Marlins will try to repeat as Oakland County champions Tuesday at Pontiac Country Club, and they'll be favored to win their 11th consecutive Catholic League title next month.

"I feel very good about us repeating as league champions," Kowalski said, "and I know the girls feel, if the top four players are on top of their games, we can win the state again."

"Our competition will come Rochester and Port Huron Northern, because they didn't have any seniors last year. They have their whole teams coming back."

"I certainly think the state final will be closer than it was last year, but the girls feel, with consistent play and all of them shooting close to the same scores, we can put up numbers to be good enough."

"There's really this feeling of togetherness and four people working together and not needing a superstar. We can do it with four solid players."

Farmington Unified

Coach Ann Marie Sopha's team won the Lakes Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association and was 10-3 in dual meets last year.

With many of its top players returning, Farmington hopes to do well again despite losing first-team, All-Observer standout Sarah Laird to graduation.

Junior Chrissy Dwyer made the all-area second team and senior Kelly Raymond the third team. Dwyer will be one of the team's "most solid players,"

Sopha said. "We just have so many girls who are stepping up, and we have some really solid shooters."

"Kelly and Chrissy are probably our top two. Both have a lot of experience. I see a lot of potential in those two."

Junior Andrea Mazanka was the match medalist Thursday with a 44 in a win over Farmington Hills Mercy's B team.

Sophomore Angela Isalaian and junior Ashley Ketra also contributed to the team score, as did Raymond. Dwyer was one stroke away from being in the top four.

Seniors Missy Traczyk, Debbie Simon, Jen Barrick and Jennifer Livingston are varsity veterans who will contribute, too.

A shoulder injury prevented Simon from playing last year, and Barrick was ill and unable to play Thursday.

Other golfers are juniors Brittany Nuccitelli and Emily Kuchara, sophomores Emily Laird, Maria Palaian and Natalie Pappalardo and freshmen Dana Nuccitelli, Lindsey Scher, Michelle Berta and Kelli Burney. "Mazanka is such a thrill to watch," Sopha said. "She started out as a total beginner as a freshman, and her game is coming together so nicely."

"I can see a lot of potential in the Palaian girls, and the Nuccitelli girls have a lot of talent. They play a lot of tennis, too."

"Emily could be better than Sarah, because she started a little younger and is showing the same talent already."

Farmington has a busy week ahead. After the county tournament Tuesday, it competes in the Dearborn and Hartland invitational.

"I'm real excited about the talent on this team," Sopha said. "The girls are real dedicated. They're all very smart, too - 4.0 students."

"Last year we were an academic all-state team. I'm blessed to have these smart girls who are dedicated and work hard."

"I think we'll be as good as last year. I think the girls are showing that potential. We're going to a new regional (at The Links of Pinewood with Mercy and other WLLA teams), so it will be interesting to see how well we do."

Last year's MVP returns to lead Raiders

By DAN O'MEARA
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With last year's most valuable player heading the list of returning players, North Farmington is planning to improve upon a 6-15 baseball record.

"I think we can win a few more, although we are in a tough league," coach Irv Horwitz said. "I think we can do better."

"If the young pitchers, along with the experienced seniors, come through and we can hit the ball a bit, I think we can do pretty well."

Junior Bryan Smith, a right-handed pitcher and shortstop was North's best player last season.

He led the Raiders in hitting with a .393 average, and he was tops with 16 RBI, 24 hits, nine

BASEBALL

doubles, three triples and 17 runs scored.

Seniors Eric Odmarr, Justin Prinstein, Mike Rosenberg and Jason Berthiaume and Junior Mike Hand will do their share of the pitching, too.

"I think it will be a strong part of our team, because we have some experienced seniors and juniors and I think they'll do an outstanding job," Horwitz said.

The Raiders have a veteran backstop in junior Matt Clark, who begins his third year on the varsity.

"Catcher is the most experienced position we have, and he has gotten bigger and stronger," Horwitz said of the 6-foot-1, 195-

pound Clark.

Junior Rich Hegstrom, a quarterback on the football team as is Smith, will start at first base, Prinstein at second and senior Matt Gurka at third. Prinstein and Gurka are returning varsity players.

"We have some good athletes, but we don't have the experience," Horwitz said of the infield. "For most of them, it will be their first year starting. But they've been around, and I think they can do the job."

Berthiaume will be the center fielder; junior Tom Rossana will be in right field and Rosenberg in left. All three are varsity veterans.

"Berthiaume is the only one who really started," Horwitz said. "I expect a lot of Rosenberg, because it will be his third year,

as well as Berthiaume. Both have experience in the outfield. Rossana played as a sophomore and did an excellent job; so he does have varsity experience."

