



Sidelines

Cooper fires ace

Farmington Hills resident Tom Cooper, 46, scored a hole-in-one Friday at San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills.

Cooper, in his third year playing the sport, used a seven-wood to tee off on the 167-yard No. 3 hole.

The ball took one bounce and landed in the cup. Cooper shot his age, with a score of 45 for nine holes.

Moundros No. 1

Nicole Moundros, a 2002 graduate of North Farmington High School, finished first in her age group Sunday in the annual Detroit Free Press Marathon.

Moundros was the 41st woman overall with a time of 3:32:58.

Hawk golfers 3rd

Farmington Harrison's golf team finished third in the Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day Invitational Monday.

DCD's Blue team won the tournament with a 323 total on the North Course at Oakland Hills Country Club.

White Lake Lakeside shot a 328 team score, Harrison 331, Milford 333, Lake Orion 335, West Bloomfield 337, North Farmington 338, Farmington 339 and DCD Gold 371.

David Koch shot 78 to lead the Hawks. Paul Mazanka was 87, Brian 80, Chris Fitzgerald 86 and Matt Kjolhede 87.

Harrison was fifth in the eight-team University of Detroit-Jesuit Invitational Friday at Detroit Golf Course.

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep won it by a stroke over Warren DeLaSalle, 288-289. Catholic Central had 299, U-D Maroon 303, Harrison 313, U-D White 316, East Lansing 322 and Birmingham Seahorn 331.

Britons finish 3rd

Lindsey Densmore's (Farmington Hills/Mercy) 89 and 88 led Albion College to a third-place finish in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association women's golf championships last weekend.

St. Mary's College of Indiana won the title and Hope College was second. Play was affected by a driving rain storm on Friday and a 30-mile-an-hour wind on Saturday.

"The conditions were simply terrible for golf, but everybody was affected not just us," said Densmore, who was named to the All-MIAA second team.

Albion went into the MIAA tournament at Tri-State University's Zollner Golf Course in Indiana ranked second in the region and ninth nationally.

Meet postponed

The girls swim meet between North Farmington and Farmington was rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, at North Farmington.

The meet had been scheduled for Tuesday of this week, but it had to be postponed when the meet official didn't show up.

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, D5

Falcons qualify for playoffs with 6th win

BY DAN O'MEARA
 STAFF WRITER

The victory ride continues for the Farmington High School football team.

So far they've been all fun games for the undefeated Falcons, who won their sixth straight Saturday by defeating host Pontiac Central, 31-12.

In doing so, Farmington reached the magical six-win plateau and became an automatic qualifier for the statewide, post-season playoffs.

Every team that finishes the regular season with a 6-3 record (5-3 if a team plays eight games) is entered in the 256-

PREP FOOTBALL

team field for the Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament.

The Falcons made it with three games to spare, but coach John Bechtel doesn't think his players will lose their focus after getting this far.

"On the bus ride home from Pontiac, I thought they'd be whooping it up," Bechtel said, adding that wasn't the case.

"They're a pretty focused group; they've stayed focused all year.

"They've focused on making sure we

continue to improve. It's evident when you watch us play. We get better every week."

The Falcons are 6-0 for the first time in more than 40 years. They haven't been unbeaten this late in a season since the late 1950s. But there were no playoffs in that era.

It's the second time in four years Farmington will be in the playoffs. The Falcons won two post-season games and went as far as a regional final in 1999.

"That was certainly one of our goals - to be in the playoffs and to make a run," Bechtel said. "It's an accumulation of the focus we've had each week.

"We focused on each of our first six opponents. The kids worked to win those games, and the playoffs are a result of that."

"We were never really shooting for No. 6. We were just shooting for the next one, and that's the way we need to continue to be. We have to stay focused on the upcoming opponent and not look too far down the road."

Farmington was never behind in the score Saturday, but it was a close ball-game until midway in the fourth quarter.

An 8-yard touchdown run by Daralle Jones on the first play of the fourth

PLEASE SEE FOOTBALL, D4



Farmington midfielder Joe Russo (20) tries to maneuver the ball past North Farmington's Stephen Denton in a game played Saturday.

