

Amateur sports face problem

Last August, I spoke with Dr. Dennis Sprandel, the head of the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) about the United States.

And, last August, Dr. Sprandel told me that the U.S. amateur programs were terrible. "It's a miracle we can compete on an international basis at all," he said.

The 1980 Olympic trials are now less than a year away. So I again asked Sprandel about the condition of our amateur sports. His reply was that while things have changed, they may not have done so for the better.

The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) is in the process of raising \$26 million to be used by amateur athletes. With television events like "Olympathon," which was aired last month, that target is within reach.

But it's the way the money is going to be used that worries Sprandel.

"The plan is to spend the money on training centers," said Sprandel, who received his PhD in athletic administration from Michigan State.

"They'll take the cream of the crop to these centers, polish them up, and then try to beat the heck out of the Russians."

That is not what Sprandel wants to see happen to the funds.

"We're modelling our program after the European style of training. The European system has always been elitest, while here it has always been recreational."



pean style of training. The European system has always been elitest, while here it has always been recreational."

SPRANDELL FIGURES THE elitest system goes against our type of society. His believes we should plow money into a "grass roots" development program instead of giving financial aid just to those athletes who have already proved themselves.

By financing the coaching and development of younger athletes, Sprandel figures that, in the long run, more top performers will be produced.

"No money flows down into other programs now," Sprandel said. "Youngsters should be able to take advantage of the new facilities. In the long run, a grass roots program will develop more athletes."

"A lot can be accomplished on the beginning levels with very little money, just on a voluntary basis. I know the AAU could have gotten some good coaches that way, but they just never

countries in the world that doesn't finance its athletes with government funds, but rather relies on commercial donations.

Money is still a problem, but another was to whom would the funds be assigned? To what body would decide on how they would be used?

THE GOVERNMENT STEPPED IN and passed a federal law, making the USOC the ruling body. With its new responsibilities, more members were added to the USOC to help make decisions.

And where did those new members come from? The AAU and the NCAA, the two organizations that, along with the USOC, had been competing for financial support in international events.

Sound confusing? It is, or, at least, was. Politics still play a very big part in American sport. Now, the USOC is the ruling body governing all inter-

national competition. The NCAA will have no trouble surviving, but where does that leave the AAU?

"By Jan. 1, the AAU will not be a governing body over any sport," Sprandel said. "By their own choice, the AAU may destroy themselves."

"We just didn't think one board of governors could oversee all sports programs. Since the '60s, when amateur sports really became big money, the AAU has been getting too big."

"Starting in January, each sport (the AAU is official governing body over eight international sports) will have its own autonomy. We will be nothing more than a service organization, providing whatever the sports want us to."

Sprandel fears that some sports, like swimming, may decide to form their own organization

and drop the AAU all together. But that is a chance the AAU board has decided to take.

None of this, may matter. The USOC will probably step in and do about the same things the AAU was doing. And the same people may be in control. No one can really tell.

"Politics aren't going to go away," Sprandel said. "Anything that makes good common sense probably won't get done. Human relation problems hurt it. "People just can't get together and resolve things." Ain't it the truth.

St. Mary's signs cager

St. Mary's College has signed the biggest prep basketball player in the state — Mike Nelson who stands 7-feet-11½. Although not outstanding in high school at Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, St. Mary's head basketball coach, Tim Domke, feels Nelson could be the sleeper of the year and has the potential to be an outstanding college basketball player.

"Mike is a well-coordinated, highly intelligent young man who is nowhere near his potential," Domke said. "He can be as good as he wants to be — it's only a matter of applying himself and

being given direction." Nelson is one of nine children. He gives much of the credit for his improvement in the past year to Matt Hart, who runs a basketball scouting service.

"Mr. Hart has given me much direction, advice and encouragement, and I'm thankful for his help," Nelson said. Hart claims Nelson is the tallest high school player ever in the state.

After finishing his first year under Domke at 20-16, St. Mary's has vastly upgraded its schedule for the coming season.

MARIAN McPARTLAND

THE WORLD'S FIRST LADY OF JAZZ PIANO

TUES., MAY 15 & THURS., MAY 17 7:30 & 9:30 P.M.

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS JAZZ AT THE INSTITUTE

ALL TICKETS \$5
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
& FULL SEASON BROCHURE
832-2730

GRISSOM

FOR GARAGE & ROOM ADDITIONS
BEFORE YOU DECIDE — GIVE US A TRY!



SEE YOUR GARAGE BEFORE IT'S BUILT... VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF MODEL GARAGES or Call Collect— 313-533-7071

FREE ESTIMATES — EASY TERMS
OWNER IS YOUR SALESMAN
25111 W. 7 MILE — REDFORD
"Serving Your Area over 31 Years"

Home of Old Fashioned Service

THIS SPRING
CREATE A BETTER HOME WHERE YOU LIVE

PREFINISHED PANELING
THRIFTY... YET EXCITINGLY BEAUTIFUL

4x7 PANELING FOR THE BASEMENT OR RECREATION ROOM
\$399 ea.

4 MIL PRINT ON PLUSWOOD BOARD

YOUR CHOICE OF FLAVORS
MOJAVE PECAN, WHITE ELM, CHAPARRAL OAK

20" x 17" VANITY WITH MARBLE TOP

CHOICE OF
• ANTIQUE WHITE BASE
• WHITE AND GOLD BASE
• PECAN BASE
• OTHER SIZES AND FLAVORS ON DISPLAY

\$44.88
Pop Up Faucet *18"

Glidden HOUSE PAINT FACTORY SALE

Spred house paint
• Quick drying, durable full finish
• Resists blisters, peeling, cracking
• Easy water cleanup
• White or Red-Mix Colors

\$8.99 GALLON
Reg. \$12.49
SAVE \$3.50

SPREAD INTERIOR GLOSS Reg. *13 = **\$9.99** gal.

