

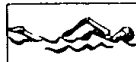
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# Sports

PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ OUTDOORS

## Raiders win again

North Farmington won its sixth dual meet without a loss in boys swimming and diving Tuesday night. D2



## Sidelines

### Peake honored

The Plymouth Whalers will add something special prior to a game that figures to be special anyway on Saturday. The Whalers will retire the jersey of one of their all-time stars, Pat Peake, in a ceremony prior to their 7:30 p.m. game against the Windsor Spitfires. Peake was a standout for the Whalers whose NHL career was cut short by injuries. The game against Windsor has all the makings of a first-rate rivalry. The Spitfires are currently second in the OHL's West Division with a 27-15-21 record (57 points). Facing only Plymouth (28-8-6; 61 points).

### OCC women win

The Oakland Community College women's basketball team improved to 5-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference by defeating Henry Ford CC Saturday, 70-25. Tiffany Burt scored a game-high 21 points, and Meegon Thornberry and Larissa Taylor added 12 apiece. Jessica O Dell and Taylor led the Lady Raiders to a 51-46 edge in rebounding with eight each.

### Raiders win 1st

Oakland Community College earned its first MCCA Eastern Conference victory in men's basketball Saturday, beating Henry Ford CC in overtime, 77-72. The host Raiders overcame a 44-33 halftime deficit and forced overtime by outscoring the Hawks in the second half, 29-22. OCC, which had an 11-6 advantage in overtime, is 1-4 in the conference and 3-15 overall. Henry Ford is 1-3 and 10-7.

### All-star tryout

Tryouts for an elite-level, II and under team that will represent Michigan at the American Amateur Youth Baseball Alliance National All-Star Baseball Tournament will take place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, at Total Baseball in Wixom. The cost is \$5. Contact manager Paul Lubanski at 248-213-4750 for more information. The team will be known as The Michigan All-Stars. The AAABA tournament will be played July 26 to Aug. 2 in St. Louis, Mo.

# Flyers score another big victory

BY DAN O'MEARA  
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington Unified posted another big win in high school hockey Saturday night, defeating once-beaten and No. 9-rated Birmingham Unified, 2-0. "It's a big win for us," Flyers coach Mark Vellucci said. "A lot of people were saying we haven't played quality teams. But

we've played two in the last two weeks and shut out both of them. "I think we made somewhat of a statement there. It was a really great effort by the boys, and it's very rewarding to coach them."

Undeclared and second-ranked Farmington is 6-0 in the Oakland Activities Association Division I and 15-0 overall. Birmingham is 2-1-2 and 9-

2-2. "If anyone had told me we would be 15-0, I'd have said they were crazy, but we have a good thing going," Vellucci said. "The kids know that, but we're taking it one game at a time."

Louie Powell started the scoring from Vince McKeon and Chris Frayne at 12:20 of the first period, and the score stayed 1-0 until midway in the third

period. "It was an evenly-matched game," Vellucci said. "Both teams came out hard and hit. It was just a good game all around."

"Going into the third period, I told the guys we had to get the next goal. If they tie the game, the momentum could

PLEASE SEE FLYERS, D5

## Mercy tops Ladywood in 3 games

BY DAN O'MEARA  
 STAFF WRITER

Lady Luck smiled on coach Ed Ruhl and his Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball team Tuesday night when they entertained rival Livonia Ladywood.

It so happened the Blazers were missing their top player, 6-foot-10 senior hitter Kristen Bachor, who was sick with the flu. "The Marlies capitalized on her absence but still needed three games to win the Catholic League Central Division match, 15-10, 7-15, 16-7."

"We knew it would be a lot lighter battle than normally with Ladywood," Ruhl said. "Even without 70 percent of their offense, they were still that good."

"We were lucky to get them when Kristen Bachor was sick. It's better to be lucky than good, but they battled real tough."

"It says a lot about Ladywood, because they went three without the majority of their offense."

Mercy improved to 4-1 in the division and 46-16 in all games. Ladywood, which defeated Mercy in the Central Michigan tournament final last month, is 3-2 and 25-6 in matches.

The Blazers rebounded from the first-game loss to eventually dominate the second game Tuesday. Ladywood was slow to get rolling and trailed early, but it found the spark it needed with five straight service points by Amy Szymanski for a 6-2 lead, which the Blazers never lost.

