

## Sidelines

### Bartlett qualifies

Farmington High senior Courtland Bartlett is the lone qualifier from a Farmington school for the state finals in wrestling.

Bartlett placed fourth in the 171-pound weight class in the Division I regional tournament Saturday at Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley.

Bartlett takes a 41-7 record into the state finals March 6-8 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. He is scheduled to wrestle Grandville junior Buddy Rivera (47-0) in the first round.

Bartlett pinned East Detroit's Richard Stuecher in his first match, then lost an 8-3 decision to Adam Baldwin of Howell, the eventual runner-up.

Bartlett defeated Chippewa Valley's Adam Hansford, 11-2, to guarantee himself a state berth before losing on injury default to Port Huron's James Farver due to a nose-bleed.

"The score was tied, 2-2, before he had the injury default," coach Al Beyar said. "He probably should've finished third but wasn't able to continue with the blood. I think he's in a good spot in the quarter bracket he's in (at the state meet). He just has to win two before he loses two, and he'll place."

### Be a better athlete

The Botsford Center for Health Improvement is sponsoring the "Masterful Athlete's Program: Play at the Top of Your Game."

The three-week class is intended to help athletes break through to a higher performance by discovering the secrets of professional and Olympic athletes. Athletes will learn strategies to improve their performances regardless of the sport.

The fee is \$175. The program begins at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4.

The Botsford Center is located at 39750 Grand River Avenue, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads in Novi.

The instructor is Carrie Ann Asp, a certified medical hypnotherapist who has worked with sports teams to improve performance and motivation.

For more information or to register call 248-477-6100.

### St. Patrick's Party

Our Lady Of Sorrows will have a St. Patrick's party for the benefit of its athletic programs at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 8, in the lower hall at Sorrows.

There will be a buffet dinner, Irish entertainment and raffle. Call (248) 476-5252 or send an email to dmdoyle@peoplepc.com for ticket information.

### Hockey sign-up

The Farmington Hills Hockey Association will register new players beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The cost is \$100 for residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills and \$125 for non-residents.

A player must present a check for one of the above amounts and a copy of his/her birth certificate.



BILL BRISLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Hand (15) and Keith Hay (9) rush the Catholic Central net to score Farmington Unified's first goal against CC netminder James Blanchard in a Division I regional tournament hockey game Tuesday night at Compuware Arena.

## CC holds on to beat Farmington

BY RICHARD L. SMOOK  
CORRESPONDENT

Both coaches agreed it was a great game for high school hockey.

Maybe a bit better for Redford-Detroit Catholic Central than Farmington Unified, however.

Top-rated CC built a 4-1 lead early in the third period Tuesday night but had to hang at the end for a 4-3, first-round victory over No. 2 Farmington Unified in a Division I regional opener at Compuware Arena.

"What could be more exciting than to fill this place?" CC co-coach Gordie St. John said after his team improved to 21-3. "This was great exposure for high school hockey, that this many people could see this game."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association made a quasi-controversial decision to move the game from Redford Arena to the home of the Plymouth Whalers.

The 3,500 seats gave more than twice as many people the opportunity to watch the game.

Attendance was announced at 3,578 and included numerous area high school coaches, including Pete Mazzoni, whose Livonia Churchill team will play CC in the second round tonight at Redford Arena.

"We had our chances. I'm a rookie coach and I learned a lot. Hopefully, it's going to help me in the years to come."

Farmington rooters filled a good portion of one side of the arena and exchanged some raucous chants with their CC counterparts.

"Moving the game was the right thing for high school hockey," St. John said. "Over three times as many fans were able to see the game. For the sport, I think it was the best thing."

"Remember, we didn't have anything to do with it. We were asked by the state high school athletic association to do it. It was a neutral site. It was fair to both teams."

Brandon Naurato collected a hat trick for the

Shamrocks, including a top-shelf shot that turned out to be the game-winner with 10:58 to play. He converted a feed from further out by Eric Gioia and burned a too-long Aaron Allor to give CC its 4-1 lead.

But then it seemed the ice started to tilt, and it was the Shamrocks who were hanging at the end. They needed a point-blank save by goalie Jimmy Blanchard with three seconds to play to salvage the win.

"Psychologically, what I think happened was that we were up by three goals and I think we let up a bit," St. John said. "They jumped on it."

