

Sports

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Sidelines

College softball

Oakland Community College swept a softball doubleheader from visiting Henry Ford Thursday, 9-1 and 5-2. Kelly Nilson improved her record to 6-2, pitching four innings of the first game and allowing one run on three hits and a walk. She struck out six. Rachel Racicki worked the last two innings. Emily Bell went 3-for-4 to lead an 11-hit attack by the Lady Raiders. Nilson and Jackie Papiński had two hits each, and Jamie Seaman led the team with two RBI. Kristi Marszalec pitched a complete game in the nightcap, striking out five and walking one. Each team had 10 hits. Cassandra Asciutto went the distance for the Hawks, issuing three walks and fanning four. Seaman went 2-for-4 and scored three runs. Julia Hall and Bell were 2-for-2 with two and three RBI, respectively. The Lady Raiders are 5-0 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 14-4 overall. Henry Ford is 1-5 and 8-7.

Softball sign-up

The City of Farmington Hills is accepting new adult team registrations for men's, women's and coed softball. Registration is based on a first-come, first-served basis. For information call (248) 473-1800. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Madonna coach

Bill Durham was named coach of the Madonna University men's and women's golf teams Friday. Durham played golf at Livonia Churchill and was twice named to the all-league team. Following his graduation in 1991, he played at Oakland University, twice lettering in golf. Currently, Durham is the golf operations manager for the City of Livonia, overseeing the management and instructional responsibilities at Whispering Willows, Fox Creek and Tidy Wilds golf courses.

Observational info

Farmington High School will be the site of the annual Observational Relays on Saturday, May 3. The competition begins at 3:30 p.m. with field events and will be followed by the running portion of the meet at 6 p.m. Area boys track coaches who haven't received their entry information should call Joey Miletello at the Farmington athletic director's office at (248) 489-3352.

Spree soccer

The Livonia Spree Invitational Soccer Tournament, sponsored by the Livonia Soccer Club, will stage its third annual event Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22, for boys and girls age groups under-10 through under-19. For more information, call (734) 462-5889 or visit www.livoniasoccer.org.

Marlins expect to be among elite teams in girls golf

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy has had one of the top girls golf programs in the state over the last five years and is planning to add to that record in 2003. The Marlins have won two state titles and finished among the top three every year during that brief span of time. Mercy won its 10th consecutive Catholic League championship and was the runner-up to Rochester in the



Cibrario

Oakland County and Division I state tournaments last year. The Marlins return their best player in senior Christina Cibrario, a two-time, all-area selection. She was 11th in the state and averaged 46 in nine-hole matches, 86 in tournaments. "She hopes to be all-state again and lead a team that doesn't have as much

experience as last year," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "Christina has had a passion for the game ever since she came to Mercy." Mercy graduated its next three players, Jackie Shinnery and Monica Pilzner also were on the all-area first team, Kim Warzywiec the second team. But the Marlins have some other experienced golfers returning besides Cibrario, and Kowalski expects them to step up and fill the void this year. Senior Samantha Talbot, who shot

84 on the second day of the state finals and helped to move Mercy into second place, was a third-team, all-area selection. The top group of players includes seniors Caitlin Kelly, Nicole Zaleski and Lisa Rodriguez and junior Sara Larson. "They'll be fighting for the top five spots," Kowalski said. "If you can have competition among your own players, it makes your team better."

PLEASE SEE MARLINS, C6



BILL BRASLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Jason Bank had an outstanding season as a member of the North Farmington swim team, scoring in two events at the Division II state meet. Performances such as those earned Bank a place on the all-area second team.

Warriors dominate all-area selections

North's Jason Bank on 2nd team

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Of 24 total events at the Division I and II state finals, 10 were won by youngsters who compete for high school teams within the Observer & Eccentric coverage area. That is an indication of the kind of excellence again demonstrated by local swimmers, those who earned placement on the 2003 O&E all-area boys swim team. A panel of area coaches selected the team that is dominated by Birmingham Brother Rice, which is represented by six athletes in five events, including all three relay teams. Birmingham Seaholm and Troy each had two swimmers named to the squad. Following is a look at the first team and what each swimmer accomplished this season.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

200 medley relay (Stephen Schoenhals, Brent Saell, Brandon Good, Jerry Fisher), Brother Rice: The clutch swimming by Brandon Good triggered the Warriors' relay to state meet (1:36.29). Schoenhals, a junior, provided a solid lead-off backstroke leg and scored in the 200 IM and backstroke events. Saek, a sophomore, swam the breaststroke on the medley and also was the ninth-fastest 50 freestyle. Brent Saell is going to be one of the premier swimmers in the state. Rice coach Mike Venos said. Junior Jerry Fisher sacrificed some personal success for that of the three relays. Fisher was seeded in the top 20 in three

individual events, but gave up two of those to focus on the relay. Venos said. 200 freestyle, David Lessard, Brother Rice: Venos said determination, work ethic and competitive drive enabled Lessard to go from the 10th to 11th best swimmer on the team his freshman year to a state champion as a senior. Lessard took first place at the county league and state meet, with his 1:41 mark in the latter good enough to be an All-America time standard. 200 IM, Scott Thompson, Groves: Thompson, labeled one of the hardest workers on the Falcon team by coach Chris Tennesson, placed second in the IM and 500 freestyle events at the Division I state meet, with times of 1:55.92 and 4:42.89, respectively. "I'm proud of the tremendous growth Scott has shown through the year, both as an athlete and person," Tennesson said. "I look forward to a tremendous senior year from Scott."