Farmington clips North in 1-0 game

BY DAN O'MEARA
 STAFF WRITER

It was a game representative of two quality soccer teams, each having a fine season, when Farmington and North Farmington met on the soccer pitch Saturday afternoon.

The crosstown - and sometimes bitter - rivals battled to a scoreless draw

BOYS SOCCER

for nearly 80 minutes, but it wasn't a game destined to end in equal frustration and dissatisfaction.

Chris McDonald's goal with 1:53 remaining gave visiting Farmington a 1-0 victory over North and its fifth consecutive city championship.

The Falcons allowed the Raiders to dictate the tempo for most of the game but came alive in the last 10 minutes to eke out a win, according to Farmington coach Luke Juncanj.

PLEASE SEE CHAMPS, D2

Farmington gets 1st win

BY DAN O'MEARA
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington High earned its first victory in girls basketball Tuesday, 43-36, over visiting Ferndale in an Oakland Activities Association Division III contest.

It was also the first win as a varsity

GIRLS BASKETBALL

coach for first-year Farmington skipper Greg Ambrose.

The Falcons are 1-8 in the division and 1-9 overall.

Jessien Leach played a great all-around game as the player who provided the spark Farmington needed, according to Ambrose. Leach's contribution to the victory: 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Brittany Coleman led the Falcons with 15 points, and Melissa Patterson chipped in 11 with good perimeter shooting.

"Melissa was stepping up and hitting the outside shot," Ambrose said. "It was nice to see that. She has a little more confidence in her shot, and that's going to help us. If teams have to respect the outside shot by Melissa, it's going to open things up inside."

Destina Guier had seven rebounds and did a nice job on the boards,

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, D5

Marlins retain Oakland County crown

BY DAN O'MEARA
 STAFF WRITER

Life at the top can be a little lonely, but coach Jim Downs and his Farmington Hills Mercy swimmers don't mind. They're accustomed to it.

The Marlins won their sixth consecutive Oakland County championship Saturday at Lake Orion High School.

Mercy had 356 team points, runner-up Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood 256 and third-place Birmingham Groves 228. North Farmington was eighth (131).

"Nobody wants to see you win," Downs said. "It's like the Yankees. The only ones

GIRLS SWIMMING

there rooting for you are your own parents and kids. Other people come to see their kids swim and our kids lose.

"We had a lot of parents in the bleachers. It was great to be able to look up and see parents cheering their kids on whether they were first or 16th. Kids look up and see them waving their flags, and it really pumps them up."

Downs said the Marlins weren't so concerned about extending their string of championships as they were doing the

best they could.

"I told them, 'Other people want this as bad as you do. You can't get complacent about it,'" Downs said.

"Homecoming was Friday night and, usually, that's the kiss of death because everybody is tired. But they set their own curfew that night, and I have to give them a lot of credit."

The Marlins had a little extra incentive to win since the winning team received two submarine sandwiches.

"That put a whole new outlook on it for our team," Downs said. "That got their attention real big."

PLEASE SEE SWIMMERS, D3

Mercy runners add 4th league victory

CROSS COUNTRY

Farmington Hills Mercy improved its dual-meet record to 4-1 in Catholic League cross country

Tuesday with a 23-34 over Ladywood.

The Marlins filled the top three places with Shannon LaFave (20:21), Elizabeth Williams (20:45) and Megan Andrezjak (21:08).

Ladywood grabbed the next four places, but Mercy clinched the win by taking the next four.

Cathy Shubert was eighth

(22:20), Amanda Nagy ninth (22:25), Lauren Longley 10th (22:28) and Karen Tepp 11th (22:41)

"We didn't run well at all (Saturday in the Oakland County meet)," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "If we ran like that today, we would have lost. I was real happy with the way we ran today."

"We made some improve-

PLEASE SEE RUNNERS, D7



Sophomore Shannon LaFave was the overall race winner Tuesday, leading Mercy to a dual-meet win over Ladywood with a time of 20:21.

ELIZABETH CARNOGIE | OBSERVER

Dreams for sale here today.



Find your dream home in today's
 Classified REAL ESTATE listings.