

Sports

PREPS • RECREATION • OUTDOORS

Girls track

Harrison High athletes
are eager to
compete. D6



Sidelines

Academic award

Kim Spaulding of Farmington Hills received the President's Award for academic achievement Saturday at the Wayne State University women's hockey banquet at Hockeytown Cafe in Detroit. Spaulding, who attended Harrison High School, made the College Hockey America's all-academic team and is a three-time member of the athletic director's honor roll. The junior forward played in all 30 games for the Warriors (12-19-2); she scored five goals, which included game-winners against Colgate and St. Cloud State, and had five assists. In three seasons, she has 11 goals and 20 assists. Spaulding, who attends Wayne State on a Presidential Scholarship, is an elementary education major.

College tennis

Dave Atallah of Farmington Hills (Redford-Detroit Catholic Central) has a 2-3 record playing No. 4 singles for the Kalamazoo College men's tennis team. Atallah contributed to wins over Wheaton and Albion on April 5. He defeated Breck Schueter of Wheaton, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5, and Jordan Campbell of Albion, 6-3, 6-2. The Hornets were 8-7 in dual matches going into a Tuesday match at Calvin.

Wolves victorious

Playing in the under-12 A Division, the under-11 Michigan Wolves captured both the first and second sessions at Total Soccer. Members of the boys soccer team, coached by Peter Langens, include: Marco Bernardi, Jos Vagoelino, Elenne Lussiez and Michael Nickerson, all of Livonia; Fatai Alashe, Doug Beason, David Hammond, Andrew Kelleher, Takahiro Morioka, Nicholas Taccocelli, all of Northville; David Bahling, Farmington; Brett Kuhn and Giovanni Sturla, Novi; Warren Terrell, Brighton; Adam Wright, Wixom; Stefan Griporakis, Canada.

Football combine

The Next Step Sports Football Combine is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, at the Triad High Performance Training Center, 24168 Haggerty, Farmington Hills. Registration is 9-10 a.m. The fee is \$75 (cash only). Representatives, coaches and/or scouts from several Canadian Football League teams and Arena Football League teams will be on hand.

Events that athletes will be tested in are the 225-pound bench press, vertical jump, 20-yard shuttle, broad jump, 40-yard dash and position drills.

For more information, contact Patrick T. Pfeiffer at (248) 330-3099 (cell phone) or by fax at (800) 891-8465.

Lady Raiders win

Kelly Nilson pitched a complete game and went 3-for-3 with one RBI to lead Oakland Community College to a 5-2 softball win over visiting Delta April 3. Nilson tossed a four-inning over seven innings, striking out five and walking two.

Hawks plan to make run at 3rd state title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison is missing some big names from its boys track and field team, which has won two straight Division II state championships. But the Hawks have plenty of quality athletes returning and just might have what it takes to win a third consecutive title

come June. "So far this spring our kids have worked very hard," coach John Reed said, adding the Hawks still have the same one-meet-at-a-time philosophy. "If we do what we think we can do and have a good attitude, I think we'll be doing well at the end of the year."

"We've had an excellent work ethic by our kids. If we keep going, I think we'll have a really good team."

Seven of the nine athletes who competed in the state meet are back for another season.

Senior Marcus Woods returns to lead a still-strong sprint group despite the loss of all-staters Agim Shabaj and Terrill Mayberry. Woods was a regional champion in the 100-meter dash and was second in the Western Lakes Activities Association. An impressive list of

sprinters includes seniors Charles Pickett, Michael Bartley, James Cook and Fermon Tate and junior Robert McCall.

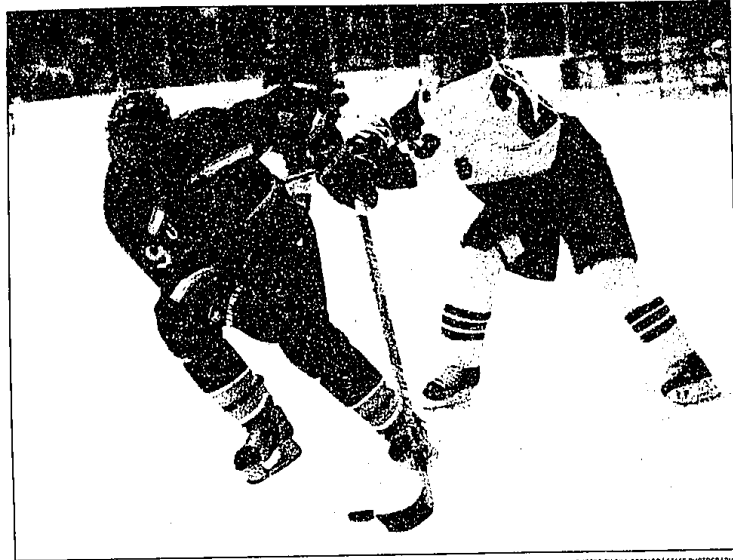
Junior Charles Stewart will be a nice addition to the team, and Reed adds the Hawks have some good freshmen sprinters, too. Tate, who anchored the state championship mile relay team, specializes in the 800 (fourth in the WLAA, state

qualifier) and 400 events. "We're pretty deep with sprinters," Reed said. "We lost two big ones, but we do have kids with experience."

