

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Wilkie takes honors

Nancy Wilkie of Redford took first flight low gross honors Friday with an 85 at the Women's Suburban Golf Association stop at Hudson Mills in Dexter.

Joanne McVear of Livonia was runner-up with an 88.

First flight low net was a tie between Lil Vandenberg (Dearborn Heights) and Mary Gene Stefania (Dearborn) at 93 each. Ginny Karolak (Livonia) was second with a 94.

In the second flight, Joy DeFranco (Farmington Hills) won low gross with an 83. Mary Allen (Wayne) took second with 100. Penny Irwin (Plymouth) and Carol McQuade (Clinton Township) had 74 and 76, respectively, for low net.

In the third flight, Jeannette Isenhour (Southfield) captured low gross with an even 100, two strokes ahead of Fran Whitlark (Westland). Mary Ann Kraft (Dearborn Heights) and Mary Cunningham (Westland) finished one-two in low net with 71 and 72, respectively.

Dimitriou Golf Classic

Yes, Van Dimitriou loved to coach soccer. But he loved to play golf.

Those wishing to honor the long-time Schoolcraft College men's soccer coach who died last fall can pay homage to both of his interests by playing in the first Coach Van D's Golf Classic Sunday, Aug. 4, at Fox Creek Golf Course in Livonia. Tee time is 11 a.m. Cost is \$100, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, a lunch buffet, beverages and prizes.

Dimitriou coached at Schoolcraft for more than 20 years, which is why proceeds and donations from this fundraising event will be used to provide financial aid in the form of soccer scholarships to those who need it.

Entry forms are available at the Schoolcraft College Athletic Building or by calling (734) 462-4463.

Girls hockey conditioning

The Michigan Capitals Girls Hockey Association will offer summer conditioning skates from 7-9 p.m. each Tuesday, June 18 through July 30, at the Southgate Civic Arena.

The session are open to girls ages 13-17. The cost is \$20 for each two-hour session.

The Capitals have produced over 27 Division I varsity women's players, including Shelly Looney, a member of the U.S. Olympic hockey team that won a gold medal in 1998 in Nagano, Japan Winter Games and a silver medal in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information, call president Dave Boike at (313) 386-1730 or general manager Debbie Rees at (734) 722-5875. You can also visit the website at www.michiganhcap.com.

Adults play 4-on-4 hockey

The Rise and Shine 4-on-4 Adult Hockey League will start Tuesday, July 16, at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The league will play games 7-8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Sept. 5. Teams consisting of 13 players and one goaltender will play an eight-game schedule with one game played per week.

All participants will receive a membership in the STC Fitness Club throughout the eight weeks of league play. To register call Suburban Training Center at (248) 888-1400 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com. Individual sign-ups only are accepted.

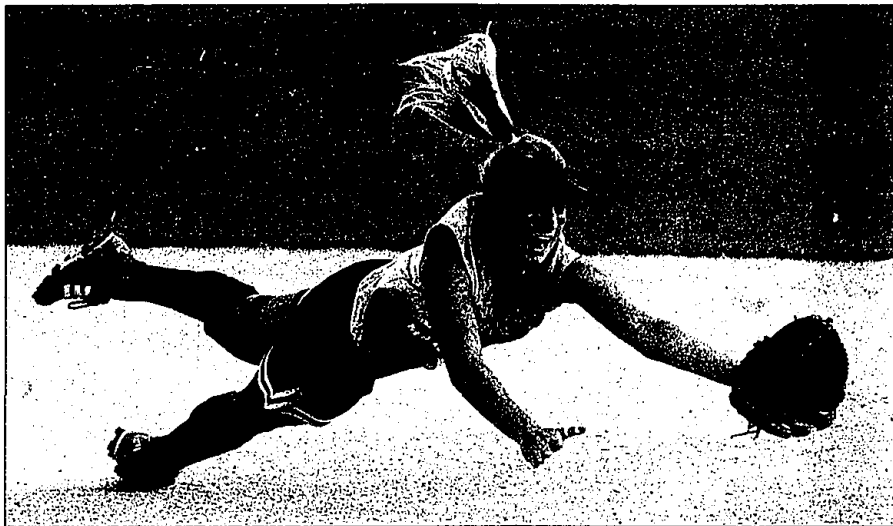
Vikes need cheerleaders

The NFWB Vikings organization still has positions available for cheerleaders (ages 8-13) at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity levels.

The season runs from August to October, plus any playoff games. Games are usually played Saturday or Sunday; practices are Tuesday through Friday.

The participation fee is \$130, plus limited fundraising. For more information call Doreen Frederick at (248) 626-6001.

(Readers can submit information for the Farmington Sports Scene by sending a fax to 734-591-7279.)



