



Sidelines

A win for Mercy

Farmington Hills Mercy was missing its top skier Thursday but still managed to win the girls slalom competition in the Mount Brighton Interscholastic Ski Association. Junior Liz Kujala, a consistent No. 1 in league meets, was away in Minnesota, competing in a Central United States Ski Association regional event. Senior Nicole Zaleski picked up the slack in the wake of Kujala's absence, finishing in first place with a combined, two-run time of 3:41.61. Senior Margot Spera was seventh (38.26), sophomore Rachelle Beasley eighth (38.51) and senior NIKKI Cwirka 14th (40.93). In non-scoring finishes, senior Kelly Martin placed 31st (41.95) and junior Kat Shriver 33rd (49.07). The Marfins had 30 team points, Birmingham Groves 46 and Brighton 52.

Whaler wins

David Liffon of the Plymouth Whalers was one of four winners in the National Hockey League Skills Testing, held in conjunction with the Home Hardware Canadian Hockey League's Top Prospects game, which was played last Wednesday at Kitchener Memorial Auditorium. The Skills Testing was held last Tuesday at Kinsman Arena in Kitchener.

Liffon, a member of Team Orr, captured the Al MacInnis Hardest Shot Award, firing a shot that was clocked at 95.4 mph to beat Frank Reisterer from Team Cherry, who was clocked at 95.0 mph. In the game itself, Team Cherry scored three third-period goals to edge Team Orr - which led 3-1 early in the second period - 4-3.

Toughman on tap

The Original Toughman Contest will be 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1, at Detroit's Cobo Arena. Among the competitors will be 24-year-old Jason Ziemkowski of Farmington Hills. The 6-foot-1, 235-pound Ziemkowski will be among 22 fighters in the heavyweight division. It's not too late to enter the Toughman. Male and female boxers who live within 75 miles of Detroit can call 1-800-998-6844 or submit an entry form at www.toughmancontest.com (enter the database by Thursday, Jan. 30). Tickets (\$32, \$20 and \$25) are on sale at Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices and all Ticketmaster locations including Marshall Field's. Tickets are discounted for both nights. (313) 471-6616.

Northville run

The Galyn's Northville Solstice Run will be held Saturday, June 21, 2003. The event is designed to promote healthy lifestyles and fitness while providing amenities and entertainment within the Northville community. For more information, please call the Northville Parks and Recreation Department at (248) 449-9941 or see director Alan Whitehead at (248) 420-1376.



Junior Gary Kennedy goes to the basket for two of his game-high 31 points Friday night in North Farmington's 62-51 victory over crosstown rival Farmington Harrison.

Kennedy nets 31 as Raiders defeat Hawks

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

At halftime it looked as if North Farmington was headed for an easy victory in boys basketball Friday, leading by 19 points over visiting Farmington Harrison.

The Raiders did win, eventually, and extended their winning streak to six games.

But the Hawks didn't go quietly in the second half and made the Raiders work hard for a 62-51 victory.

"We need to give (Harrison) credit," North coach Tom Negoshian said. (Coach) Clayton Burch is doing a good job of keeping his kids in the game.

"Every time we play Harrison it's always a good rivalry and a great game. (Burch) did a great job of keeping his kids focused and in the game."

North is 4-0 in the Oakland Activities Association's Division III and 6-4 overall. Harrison is 0-4 and 1-9.

The Raiders' win was due in large part to an outstanding individual game by junior Gary Kennedy, who poured in 31 points, which included four three-point baskets.

"Marcus (McComb) played well but had an off night scoring (six points)," Negoshian said. "The kids understood that and kept going to Gary, and Gary, to his credit, kept stepping up."

"I don't know if the green light is the correct expression, but the kids did a great job of looking for those two, and even Marcus was doing a great job of looking for Gary and finding him."

The Hawks trimmed a 35-19 halftime deficit to 12 at the end of three quarters, 42-28.

