

Sports

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PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ HEALTH

Sidelines

College sports

Concordia University sophomore Matt Mikel was named to the all-tournament team at the Mount Vernon (Ohio) Homecoming Basketball Tournament the weekend of Nov. 15-16.

The Farmington High graduate and former All-Observer point guard scored 37 points and had 10 assists in two games.

Concordia (2-1) placed third in the four-team tournament.

Junior Erin Spiro of Farmington (Birmingham Mariani) won the 400-yard individual medley (4:48.72) and the 200 butterfly (2:13.58) in Albion College's 128-107 loss to Hope College in women's swimming Nov. 9.

On freshman Becca Hatlin of Howell (Farmington Hills Mercy) was third in the 100 freestyle (1:01.01).

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Mercy's Whitney Johnson goes to the hoop against Samantha Mahoney in the district tournament final Friday night. West Bloomfield won the game, 59-49.

Marlins finish 2nd to Lakers in tournament

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield overcame a determined effort by Farmington Hills Mercy to win its sixth consecutive district championship in girls basketball Friday, 59-49.

The Lakers will play Birmingham Mariani in a regional tournament game 6 p.m. Monday at Northville High School.

"This is just another step toward our main goal of getting back to state and going to CMU again," West Bloomfield coach Pam Mahoney said.

"We like to say it's a game of inches, we're an inch at a time, and it all adds up to a mile. This was another inch game."

Mercy senior Whitney Johnson scored 22 points to offset a 21-point performance by West Bloomfield junior Samantha Mahoney.

But the Lakers (19-4) were a little better at the other positions and, led by 6-foot Cassandra Calagno and 5-foot-10 Randall Hurst, dominated the backboards, 63-36.

"Our focus was trying to contain (Mahoney)," Mercy coach Kristin Guinn said. "She makes everyone

BASKETBALL

else around her look so good.

"I think (the difference) was our lack of boxing out. There were some big boards we should've had, and they went to West Bloomfield. It seemed every time we needed the ball we lacked the rebound."

"When we're out guarding Samantha, then we're not underneath where we need to be. It's like at Catch 22."

"You have to defend Mahoney and, when you're defending her, other things open up and she (finds the open player)."

Guard Veronica White and Calagno contributed 12 points each for the Lakers. Hurst, who replaced Calagno when the latter picked up three fouls, added six and Maria Martin five.

Senior Anne Roosevelt scored 10 points and senior Samantha Foggio nine for the Marlins (12-9).

The Lakers threatened to pull away in the first quarter, taking a 17-9 lead. But the Marlins rallied to get within a point late in the second before Calagno hit a layup at

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, C2

2002 all-area golfers form elite team

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

Call them the Elite Eight. The Observer & Eccentric's 2002 All-Area Boys Golf Team consists of eight top-flight linkers representing eight different schools — Rochester Hills Stony Creek, Birmingham Groves, Detroit Country Day, Lake Orion, Rochester Adams, Farmington Harrison, Bloomfield Hills Lahar and Birmingham Seaholm. The team, recently selected by a panel of area coaches, is split evenly with four seniors and four juniors.

The coach of the year is Jim Crosby from Birmingham Groves. Following is a preview of each first team player:

FIRST TEAM

JEFF BEIER (Lake Orion): Beier, a senior, played three years for the Lake Orion varsity golf

team. Beier won the West Bloomfield Invitational and the first Oakland Activities Association Division I tournament at Bald Mountain. The OAA scholar athlete was second at the second OAA tourney at Heather Highlands. The Lake Orion captain played 11th at the Oakland County meet, tied for seventh at the state regional tournament and placed 32nd at the Division I state finale. Beier was medalist in five of six dual matches and finished with a 38.0 dual-meet average and a 77.3 tournament average. "Jeff had one of the best scoring averages our high school has ever had," said Lake Orion coach Monte Callahan. "His strength is his ball striking. He was very consistent in his driving and irons, plus he has the mental game. He's an all-around great kid who does a lot of community work."

JEFF BICKLEY (Seaholm): Bickley, a Division 2 All-Stater, was medalist in seven of 11 dual matches, twice shooting 1-under par. The Maple Junior won the University of Detroit Jesuit Invitational with a 67 and took the state regional tournament with a round of 71. Bickley won the first OAA league tournament and placed second in the second OAA tourney. He posted averages of 38.2 (duals) and 75.3 (tournaments). "Jeff has been on the Seaholm varsity since his freshman year and his future looks very bright," said Seaholm coach Leon Braisted. "He is a coach's dream when it comes to shooting, displaying leadership, playing ability and attitude, and when it comes to academics."