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Close play: Mercy second baseman Carly Tracey dives for a pop fly behind first base off the bat of Megan Smalley in a state semifinal game Friday in Battle Creek. Tracey made a similar play on the previous batter but just missed getting to this one, too. The Marlins won the game, 1-0.

Going for gold

Marlins move beyond semis to play for state title

BY DAN O'MEARA
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When the high school softball season started, the goal of Farmington Hills Mercy players was to reach the Division I state championship game.

The Marlins got their wish Friday and were on the verge of achieving their ultimate goal — a state title — when they faced Portage Northern in the final Saturday evening.

Playing in its third straight semifinal game, Mercy defeated Flushing, 1-0, to advance to the championship game for the first time in school history.

Mercy had beaten Portage Northern, a winner over Walled Lake Western in the other semifinal, earlier in the season, but the Huskies were two-time defending state champs.

"Now that we're here, we want to win it," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said Friday. "We've worked hard as a team, parents, school, players and coaches to get here. "As a program, we wanted to earn respect in the

state, and I think we've done that. Our season has been a success no matter what happens (Saturday)." The semifinal win was a pitchers duel between a pair of Megans — Fediuk of Mercy and Flushing's Smalley.

Fediuk, who tossed a three-hitter, struck out four and walked two, and she enjoys pitching in close games with a lot at stake.

"I do; I think it's a lot of fun," she said. "I think I do my best work under pressure. It's a lot of fun because it's all on the line and you give it your all."

"I take it one pitch at a time, one batter at a time. Obviously, in a game like this, one pitch can change it all, so I have to be alert and on my game."

The Marlins (35-7) had six hits off Smalley, who had seven strikeouts and issued one walk.

Mercy had three hits (all singles) in the first inning, and it looked as if Smalley was in for a rough game.

But the Marlins ended up leaving the bases loaded and never had another inning like that one.

However, Mercy did manufacture a run, as its known to do, in the third inning, and it ended up being enough to win the game.

"I told the (assistant) coaches last week I thought it would be a 1-0 game," Falvo said. "Any time you get to this level, the game will be close and decided by mistakes."

The Raiders (34-10) made three errors, the first of which allowed the Mercy run to score.

Carly Tracey started the Mercy third with a single, and Anna Schneider followed with a sacrifice bunt. Smalley tried to get Tracey at second and ended up not getting an out.

The next batter, Holly Van Cleave, put down another bunt. This time Smalley went to first base, but the ball got away from the second baseman covering the bag, allowing Tracey to score from second.

Please see TITLE, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

One more game: Rachel DelCorvo (left) hugs teammate Carly Tracey after a trip to the final round of the tournament was assured.



Attempted steal: Flushing shortstop Courtney Williams made the tag on Mercy's Erin Agency, who was out trying to steal second base in the sixth inning Friday.

Harrison's Reed rates repeat as top coach

BY DAN O'MEARA
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It's difficult to win one state championship in high school sports. The odds of winning two in a row are even greater.

But Farmington Harrison was able to repeat the feat and capture its second consecutive Division II title in boys track and field.

The Hawks also won the Western Lakes Activities Association championship, as well as another regional crown.



John Reed
 Harrison coach

ALL-AREA TRACK & FIELD

Harrison had some outstanding athletes such as All-Observer, first-team selections Terrill Mayberry and Agim Shabaj, plus a strong supporting cast that includes several sprint relay runners.

Good coaching was required, too, to keep the Hawks focused on their goal and to have the athletes peaking late in the season.

For his role in creating a successful program and winning back-to-back state titles, Harrison coach John Reed has been named Observerland Coach of the Year for the second year in a row, too.

Reed, who also coaches boys cross

country at Harrison, was named Division II Coach of the Year in 2001 by the Michigan Inter-scholastic Track Coaches Association.

He teaches special education at Harrison and has been a two-sport coach for 15 years. Reed competed in cross country and track at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School and Eastern Michigan University.

Repeat all-area athletes in individual events include Redford Catholic Central's Tom Grant, Redford Bishop Borgess' Darryl Anglin, Mayberry, Livonia Stevenson's Dave Novara and CC's Ryan Lowry.

Relay runners on the first team again

are Harrison's Charles Pickett, Marcus Woods, Fermon Tate, Shabaj and Mayberry, Borgess' Jason Smith, DeJuan Kea and Anglin and Livonia Churchill's Ryan Gall and Will Chapman.

Presenting the 2002 All-Observer boys track and field team:

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Nasty Rahman, shot put, Stevenson: Even on the athletic field, Rahman went to school, learning what he needed to know and working to perfect his craft.

The junior thrower took first place at the WIAA meet with a mark of 51 feet, 6 inches. He also won the regional (49-5), and he threw 50-5 at the state meet.

"Nasty really developed into a fine thrower this year, both in shot put and in discus," coach John

Please see ALL-AREA, C3