North seemed to have a relatively safe, 51-37 lead with four minutes remaining in the game, but Harrison had an 9-0 run that suddenly made it a halfgame.

Junior Brandon Giles, who led the Hawks with 20 points, scored six of the nine, and Eric Zatzkin hit a three to put Harrison within five, 51-46, with 3:27 left to play.

"One thing we do a lot is come out with a slow start," Burch said. "We dig a hole that really hurts us, and we have to work that much harder trying to get out of the hole."

"We gave a great effort in the second half, but we waited until our backs were against the wall before we started playing basketball."

Kennedy's fourth triple and layups by McComb and Darrin Rawls gave North a 58-48 lead with 1:44 on the clock, but Giles sank a three to keep Harrison within seven and the outcome in doubt.

After an exchange of turnovers and a missed shot by the Raiders, Kennedy nailed two free throws, and Sean Mackley, who finished with 15 points, had an uncontested dunk at the end.

"We told the kids at halftime it would be a difficult second half," Negoshian said. "(Harrison) started with a great spark and we started kinda sluggishly."

PLEASE SEE RAIDERS, C2

North tops Berkley for 1st D-II win

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Coach Gus Dumlaio promised his North Farmington volleyball team would be new and improved when the second semester started. He was right.

The Raiders, with the help of four transfer players who became

eligible, earned their first victory in the Oakland Activities Association's Division II Thursday.

North looked a little rusty in the first game, according to Dumlaio, and lost to host Berkley, 11-15. But it rallied for victories in the next two, 16-4 and 16-9.

The Raiders had 11 players, which was three more than first semester, but were still one short of their full complement because one was sick.

"I did a lot of subbing tonight," Dumlaio said. "I wanted to get a look at a lot of players. We played well in the second and third games."

PLEASE SEE NORTH, C2

Falcons gain share of 1st place in OAA

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High put itself in position to achieve a pre-Friday night boys basketball season goal by defeating host Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, 43-39.

The Falcons gained a share of first place in the Oakland Activities Association's Division IV with the Cougars.

BASKETBALL

Both teams are 3-1. It could be a four-way tie if Madison and Lamphere, both of which were 2-1, also win Friday.

"Farmington is looking forward as a program to being able to compete at the top of the conference," coach Steve Norgrove said, "because now we've put ourselves in a position to compete for the conference championship."

Stoney Creek to five points in the first and third quarters, was outscored 16-9 in the second and trailed at halftime, 21-19. The Falcons pulled ahead after three periods, 32-26.

"We played an extremely good defensive game in the first and third quarters," Norgrove said. "We played

PLEASE SEE FALCONS, C2

Groves wins showdown with N. Farmington

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington made it a competition but suffered its first dual-meet victory in boys swimming Thursday night when visiting Birmingham Groves claimed a 96-89 victory.

The Raiders are 4-1 in the Oakland Activities Association's Division I and 6-1 overall. The Falcons are 5-0 and 9-0.

"We knew it would be tough to beat these guys," North coach Pat Duthie said, adding Groves is ranked No. 2 in the Division II coaches poll and North No. 4.

"But we made them swim well to beat us, especially since we only had three first places."

"We had a lot of good races tonight. (Losses) are going to happen. If you don't

SWIMMING

didn't come out on top, but they should, rightfully, be proud of their performance."

"In all honesty, we probably get beat by a better team. It was nice standing on the deck, knowing we're going toe-to-toe with people like Groves and Lahser."

"In most cases, we were just hoping to get some competitive swims. It was nice to be in a competitive position with them."

North's Bank was just .03 seconds off of first place in the individual meet.

Valliera 1:16 seconds in the 200 freestyle and Bachrouche a half second in the 50 freestyle.

"That's the kind of races we had," Duthie said. "We had a lot of real good swims, just not quite good enough."

"We were pleased because we forced

PLEASE SEE GROVES, C3

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