"Hopefully, we'll have a good year. I think it's going to be a team strength. We look pretty good in the sprints right now."

Harrison has another

PLEASE SEE TRACK, D5



Farmington Unified senior forward Keith Hay (left), shown trying to avoid Catholic Central's Eric Giosa in a regional tournament hockey game last month, made the Observer & Eccentric all-area first team.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER (STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

All-Area team features galaxy of stars; Farmington's Hay, Vellucci win honors



BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The positive impact of Hockeytown is spilling over into the high schools, with many outstanding teams and players throughout Oakland County. Many of those players - cited for on-ice performance and leadership abilities - earned spots on the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association all-state team and, likewise, were picked by a panel of area coaches for the 2003 Observer & Eccentric all-area team. With so many all-state selections, it was decided to include 12 players on the first team instead of six. There also are enough

worthy players to win spots on the second and third teams, or be selected for honorable mention.

Following is a closer look at those players who earned first-, second- or third-team honors.

FORWARDS

Keith Hay, Farmington Unified: The senior co-captain and third-year varsity player registered 24 goals and 26 assists for Farmington Unified, which went 24-1 under first-year coach Mark Vellucci.

But, noted Vellucci, Hay wasn't about piling up the stats. "He just wanted to win a state

PLEASE SEE ALL-AREA, D2



Farmington Unified senior forward Mike Hand, being checked by Catholic Central's Michael Monterey, made the all-area second team.

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL
Keith Hay	Forward	Farmington Unified
Aaron Jeffery	Forward	Orchard Lk. St. Mary's
Rick Merio	Forward	Orchard Lk. St. Mary's
Adam Peters	Forward	Clarkston
Matt Petry	Forward	Birmingham Brother Rice
Drew Schmale	Forward	Cranbrook Kingswood
Chad Langlais	Defense	Cranbrook Kingswood
Jim Lallanzi	Defense	Clarkston
Bobby Reiners	Defense	Cranbrook Kingswood
Mike Valant	Defense	Birmingham Unified
Andy Chima	Goal	Cranbrook Kingswood
Dan Hemphill	Goal	Birmingham Brother Rice
Coach of the Year: Mark Vellucci		Farmington Unified

SOFTBALL

Marlins eye successful '03 season

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

There is sufficient reason to ask the question again: Could this be the year Farmington Hills Mercy finally wins it all in softball?

The Marlins, who were 35-8 and state runners-up last season, have been to Battle Creek for the Division I Final Four three straight years. The first two trips ended in the semifinals. Mercy had several key graduation losses, but it returns some of its best players and has an up-and-coming pitcher.

"We've been fortunate for three years," ninth-year coach Jack Falvo said. "We had a dedicated group to get there."

"This team has to show that's what it wants and earn that right. They're capable of getting there, but they have to do it on the field."

Megan Fedluk, who holds all the Mercy career pitching records, has graduated, and sophomore Dana Frantz is ready to be the starter.

Frantz pitched St. Fabian to a CYO city championship two years ago and had a 13-3 varsity record last year.

"Megan took our program to the highest level," Falvo said. "It would be unreal for anybody to have those expectations of Dana this soon. However, she has every skill and ability to break Megan's records."

"We're looking to Dana to be our solid, No. 1 pitcher. We think she can be the leader that Megan was on the mound."

Defensively and offensively, the strength of the team is in the infield where seniors Anna Schneider, Carly Tracey and Sarah Roman are back at first, second and third bases, respectively, along with junior shortstop Tammi Kangoslan.

Schneider, a two-time, all-area player, was Mercy's leading hitter with a .375 average. She also had 30 RBI and led the team with 48 hits, which included 12 doubles and two home runs.

"If she does what she's done the last two years, we'll be just fine," Falvo said. "Anna brings more to the team than her offensive and defensive ability. She's a great player inside the dugout."

Tracey is a four-year starter who began her varsity career as a shortstop. She batted .306 and scored 25 runs.

"I do not worry about Carly because, mentally, there isn't anybody tougher on the field," Falvo said. "I'm completely comfortable having Carly at second base, and I trust her calls on the field relative to our defense."

Roman is a three-year starter and co-captain with Schneider. She hit .230, scored 14 runs, had 16 RBI and is an exceptional defensive player, according to Falvo.

"We don't worry about anything at third base, much like Carly," he said. "With a runner on third, I have complete confidence in Sarah making a play to cut down that runner."

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL, D5

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?

Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.