



College soccer

A pair of former Harrison standouts will play for Madonna. D4

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Sidelines

Lee wins Open

Matt Lee of Farmington Hills shot a two-day total of 149 to win the Championship Flight of the 2002 Southfield Open Golf Tournament.

Lee, who graduated from Harrison High School in June, dropped five strokes on the second day, shooting a 72 for a come-from-behind win.

David Koch shot 151 (76-75) for second place, and third place went to Ben Wallace, who carded 153 (76-77).

More than 50 golfers of all ages participated.

Warrior gridders

The Wayne State University football roster includes four players from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Junior Nick Hall, who graduated from Harrison High in 2000 and transferred from Central Michigan, and sophomores Mike Griffie and Stephen Wayne are sophomores in terms of eligibility.

Wayne was the Warriors' placekicker last year, booting four field goals, including a longest one of 35 yards.

Griffie, who played football at Farmington High, as did Wayne, is a reserve wide receiver, and Hall is a backup safety on defense.

Sophomore defensive tackle Brent Mills, who attended Harrison, is a first-year player at WSU.

Amateur golfers

Nikki Spicer of Farmington finished third in the Player of the Year point standings in the Meijer Junior Players Tour girls 13-14 age group.

Laura Kwiatkowski of Orionville was first with 465 points; Adrienne Downing of Northville was second with 432.5 and Spicer third with 425.

June high school graduates Bryan Proven (Farmington) and Paul Switalj (Catholic Central) are among 15 Game of Your Life Foundation scholarship winners.

Both are Farmington Hills residents.

Proven received \$3,000 from the Power-Bill Junior Tour and Switalj \$2,000 from Choice Hotels.

Proven will attend Wake Forest University, and Switalj is enrolled at the University of Notre Dame.

OCC soccer

The Oakland Community College club soccer team tryouts will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

All participants must be OCC students and must provide their own equipment and water.

Adult hockey

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is conducting registration for the upcoming season, which starts Sept. 3 and runs through March at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The FHAA is registering teams for the over-18 division, teams and individuals for the over-30 and individuals for the over-40 and over-48.

To sign up call the FHAA at (248) 471-6004.

Prep gridders start on road to kickoff

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Kickoff is still two weeks away, but football players and coaches at Farmington's three high schools were hard at work Monday getting ready for it.

Monday was the first official day of practice, which meant the return of that annual August ritual known as two-a-days.

It wasn't too hot and, for the most part, things went well as the Raiders, Falcons and Hawks embarked on their preparations for the 2002 campaign.

Six players showed up at Harrison without having passed the required physical exam, which meant they couldn't practice, which didn't go over well with coach John Herrington.

Otherwise, it was, by all accounts, a good start, and the high turnout was one of the most positive aspects of Day One.

Harrison had 60 varsity players in attendance; Farmington's count was a shade under that, and North had 55 after dropping a number of juniors to the JV.

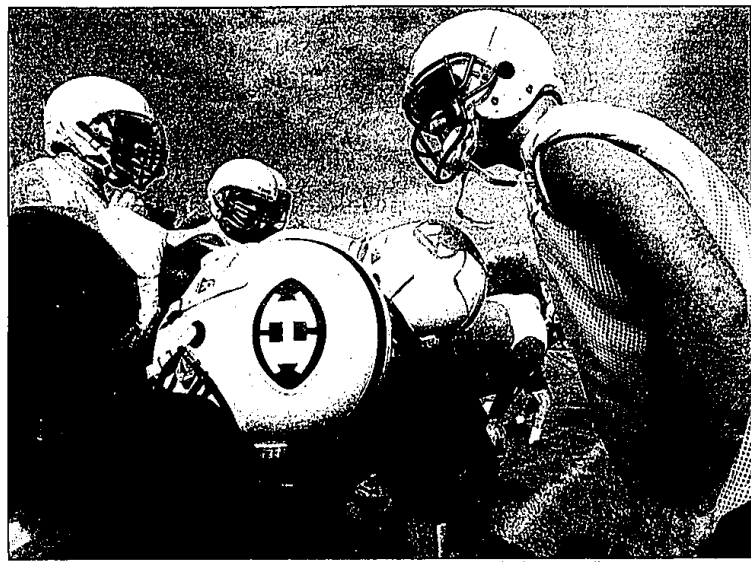
Those numbers represent the highest turnouts ever at all three schools.

