

Sports

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ OUTDOORS

Marlins slip past Hawks

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison refused to go away and played yet another close game Monday in the Class A district tournament opener at West Bloomfield.

But the victory went to Farmington Hills Mercy, which made free throws at crunch time to overcome a fisty effort by Harrison in girls basketball, 45-41.

The win advanced the Marlins (11-8) to the next round Wednesday against Farmington. The final game will be played at 7 p.m. Friday.

"I don't think Mercy played a real good basketball game," Mercy coach Kristin Gulin said. "We walked in the door overconfident. I just didn't think it was our best performance."

"Harrison played a real good game. We were fortunate to walk out with a victory."

Baskets by Jessica and Kayla Condeni trimmed a six-point Mercy lead to two, 41-39, with less than two minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

But a technical foul against the Hawks (8-13) opened the door for the Marlins to clinch the win with free throws.

Despite shooting less than 50 percent at the line overall, Mercy made four of six at the end of the game.

Natasha LaGrande made both technical shots, and Anne Roosevelt and Valesha Turner added one each in the final minute.

Jessica Condeni's layup with 3.1 seconds remaining made the score 44-41 and kept hope alive for Harrison, which needed a steal and a three-pointer.

But Turner took the inbound pass, covered up the ball, was fouled and tacked on another free throw with a second left.

"I'm really proud of these girls," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "We were climbing the hill, trying to beat some good teams and kinda ran out of time here (at the end of the season)."

"Mercy is very good. They're deep and athletic, and they play hard. We knew we had to play a great game to beat them. We were very close."

Roosevelt scored a game-high 13 points, and she

PLEASE SEE MARLINS, D2

Sidelines

All-Stars named

The Ontario Hockey League announced the players who will represent the OHL's Western Conference at the Hershey Cup All-Star Series game Nov. 22 in Kitchener. Among those included is Chad LaRose of the Plymouth Whalers.

LaRose leads all OHL goal-scorers with 24. He is one of two Whalers chosen for the game. The other is Stephen Weiss, who was drafted by and is playing for the Florida Panthers. If Weiss is not returned by today, another player will be selected to replace him.

Lady Raiders win

Oakland Community College rolled to an 89-51 win over visiting Lansing CC in women's basketball Tuesday.

It was the first win in three games for the Lady Raiders (1-2), who led at half-time, 34-18. Meagan Thornberry scored 18 points. Ashlee Larsen 17, Larissa Taylor 15 and Dana Millard 14 for OCC. Nine players had between three and six rebounds for the Lady Raiders, who were led by Thornberry and Amanda Shammass. Millard also had seven assists and five steals. Larsen nine steals and five assists and Taylor eight assists.

Katrina Leak was one of three Lansing (1-1) players in double figures with 13 points. Guard Anissa Stille had 16 rebounds and eight assists.

OCC men lose

Francisco Romero scored a game-high 23 points to lead Grand Rapids Community College to an 83-66 win over host Oakland CC in men's basketball Saturday.

Will Pendegross scored 15 points. Michael Russell 13, Romel Murray 12 and Craig Myre 10 for the Raiders (0-4). Myre also had 14 rebounds. Guard Brad Pompey had six assists and six steals to go with seven points. Josh Hain added 18 points and 14 rebounds for unbeaten Grand Rapids (3-0), which lead at half, 37-31.

Hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the Oakland Titans AAU girls basketball team (ages 12-13) will be 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, and Friday, Dec. 13, at Kensington Academy in Beverly Hills.

The fee is \$15 for two sessions. For more information call (248) 471-5491 after 5:30 p.m. or email OaklandTitans@hotmail.com.

Gridiron honor

Wayne State sophomore Stephen Wayne of Farmington earned a spot on the academic all-district second team with a 3.74 grade point in pre-dentistry.

Wayne is third on the team in scoring with 47 points. He has made eight of 12 field goals, including a long of 44 yards, and 23 of 31 PAT attempts.

MIAA sack leader

Brett Foster of Farmington Hills (Harrison) led the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association in sacks with eight in 10 games.

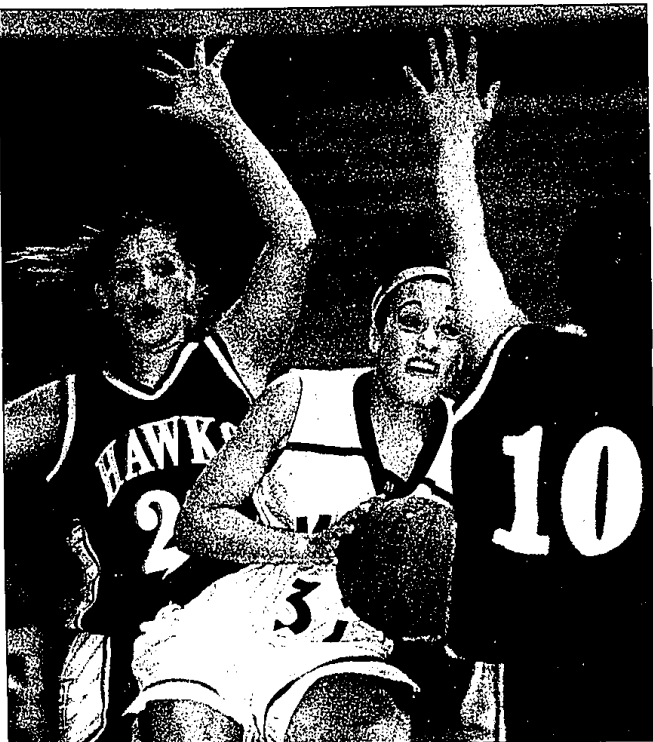
Foster, a defensive lineman at Kalamazoo College, was named to the MIAA all-league second team.