Danielle Palasak, Laura Shigdas, Rachael Malenfant and Szymanski led the attack as Ladywood gradually, between a host of aids, put the game away. But the third game was virtually all Mercy, which established an 8-1 lead following four service points by Katie McDonald, who had two aces during the run.

The Blazers closed the margin to 8-7, but the Marlies surged again with Sarah Switz, Chloe Kraft and Jane Roosevelt combining to serve the final seven points. "We completely lanked any intensity at

PLEASE SEE MERCY, D3



Bill Blesler/Staff Photographer

Mercy's Chloe Kraft tries to hit the ball past Ladywood's Rachael Malenfant during a Catholic League volleyball match Tuesday.

## Win streak at 5 in row for Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA  
 STAFF WRITER

Gary Kennedy got the ball rolling Tuesday with some hot, first-quarter shooting, which helped to propel North Farmington to a 60-47 win over host Waterford Kettering in boys basketball.

The junior forward connected on his first four three-point attempts and had 12 of his game-high 18 points in the first quarter. Marcus McComb added 10

### BASKETBALL

points. Sean Mackler eight and Darrin Rawls seven for the Raiders, who led 20-10 after one quarter and 36-23 at halftime. Their lead was 42-38 at the end of three.

Rawls also had 13 rebounds, McComb seven rebounds and seven steals.

Kettering's high scorer was senior guard Grant St. Armour with 16 points. Sophomore Justin Switzer finished with 13 and junior Chris Reeves nine.

The Raiders were 16-of-28 shooting free throws; the Captains made eight of 10.

"It was a big road win for us," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "Kettering is a tough place to play, and we were happy to get out of there with a win tonight."

"I thought the bench played well again, especially Matt Leach, Al Kasputis and David Grant. Obviously, Gary had a great shooting night for us."

It was the fifth straight win for North, which is 3-0 in the Oakland Activities Association Division III and 8-6 overall. Kettering 1-2 and 4-5.

"I told the kids tonight I doubt if

## Woods to take talent to Missouri

BY DAN O'MEARA  
 STAFF WRITER

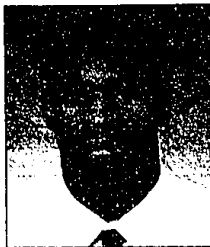
Missouri is known as the "Show Me State," and Marcus Woods plans to do just that - show people what he can do when he goes there.

After being told he was too small for the Michigan State offense, Marcus Woods will still have an opportunity to play football for a major Division I school.

In a late development on the high school recruiting scene, the Farmington Harrison tailback made a surprise commitment to the University of Missouri last week.

The Tigers of the Big 12 Conference weren't in the picture where Woods was concerned until just a couple weeks ago.

Through a family friend, Woods met a Detroit DeTeresa High School assistant coach, Sanford Callier, who used his connections to



Woods

put the word out about the all-star running back.

Callier used game tapes the Woods family provided to compile a 10-minute video on Woods and distributed copies to coaches at schools primarily in the West.

"People who heard about Marcus and didn't think they had a shot got real interested," Woods' father, Kevin Woods Sr., said. "He started getting calls. Missouri was one. They offered him a scholarship based on the film. One thing led to another."

Woods visited the Missouri campus last weekend and accepted the Tigers' offer Saturday.

After having offers from MSU and Nebraska fall by the wayside, Woods said he went there thinking, "If this is a good place, I might have to go ahead and take it," he said.

"When I got there, it was better than I thought it would be. This place blew my mind; I loved it. The coaches were real; they didn't put on a front; they didn't act."

"They treated me like a person and were concerned with me. They wanted me, but they were more

PLEASE SEE WOODS, D6

## Area teams do battle in Observerland meet

BY BRAD MONASTRIE  
 STAFF WRITER

Although the showdowns aren't quite as dramatic as "brother vs. brother" that you'd see on some Civil War drama, the term "neighbor vs. neighbor" definitely applies to an upcoming event.

Prep wrestling teams from all over the area will converge on Livonia Churchill High School for the 12th

### WRESTLING

Annual Observerland Wrestling Meet Saturday. The action gets under way at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door, and finals are expected to start around 6:30 p.m.

The meet is the only one that gathers all teams from the Observer Newspaper coverage area together for one meet. This includes teams from Livonia, Redford, Garden City, Plymouth, Farmington and Westland. Redford Catholic Central has been the dominant team in recent years. The Shamrocks captured the

PLEASE SEE OBSERVERLAND, D6

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