50 freestyle, Dan Priestley, Seaholm: Priestley's winning time of 20:52 seconds at the Division II state finals was the best of the season in that event by any area swimmer. He topped Bloomfield Hills' Andrew's Mike Desautels at the finals. Desautels came in second with a time of 21:08. Priestley also won the 50 freestyle at the Oakland County meet with a finish of 21:37. Diving, Tommy Kane, Country Day: Kane capped the year with a first-place finish at the Division II state finals (1:39.75 points). Actually, that wasn't Kane's best performance of the year; he scored 432.95 points during the season - the best turned in by any diver in the area. He also placed second at the county meet with 375.45 points. 100 butterfly, Brandon Good, Brother Rice: Venos said no swimmer in his 20 years of coaching could be counted on more at the Division II state meet than Good, who did not disappoint, with a fifth-place finish of 52.22. "He finished third at the county meet in the fly," Venos said. However, at the end of the season when it mattered the most, Brandon had the fastest time in the country. Good's butterfly relay split of 22.6 brought Brother Rice back from a four-body depth deficit to claim the 200 medley state championship.

PLEASE SEE ALL-AREA, C3



EVENT	SWIMMER	SCHOOL
200 Medley Relay:	Stephen Schoenhals	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Medley Relay:	Brent Saell	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Medley Relay:	Brandon Good	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Medley Relay:	Jerry Fisher	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Free:	David Lessard	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 IM:	Scott Thompson	Birmingham Groves
50 Free:	Dan Priestley	Birmingham Seaholm
Diving:	Tommy Kane	Detroit Country Day
100 Fly:	Brandon Good	Birmingham Brother Rice
100 Free:	Jon Thomas	Troy
500 Free:	Jill Greves	Troy
200 Free Relay:	David Lessard	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Free Relay:	Brent Saell	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Free Relay:	Mike Amcor	Birmingham Brother Rice
200 Free Relay:	Jerry Fisher	Birmingham Brother Rice
100 Back:	Gabe Schabier	Cranbrook Kingswood
100 Breast:	Alex Winesap	Birmingham Great
400 Free Relay:	David Lessard	Birmingham Brother Rice
400 Free Relay:	Mike Amcor	Birmingham Brother Rice
400 Free Relay:	Jerry Fisher	Birmingham Brother Rice
400 Free Relay:	Stephen Schoenhals	Birmingham Brother Rice

Coach of the Year: Pat Duthie North Farmington

Top swim coach Duthie credits others

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER



Pat Duthie N. Farmington

Pat Duthie has been coaching swimmers for a long time, and he knows a good, close-knit team when he sees one. That was the case in the 2002-03 season at North Farmington, where the Raiders compiled a 10-1 mark in dual meets before falling short at the league meet. "From my standpoint, it was a

PLEASE SEE COACH, C3

Noble lifts Raiders to 3-1 victory

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Jon Noble will most likely have many more opportunities to bat in future North Farmington baseball games. Prior to Friday, he had batted just once, in a pre-season scrimmage, and the Raiders had used a designated hitter in his place since then. But it was Noble's time to shine in an Oakland Activities Association Division II game Friday at Birmingham Groves. His bases-loaded double with two outs in the top of the seventh inning gave North a 3-1 victory. "Coach (Jim) Ferguson saw him in batting practice and said he was hitting well in the cage," North coach Irv Horwitz said. "He said, 'Give him a shot; he's hitting well.' So I did."

BASEBALL

The Raiders had three of their five hits in the seventh. The other two occurred in the third inning. The Falcons got an unearned run in the fourth. Gary Kennedy, Rich Hegstrom and Adam Vieder were on base when Noble had his game-winning hit. It was his second hit of the game. Mike Hand pitched a complete game for North, holding Groves to just three hits, walking one and striking out eight. Mark Dlaner struck out five, walked one and hit one while going the distance for the Falcons. "The guys never quit," Horwitz said. "It was exciting. We only had two hits and then we came through in the seventh. I feel sorry for Groves, but it's a great win for us." The Raiders are 1-0 in the division and 3-1 overall.

Farmington tops Athens

Andy Brown went 3-for-4, which included a double and triple, to spark Farmington's 4-1 victory Friday over visiting Troy Athens. Brown had one RBI on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly. Tom Scott, a sophomore who was called up from the JV on Thursday, was 2-for-3 with a two-run double that gave the Falcons a 2-1 lead.

Winning pitcher Joe James just missed hitting a grand slam. Hit a ball 358 feet, but it was caught at the wall, forcing him to settle for one RBI and a sacrifice fly. James pitched the first four innings; he allowed five hits and one walk while striking out four. Brown threw three hits-less innings of relief. Farmington is 1-0 in the OAA Division II and 2-1 overall.

Hawks defeat Falcons

The Falcons lost to visiting Farmington Harrison on Thursday, 6-6. Farmington made it close with five runs in the bottom of the seventh. Mike Sacha pitched six-plus innings to earn the win, striking out seven and walking five. The Falcons had five hits. Ryan Brodowsky went four innings for the Falcons, allowing four runs on six hits and three walks. Harrison's Greg Hocking was 3-for-

PLEASE SEE BASEBALL, C6