

1003 214  
DAN O'NEARA, Editor  
(734) 953-7171  
Fax: (734) 953-7779  
domear@oe.homecomm.net

# Sports

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**New coach**  
Joe Nora will coach at his alma mater. D2

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PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ OUTDOORS

## Sidelines

### Cobras win league

The 17-year-old NFWB Cobras finished in first place in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation's 18-and-under division.

The Cobras concluded the season with a 12-game winning streak to earn their third league title in four years. Ben Darga was the winning pitcher with relief help from Andy Wongnet on July 10 when NFWB defeated Novi, 12-4.

The Cobras showed a balanced hitting attack with Matt Petry, Neil Sternberg, Kevin Zerbo, Dan Lenz and Bryan Smith connecting for two hits each. Lenz knocked in four runs while Petry and Smith had two RBI apiece.

NFWB wrapped up the league season July 11 by defeating North Redford, 7-1. Sternberg went the distance on the mound.

Zerbo continued his hot hitting, going 3-for-4 at the plate, while Smith was 2-for-3 with two RBI.

### Gaines on honor roll

In addition to a record-setting season on the court that included the America East Conference regular-season championship, the University of Vermont men's basketball team also led the conference in the classroom.

The Catamounts posted a 3.01 grade-point average last semester, the best in the nine-team conference, while seven of the team's 12 players earned a spot on the AEC academic honor roll (3.0 GPA or better) with five earning a 3.50 or better.

"This was a very special group that proved that on and off the court," Vermont head coach Tom Brennan said. "These guys really raised the bar for the future."

Vermont, 21-8 last season, set a school record for wins and finished in first place (12-3 in the America East) for the first time.

Heading the list of Catamounts on the academic honor roll was co-captain Cory McLaughlin (Andover, Mass.) with a 4.00 GPA. A fifth-year senior, McLaughlin is the second player in AEC history to earn academic honor roll five times.

With a 3.69 GPA last semester, Vermont's other co-captain, all-America East center Trevor Gaines (Farmington Hills), was named to the honor roll for the third time. Juniors Cory Sullivan (Springboro, Ohio) and Grant Anderson (Minnetonka, Minn.) also made the elite list.

**Cross country run**  
Farmington High School's boys cross country team is doing its summer conditioning at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday at Drake Park. Anyone with questions can call coach Chip Bridges at (248) 806-0412.

**Prep lacrosse clinic**  
A summer lacrosse clinic for high school-aged players is scheduled for 6-9:15 p.m. Aug. 6 at Northville Community Park. The cost is \$100 for Northville residents, \$103 for Northville school district residents and \$107 for non-residents. Call (248) 349-0203 for an application.

# Election issue divides soccer club

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

For nearly a year now, the Farmington Soccer Club has been embroiled in an ongoing controversy related to its leadership and the management of the organization.

While the club has continued to provide a sporting opportunity for about 700 children on more than 30 teams, a behind-the-scenes debate has divided many of the parents who volunteer as coaches and club officers into two camps.

One side claims Bruce Wong, the current chairman of the FSC Steering Committee, was improperly elected and has assumed too much control of the club operations.

Wong said his election to the club's top post was deemed above-board and his management moves have been to streamline the decision-making process.

The issue began last fall when Wong was elected president without a quorum present at the meeting.

Board members, who were not elected but held the position because they were in charge of specific club programs, previously voted to elect all club officers

(president, vice president, treasurer and secretary).

Only a handful of the board members, who numbered in the high teens, were there due to apparent confusion about the meeting date. Wong was elected president over Mike Zalowski, who was present.

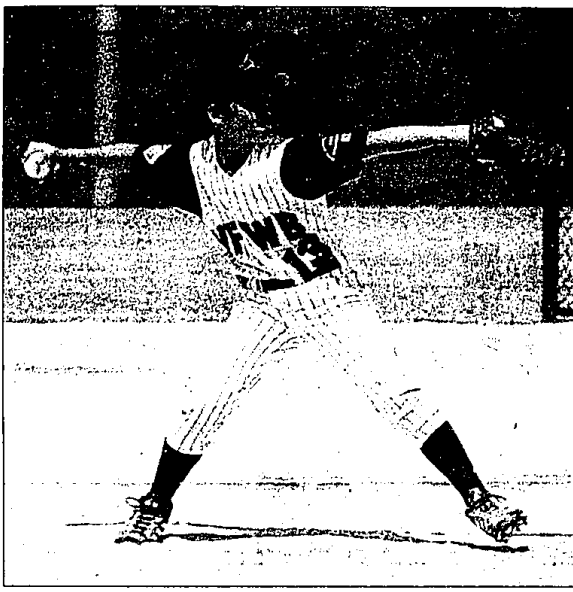
"Despite a lot of opposition, (Wong) refused to have a re-election," former FSC board member Mark Diehl said. "Not only was he elected without a quorum, but he was elected when there was truly a mixup on when the meeting was supposed to be."

The issue was reviewed by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, which determined there was nothing wrong with the way the election was conducted.

The Observer tried but was unable to contact Tom Fary, the executive director of the MSYSA and a former FSC president, for comment on the matter.

"(The MSYSA) reviewed a year's worth of minutes to see if any business had been conducted without a quorum," Wong said, adding the FSC had done so in the past for the sake of convenience.