EARLY SPRING PROJECT

5' PICNIC TABLE

ALL YOU NEED IS A HAMMER AND SAW AND JUST A LITTLE TIME. ALL WOOD AND NAILS INCL.

\$24.88
2 x 10 TOP & SEATS

SEE OUR OTHER MODELS ON DISPLAY

7' KD SOFTWOOD
For Wood Gourmets

2x2
70¢ ea.
STUD GRADE

2x5 **\$1.96** ea.
2x6 **\$2.58** ea.
1x2 FURRING
10 PK **\$3.50**

4 x 8 PARTICLE BOARD

A Product for a Million Uses

1/4" **\$4.38**
3/4" **\$4.99**
1 1/2" **\$5.38**
5/8" **\$5.58**

5/8" x 12" - 8 foot **\$1.96** EACH

LANDSCAPE TIMBERS

MIXED HARDWOODS MAINLY OAK

4x4-8 **\$3.88**
4x6-8 **\$5.88** C.C.

New bright stock

CEMENT STEPS

\$475 c&c
Lm. Fl.

36"-42"

Peeled Cedar Fence Post

7" SIZE 2" TOP **\$1.35** each

Fresh stock natural decay resistant

Redi Mix CEMENT OR MORTAR

\$2.48 bag

Also In Stock
Play Sand and Asphalt Mix

SALEM LUMBER CENTER

Your Neighbor Shops Here

30650 PLYMOUTH ROAD
GA 2-1000

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Shed open Monday, Thurs., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



TOYS 'R' US

the CHILDREN'S Bargain Town

MURRAY
26 INCH 10 SPEED
MENS OR LADIES
\$59.92 OUR PRICE
10 speed derailleur, stem mounted shifters, caliper hand brakes. Unassembled. ALL MURRAY AT BIG DISCOUNT

LA HUFF
26 INCH DELUXE 10 SPEED "SANTA FE"
21" frame, caliper hand brakes, "postolov" gearing system. Unassembled. **\$89.97** OUR PRICE
ALL LA HUFF AT BIG DISCOUNT

TOYS 'R' US
IS A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP...
A SELECTIONS NEVER STOP!

K-TEL
20 INCH HI ROSE
Hi rise handlebars, coaster brake, banana saddle. Unassembled. **\$42.97** OUR PRICE
ALL K-TEL AT BIG DISCOUNT

LA HUFF
20 INCH "THUNDER ROAD" MOTOCROSS
MX saddle, coaster brake. Unassembled. **\$69.96** OUR PRICE
ALL LA HUFF AT BIG DISCOUNT

AMF
16" SPIDER-SUN SIDEWALK BIKE
Training wheels. Coaster brake. Unassembled. **\$46.96** OUR PRICE
ALL AMF AT BIG DISCOUNT

MARX
BIG WHEEL SCORCHER
39 inches long. Low center of gravity. Unassembled. **\$138.7** OUR PRICE
ALL MARX AT BIG DISCOUNT

KRAZY KATCH GAME
New way to toss and catch. Fun and easy to play indoors or outdoors. Ages 5-up. All K-TEL AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$3.48** OUR PRICE

7" LONG AIRTRON
Cheerful about circus of the Micromen world. Fast or slow speeds. 2 AA cells not incl. All K-TEL AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$5.96** OUR PRICE

MAGNAVOX
ODYSSEY 500 COLOR VIDEO GAME
Play tennis, hockey, smash or soccer. On screen scoring. No batteries required. AC adapter included. All MAGNAVOX AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$14.97** OUR PRICE

Hasbro
HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS
Manipulate the levers so your hippo can snatch the most marshes. 2-4 players. Unassembled. Ages 4-up. All HASBRO AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$9.78** OUR PRICE

Olin
50 lbs. hth DRY CHLORINATOR GRANULAR OR TABLETS
A bactericide, algicide and sanitizer all in one. Makes pool water sparkle. All Olin AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$48.87** OUR PRICE

Coastal
1 GALLON CAL-JET ALGACIDE LIQUID
Destroys algae, skum, slime and odors. Keeps water crystal clear and clean. All COASTAL AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$4.97** OUR PRICE

muskin
8 INCH CARTRIDGE POOL FILTER
Filters 240 G.P.M. Includes cartridge, 25 foot 3 wire ground cord. U.S. listed. All MUSKIN AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$45.87** OUR PRICE

muskin
12 FT. x 36 IN. POOL WITH LADDER AND FILTER
Durable construction, top and bottom ribs with welded supports. Includes 36 inch pool ladder and filter. Unassembled. All MUSKIN AT BIG DISCOUNT. **\$99.83** OUR PRICE

MON-SAT 10 AM-9:30 PM; SUN 11 AM-6 PM

MADISON HEIGHTS
32770 John R. Road at 14 Mile
South of Oakland Mall

SOUTHGATE
14333 Eureka Road
Corner of Eureka and Southgate

ROSEVILLE
32770 Eureka Ave. at Madison
Corner of Eureka and Madison

FLINT
3250 S. Linden Rd. at Miller Rd.
Corner of Linden and Miller

LIVONIA
28150 W. 7 Mile Rd. at Midland Mall
South of Midland Mall

SOUTHFIELD
27000 Telegraph Rd. at 12 Mile
South of 12 Mile

72 STORES COAST TO COAST