

Falcons to induct Hall of Fame trio

Lawing, White, Meier receive FHS accolade

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

FARMINGTON

Farmington High School will immortalize three more of its former athletic heroes Thursday when it enshrines its second class of honorees into its Sports Hall of Fame.

Jack Lawing, Paul White and Randy Meier were chosen by a committee of former coaches, administrators and volunteers to receive the accolade this year.

Their induction brings to eight the number of athletes in the exclusive club. Rex Cawley, Mike McGuire, Mark Churella, Nat Durham and Carrie Maier were in the initial class last year.

All three new inductees will be in attendance for the program, which begins at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium in conjunction with the presentation of the 2002 All-Sports Scholar-Athlete awards.

"Last year it was really amazing," said Bernie Call, the Hall of Fame Committee Chairman. "Nobody expected it to turn out the way it did. It was a very emotional night."

"The inductees were so grateful and had such nice things to say. It was very inspiring, because we had all the scholar-athletes there the same night."

"For the next week, more kids came up to me and said, 'Mr. Call, that was the nicest thing. I never dreamed we had athletes like that at Farmington High.'"

"It brings back a lot of the past that most everybody has forgotten. They really need it over there - to perk them up and show them they can do more than they think they can and people do appreciate it."

Farmington has had a Wall of Fame near the school gymnasium to honor its top athletes, including those who earned all-state honors, but the Hall of Fame was created to recognize the true

standouts.

"The Hall of Fame is supposed to be for the elite of the elite," said Dave Catherman, himself a former star athlete, teacher, coach and Hall of Fame Committee member.

"The committee goes through an extensive interviewing process. It's an exciting adventure but the fundamental decision still comes down to the best of the best."

"Coincidentally, all the inductees had extended athletic careers, but the induction is for Farmington High School honors and achievements."

Lawing was a first-team, all-state football player in 1958 and was the senior captain of Farmington's undefeated, state-ranked team that year.

White was a Class A all-state basketball player in 1970, a season in which he averaged 31 points per game in an era when there was no three-point shot.

Meier was a two-time, all-state baseball player in 1976-77, had an outstanding college career at Central Michigan University and was drafted by the Seattle Mariners.

"From all the stories I'd heard about Paul White, I thought he was 7 feet tall," Call said, adding White is really 6-foot-11.

"He was definitely an outstanding athlete and very deservedly should be there. He probably wouldn't have been in last year, but we just couldn't get enough of him and get enough information."

"We had the same problem with Jack Lawing. But Dave Catherman and Jerry Young chased him down and finally got some information from him."

"Being on the only undefeated football team Farmington has ever had," Lawing rates the honor. "There's probably a couple other guys on that team who will probably go in eventually,



Hall of Fame inductee: Jack Lawing was an all-state guard and linebacker on Farmington's undefeated football team in 1958.

also.

"Randy Meier was just an all-around athlete. Baseball was his strength, but he played other sports and was certainly outstanding. Again, he's very deserving of it, too."

Besides having each inductee present, Catherman is just as excited about having each athlete's former FHS coach return for the occasion and present the athletes for induction to the Hall of Fame.

Jack Hayes, who coached football at

Farmington from 1957-62, was later a professor, administrator and coach at Northern Illinois University. He will make the trip from his home in Wisconsin.

Rich Roy was Meier's baseball coach and will return from Florida for the event. He also coached varsity basketball and softball and was an assistant football coach.

White played basketball for Ray Boyle, who coached the sport for many

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Zeldes 2nd in skills event

Danny Zeldes of Farmington Hills finished second in the goalie all-star skills competition as part of the Midget AA national hockey tournament earlier this month in San Jose, Calif.



Danny Zeldes

A member of the state champion Southfield Warriors, Zeldes also was nominated for the Michigan Hockey Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

The North Farmington High School senior has achieved a 4.0 grade point average while taking all advanced placement courses and will attend the University of Michigan next fall.

In the skills competition, Zeldes and other goalies participated in a one-on-one breakaway relay and a rapid-shot event.

He allowed only one goal but another player was perfect.

Zeldes had nearly 20 shutouts this year with the Warriors, who won one of three games in San Jose. The only game in which Zeldes appeared was the one win.

Zeldes also has earned community service points for working with goalies on youth travel teams and building a home with his Warriors teammates in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity.

Zeldes might try to make the U-M hockey team as a walk-on player next season. But he plans to carry a heavy academic load. Zeldes, who received the U-M Regents Merit Scholarship, will enroll in the honors program on a pre-med curriculum.

Unified team 3rd at invite

Farmington Unified finished third in the 18-team Dearborn Invitational for girls golf teams Thursday at Warren Valley Golf Course.

Saline had 359 strokes, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood 370 and Farmington 381.

Farmington's Kelly Raymond shot 94, Brittany Nucitelli 95, Angela Palatin 96 and Andrea Mazanka 97. The medalist was Stevenson's Kristen Polanski with an 80.

"I've been telling (the Farmington girls) we need two more golfers to step up and look what happens," coach Ann Marie Sopha said.

