

Star athlete can't hear the crowd's cheers



David Zanavich boasts a chestful of medals and trophies for his achievements in football and wrestling at Michigan School for the Deaf. (Photo by Jim Hollinshead)

By SUSAN ROSIEK

David Zanavich is an all-star football player, wrestler and honor student. He hunts, fishes and like any other high school senior, he's looking forward to graduation day and perhaps college or a job.

His life can best be described as that of a typical senior with one exception — David is deaf.

For all his sports triumphs, David never has heard the cheers of a crowd when he made a key play on the gridiron or scored a pin on the wrestling mat.

Despite his world of silence, David — with the help and encouragement of family, friends and teachers — remains an example to others who suffer a handicap. David has managed to overcome what he terms an inconvenience rather than a handicap.

His teachers describe him as bright and confident with an undaunted zest for life.

DAVID IS PROFOUNDLY deaf. He lip-reads, signs and has some limited speech capabilities. Doctors diagnosed his deafness as the result of nerve damage that occurred when he was six months old, says his mother, Sophie Zanavich.

Mrs. Zanavich admits that while initially it was hard to accept David's deafness, "life goes on."

"We never treated him any different from the rest of the children," said Mrs. Zanavich. "In fact, we've all learned from him and it never hurts to know something different. To know David is to learn from him."

One of three children of Charles Robert and Sophie Zanavich, David is a senior at Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) near Flint. He started his education in Garden City Public Schools attending Henry Huff and Douglas schools before a teacher suggested the family consider MSD. David was nine years old and "it was a difficult decision to make," says Mrs. Zanavich.

Was it the right choice?

"YOU NEVER KNOW, there are so many ifs. If he had continued in Garden City Schools he might be able to speak better. He had an excellent speech teacher in Garden City."

"But on the other hand he probably wouldn't have been able to participate in sports. Garden City doesn't provide sports for deaf children," she adds. "We made the right choice, however, and we're glad — considering how much David likes sports. He's so athletically inclined," says his obviously proud mother.

And sports-minded he is. He has been one of only two deaf youngsters who have played Little League Baseball in Garden City where he was named to the all-star team.

At MSD David played center, offensive and defense tackle and was a member of the wrestling team. A chest of medals and several trophies attest to his athletic abilities. At 6-1, 210 pounds, David went to the state deaf wrestling finals twice. He has been named to the 43rd All-American Football Team for the Deaf.

David led the MSD 1978-79 wrestling team as captain and captured an award for having the best team spirit.

He also received an honorable mention to The Frat's All-American Football Team for 1978. "The Frat" is the official publication of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf.

AN HONOR STUDENT, David says his favorite subject is math. To add to his cache of tributes, David was recently honored as an outstanding all-around student by the West Flint Optimist Club. Besides attending classes, David works in the print shop at McLaren Hospital from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday.

"There isn't anything he doesn't do," says Mrs. Zanavich.

"Last fall he caught a nine-point buck. He likes fishing and he's been driving since he was 16 years old."

Spending his weekdays at school, David drives home to spend weekends with family and friends.

David's family has made sure that over the years his life has been active and as normal as possible.

"When he played baseball in Garden City I would drive to Flint and pick him up after he finished school. He'd come home, eat dinner and play baseball. Then his dad would drive him back to Flint."

COMMUNICATION has never been a problem in the Zanavich household. While his family doesn't sign, they finger spell and David can read lips. He has several hearing friends who sign. His parents encourage him to speak.

David's confident and looking forward to the future. He doesn't anticipate any serious problems because of his deafness. Technology has made several devices such as a teletype telephone and a vibrating bed which acts as an alarm clock available to deaf persons.

After graduation he says he will either "go to college — Madonna or Mott Community — and become a physical education teacher or look for a job at either GM or Ford."

An outgoing and friendly person, Da-

Zanavich is a honor student at the Michigan School for the Deaf near Flint. He was named to an All-American football team and went to the state deaf wrestling finals.

vid finds it easy to get along with people. He admits, however, that he would like others to at least try and understand his world a little bit better.

HE GETS ANGRY because people don't understand him says his mother helping to convey David's answer which combined finger spelling and speech.

"The news shows should either have somebody signing or have captions so deaf people know what's going on in the world," says David.

"Police officers and restaurant workers should also learn to sign," he adds.

"The world is starting to recognize deafness," adds Mrs. Zanavich. "It's an invisible handicap."

A Snowmobile Association for the Deaf has been formed in recent years. David also has taken advantage of the cultural and social activities offered by the Detroit Association for the Deaf.

Making friends seems to come easy for this tall blond athlete.

