



## CC skates past Clarkston to 7th state title

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

As the seconds ticked off the clock in the third period, Reedford-Detroit Catholic Central goalie Jimmy Blanchard started getting excited.

First, he bunny-hopped down the ice on the toes of his skates, then he threw his stick in the air, then his blocker and his trapper.

And as the final buzzer sounded,

Blanchard tore off the straps to his helmet, ripped it off his head and threw it high in the air — all while continuing to hop down the ice.

His enthusiasm was understandable; his eighth shutout of the year proved to be the best as Blanchard and the Shamrocks hung a 4-0 shutout on giddy Clarkston to win their fifth-straight state championship and sixth in the last seven years.

"He gives the other team fits," said CC coach Gordie St. John — the coach for all

seven of CC's state titles — either in Class A or Division I, but all since 1994.

"He's been there all year long and as long as there's a breakaway through the defense, we're confident he can make the save."

Clarkston coach Bryan Krygier knew too well what he was up against with Blanchard, let alone the Shamrocks.

"I coached Jim six or seven years ago on a Little Caesars AAA squirt team," Krygier said. "It's good to see him do so well. I'm

happy for him."

While Blanchard played a solid game in goal, CC's offense kept the pressure on the Wolves (17-9-4) by keeping the puck in their end.

It wasn't always easy getting the puck in the Clarkston zone, thanks to a soft version of a pressure defense.

But the Shamrocks held play in the Wolves' end for long stretches of the game.

PLEASE SEE TITLE, D4

## Sidelines

### All-state hockey

Farmington Unified senior Keith Hay was named to the Division I all-state team by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association. Division I state champion Reedford-Detroit Catholic Central had six players on the team — forwards Brandon Naurato, Eric Reinhardt and Eric Gioia, defensemen Andrew Eggert and William Burns and goaltender Jim Blanchard.

Forwards Doug Pickens and Matt Petry and goalie Dan Hemphill of Birmingham Brother Rice made the Division II all-state team.

### Hockey tryouts

The unified Farmington junior varsity hockey team will have spring tryouts 5:30-7 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Suburban Pepsi, 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, March 17, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena and 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The tryouts are open to all students who attend Farmington public high school's, Middle school students who will attend high school in the fall are eligible to be considered for the team, too.

For more information call coach Tim McElmurry at 248-626-3631.

### College hoops

Oakland Community College lost to Toledo Owens CC in the semifinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XII District II

women's basketball tournament Friday, 65-78.

Owens won the tournament championship Saturday by defeating Wayne County Community College in the final, 73-70.

### Wrestling results

Farmington High senior Courtland Bartlett just missed earning a top-eight finish in the Division I state wrestling tournament last weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

After splitting his first two bouts, Bartlett lost a 9-8 decision to Port Huron's James Farber.

A second win would have guaranteed Bartlett (42-9) a medal and no less than an eighth place finish.

Bartlett lost his first bout to Grandville's Buddy Rivera by technical fall, 16-0, but he rebounded by winning a decision over Brad Brown of Monroe, 11-6.

### Terek cashes in

Livonia's Paul Terek became the USA Track and Field's Combined Events champion by winning the seven-event men's heptathlon last weekend at the University of North Carolina.

Terek, the 2002 Big Ten Track and Field Athlete of the Year from Michigan State, bested a field of 19 with a total of 5,870 points.

Now based in San Luis Obispo, Calif., Terek, a member of the World's Greatest Track Athletes Club, took home \$2,500 for finishing first.

PLEASE SEE MARIAN, D6



JIM JAGGLED/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catholic Central hockey players celebrate Saturday night at Computare Arena after winning their school's fifth consecutive state championship by defeating Clarkston in the Division I title game, 4-0.

## Shamrocks celebrate 'Dynasty'

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

At the tail end of Monday's pep assembly, Catholic Central hockey captains Pat Coldren and Billy Burns stepped onto a mechanized platform and raised themselves up along the wall of the school's gym.