"The girls are all capable. If we just get a solid team performance, that's going to do it for us. We don't need a superstar."

"Brittany really came with her game face today. She's been real determined to get her score down."

Farmington Unified defeated Mercy High School Wednesday in a JV match at Glen Oaks, 217-224.

Farmington's Maria Palatin was the medalist with a 61; Debbie Simon shot 53, Lindsey Scher 56, Dana Nucitelli 57 and Natalie Pappalardo 57.

Mercy golfers win dual

Farmington Hills Mercy posted its best dual-meet golf score of the season Thursday to defeat Harper Woods Regina at Glen Oaks, 174-190.

Monica Pilzner shot 41, Christina Cibrario 42, Jackie Shinnay 45 and Kim Warzyntec 46. Sara Larson and Angela Leon had 51 and 53, respectively.

"Monica is just playing outstanding golf right now," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "She's sinking six- to eight-foot putts that last year she would not have made."

"She bought a new driver and it's really making a difference in distance off the tee. With her extra distance and improved putting, we have another girl in the low 40s."

The Marlins are 3-0.

Henry Ford baseball news

Six former Observerland prep baseball players are making contributions to the Henry Ford Community College team this season.

Ian Pardonnet (Farmington High) won his first league start, defeating Lansing, 5-2.

Pete Pinto (Livonia Stevenson) is starting at shortstop and batting .296 with 18 walks.

Mike Hoben (Plymouth Salem) is batting .316, pitcher Ryan Krol of Garden City has a 2-1 record, and Tony Johnson (Plymouth Canton) is 1-0 with three saves.

Dan Ross (Stevenson) is a reserve outfielder.

The Hawks are in second place with an 11-5 league record.

N. Farmington rallies in 7th to down N'ville

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

BASEBALL

North Farmington rallied to score three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning Friday and defeat visiting Northville in baseball, 6-5.

The Raiders loaded the bases with a leadoff single by Eric Odmark, a walk to Andy Stanic and a base hit by winning pitcher Bryan Smith.

Chris Clark followed with a two-run single to tie the score. Smith went to third on that play and scored the winning run, beating an attempted play at the plate on Rich Hegstrom's bunt.

Smith pitched a complete game, giving up seven hits; striking out nine and walking three.

North (2-2) had nine hits and four walks. Clark was 2-for-4 with a double and three RBI. Hegstrom and Mike Rosenberg had two hits and one RBI each, and Smith had two hits and scored a run.

The Raiders took a 3-2 lead with one run in the fifth inning, but the Mustangs scored three runs in the sixth for a 5-3 lead.

"It was one of those exciting games," North coach Irv Horwitz said, adding it was a nice advantage to be the home team and to have the

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Hawks defeat Spartans to win home opener, 4-3

Farmington Harrison scored a run in the bottom of the sixth inning Friday to defeat Livonia Stevenson and wins its softball home opener, 4-3.

Abbey Cleland reached base on an infield error and advanced on Jacqui Smylie's single. Kristin Schrock sacrificed the runners to second and third, and Cleland scored the winning run on a ground ball off the bat of Beth Leeb.

The Hawks took a 3-1 lead in the fifth inning, but the Spartans came back with two runs in the top of the sixth to tie.

Stevenson had a runner at first with one out in the seventh, but Smylie, the Harrison catcher, threw her out attempting to steal second base. The game ended with a groundout to shortstop.

Schrock pitched a complete game for the Hawks (1-2), surrendering seven hits but striking out seven and walking

SOFTBALL

just one.

Amanda Jankowski, who came in to pitch the sixth, took the loss. Julia Vecchioni started and worked through the fifth inning.

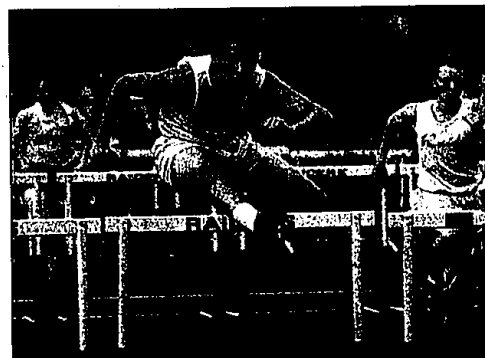
After failing to score in its first two games, Harrison started hitting and produced 11 hits, including three by Ellen Doughty, who had a double and one RBI.

Erin Held had two hits and an RBI; Leeb had an RBI triple; Smylie had two hits and scored a run, and Heather Sinawi also singled and scored a run.

Lindsey and Amy Hollandsworth had two hits apiece. Amy also scored two runs, and Jenny Lupa had an RBI single.

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Raiders romp to dual-meet victory



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BASKIN

Track winners: Mike Leach (left) won the high jump and both hurdle events Thursday as North Farmington defeated Farmington High in a boys dual meet, 108-29. Teammate Eugene Furman (right) anchored North Farmington victories in the 3,200- and 1,600-meter relays, tied with teammate Jeff Mataya for first place in the 1,600 run and won the 800 run. See complete results inside today's sports section.

