

SKIING

FROM PAGE C1

Association standings, was a surprise regional winner with 126 points.

Mercury had 131 and third-place Birmingham-Marian also qualified for state competition with a 141 total.

The Marlins won the slalom competition in the morning with 43 points but were fourth in the afternoon giant slalom with 89. Brighton was second in both with 61 and 65, respectively.

"The girls are skiing well in slalom," Mercury coach Tom Gable said. "They've been dominant in slalom all season, and they were again today in a big region with a lot of schools."

"The girls raced their GS late in the afternoon, and the weather got progressively worse. By the time the girls

were running, the wind at the top was 50 mph. It was absolutely frigid.

"I think it affected more than just Mercury, but those were pretty tough conditions."

Mercury junior Liz Kujala won the slalom race with a combined two-run time of 32.69. Senior Nicole Zaleski was sixth (35.60) sophomore Rachelle Beazley ninth (37.05), sophomore Bridget Hunt 27th (42.18) and senior Kelly Martin 50th (47.35).

In the giant slalom, Kujala finished third (25.08), Zaleski 13th (26.23), Beazley 22nd (26.84), senior Nicole Cwicka 50th (30.42), Hunt 59th (30.87) and Martin 61st (30.91).

"The course was set by the Alpine (League) coaches, and it went straight down the hill and was not too technical," Gable said.

"When that happens, the racers get crunched together. That's probably the snakebite

Mercury ran into. In that situation, the larger girls have an advantage with a straight-run course like that."

The state-final course in Marquette will be twice as long as the regional, and it will have more technical turns. Gable thinks that will help the Marlins.

"The girls will run slalom in the morning," he said. "Hopefully, that will give them confidence, and that kind of momentum will carry into the afternoon."

"Liz Kujala is skiing very well. Her performance in this region would indicate she's definitely a top-10 skier at the state."

"I wouldn't be surprised if Nicole Zaleski also had a strong showing, in the top 15 if not better. And the other girls, if they train hard this week, could turn some decent times, also."

donczera@homecom.net | (734) 953-2141

NOE

FROM PAGE C1

ing and athletic environment," he said.

"My goal is to have the Farmington athletic program be one of the premier athletic programs in the county and state."

"We certainly have the ability to do that with the setting we have, the student-athletes we have and the coaches we have."

"Of course, putting schedules together and working with the budget are the day-to-day challenges, and I'm looking forward to those, too."

Noe said another priority will be to develop a system of promoting Farmington coaches and providing student-athletes with leadership training to assist them beyond the playing field as leaders.

Under Noe, the district AD will no longer be responsible for the physical education curriculum, too. FPS plans to hire another person to do that, according to Noe.

He will oversee the sports programs at three high schools and four middle schools and be in charge of approximately 80 coaches.

Another issue being discussed is the possibility of having artificial turf installed at the three high school football/soccer

fields like many other districts have already done.

"One thing we will be doing over the next four or five months is evaluating and assessing our total outdoor facility situation," Noe said.

"Space utilization is one of the things we need to take a look at. Everybody is using and re-using the same areas and it takes its toll."

Noe also will be evaluating the middle school sports programs. The FPS philosophy has been, for many years, to compete within the district, but some people would like to see the scope of competition expanded and some programs added.

"I'll be meeting with each middle school administration team to get their input and thoughts," Noe said.

"One of the points I brought up in the interview process was the need to assess all programs and to do that on a yearly basis."

Noe added he thinks the move to the OAA has been a good one, and he sees Farmington staying in that league for the foreseeable future.

"After one full season and nearly the winter season, it has benefited our teams in three high schools," he said. "Any time you're successful, you feel better about what you're doing and it gets more kids involved."

While looking forward to his

new job, Noe said he will miss his co-workers and the students at Harrison and the daily interaction.

"I told them they'll see me around," Noe said. "I plan on getting into all the buildings and talking with coaches and kids about athletics."

COACHES

Professional: He became only the fourth Farmington Public Schools athletic director in the last 30 years, succeeding Jack Colton, Ron Holland and Brian Swinehart.

Most recent job: Assistant principal and building athletic coordinator at Harrison High School for five and a half years.

Work experience: Noe spent 25 years with Flushing Public Schools in various capacities. His last position was in administration as a combination assistant principal, athletic director and vocational education director.

He was a teacher and coach before that. Noe was an assistant varsity football coach for eight years and the varsity head coach for eight years.

Noe also coached basketball and baseball at various levels. He left coaching in the mid 1980s.

The thing I enjoyed most about coaching was the preparation and all the organizational things that went into practice," Noe said.

After leaving teaching, he was an administrator at Lake Fenton High School for one semester before the job opened up at Farmington.

Education: Noe received his undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and his graduate degree in vocational education and administration at Central Michigan University.

Athletics: He was a college quarterback for one year at Iowa and three years at WMU. Noe also played basketball, baseball and track at Mount Morris High School.

donczera@homecom.net | (734) 953-2141

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE C1

with Bryan Genrich assisting; then Pat Colton scored an empty-netter from Naurato and Andrew Eggert for the final score.

Nathan Perkovich opened the scoring for CC eight minutes into the first period with Genrich and Mike Monterrey earning the assists.

After Northern tied it at 1-1, Perkovich scored again, from Billy Burns and Harrison Niemann, for a 2-1 lead.

Justin Guske tied it at 2-2 for the Huskies, but Eggert gave

CC a 3-2 lead with 40 seconds left in the second period on the power play.

Jim Blanchard made 12 saves in goal for the Shamrocks, while CC put 23 shots on the Northern net.

FARMINGTON 4, ROYAL OAK 0: After a week without a game, the Flyers picked up where they had left off by winning Wednesday at Lundie Ice Arena.

Following a scoreless first period, center Phil Scott redirected a shot by Matt Gubede, and Jon Noble potted up the second assist at 6:12 of the second.

"Royal Oak played strong and forechecked us, and we didn't get too many quality shots," Farmington coach Mark Velucci said of the first period.

"Being off a week, we were a little rusty in the beginning. But we went in locker room

and said, 'We're too good a team to be playing like this.'"

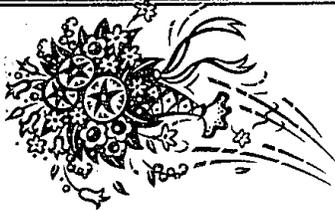
The Flyers led 2-0 at the end of two after Adam Thornby scored from Mike Hand and Keith Hay with 2:53 remaining.

Brett Laird put the puck in the upper corner of the Royal Oak net early in the third period (12:30) with assists going to Ian Thornby and Jeff Issouan.

Keith Hay's goal and an assist by Nick Hermiz at 4:07 capped the scoring. "Royal Oak goalie Mike Paticchio played really well," Velucci said. "It could have been much worse."

Aaron Altor was in goal for Farmington and had a busy night. Royal Oak fired 20-plus shots at him - the most by an opposing team this year, according to Velucci.

"When it was 3-0, they started running at us a bit, but we kept our heads and didn't take any stupid penalties," he said. "Royal Oak had been on a roll; they had just beaten Birmingham. We just played smart hockey."



We're tossing you a bouquet of ideas in our exciting new WEDDING GUIDE. Coming Sunday, February 16, 2003

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS



Opening in February!

Look for us soon in Commerce Township! at West 14 Mile Road and M5



LIFE IS SHORT. STAY AWAKE FOR IT. 1.888.CARIBOU www.cariboucoffee.com

