



Gymnastics
Farmington
Unified wins the
Salem
Invitational. D5

Sidelines

Wildcat star

Sophomore Samantha McComb of Farmington Hills scored seven of eight free throws in the last 90 seconds to secure a 52-46 win for Northwestern University over Michigan State in women's basketball Jan. 2 in Evanston, Ill.

McComb, a 2001 graduate of North Farmington High School, also had four assists and was the game-high scorer with 14 points.

She followed that with a career-high, 21-point performance two days later in a 70-51 loss to crosstown rival DePaul.

McComb is one of only two NU players to start all 13 games. The ex-Raider leads the Wildcats in minutes played, free throw percentage and three-pointers.

McComb, who is second in total points and assists, was named Northwestern University female athlete of the week.

Flyers win big

The Farmington Unified Flyers began the 2003 portion of their schedule with their 11th consecutive victory Saturday night.

Keith Hay, Ian Chornoby, Louie Powell and Mike Hand scored two goals apiece as the unbeaten Flyers skated to a 12-1 win over Berkley at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The Flyers (11-0) outshot the Bears (2-5-2) in the first period, 16-2, and enjoyed an 8-0 lead at the end. The game was stopped after two periods due to the 10-goal mercy rule.

Phil Scott, Victor Calagias, Mark Rault and Adam Chornoby added one goal each.

Hand also had three assists. Hay, Nick Hermiz and Brett Laird had two assists apiece. Chornoby, Jon Noble, Brett Ramsay, Rault and Calagias clipped in one assist each.

"We just really dominated them," Flyers coach Mark Vellucci said. "The passing was really good, the play-making, too."

"Even when we were up 6-0, we were still passing the puck. Nobody was trying to do individual stuff. It was one of those games where everything was going our way."

Farmington had a big game Wednesday night at Clarkston. Both teams are state-ranked and contenders in the Oakland Activities Association Division I.

Baseball sign-up

South Farmington Baseball will be registering players for the 2003 season in January at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt.

Registration sessions will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11; 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18.

New players must have a birth certificate with them.

The costs are \$50 for T-ball, \$100 for all softball players and baseball players under age 15 and \$140 for baseball players age 15 to 18.

For additional information, call the SFB Hotline (248-474-3925) or see the Web site at www.clemtz.com/sfb/.



North Farmington's Marcus McComb goes to the hoop for two of his game-high 29 points Tuesday in a win over host Farmington.

McComb's 29 leads Raiders to 64-52 win

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Marcus McComb's 29-point performance helped to ensure his North Farmington basketball team began the New Year in a positive way Tuesday.

Winless in December against all Detroit opponents, the Raiders earned their first victory in their 2003 debut by beating host Farmington, 64-52.

Both teams are 1-4. McComb made seven of 11 field goals, which included four three-pointers, and 11 of 13 free throws, leaving no doubt he was the best player on the court.

A four-year starter at point guard, McComb also had seven rebounds, five at the offensive end.

"He's a senior and that's what he's supposed to do - take over the game," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said. "He's a talented athlete; he knows the game."

"They put some other kids they have around him, and they're a good basketball team."

Junior Gary Kennedy pumped in another 16 points for North, including a pair of treys, and sophomore center Sean Mackler made a 12-point contribution.

"The kid I thought was a big key for them was Kennedy," Norgrove added. "You expect McComb to get his points and Mackler. Kennedy stepped up and hit some big shots. I thought he

was the player who really hurt us."

Junior Marcus Holman led the Falcons with 13 points. Senior Danny Preston and junior Georgio Holt added eight points apiece, junior Joe Green seven and senior Jeff McCullough six.

McComb's three triples early in the game helped to jump-start the Raiders, who doubled their lead at the end of the first quarter, 18-9.

Farmington battled back to within three, 27-24, when Green hit a triple late in the second. McComb drove the baseline for a layup with four seconds left to give North a 32-26 halftime lead.

"They came in and attacked us," Norgrove said. "They forced us to get a little more aggressive defensively and caused us to make mistakes."

"They pulled us out of what we wanted to do. We have trouble scoring and, when we get behind, it's hard for us to come back."

