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Sports

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PREPS ■ RECREATION ■ HEALTH

Cancer care

St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia offers comprehensive care. C5

Sidelines

Rockets signup

Registration for the Farmington Rockets football program (players and cheerleaders) will be Saturday, March 8, at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt.

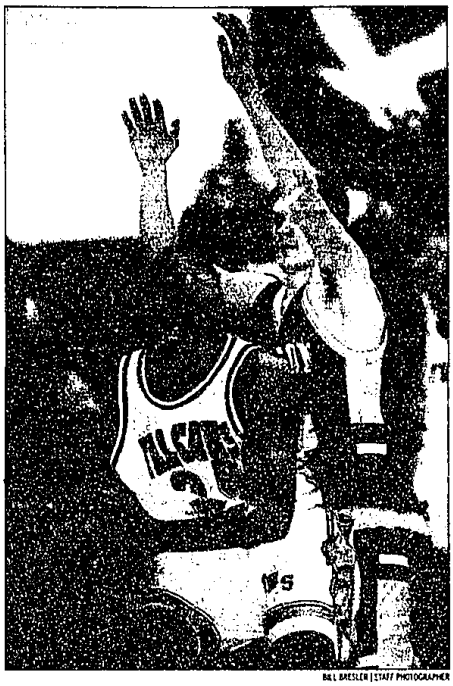
Returning players and cheerleaders can register 10 a.m. to noon. Open enrollment will take place between noon and 2 p.m.

Birth certificates and proof of health insurance must be provided at the time of registration. The fee is $200. Checks should be payable to the Farmington Rockets.

Perfect students

Nine Wayne State University student-athletes recorded perfect 4.00 grade-point averages in the fall semester.

Among the nine were two from Farmington Hills - women's hockey player Kim Spaulding (Farmington Harrison) and men's cross country runner Charles Stamboulian (North Farmington).



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior forward Danny Preston sizes up the situation Friday against Clawson. He scored 15 points to lead the Falcons to a 48-35 win.

Farmington wins again with defense, 48-35

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Scoring a lot of points isn't a big priority for coach Steve Norgrove and the Farmington High varsity basketball players.

It doesn't have to be, not when the Falcons play defense the way they do.

Another solid defensive effort Friday carried Farmington to a 48-35 win over visiting Clawson and kept the Falcons in first place.

Farmington is 5-1 in Division IV of the Oakland Activities Association and shares first place with Madison, the team the Falcons play Tuesday at Farmington.

It was also the fifth consecutive victory for the Falcons, who are 6-6 overall. The Trojans slip to 3-3 in the division and 8-4 in all games.

"Offense usually takes care of itself, especially at the high school level," Norgrove said. "We pride ourselves on getting it done defensively, and that's what we stick to."

The Falcons held the Trojans to less than 20 points for most of the game and just 21 field goal attempts through three quarters.

Farmington's defense helped it overcome a less-than-stellar shooting performance of 29 percent (13-of-45) while Clawson made 41 percent (14-of-34) of its attempts.

The Falcons had a decisive advantage at the free-throw line, however. They made 19 of 27 free throws and the Trojans just three of 13.

Farmington held Clawson's leading scorer, Alex Nason, to just under his average of 15.6 points, but nine of his 15 came in the second half with the Falcons safely in front.

"The key to the game was making him work for every shot he got," Norgrove said. "He worked very hard to score; he got a tough 15 tonight.

"Their offense looked disoriented at times, and it had nothing to do with their coach or their system. It was a credit to our defensive intensity."

Marcus Holman personifies that intensity, according to Norgrove, who said the Falcons need him on the floor as much as possible.

"He does things that don't show up in the stat book," Norgrove said. "Everybody on this team knows what he gives us and what he means to the team."

Danny Preston provided the offensive

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, C2

Controversial call costs Falcons

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington-Birmingham Groves volleyball match had a controversial ending Thursday as host Groves rallied for a 15-6, 18-16 victory.

Farmington should have won the second game, 16-14, according to coach Alex Perrin, who blamed what he said were inexperienced and incompetent officials for the outcome.

With Fermington ahead 15-14 and holding serve, Perrin said Groves clearly hit the ball into the net, which should have given his team the deciding point and extended the match to a third game.

The official on the chair blew her whistle but allowed play to continue when Groves dug the ball and returned it.

"The referee didn't blow the whistle loud enough; so the kids kept playing the point out, and we won the rally, too," Perrin said.

"At the end of the rally, the referee indicates re-serve. I don't know why she called for a re-serve. The ball was clearly below the tape, and there was no doubt in anybody's mind except the referee.

"She must have thought there was a touch on the block. Was it close to the top of the net? Yes. But it was clearly a foot below any hands on our side of the net.

"Such a grievous error at a crucial point in the match directly cost us the game. It was so frustrating.

"Everybody was just dumbfounded when the last play didn't terminate the game. Groves had quit playing; they knew the point was over."

Perrin said the combined experience level of the two officials amounted to only two varsity matches.

"I don't blame the referees," Perrin said. "They should not be refereeing in that situation. They're not qualified or ready to do it. They should be paired with somebody more experienced.

"There was no bias. They weren't making calls in favor of one team or the other. They were put in a situation where they had to referee a close match with a lot of difficult calls.

"I hope they continue to referee but get more reasonable assignments until they acquire more

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, C2

Mercy skiers remain atop league

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

With one regular-season meet remaining, Farmington Hills Mercy is holding on to first place in the Mount Brighton Interscholastic Ski Association.

Despite finishing third in slalom competition Thursday, the Marlins are still atop the league standings with 12 points.

Birmingham Groves is second with 14 and Brighton third with 27.

Mercy has been without its top skier, junior Liz Kujala, for the last three meets.

Kujala missed one meet because she was away at a Central United States Ski Association regional, and she sat out both races last week due to a shin injury she suffered at the CUSSA event.

"We decided to keep Liz off her skis the entire week to rest her leg," coach Tom Gable said.

JIM JACOFELD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rachelle Beazley contributed to a third-place team finish Thursday at Mount Brighton and helped Mercy stay in first place overall.

"In her absence, senior captain Nicole Zaleski has skied away with two top finishes.

"(Thursday) she experienced trouble in the first run but came back and clocked the sec-

PLEASE SEE SKIERS, C2

Who's New In Your Neighborhood?

2-2

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