MIAA sack leader

Brett Foster of Farmington Hills (Harrison) led the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association in sacks with eight in 10 games.

Foster, a defensive lineman at Kalamazoo College, was named to the MIAA all-league second team.

PLEASE SEE CC, D7



BILL BRUESLER/OBSERVER

Mercy's Samantha Foggio looks for a way out of a difficult situation with Harrison's Jessica Condeni (left) and Kayla Condeni (10) playing tight defense Monday in a district tournament game.

CC faces new foe in semis

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER

It wouldn't be a football playoff run for Redford-Detroit Catholic Central if the Shamrocks didn't play a team from the pass-heavy Macomb Area Conference's Red Division.

FOOTBALL

Sterling Heights Stevenson or Utica Eisenhower are the usual foils during the playoffs, having played CC six times in the last 11 post-seasons.

This year, there's a new kid in town as Macomb Dakota, in its seventh season of football, tries to keep CC from defending its Division 1 state championship in Saturday's 1 p.m. semifinal at Birmingham Groves.

"They're a typical MAC team in the aspect that they throw more than they run," said CC's Tom Mach. "We've played a couple of schools like that this year, such as Brother Rice and Divine Child. But (Dakota) is very good at doing it. They put a lot of pressure on the individuals and force you to cover them 1-on-1."

The Cougars and CC both sport 11-1 records and both have dominated their opponents on the scoreboard - with CC earning a 368-94 edge to Dakota's 326-139. The similarities end on defense, though.

"We'll run about 55 percent of the time and throw 45," said Dakota coach Mike Giannone. "We run a spread offense out of the shotgun. We're similar to Utica

PLEASE SEE CC, D7

Mercy wins Catholic League title again

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

As expected, Farmington Hills Mercy was a runaway winner Saturday in the Catholic League girls swimming and diving championship meet.

With victories in nine of 12 events, the Marlins racked up a total of 485 points to finish well ahead of runner-up Birmingham Marian, which had 329.

Senior Caitlin Kelly and freshman Kara Small were double winners for Mercy.

Kelly finished first in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races with times of 24.98 and 53.92, respectively.

SWIMMING

Small, another freestyle standout but a distance specialist, had victories in the 200 and 500 in which she had times of 1:59.13 and 5:17.39.

The other individual winners were senior Elizabeth Garlow in the breaststroke (1:09.42) and junior Katie Naglick in the butterfly (59.25).

Senior Eloise Page, Garlow, Naglick and Kelly comprised the winning medley relay team, which had a 1:53.92 time.

The Marlins swept first place in the relays with a pair of freestyle wins. Carrie

Roble, Caryn Switaj, Small and Garlow combined efforts for a time of 1:43.63 in the 200, and Mara Loniewski, Page, Roble and Naglick went 4:38.50 in the 400.

The Marlins also had three more swimmers qualify for the state meet this weekend in Ypsilanti.

Ellen Crowley and Emily Gariepy made the cut in the butterfly and Sarah Schuchardt in the 100 freestyle.

"We went in with 10 kids and to get three more at this meet was exceptional," Mercy coach Jim Downs said.

"If people weren't cheering for someone

PLEASE SEE SWIM, D5

Flyers start new season with optimism

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Mark Vellucci enters his first season as head coach with high expectations for the Farmington Unified hockey team.

The Flyers, who faced off with West Bloomfield in the opener Wednesday, return 12 players from a team that was 17-9-1 and the regional runner-up to perennial state champion Catholic Central.

"I see us winning the majority of games, easily," Vellucci said. "That's not being cocky. It's just the confidence I have in this team."

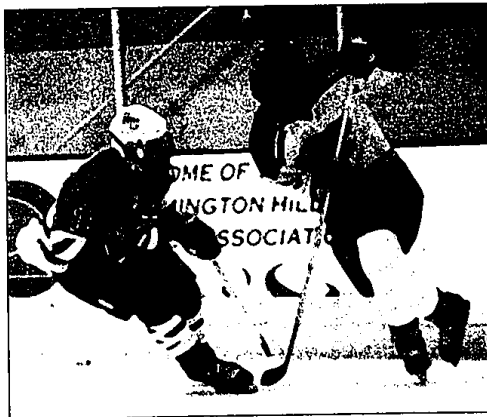
"The CC game was a big disappointment for us. It's been a constant reminder for the players that we were that close to going farther in the playoffs. Hopefully, we'll get that chance again and go farther."

Brad Heraghty and Matt Lee, a pair of all-around players in past seasons, have graduated, but the Flyers still have plenty of offensive firepower.

Senior center Keith Hay, a 6-foot-4, 190-pound center, played on the top line with Lee and Heraghty last season and will be relied upon heavily for scoring this season, according to Vellucci.

Playing alongside Hay on the No. 1 line will be seniors Brett Ramsay and Mike Hand at right and left wings, respectively.

PLEASE SEE FLYERS, D4



SHARON LEWIS/OBSERVER

Senior Keith Hay returns to start at center on the No. 1 line for the Farmington Unified hockey team, which began a new season Wednesday.

Dreams for sale here today.

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