PLEASE SEE CLUB, D3



ELIZABETH CARNEGIE | OCEANVIEW

Pitcher Brandon Kozlowski of the NFWB Cobras gets set to throw a fastball during tournament action Friday against the Rochester Razors.

# Razors edge Cobras in baseball tourney

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Scorching summer heat, hot dogs on the grill and summer tournament baseball played on dusty sandlots all go together like a 6-4-3 double play.

Case in point: last weekend's North Farmington/West Bloomfield Summer Classic baseball tournament, held at venues throughout West Bloomfield and northern Farmington Hills.

Teams from other Midwest states, and the Canadian province of Ontario, brought their bats and gloves to Oakland County for the three-day slugfest. But there were many area squads around to participate, too. One of those was the Rochester Razors, who Friday afternoon won a seesaw 13-8 six-inning contest at Drake Sports Park in West Bloomfield against the NFWB Cobras (13-year-old division).

"The way the end of our (regular) season went, it was nice to come out of this game today with a win," said Razors head coach Dale Ahern, following the victory. "We had big hits and good pitching."

Ahern said his team would

return on Saturday for an 8 a.m. game and then enjoy a parking lot cookout while waiting to play again at 3:15 p.m.

But that's all part of the game plan.

"This is a nice facility here," Ahern emphasized. "Whenever there's a tournament, everybody gets up for it. It's like the start of a new season and we have a chance to win a trophy."

The first step - the victory over the Cobras - wasn't particularly easy. The Cobras, coached by Gary Sharp, came out strong behind the pitching of Brandon Kozlowski and led 4-0 in the second. A line single to center by Eric Kearfott brought home the third and fourth runs for the NFWB team.

BACK AND FORTH

Because of a tournament rule, however, Kozlowski could not pitch past the third inning and the Razors eventually took advantage with a six-run rally to lead 6-4.

Consecutive long drives to deep center by Razors' catcher Ryan Ahern and Jason Revold plated the first tally and then

PLEASE SEE RAZORS, D5

# 13-under NFWB wins Flushing Invitational

The 13-and-under NFWB Cobras posted a 5-1 record and won the Flushing Invitational June 21-23 by defeating the Mecosta County Stallions in the title game, 9-5.

In the first game of the round-robin tournament, the Cobras edged the same Stallions, 5-4. Aric Kearfott and Brandon Kozlowski paced a nine-hit offensive attack with two hits apiece.

Kozlowski picked up the pitching win

with three scoreless innings of relief, striking out seven batters.

Catcher Evan Goldfarb cut down the potential tying run on an attempted steal of second base in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Cobras suffered their only defeat when they lost their next game to Hartland, 10-5.

Kearfott allowed only two hits and one run over three innings as the starting

pitcher. But the bullpen couldn't hold the lead, and Hartland scored seven runs in the top of the seventh for the win.

NFWB rebounded from the loss and pounded Royal Oak, 9-2. Nick Bresso, Kearfott, Jake Feldman and Chris Conrad led a 12-hit attack with two hits apiece.

Conrad, the winning pitcher, allowed two runs in the bottom of the first inning but combined with Jeff Kaberline and

Feldman to shut down the Royal Oak hitters the rest of the way.

Kearfott and Kozlowski combined for a no-hitter Saturday evening as the Cobras continued their dominance of opposing hitters with a 7-0 victory over Saline.

"The NFWB pitchers faced one batter over the minimum while limiting Royal Oak to one fly ball to the outfield.

PLEASE SEE INVITATIONAL, D5

# Wildcats' rally falls short in 13-9 loss to Spartans

BY BRAD MONASTIERE  
STAFF WRITER

A comeback attempt by the Wildcats fell short in Monday's Metro Summer Hockey League game against the Spartans.

Despite scoring three of the final four goals of the game, the Wildcats were on the short end of a 13-9 decision at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The Spartans scored five times in the first period, getting them off to the big start they needed. Canton's Michael Crowley scored a goal and two assists in the first period, along with teammate Brian Sommariva.

The Spartans outscored the Wildcats 4-2 in the second period, adding to their lead entering the third. High-scoring forward Alex Foster (Canton) picked up four goals and two assists to lead the Spartans.

Falcons 12 Bulldogs 9: Most of the scoring in this one took place in the first period, and the Falcons put up just enough goals to hold the lead and pick up the victory.

The Falcons were led by Jason Bloomingburg, who picked up an incredible five goals and four assists, figuring in on nine of the team's 12 goals.

Westland's Tony Guzzo added three goals and three assists for

the Falcons, who hung on to an 8-7 lead by outscoring the Bulldogs 4-2 in the third period. Andy Paul, a defenseman from Lake Orion, had two goals and three assists for the Metro team.

Lakers 13 Wolverines 7: A five-goal run between the first and second periods gave the Lakers enough of an edge in their 13-7 win over the Wolverines Monday night.

Sean Smith (Livonia) had two goals and an assist in the five-goal streak for the Lakers, and Garden City's Andy Thackberry added a goal and an assist.

Livonia's Bryan Marshall scored a natural hat trick in the



BILL BRUESLER | OBSERVER

Bryan Marshall of the Lakers looks for an opening to send the puck in a Metro Summer Hockey League game.

PLEASE SEE RALLY, D5

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