The varsity roster also includes junior utility infielder Andy Stanis, junior outfielder Allen Wertheimer and sophomore designated hitter and catcher Kris Clark.

"We have strong hitters in Smith and Matt Clark," Horwitz said. "They proved themselves last year as sophomores, and Berthiaume did a real good job for us."

"The others didn't get that much playing time, so they're just going to have to get in there and start hitting the ball."

The Raiders start the season Monday at Walled Lake West-ern.

Victory

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slugged her third home run of the year to put OCC up 7-0.

Toni Salo was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Leanna Peters, Little and Bell had two hits each. Bell drove in four runs and Peters two. Nilson threw a three-hitter, striking out seven and walking one. In the nightcap, Salo added two more hits and two stole bases to give her 18 steals on the season. Bell had an RBI double, and Little and Theresa Flowers had one RBI each.

Kristi Marszalec pitched six innings, allowed four hits and two walks while striking out four for her fourth win of the season.

Lindsay Badok worked a perfect seventh inning to assure Grinnell's place in OCC history with his 299th career victory.

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"Last year we were an academic all-state team. I'm blessed to have these smart girls who are dedicated and work hard."

"I think we'll be as good as last year. I think the girls are showing that potential. We're going to a new regional (at The Links of Pinewood with Mercy and other WLLA teams), so it will be interesting to see how well we do."

Read your
local Taste
section

Soccer from page C1

shut down the Spartans, who are ranked No. 4 in Division I, but the damage was already done.

Livonia Stevenson established a 3-0 halftime lead on goals by Melissa Dobyn, Danielle Lewis and Li DiPonio.

"We made four mistakes and they got three goals out of it," Farmington coach Steve Montgomery said. "They were little mental lapses we need to work on. Defensively, we were pretty sound except for a couple times."

"In the second half, we played outstanding. We had four or five really good chances. We just didn't finish, and they had about two chances. We had them under a lot of pressure, and it was a good, back-and-forth game."

"It was a tough team to have as your opener."

The first 22 minutes were scoreless until Dobyn scored the first goal. Lewis scored with 7:39 left in the first half and DiPonio with 1:13 remaining.

"It was (freshman) Kate Kelly's first time in goal, and she got tested tonight," Montgomery said. "She was a little disappointed, but she's going to be a good goalkeeper. She sets a high standard for herself."

"The defense played pretty well. But we played too much one-touch in the first half. We started stringing passes together in the second half and became a lot more effective."

Both teams played really hard. A 3-0 loss to them is not that bad. It's hard to play a team like that after basically three weeks off because of bad weather and rain."

"It was a tough team to have as your opener."



Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes Awards, which rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. A winner will be recognized at the HomeTown Heroes Luncheon on Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at The Community House in Birmingham.

NAME OF NOMINATOR: _____ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CATEGORIES: DIRECT SERVICE SENIOR YOUTH GOVERNANCE FAITH-BASED BUSINESS

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ (Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization) AGE: _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____ YEARS OF SERVICE: _____

AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: _____ SCHOOL ATTENDING (if applicable): _____

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____

On a separate sheet, in 200 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual and business. Describe the volunteer's major accomplishments, business, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. For Business Champion nominees, please indicate the monetary (or community organization) that have benefited from these efforts. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Optional: Include a photo (no larger than 3" x 3") of the nominated person or group, or for Business Champion nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity. Entries must be received by Friday, May 3, 2002. Mail or fax forms to HomeTown Heroes Awards, c/o United Way Volunteer Center, 50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809 • For questions or further information go to www.untwv.org/ocland or call 248-874-1653.

HomeTown

Mirror

Observer & Eccentric

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

United Way

2002 Red Wings Playoffs



This is Hockeytown home of the Detroit Red Wings and the most passionate fans on earth. And this is playoff time! A time for Citizens of Hockeytown to show the world that we have unbelievable pride and passion for our team.

LET 'EM SEE RED!

Time to fly the RED flags from you car. Time to wear your RED shirts, jerseys or your favorite hat. Time for non-stop, edge of your seat action, great comebacks, overtime goals and heart-stopping saves.

LET 'EM SEE RED!

We need to blanket the city of Detroit and its suburbs in RED and continue throughout Michigan and our entire Hockeytown community. We need to show our support for our team by wearing RED and becoming RED. Cause right now, this is the playoffs - Hockeytown. And we need you to

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EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE HOME OPENER WILL RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL RED WINGS PLAYOFF TOWEL SPONSORED BY COCA COLA AND SPEEDWAY



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CELEBRATE AN UNBELIEVABLE SEASON!
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Win a Pistons game-worn jersey from your favorite Pistons player!

Enter the Pop-A-Shot Competition in the West Atrium to win 2 free airline tickets!

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