

Sports

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PREPS • RECREATION • OUTDOORS

Sidelines

Tennis all-staters

North Farmington's Mike Kaufman was one of 12 singles tennis players named to the Division II all-state team by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

Farmington's Alex Perez received a Division II honorable mention as a singles player.

Birmingham Brother Rice's Matt Christian and Bryan Karazic and Walpole's Western's Bryan Norville of Farmington Hills are first-team, all-state singles players in Division I.

Soccer players

The Farmington Soccer Club is looking for players to fill its 12-and-under girls travel team roster.

Players interested in joining the team should call Steve Liberty at (248) 798-9528 or send an email to toolguy2@aol.com.

Flyers golf event

The Third Annual Farmington Flyers Golf Outing will be Sunday, Aug. 3, at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton.

There will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The fee is \$100 per person or \$400 for a foursome. The cost includes golf, lunch at the turn, dinner, door prizes and a raffle. Hole sponsorships are available and needed. The money raised will offset some of the cost for the pay-to-play Flyers high school hockey program.

For more information or to register, call Terry Laird at (248) 473-4457.

Hockey sign-up

The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey Association is accepting registrations now through July 31 for the 2003-04 season.

There are openings for teams in the open, over-30, over-40 and (men 18's year) over-45 leagues.

For registration forms or additional information visit the FHAHA web site at fhaaha.com or call (248) 471-6004.

FHS soccer camp

The Farmington High School Soccer Day Camp will be Aug. 4-8 at Pioneer Park (Farmington Road north of 13 Mile).

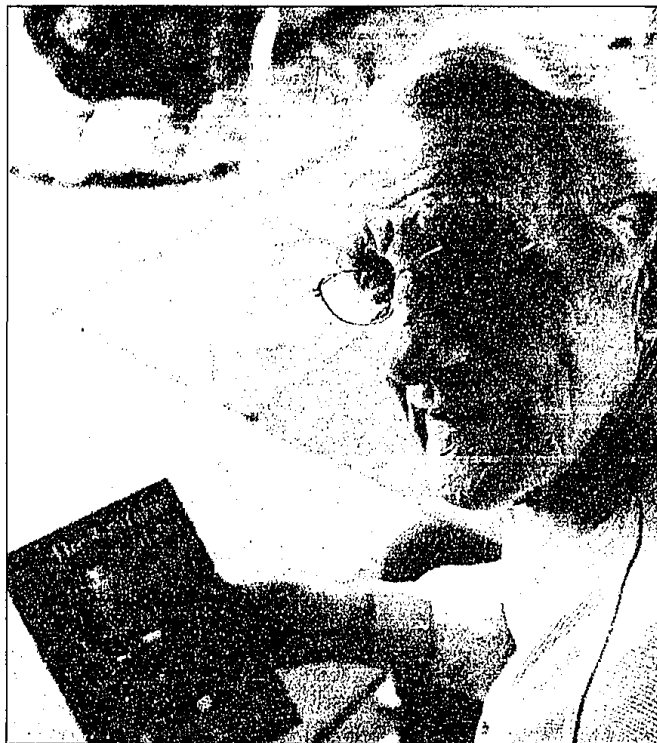
The camp is open to all boys and girls entering Farmington High School in the fall.

There will be two sessions daily from 9 a.m. to noon and 6-8 p.m. Campers should bring water, a soccer ball and sunscreen.

The cost is \$145 and is due by Tuesday, July 15. Checks should be payable to EuroUSA Futbol and mailed to Joanne Plasecki, 2192 Parklane, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. For more information call (248) 471-1273.

EuroUSA Futbol is a professional soccer training organization that provides skilled and licensed trainers to assist teams and clubs in developing their players. The camp director is Joe Kurta, who played professionally in Hungary, Romania and the U.S. He has been the assistant men's soccer coach at Schoolcraft College the past five years.

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B4



Former Detroit Red Wing defenseman Bill Gadsby proudly displays his book, written with the help of USA Today hockey writer Kevin Allen.

He's a humble Hall of Famer

Gadsby's autobiography offers insight to hockey

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Fate wasn't always kind to Bill Gadsby as far as the hockey world was concerned.

The brawny star defenseman only missed scoring a Stanley Cup-winning goal by a goaltender's good fortune. He also was unjustly fired as Detroit Red Wings head coach after posting wins in the first two games of the 1969-70 season.

"That's the biggest shock of my life," said Gadsby, a 35-year resident of Southfield. "I never did find out" why then-owner Bruce Norris canned him.

But Gadsby, 75, doesn't dwell on those downers. He'd rather focus on the many good things that have happened to him and his family during the years. There's a loving wife of 31 years (Edna), four daughters who all graduated from Southfield High School and nine grandchildren.

There are annual trips to Hawaii, Florida and northwestern Canada, where Gadsby grew up. And, of course, there were the numerous friendships built during a 20-year career in the National Hockey League (1946-66) and in the years to follow, including 17 years running a hockey camp for youngsters and adults at the Southfield Civic Center.

All of those blessings are recounted by the National Hockey League Hall of Famer in his new autobiography, *The Grateful Gadsby* (Immortal Investments Publishing, based in Wayne, Mich.).