"DAVID IS AN easy person to like. He has a good sense of humor and a very pleasant personality," says Anne Downing, one of his teachers at MSD.

"He makes friends easily with deaf or hearing people. I've seen him in a crowd of hearing boys at wrestling tournaments, joking around or playing some kind of card game."

"He's a natural leader. As captain of the wrestling team he helped many of the boys to do their best. He always encouraged the others from the sidelines and was the first to praise their efforts, win or lose, when a match was finished."

His wrestling coach praised David's spirit and determination.

Injured during football practice last August, he managed to play the entire season earning all league and all American honors. His injury plagued him during wrestling season and he was ordered to the sidelines early in the year.

"He missed two months but recovered faster than expected and was allowed to compete for the last two weeks of the year. He was out of condition after the lengthy lay off but he qualified for state finals where he demonstrated competitive drive beyond his ability," says Bernard.

ENCOURAGEMENT has been essential to David's success and his parents are particularly grateful to Coach Bernard.

"All of David's teachers were a great help but the one important person was Larry Bernard," says Mrs. Zanavich.

Although David says he is looking forward to the future, he enjoys reminiscing about his sports career.

"I sort of wish I was in the ninth grade again so I could play football all over again."

A stroll through the past

For people who need a reason to take a walk, the Tecumseh Area Historical Society may be the conduit through which to channel that energy.

"Promenade the Past — 1979" will take visitors on a tour of 11 historic structures, the likes of which include Gothic Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Victorian Gothic, Itali-

anate villa-style, 19th century Victorian, and Georgian.

Tickets for the tour are \$3 in advance or \$4 on tour, \$3 for senior citizens and students 18 and younger.

For information, write Tecumseh Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 26, Tecumseh 49286.

YOUR INFORMATION STATION

News and feature reports 24 hours a day!

WWW NEWSRADIO 95

PROFESSIONALLY BUILT ROOM ADDITIONS

FREE ESTIMATES

JK Building & Remodeling Licensed Builders

PHONE 296-1270

OAKLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS

CALL 699-5080

Residential Quality Window Replacement

Standard Federal Savings' 26-Week Money Market Certificate

9.295% ANNUAL RATE

9.647% EFFECTIVE ANNUAL YIELD SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT RENEWAL

\$469.91 INTEREST EARNED ON \$10,000 AFTER 26 WEEKS

EFFECTIVE APRIL 26 THROUGH MAY 2

\$10,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT

- ✓ Certificates are available in passbook form providing you with a record of your transaction.
- ✓ Accounts are insured to \$40,000.
- ✓ Unless otherwise notified, these accounts are automatically renewed upon maturity at the then current rate.
- ✓ Federal regulations prohibit all financial institutions from compounding interest during the term of the account. If retained in the account, interest is compounded at the time of renewal.
- ✓ Conveniently available at ALL Standard Federal offices WITHOUT ANY CHARGES OR FEES!

There is a substantial interest penalty for early withdrawal from certificate accounts.



Call 643-9583 AT ANY TIME to obtain the current week's rate.



STANDARD FEDERAL SAVINGS

If you love sports, you'll love adidas



BIG SALE

Thursday - Sunday

MATCH

Canvas sneaker for sport/leisure. Lacy sole, padded ankle collar, toe guard with full wrap-around lacing. LIMITED SIZES AVAILABLE.

\$688



SHOOTING STAR

A practical all-terrain tennis shoe. It's great for tennis, racquetball or just kicking around the backyard. MOST SIZES AVAILABLE.

\$988



SALE ENDS SUNDAY OR WHILE SUPPLY LASTS (Many other styles available at great savings)

FOOTSTOP

OAKLAND MALL Troy 589-9099

MEADOWBROOK VILLAGE MALL Rochester 375-0668

TEL-TWELVE MALL Southfield 352-4480

adidas

COMMODITY BROKERS:



If you have a successful background in commodity trading, Archer Commodity Trading Corporation, an affiliate of Archer Commodities, Inc. is looking for only the best experienced brokers around. Highest commissions and incentive program anywhere.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL: 313 McFady 2 313-844-8800 COMMODITY TRADING CORPORATION An affiliate of Archer Commodities, Inc. 30555 Southfield Road Southfield, Mich. 48075 a equal opportunity employer EOE

Rentals

IBM SELECTRIC CORRECTING TYPEWRITERS



Correcting made painless-easy to use, saves time. Put an end to messy corrections.

TEMPORARY PROJECTS OVERLOAD WORK CONVENTIONS NEW DEPARTMENTS

CALL 588-2200

gilson-ayres inc. 500 Stephenson Ave. Troy, Mich. 48064