

Wooddale, Longacre win in Youth Olympics

By TOM BAER

Young athletes from Wooddale and Longacre elementary schools had cause to celebrate after the Farmington area Youth Olympics last week.

Longacre's 25-member team won the team trophy (for the best showing in the athletic events), and Wooddale's squad won the sportsmanship award (for conduct and appearance) at the annual Physical Fitness meet held last Tuesday at North Farmington High School.

This year's Youth Olympics, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, drew more than 200 competitors. Each of the 12 school playgrounds in Farmington

and Farmington Hills sent a team. Longacre's playground crew, directed by Dan Werner, took first places in 14 of the meet's 50 events. Gill Elementary, which won the team trophy in 1978, finished second this summer, taking six first places. Yvette Sparks directed the Gill team.

Wooddale, managed by Ed Fairchild, won the sportsmanship award with 28 points. Kenbrook, Longacre, Middlebelt and Wood Creek tied for second place with 24 points each.

"We stress the sportsmanship more than anything," said Evans Bageris, the playground supervisor for Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation department. "All those teams had real nice uniforms and banners. Those things are



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taken into account in the judging.

"And, the most important thing, those kids were really well-behaved and very well organized."

THERE WERE six categories for judging in the sportsmanship competition — appearance, assembly, banners, calisthenics, conduct and uniforms. Three recreation officials — Jeff Farland, Andy Lang and Dave Justus — served as judges.

Boys and girls competed in a running dash, the running and the standing broad jump, the running broad jump, the triple jump, the softball throw, shuttle relay races and a chinning competition.

Competition was held in four age groups — Class A, ages 14-15; Class B, 12-13; Class C, 10-11; and Class D, 9 and under.

More than 250 spectators watched the Youth Olympics Tuesday. "We had four or five councilmen from Farmington Hills and one from Farmington," Bageris said. "The kids really ate that up. They enjoyed performing before the 'dignitaries' as they called them."

Farmington's winners in Classes A through C will participate in the Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet on Thursday (July 26) at Metropolitan Beach near Mount Clemens. Some 60 cities from the Detroit area will send teams to the Metro Meet.

Events at the Metro Meet are the same as on the local level. Conduct and appearance will be just as important at Metro Beach as they were at North Farmington.

The teams will be vying for the John J. Considine Award, emblematic of good sportsmanship, conduct and appearance during the track and field events.

"Our team of 40 or so will be competing against 2500 youngsters from other communities," Bageris said. "We did well in our first two meets, but were completely shut out last year. We came in fourth in two events with a team that we felt was very strong. The competition just seems to be getting harder each year."



Warmup exercises are an important part of the physical fitness program at the Youth Olympics.



Craig Moilanen is a determined 11-year-old on the chinning bar at the Youth Olympics. (Staff photos by Randy Bors) (F)1C

Youth Olympics summary

YOUTH OLYMPICS — TEAM FINISH

TEAM STANDINGS — 1. Longacre, 75 points; 2. Gill, 42; 3. Kenbrook, 38; 4. Wood Creek, 34; 5. Wooddale, 28; 6. Middlebelt, 24; 7. Farmington, 24; 8. Longacre, 24; 9. Farmington Hills, 24; 10. Farmington Hills, 24; 11. Farmington Hills, 24; 12. Farmington Hills, 24.

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS — BOYS

SOFTBALL THROW — Class A, Bill Ansin (Gill), 181.3; Class B, Bill Ansin (Gill), 181.3; Class C, Bill Ansin (Gill), 181.3; Class D, Bill Ansin (Gill), 181.3.

CHINNING — Class A, Dave Lockier (Gill), 50; Class B, Mike Foye (Longacre), 48; Class C, Mike Foye (Longacre), 48; Class D, Mike Foye (Longacre), 48.

STANDING LONG JUMP — Class A, no entries; Class B, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5; Class C, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5; Class D, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5.

SHUTTLE RELAY — Class A, Wooddale (Larry Hart, Gordy Hollier, Priscilla Motta, Carolyn Kelly, Class D, Longacre (Ryan Rongstad, Bob Polon, Michele Geyer, T. Chappin).

SOFTBALL THROW — Class A, Am Sullivan (Longacre), 122.2; Class B, Am Sullivan (Longacre), 122.2; Class C, Am Sullivan (Longacre), 122.2; Class D, Am Sullivan (Longacre), 122.2.

CHINNING — Class A, Judy Dotson (Longacre), 1; Class B, Debbie Hanger (Longacre), 1; Class C, Debbie Hanger (Longacre), 1; Class D, Debbie Hanger (Longacre), 1.

STANDING LONG JUMP — Class A, no entries; Class B, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5; Class C, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5; Class D, Kim Campbell (Longacre), 6.5.

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Gordy Hollier puts a lot of effort into the softball throw.

Roller skater strikes silver at Pan Am games

By C.J. RISAK



Suzanne Dooley's daily routine includes a two-hour indoor workout, another one-hour session outdoors, and between 20 and 50 miles of bicycling.

All that training is aimed at keeping Dooley in the best possible shape for her sport — roller skating.

It's strange to refer to roller skating as sport when most people think of it as recreation. But Dooley, who lives in Livonia and works in Farmington, has been skating for half her life, over 15 years, spending almost that much time competing.

"I just tried it out and I liked it," Dooley recalled. "It was in 1964 that she first tried roller skating, and by 1965 she was competing."

She has come a long way from the rink in Chicago where she first learned to skate. Earlier this month, she completed her competition in the Pan American Games and came home with two silver medals.

She won her first silver medal in the women's 5000-meter race and her second in the 5000-meter two woman relay. Despite her impressive performance, Dooley was not satisfied.

"I broke my wrist while I was training in Italy," she explained, showing the brace she still wears on her arm.

"It bothered me at Games. I couldn't be in the top condition I wanted to be. It affected my training, and I just wasn't in top form."

THE U.S. SKATING team did well at the games, held in Puerto Rico, even though training facilities in this country lag behind the top roller skating countries in the world.

In fact, the track proved to be the U.S. team's biggest handicap. It was an outdoor, 200-meter banked oval track. There is nothing like it in America, where most roller skating is done indoors on flat tracks.

The change in types of tracks can make a big difference, according to Dooley.

"The size is different (most American tracks are 100-meter), it's banked, and the wind can be a major factor."

It was the wind that might have cost Dooley a gold medal in the Pan American Games. In her 5000-meter race, she was passed on the last lap by one of the Argentinian skaters who had waited until the last moment to pass, using a method auto rvers have found to be successful — drafting.

(Drafting is a method where one racer gets in close behind the other, in his so-called jet stream. The racer in front does all the work fighting the wind, while the racer in back can save power and be pulled along in the wake of the front racer.)

But Dooley still cites the lack of an outdoor

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