

Thursday, April 18, 2002

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Golfers do well in county

Farmington Hills Mercy finished second and Farmington Unified fourth in the 16-team Oakland County Division I girls golf tournament Tuesday at Pontiac Country Club.

Rochester won the team title with 363 strokes. Mercy, the defending champion, was six strokes back at 369. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook posted a 387 score and Farmington Unified 393.

"It was only six strokes," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said, adding it was only the second competition of the season for the Marlins, who had several events rained out.

"But the girls know what they're up against now. They're pretty confident they can do a little better and, come the end of the season, we'll see who's up there."

Mercy junior Christina Cibrario shot 83 and finished in second place. The individual winner was Rochester senior Meghan Bradley, who posted an 81 on the par-74 course.

"(Cibrario) shot 40 on the front nine and was in the lead at that point," Kowalski said. "That was a real good showing by her, especially this early in the season."

"She was going back and looking at things she could have avoided and feels she could have easily shot 79. (Her actual score is still) a big improvement for her. Last year at this point she was in the 90s."

Mercy senior Kim Warzyniec also earned a medal, shooting 94 to finish 10th. Senior Monica Piltner missed by one stroke and finished 11th with a 98. Senior Jackie Shinney shot 97 and junior Sam Talbot 119.

Two Farmington players received medals. Junior Chrissy Dwyer was sixth (92) and senior Kelly Raymond seventh (93).

Junior Andrea Mazanka shot 103, sophomore Emily Laird 105 and junior Brittany Nucitelli 106.

"Kelly played a lot of tournaments last summer and knows she should be at the top — and Chrissy, too," Farmington coach Ann Marie Sopha said. "She's been playing at the country club and gets a lot of experience there. We expect them to do well."

"The other girls played pretty solid and nobody blew up in their scores, and that was all we needed to do well in placing. I was pleased; they all played pretty consistently."

Lady Raiders stay on roll

Oakland Community College won three more softball games Sunday to remain unbeaten (8-0) in the MCCA Eastern Conference.

The Lady Raiders swept a double-header from visiting St. Clair, 12-2 and 8-2, and completed a suspended game against Alpena with a 9-2 victory.

Kelly Nilson pitched a two-hitter in the first St. Clair game, striking out five and walking none in a five-inning, mercy-rule contest.

Kristie Richmond went 3-for-3 and scored three runs. Emily Boll was 2-for-3 with a home run and four RBI.

Leanna Peters and Kasey DeSutter also had two hits apiece. Theresa Flowers drove in two runs; Peters, Toni Salo and Jenna Little had one RBI each.

Bell homered again — her fifth of the season — in the nightcap, and Flowers hit her 10th double.

Peters was 3-for-4 with two RBI; Richmond and Little had two hits apiece. Bell batted in three runs; Flowers and DeSutter had one RBI each.

Kristi Marzalec scattered eight hits over seven innings with two strikeouts and one walk.

Lindsay Bzdek pitched a complete game against Alpena, giving up six hits while fanning four and walking none.

OCC had 12 hits, including a 3-for-4 performance by Little and two apiece by Becca Robertson, DeSutter and Kathy Robinson.

Flowers, Little and Robinson drove in two runs each; Richmond, Peters and Bell had one RBI apiece.

The Lady Raiders are 15-6 overall. St. Clair is 3-5 in the MCCA and 3-5 overall; Alpena is 4-6 and 4-8.

(Observer readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene by sending a fax to Sports Editor Dan O'Meara at 734-951-7279.)

BY DAN O'MEARA
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After starting the season Monday with a stunning, 8-0 whitewash of Northville, the outlook for the North Farmington boys tennis team is positive to say the least.

Northville is North's perennial chief competition in the Western Lakes Activities Association and a Division II regional tournament.

The Raiders have won the last five WLA championships and, in the wake of their Monday victory, have to be favored to make it six in a row.

"This team, despite its youth, has an unlimited upside to it," North coach Mark Shenton said. "The biggest key is

BOYS TENNIS

to work hard.

"Whereas, we don't have the same talent of North Farmington teams in years past, we can make up for it with our determination."

Shenton expects the Raiders, who were seventh in the state last year and fourth two years ago, to have a fine season, however, and make a return trip to the state tournament.

"This team could be anywhere from out of the top 10 to being a top-five team," he said. "If these guys work hard and believe in themselves, they can do a lot more this year than they ever thought possible."

North lost its top two singles players to graduation, Jay Berman and Chris Copeland, and will have a freshman playing No. 1 in place of Berman.

But Mike Kaufman is a very talented player who has played a lot of tennis, according to Shenton.

"He has the type of game to do extremely well in his first year of high school tennis," he said.

Junior Andre Zelikov and senior Rob Frankel, who made it to the state semifinals at four singles last year, move up one place to Nos. 2 and 3, respectively. "(Zelikov) can do a very good job there," Shenton said. "He did what he had to do last year, and he's just moving up one step."

"This year being a senior and a co-

captain, (Frankel) can do just the same thing even though he's playing up one flight. He has a lot of experience and a lot of poise."

Senior Andrew Dallas played doubles last year and had a successful tryout at No. 4 singles Monday.

"We're not quite sure where he's going to stay in the lineup, but there's definitely a spot where he can be a big contributor."

