

'Hockey Hat Trick' planned

By M.B. DILLON

Hockey — at least in metro Detroit — finally has a contest for kids just

like football's Punt, Pass and Kick, baseball's Pitch, Hit and Run and basketball's Hot Shot. Girls and boys from 7 to 16 years old

from the greater Detroit area are eligible to compete in Southfield Parks and Recreation's "Hockey Hat Trick" and win a chance to advance to the finals at Joe Louis Arena prior to the Detroit Red Wing-Colorado Rockies NHL contest on Jan. 24.

"It's a fun and rewarding way for kids to test the three main skills of hockey," said Rejean Tremblay, superintendent of Southfield Parks and Recreation. "And you don't have to be a gifted athlete to win this contest. A very average player could win it."

JUDGES WILL award points for skating, shooting and passing ability as contestants proceed through a set course of pylons and nets.

Registration for the Paddock Poolsponsored event will be underway through Dec. 17 at Livonia Ice Arena, Oak Park Ice Arena, Wyandotte's Ben Yack Arena and St. Clair Shores Ice Arena for a \$1 fee.

Competition at the Livonia Ice Arena will be 2-6 p.m. Dec. 29 and 2-7:30 p.m. Dec. 30; at the Oak Park Arena 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 29-30; at the Wyandotte Arena 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24 and at the St. Clair Shores Arena 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

The contest, limited to the first 300 entrants per arena, is divided into five age groups — mite, squirt, pee-wee, bantam and midget (7-8 years old; 9-10; 11-12; 13-14 and 15-16).

"THE TOP TWO point-getters in

each age group from the four arenas will then compete from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Beech Woods Arena (Nine Mile at Beech in Southfield)," said Barry Schwartz, publicity director of Southfield Parks and Recreation. Former Red Wing defenseman Larry Johnson whose son Craig is defending champion of last year's 8-9 title, said, "This is really a great thing for kids and a good way for them to learn the fundamentals of hockey."

"Hockey has been the only major sport without a major contest, so this is bound to grow.

"LAST YEAR, just Southfield was involved and now it's taking in the whole metro Detroit area," Johnson added.

The two-year-old contest may be statewide and even nationwide in the future, according to Mike Battel, Beech Woods facility manager.

Craig Johnson, 9, and defending 9-10 champion Scott Collins, 10, son of former Red Wing Billy Collins, are already practicing at Beech Woods Arena.

The former champions agree "it's not so easy hitting the upper targets on the net, and passing the puck through the slots is tough on the backhand."

But after watching the pair work out on the ice, it doesn't seem like either of the seasoned young skaters should have much trouble.

For more information, call the Southfield recreation department at 354-9603.

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North matmen win tournament

North Farmington's wrestling team, which opened its season last week by losing to Belleville and Dearborn Heights Annapolis, redeemed itself last Saturday by topping the 10-school Country Day Invitational.

Coach Jim O'Leary's North team scored 150 1/2 points. Hartland High was second with 122 1/2. Farmington Harrison finished third with 99 1/2. Birmingham Groves had 91. Lutheran North 74. Country Day 68 1/2 and Cranbrook 40.

Farmington High opened its wrestling season last Saturday with a second-place finish in the Redford Thurston Invitational. Clarkson won with 187 points. Farmington had 142.

North Farmington had weight-class champions in Paul Cotter and Dan Orr. Cotter won the 132-pound title by pinning Birmingham Groves' Brian Tracy in 1:42 in the finals. In the 138-pound final, Orr defeated country Day's Marc Kommscher, 2-1.

Harrison had three champions — Dave Blackmer, Ken Kopko and Eric Wemyss.

Blackmer, wrestling in the 167-pound division, pinned North's Steve Magyari in 1:50 in the finals. Kopko defeated North's Shawn Cotter, 8-6, in the 185 final. Wemyss took 8-35 to pin Groves' Greg Hunsinger in the 198 final.

Farmington High had four champions in the Thurston Invitational.

In the 112-pound final, Farmington's Dave Denny blanked Clarkson's Lance Jewett, 16-0. Mike McKinnon, Farmington's 126-pounder, won the title with a 7-0 decision over Dearborn Edsel Ford's Kurt Bender.

Mark Denny of Farmington pinned Kurt Campbell of Thurston in 3:31 of the 128-pound final. At 167 pounds, Farmington's Jim Steiner pinned Mike Halagian of Livonia Churchill in 2:50.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, Farmington and Harrison will participate in the Westland John Glenn Invitational. The competition begins at 9:30 a.m. On the same day, North Farmington will wrestle at Ypsilanti High School.

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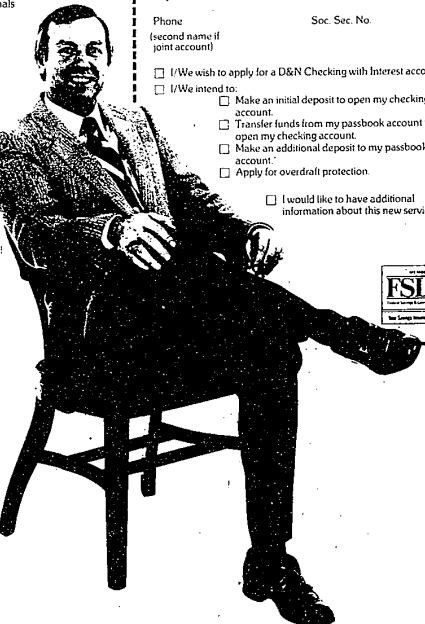
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