They stopped when they reached the placard with all of the school's previous hockey titles. Burns placed the taped "03" sign to the placard, to go with the school's six other state titles.

Coldren reached up to the board and taped a regular sheet of paper — with just two words — on it: The Dynasty.

It was pretty much that kind of weekend for the school, students, faculty and parents.

PLEASE SEE SHAMROCKS, D4

## Marian tops Farmington in regional

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's stay in the state volleyball tournament had an abrupt ending Saturday when it faced Birmingham Marian in a first-round regional match.

The Catholic League champion Mustangs had more speed and skill, and the result was a 15-4, 15-5 victory for Marian at Troy High School.

"Marian is clearly a superior team to us," Farmington coach Alex Ferrin

### VOLLEYBALL

said. "The speed of their offense was something we hadn't seen all year."

"In the new conference (Oakland Activities Association), we can't play as many tournaments. They basically spent the whole last month playing ranked teams, and we don't get quite the preparation they do.

"Our hats are off to them. Their players all have a high degree of training. Certain individual players on our team stacked up well with them and held their own, but they go nine, 10, 11 deep with elite players.

"We don't have quite that depth in training; we're a younger team overall, and it pretty much showed. They're a very impressive team."

"In the first game, we won a few rotations and slowed them down a bit, but we weren't gaining any ground."

Marian was 4-3-7-4 going into a quarterfinal match Tuesday with Fraser. Farmington finished the season with a record of 19-23-2. Jessica Janowicz had six kills, two blocks and three service points with one ace for Farmington.

## North's Bank is all-state in 2 events

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Jason Bank paced the North Farmington effort in the Division II boys swimming and diving state finals Saturday at Oakland University.

Bank had a pair of top-10 finishes, placing fifth in the 500-yard freestyle (4:51.62) and seventh in the individual

### SWIMMING

medley (2:00.69). He had a faster freestyle time in the prelims Friday at 4:51.12.

Since the end of last season, Bank has improved his IM time by 20 minutes and his 500 freestyle time by eight minutes.

"A lot of kids are capable of similar improvement," North coach Pat Duthie said. "It depends on the kind of work they put in. Depending on that, they should look at the possibility of scoring in that meet next year."

The Raiders took 13 swimmers to the state meet, and half of them were underclassmen.

PLEASE SEE NORTH, D3

## Houchins finishes 3rd in state meet

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Tri-Farmington junior Sara I Houchins had an outstanding performance in the individual state gymnastics meet Saturday at Plymouth High School.

Houchins placed third in the Division I all-around competition with the best score of her high school career, 37.70.

Her best event was balance beam in which she placed third with a 9.5 score. Houchins was fourth in floor exercise (9.575), ninth on the uneven bars (9.325) and 12th on vault (9.3).

"Her first event was floor, and I could tell she was on," coach Jeff Dwyer said. "I thought it was a pretty flawless routine. She just nailed everything to a T."

"Vault has been her tough event. She had been doing a half-on, full-off. That's only worth 9.2; whereas, a Tsukahara is worth 9.6; so we'd been working on that."

"The last few meets she's been able to throw and compete that vault. That helps; compared to the 8.8 she was getting all season, a half point is a nice increase."

"Then she hit her high on uneven bars and went to beam. Sara really looks good on beam and floor. She's very polished and she stuck her routine."

"I knew, going into the last few events, she was on her way to a good meet. I'm real proud of her. It was a fantastic way to finish the year."

The only gymnasts to finish ahead of Houchins in the all-around were Grand Lodge's Breanne Workman (38.425) and Rochester Adams' Shannon MacDonald (38.20).

Tri-Farmington senior Clara Seymour placed 10th on bars and floor exercise with 9.275 scores in both Division I events.

PLEASE SEE HOUCHINS, D6



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tri-Farmington's Sara Houchins placed third in the Division I gymnastics all-around state competition Saturday with a career-best score of 37.70.

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