The Raiders had a 14-2 run to start the third quarter and increased their lead to 46-28 in the first four minutes of the second half.

The Falcons recovered a bit to make it 53-36 at the end of the period, but the Raiders had virtually put the game out of reach with a 17-point lead.

"We're not veteran enough to do anything different," North coach

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, D2

Mercy girls finish No. 1 in 1st meet

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy began the 2003 girls ski season Tuesday by winning a giant slalom race at Mount Brighton, while Redford Catholic Central finished third in the boys competition.

Mercy's Liz Kujala was third overall with a two-run time of 39:74, and coach Tom Gable was pleasantly surprised by sophomore Rachelle Benzly's eighth-place finish (36:69).

Nicole Zaleski was 10th (37:10), Margot Spera 12th (37:44), Nikki Cwirka 20th (41:31) and Kelly Martin 35th (46:55).

"The Mercy girls skied a little cautiously overall," Gable said, adding the course was softer than expected. "They definitely were not skidding up to full speed; they were fairly tentative."

"But we had a real surprise (in Benzly). She skied well and now she's in the spotlight, so she'll have to continue to impress me and the team. She's a diamond in the rough."

"It appeared all the girls were a little tentative, it being the opening race and having the course deteriorate a little quicker than we

PLEASE SEE SKI, D2

North boys post fast times in dual victory

North Farmington made nine state cuts Tuesday while winning a dual meet with visiting Livonia Churchill in boys swimming, 124-61.

Even in cases where the Raiders had previously qualified for the Division II state meet, they bettered their previous performances and swam season-best times.

"The kids swam very well. We had a lot of very good performances from everybody tonight," North coach Pat Duthie said.

"Being in Division II, I think

we're going to have a lot of nights when we're making state qualifying times."

"We're just very, very pleased. It's nice to see - after all the hard work the boys put in over the holiday season, to come back and swim fast."

Mohamed Bachrouche and Jeff Mataya had two individual state cuts each.

Bachrouche won the 200- and 100-yard freestyle races with qualifying times of 1:54.02 and 51.14.

Mataya was first in the 500 freestyle (5:08.12) and second

in the 200 freestyle (1:54.07). Jason Bank qualified in the individual medley (2:07.52) and Brad Smith in the breaststroke (1:06.31) with first-place swims.

Bank also was a part of three relays that finished first and made state cuts, Bachrouche and Lucas DiGla two each.

Thomas Naughton, Matt Newman, Bank and DiGla won the medley relay; DiGla, Alejandro Valtierra, Bachrouche and Bank comprised the 200 freestyle team, and Bachrouche, Keith Jones,

Valtierra and Bank were first in the 400 freestyle.

The Raiders, who are 2-0 in dual meets, entertain Rochester tonight in an Oakland Activities Association Division I event.

STEVENSON TOPS CC

Depth does matter. Livonia Stevenson proved that Tuesday night as the Spartans took just four wins in their meet with Catholic

PLEASE SEE SWIMMING, D2

Falcons down Highlanders in OAA test

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington knocked off defending Oakland Activities Association Division I tri-champion Rochester Adams in volleyball Monday night, 15-13, 15-11.

Deanna Gauer, Melissa Patterson and Jill Alspach had four kills apiece to lead the visiting Falcons, who are 1-1 in OAA division dual matches and 10-6-1 overall.

Alspach also had nine defensive digs and served five points, but it was one of her four kills that made an impression with coach Alex Perrin, not to men-

tion the Highlanders.

"She had the kill of the match; she unloaded on one," Perrin said. "The other team got out of the way and hoped it went out. They weren't about to get in front of it."

"The next five times we swung at the ball you could see them flinch. The hit was so powerful it affected the match."

"Jill hits the ball from a high point with a ton of velocity, and it's very tough to block. She gets great leverage on the ball."

Gauer, who was perfect as an attacker with no errors, also

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, D2



Farmington spikers Lisa Hellebyck, (from left) Deanna Gauer and Jessica Janowicz celebrate a win over Rochester Adams Monday.

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