"It was probably as good an opening day as we've ever had," Farmington coach John Bechtel said. "I think it's due to our level of experience, because we have so many returning starters."

"That and our work ethic is the highest it's ever been. The coaches are highly motivated, the players are enthusiastic and it all made for a great first day."

Besides a new season, the Farmington teams can look forward to competing in a new league as they switch from the 12-school Western Lakes Activities Association to the 31-member Oakland Activities Association.

PLEASE SEE FOOTBALL, D2



Senior Jake Gannam calls the play in the huddle during a Harrison practice session on Monday. Gannam will take over at quarterback in place of Drew Stanton.

Hawks hope to continue win streak

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison started gearing up this week for what it hopes is another successful season.

The Hawks, who own a 36-game winning streak, have won state titles the last five years and are three-time defending Division III champions.

Harrison practiced in the morning Monday when it was still cool and again in mid afternoon when the temperature was in the high 80s with some humidity.

"But I think we held up well," Herrington said. "Everybody is enthusiastic on the first day. I thought the execution for the first day was good."

The Hawks got a lot done, too. In the morning, they put in all their inside running plays and still had time to work on punting and sprint-out passing. The afternoon was spent working on defense.

"Tradition never graduates; that's our theme," Herrington said. "Everything stays the same. It's the

PLEASE SEE HAWKS, D2

Newburgh event still a duathlon

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Forget the Speedos for the third straight year, Sunday's race at Newburgh Lake will only consist of a duathlon.

The scheduled triathlon — a swim, bike and run — has been scratched because of low lake levels causing high weeds in the lake, according to race volunteer coordinator Gary Smith of Livonia.

A Midwest Region USA Triathlon/Duathlon event, the Newburgh Lake race is being sponsored by Elite Endeavors (based in Ohio) and co-hosted by Wayne County Parks and Recreation.

"I've talked with the Department of Environment, and with the condition it's in, we don't want to jeopardize the swimmers in the water," Smith said. "So it behooves us to tell the competitors now that there won't be a swim."

Despite an expensive dredging project completed by the County two years ago, water quality in Newburgh Lake has remained an issue.

The duathlon, however, will run as scheduled beginning at 8 a.m.

The event will consist of a pair of 5-kilometer runs and a 14-mile bike.

The run course loops completely around Newburgh Lake, while the bike route is an out-and-back from Newburgh Pointe (the transition area) to Inkster Road on Hines Drive.

Smith said approximately 110 duathletes had pre-registered for the event as of Monday. The race drew 165 competitors last year.

PLEASE SEE DUATHLON, D3

Softball tournament serves good cause

Each weekend, summer softball tournaments abound throughout the metro Detroit area.

But one separated itself from the rest last weekend.

Through the efforts of Livonia residents Gary and Laura Thomas, both members of the tournament sponsor Aid Association for Lutherans, the fifth annual



Brad Emons

Benefit Co-ed Softball Tournament held at Founders

Park in Farmington Hills certainly proved to be a more than a worthy cause.

The tournament raised over \$10,000 for the family of Darlene Houdek, a former Livonia Bentley High athlete and longtime softball player who passed away last month from liver cancer.

Twenty-two teams, each paying \$225 entry fees, participated in the two-day tournament. Umpires waived their game fees, donating their time for free.

"The bottom line is to keep it as fun and friendly, and in the spirit of helping others, with a small side of friendly competition," said Laura Thomas. "We knew that we wanted to host a tournament,

PLEASE SEE EMONS, D5

Farmington has new girls coach

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

New coach Greg Ambrose had to deal with a few unforeseen obstacles on the first day of girls basketball practice Monday at Farmington High.

He arrived at the school to find the gym doors locked — the floor had been refinished — and the basketballs locked inside. Ambrose went to Power Middle School to borrow some basketballs, and he held practice in the high school's auxiliary gym.

"It could have been two hours worth of defense, but we did all right," he said. "It was just nice to get going. We had about two weeks off, and it showed a little bit today."

Ambrose added one of his players got the practice time wrong and showed up an hour late, adding to the first-day frustration.

"We kinda got off to a slow start, but we got things worked out," he said. "It was a better finish than it was a start. Our goal is to be better tomorrow than we were today."

With the start of fall practice, Monday also was the first official day on the job for Ambrose, who replaces Scott Lowe, who took another coaching job after three seasons at Farmington.

PLEASE SEE COACH, D2



The Falcons take a timeout while new girls basketball coach Greg Ambrose explains a practice objective.

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