He decided to go ahead and write it after being urged by Red Wings legend and close friend Gordie Howe, and his wife, Colleen. "Mr. and Mrs. Hockey" wrote the book's foreword.

"Gordie and Colleen tried to talk me into it four or five years ago," explained Gadsby, relaxing on the patio of the home he and his wife have lived in since 1968, when Gadsby returned to Detroit to coach the Red Wings in 1968-69. "They said, 'You've got a lot of

PLEASE SEE GADSBY, B4

NHL teams select trio of Whalers

HOCKEY

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

Around these parts, the Colorado Avalanche still stands as Public Enemy No. 1 among most hockey fans. Yet for one area player, that team recently became one he will always have a direct connection with.

Three members of the Plymouth Whalers were selected in last weekend's NHL Entry Draft held at the Gaylord Entertainment Center, home of the Nashville Predators.

The first of those picks was 6-foot-2 defenseman David Liffon, who was selected by the A's with their second round (60th overall) pick.

Forward John Mitchell and goaltender Jeff Weber were also picked in the draft, by the Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Sabres, respectively.

Liffon was the classic stay-at-home defenseman for the Whalers, and his size and strong positional play caught the eye of NHL scouts, according to Whalers general manager/coach Mike Vellucci.

"At the trade deadline, every team in the NHL is looking for that big, tough stay-at-home defenseman, and David filled that role for us this season," Vellucci said. "He was on the ice in all our key situations and has excelled in that role for us for two years."

Liffon finished last season with five goals and 11 assists with 139 penalty minutes.

Mitchell emerged as one of the team's most talented offensive players during the 2002-03 season, showing flashes of game-breaking ability from his center ice position. He was selected in the fifth round, 158th overall by the Leafs.

"He's got the size and skill to succeed in the NHL," Vellucci said. "He will need to be

Green Machine rolls over opposition

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Here's the reason coach Wally Christensen often refers to his American Legion baseball team as the Big Green Machine:

Farmington Post 346 produced a whopping 48 hits and 51 runs in its last four games — most of which ended in one-sided victories.

Christensen's ballclub won three games from Auburn Hills during that stretch and also defeated Rochester to improve its record to 9-2.

"We're scoring a lot of runs," Christensen said. "(Tuesday) was the first time we played almost errorless baseball. That's our weakness. If we can

BASEBALL

get away from those errors, we're going to be a good ballclub."

Post 346 merited visiting Auburn Hills in five innings Tuesday, 13-1.

Booby Houchins was 3-for-3 and hit a pair of home runs. One was a grand slam and the other a two-run shot, giving him four dingers for the season. He had six RBI.

Mike Kish and Dan Williams were 2-for-3, scored three runs and had one RBI each. Brian Bosler drove in two runs with a pair of groundouts.

Anthony Volpe, who doubled and scored a run, was the winning pitcher. He allowed just three hits and an

unearned run. He struck out four, walked two and hit two batters.

Farmington posted a 12-7 win over host Rochester on Monday.

Kish pitched middle relief to get the win, and Eric Zatkun worked three scoreless innings to end the game.

Post 346 led 9-2 after three innings, but Rochester scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth to make the score 10-7.

Williams was 3-for-4 and Houchins hit a solo homer. Andy Brown, Bosler, Dave Justice and Zatkun had two hits apiece.

Houchins, Brown and Joe James were standouts Saturday as

PLEASE SEE BASEBALL, B4

Harrison athletes on all-area squad

BY DANIEL STICKAROT
STAFF WRITER

Despite sport specialization and the growth of high school lacrosse, the sport of boys track & field is still alive and well around the state, including the Observer & Eccentric Oakland County coverage area.

Looking at the area's best this season — it's an extremely talented bunch — all but two members on the 2003 All-Area First Team, which was selected by a panel of area coaches, placed at either the Lower Peninsula Division I, Division II or Division III state meets.

On top of that, this group also boasts state champions in four events, includes state runners-up in two events, two third-place state finishers and a pair of fourth-place state finishers.

That's only the beginning. To check out this year's fastest and strongest, this is the place.

Below is a brief profile of each member named to the first team:

FIELD EVENTS

POLE VAULT: Brett Laird, Farmington Harrison, junior — This two-time state qualifier came on strong during the final weeks of the season, winning the Observerland Relay, taking second at both the Marysville regional and Oakland County meet with a vault of 13-0 and capping the season by finishing 12th at the Division 2 state meet. Laird was also a 45 State Honorable Mention selection in ice hockey this past winter for Farmington Unified.

"Brett really came on this season," said Harrison coach John Reed. "With him coming back, we expect him to be one of the best in the state next season. He has a lot of potential."

SHOT PUT: Gerald Gershman, Southfield, sophomore — This Cinderella story came out

PLEASE SEE TRACK, B2



ELIZABETH CAMPBELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Harrison senior Kevin Davis is a state champion and all-area selection in the 300-meter hurdles.

Tigers

tigers vs. diamondbacks
saturday, june 28 • 7:05pm • for tickets call (248) 25-tiger

we come to play