Juniors Dan Carlson and Dan Levy played No. 2 doubles last year and will replace the successful duo of Greg Boothroyd and Steve Jaffe in the No. 1 spot. They had just two losses last season, one to the eventual state champs.

"Both worked extremely hard to raise

Please see TENNIS, D2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

Making the play: Farmington Harrison's Drew Stanton, the winning pitcher Monday, puts a tag on Farmington baserunner David Justice in a game between two of the area's best baseball teams.

Harrison tops Farmington

BY DAN O'MEARA
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In a rematch of last year's Western Lakes Activities Association championship baseball game, Farmington Harrison prevailed again Monday over visiting Farmington, 5-4.

BASEBALL

The Hawks relied on the pitching of senior Drew Stanton, who struck out 12 and limited the Falcons to two runs on three hits and one walk over the first five innings.

Andy Wingert pitched the sixth inning and Rob Whipple the seventh for Harrison, which made its season debut.

Tony Luttmann pitched five innings for Farmington and took the loss after giving up five runs on four hits and six walks. He struck out four. Anthony Volpe worked the sixth.

Harrison was ahead all the way and wrapped up the victory with two runs in the fifth inning on Jake Ghanam's two-out, two-run double.

Kevin Zerbo had an RBI single for the Hawks, who scored their other runs on passed balls and errors. Micah DeMeyer and Anthony Faletti had the other Harrison hits.

Farmington's Andy Brown had two hits and an RBI,

Please see BASEBALL, D3



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGES

Winning pitcher: Drew Stanton struck out 12 batters and allowed just three hits over five innings for the Hawks.

Falcons triumph in debut

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Any win is a good win, especially if it's the season opener and you're playing a crosstown rival.

It didn't matter that Farmington scored the only run on an error Monday to defeat visiting Farmington Harrison in softball, 1-0.

SOFTBALL

The Falcons did the other things — pitching and defense — well enough to earn the victory.

Senior pitcher Kelsey Guisbert scattered six hits, struck out five and walked one in a seven-inning performance.

"I thought Kelsey pitched really well," Farmington coach Kristen Harmsen said. "She had only one walk, which is a significant improvement from last year."

"Last year, when we had to come through with an out we couldn't. This year they had runners on and we were able to hold them."

"The defense played well and Kelsey pitched well. We have to work on our hitting still. It wasn't very powerful."

"But, overall, for a first game, to get the jitters out and see some live pitching, I thought we did very well."

The Falcons had just three hits. One was a third-inning double by Lindsey Abbott, who moved up and scored on a ground ball that resulted in an error.

Julie Kimmel and Ashleigh Bartlett had the other Farmington hits. Harrison's Abbey Cleland was 2-for-3. Kristin Schrock had a double; Jacqui Smylie, Merrill DeRose and Ellen Doughty accounted for the others.

Beth Leeb pitched the first three innings and took the loss. Schrock worked the final three, striking out seven of the nine batters she faced.

Mercy beats No. 1 team

There was almost sure to be a new No. 1 in girls softball this week, and it was more than likely going to be Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Marlins defeated top-ranked and defending Division I state champion Portage Northern in a tournament Saturday at Dowagiac, 1-0 in 10 innings.

It was Mercy's second game of the day after losing to Andean of Indiana in the first. Andean also defeated Portage Northern.

Freshman Dana Frantz pitched a complete game against the Huskies, striking out 10. She allowed four in-

Please see SOFTBALL, D4

Hawks have best team effort at Novi Relays

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison won four events and outperformed some good teams Saturday in girls track and field to win the Novi Relays.

The Hawks finished with 88 points followed by Northville (79), Novi (68), South Lyon and Farmington with 64 each, Walked Lake Western (39), Livonia Franklin (15) and Redford Union (3).

"To be honest, I was kinda surprised," Harrison coach Mark Babcock said. "We went into the meet hoping to be a contender. We thought we had a

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chance to win it; we thought we'd be one of the better teams.

"Northville, Novi, South Lyon and Farmington are very good teams. We didn't know what to expect. We made a few mistakes but overcame them. We had to score big in some events and we did."

The Hawks excelled in the field events, winning both throwing relays and the pole vault.

Tarin Dow and Debi Hicks combined with Tanya Hicks to win the shot put

(87-2.5) and with Tierra David for first place in the discus (255-8).

Julietta Iarina, Sarah Sargol and Magana Ammon had a combined, winning effort of 20 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault.

Harrison's other first place was in the 400-meter relay in which Natalie Donoho, Krystal Wise, Angela Feder and Melanie Banks posted a time of 53.5 seconds.

Senior Christine Metry anchored a second-place finish in the sprint medley, which consists of a 400, two 200s and an 800, and a pair of thirds in the four-mile and 3,200 relays.

"Christine Metry was really, in my

opinion, definitely the standout," Babcock said. "She did so many things really well."

"She rescued a couple races. She brought us up and helped us score a lot higher. If we gave a game ball, she'd get it."

"We had some good performances otherwise, but she was unbelievable."

Donoho, Wise and Laura Glynn combined with Banks for second place in the 800 relay (1:53.8) and with Metry for second in the sprint medley (4:32.4).

Harrison's shuttle hurdle relay team of Fodor, Linda Phun, Amber Brown

Please see TRACK, D2