"We made one mistake; we opened up the net and they

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, D3

## Tri-Farmington places 2nd in OAA; regional meet next

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Just a few years ago, Tri-Farmington would have won a state championship with a gymnastics team score of 145.10.

This last week it wasn't good enough to win the Oakland Activities Association Division I title. That's because top-ranked

### GYMNASTICS

and defending state champion Rochester Adams scored a state-record 150.40.

Tri-Farmington settled for the runner-up position followed by Troy Athens (143.10), Rochester (128.95) and Troy (128.45).

"They're louder and when they hit they're going to

score well," Tri-Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said of the Adams Highlanders. "At the state meet, you only get five girls (instead of six per event), and that narrows the odds a little bit."

"Adams coach Sue Mustard knows she's favored, but she knows it's not going to be handed to them. They

PLEASE SEE GYMNASTICS, D5

## Raiders finish among top half of Division I swimming teams

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington had a respectable third-place finish in the Oakland Activities Association Division I swimming and diving finals Saturday.

Birmingham Groves and Bloomfield Hills Lahser grabbed first and second places, respectively, with 580 and 562 points.

The Raiders were more than a hundred points

behind but led the rest of the seven-team field with 485.5.

"During the year, our forte was the depth aspect," North coach Pat Duthie said.

"When we go up against teams in our division (in dual meets), it's rare for any team to put two kids in front of one of our kids."

"We knew we didn't have the power in terms of front-end speed, so I starts to pay off at the championship

level when you get in with numerous teams."

"We knew we were going to have a tough time. Andover was really close because they had a young man who had two first places."

Duthie said the OAA used a scoring system which the NCAA uses for college meets instead of the traditional high school format.

"The meet is really set up

PLEASE SEE SWIM, D2

## North wins Division III hoop title

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

There was no letdown by the North Farmington team Tuesday despite already having clinched the Oakland Activities Association Division III championship in boys basketball.

The Raiders, who **BASKETBALL** had a three-game lead over Birmingham Seaholm with two games remaining, posted a 65-55 win over visiting Oak Park.

North, which has won 14 of its last 15 games, is 13-1 in the division and 14-5 overall. The Knights fall to 7-6 and 10-9.

"It's been a great run for us," North coach Tom Negoshian said, adding the Raiders started their first seniors in the final home game. "I'm real proud of the team and the kids — the way they kept bringing forth the effort."

The Raiders led at halftime, 31-26, and increased the difference to 10 points at the end of three quarters, 48-38.

Sophomore Darrin Rawls led the Raiders in scoring and rebounding with 15 points and eight rebounds.

Junior Gary Kennedy had a well-rounded performance with 13 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Seniors Robert White and Marcus McComb added 11 points each, and sophomore Sean Mackler added seven. McComb also had five rebounds and six steals.

Kyle Cooper scored 13 points, Hiram Robinson 12 and Robert Nimocks 10 for Oak Park, which made eight of 14 free throws. North was 15-of-21 at the line.

"We may have been a little sluggish at first, but the kids really responded," Negoshian said. "A lot of kids contributed, kids off the bench."

"We had a new leading scorer. People are so focused on (Kennedy and McComb) it's leaving some other kids open, and they're doing a nice job."

### Falcons to play for title

It's one game for the championship

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, D2



JIM JAGIELLO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Nicole Zaleski and her Mercy High School skiing teammates finished sixth in the state finals Monday at Marquette.

## Mercy girls skiers finish 6th in Class A state championships

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy finished sixth among nine teams competing in the Class A girls state skiing championships Monday in Marquette.

The hometown Redettes won the state title with 59.5 points. Petoskey, the defending Class B-C-D champ, moved up a class this year and finished second with 64.5.

Traverse City Central had 90.5 points, Clarkston 163.5, Birmingham Marian 197, Mercy

202, Fenton 216, Lake Orion 291 and Brighton 271.

"It was great competition," Mercy coach Tom Gable said. "The up-north schools didn't dominate as much. Clarkston was knocking on the door, and Marian and Mercy were moving up the ranks."

"It spoke well for the down-state schools. They represented themselves very well up there."

"I thought fifth place was well within their (Mercy girls) reach. It was a high level of ski racing and a

PLEASE SEE SKI, D2

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