DAN DOYLE (Stoney Creek): Doyle had an exceptional season in Stoney Creek's first-year

program. He finished second at the Division 2 state meet, losing by one stroke to Gaylor's Adam Miller (144-145). Doyle tied for first at the regional but lost the playoff to earn the runner-up medal. Doyle won the first OAA Division III meet at Kensington Metropark, placed fifth at the Oakland County tournament and tied for sixth at The Eccentric tournament. He averaged 74.7 (tournaments) and 37.1 (duals) and was medalist in all seven of his team's dual matches this season. "Dan's a great player because he's so consistent. Every single day he was one or two over par — his consistency is unbelievable," said Stoney Creek head coach Chris Smith. "His attitude is his strength. When he has a bad hole, you'd

PLEASE SEE GOLF, C5

Flyers start season with pair of wins

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Unified hockey team had a good start to a new season, winning its first two games last week.

After beating West Bloomfield in the opener Wednesday, 3-1, the Flyers defeated Dearborn Divine Child in the first round of the Metro High School Invitational Friday at Novi Ice Arena, 4-2.

"It's what I expected," Farmington

HOCKEY

coach Mark Vellucci said. "If we all play together and everyone does his job, we play well."

In the tournament game, Divine Child scored first in the first period, but Farmington tied it with a short-handed goal by Brett Laird with 2:34 remaining.

It was the Flyers' only shot of the period and followed a pass from Ian Chernobry.

"They definitely outshutted and outskated us in the first period," Vellucci said. "We came out in the second and put pressure on them. We outplayed them the whole period."

Laird assisted on the next goal, setting up Chernobry for a back-handed goal. The Flyers held a 2-1 lead through two periods.

The Falcons forced another tie score early in the third, but Keith Hay scored the game-winner with five minutes to play.

Victor Calagias dumped the puck into the Divine Child end, and Hay went for the rebound. The opposing goalie bobbled the puck, and Hay was on the spot to bang it in.

Farmington's Nick Hermiz added an insurance goal with two minutes remaining. He fired a shot from the left wing that fooled the goalie and went straight in the net.

The Falcons pulled their goalie in the final minute, and Flyers' netminder Leetal Levran made some outstanding saves to preserve the win, according to Vellucci.

"Going into the room (between the first and second periods), the guys

PLEASE SEE FLYERS, C4

Runners earn accolades

BY DANIEL STICKBAUD
STAFF WRITER

Is bigger better? How about youth over experience?

Well, these questions are hard to answer, but they are a true reflection of the 2002 All-Area Boys Cross-Country Team.

This year's squad is the biggest in size in years, as the talent pool is really starting to escalate throughout this region of the state. The first-team represents 10 individuals from eight schools, while the second team consists of 14 individuals from 10 different schools.

And every runner on the first and second team broke 16:50 this season, the first time in years that has happened.

Furthermore, the first team is relatively young, as three seniors, two juniors, four sophomores and one freshman make up the first team, while seven seniors, four juniors and two sophomores comprise the second team. That means that two-thirds of the area's top 24 runners will return next fall.

That's exciting news for fans of prep cross-country in this area.

Here's a look at the resumes of this year's top performers, as selected by a panel of area coaches:

CROSS COUNTRY

FIRST TEAM

Donnie Richmond, Oxford: Richmond broke Oxford's long-standing school record by finishing 11th at the Lower Peninsula Division I state meet, running 15:48.1 and eclipsing the old 15:51 school mark by Mike Goodfellow set 12 years ago. The three-time state qualifier and two-time all-stater was undefeated in dual meets for the third straight season, and won the Flint Metro League meet, Romeo regional, Oxford Invitational, Redford Catholic Central Invitational Division II, and Ortonville-Brandon Invitational titles. The gifted junior also finished fourth at the Oakland County meet, third at the Rochester Adams Invitational, and second at the Warren DeLaSalle Invitational, and has qualified for the Footlocker Midwest Regional Championships in Madison, Wis., on Thanksgiving weekend as a seeded runner.

"Donnie has done everything that we have expected him to do," said Oxford coach Ray Suteland. "He just keeps getting better. But the No. 1 thing about him is he helps make

PLEASE SEE RUNNERS, C3



Harrison senior Brian Coats earned a place on the Observer & Eccentric all-area second team in cross-country.

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