

# Comment

By Bob Gross



## Olympics get bad ink

The high point of the recent Winter Olympics came in the Birmingham Groves gymnasium. That's where I was on a Friday, watching a jayvee basketball game between Groves and Lahser, waiting for the varsity game to start.

Groves athletic director Carl Pen-dracki came into the gym, went up to the kid announcing the game, and whispered something into his ear.

"That kid really knew how to milk an audience. 'We have a hockey score,' he said, as if nobody really cared whether he had one or not. 'United States 4, Russia 3.' That drew enthusiastic applause, but the kid wasn't through."

"That's a final," he said, and the gym exploded with the sound of applause. The fact that a Groves player was just about to shoot a free throw was forgotten for a few minutes. I went up to Groves varsity coach Gary Sharpe before the his game, just to let him know I was there and to find out where I could talk to him after the game. You'd think that with a game facing him against the top team in his league, he'd be nervous and wrapped up in thought.

"Did you hear that hockey score?" he said. "How about that?" The National Anthem before the varsity game that night was just a little special.

THE LOW POINT of the Winter Olympics, rather than the low points, arrived each morning with the newspaper. Quite frankly, I think one of the area dailies overdid it with its criticism of ABC's television coverage. Hey, I agree that the ABC coverage wasn't

the greatest in the world, and I agree that the coverage deserved some criticism, but day after day after day?

You'd think they might have had something better to run in that space other than a television review. For example, there were local people, such as Birmingham's Tom Streff, involved in the running of the Games. Yet, there was no mention of them.

It's not saying that a newspaper shouldn't criticize where criticism is warranted, but at the same time a newspaper should take a long hard look at itself before doing so. If you don't check out what's happening in your own backyard, you often end up looking silly.

For example, a newspaper looks pretty silly complaining about the frequency of television commercials when it devotes less than 30 percent of its available space to editorial content. Sure, some television commercials are boring, obnoxious and repetitive. Certainly they are more or less spoon fed to the viewing audience. But television, in its present form, needs the darn things, just as much as newspapers need advertising.

A newspaper also looks pretty silly complaining about puff and fluff television features when it devotes most of a section front to describing the clothes people wore to the Ford divorce trial.

And a newspaper that projects a liberal image looks downright foolish when it publishes an item that implies that figure skating and other such "sissy sports" — the article's implication, not mine — are televised only because of the viewing habits of mothers and daughters.

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## Best swim times

Boys' swim coaches from the Birmingham-Bloomfield, Southfield, Troy, Rochester, Farmington and West Bloomfield communities are asked to report their best boys' swim times to Southfield-Lathrup coach Pete Biglin. The Chargers' coach can be reached at the Lathrup pool weekdays after 1 p.m. at 354-7555, or at home at 879-9044. The Observer & Eccentric sports sections hope to publish the best swim times weekly with the help of our area coaches.

**100-YARD BUTTERFLY**

1. Jeff Lundy (Southfield) ..... 54.6
2. Mike Schmidt (Groves) ..... 55.0
3. Rob Mackie (Rice) ..... 55.4
4. Guy Del Franco (Andover) ..... 56.0
5. Dan Krizan (Groves) ..... 56.1
6. Tim Newman (Farmington) ..... 56.2
7. Bill Egan (Groves) ..... 56.6
8. Todd Avery (South) ..... 56.7
9. Steve Scherer (W. Bloom.) ..... 56.7
10. Terry Smith (Rochester) ..... 57.1

**100-YARD FREESTYLE**

1. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 49.0
2. Scott Hesslam (Groves) ..... 49.3
3. Guy Del Franco (Andover) ..... 49.3
4. Shawn Keating (Rice) ..... 49.4
5. Tom Mates (W. Bloom.) ..... 49.8
6. Bill Egan (Groves) ..... 49.8
7. Dan Clements (Groves) ..... 49.8
8. Todd Avery (South) ..... 49.8
9. Tim Olson (Groves) ..... 50.2
10. Mike Schmidt (Groves) ..... 50.6

**500-YARD FREESTYLE**

1. John Ruffell (Harrison) ..... 4:49
2. Dan Clements (Groves) ..... 4:50.9
3. Mike Schmidt (Groves) ..... 4:51.9
4. Marty Holland (Southfield) ..... 4:53.4
5. Rob Mackie (Rice) ..... 4:55.3
6. Paul Koenig (Groves) ..... 4:57.1
7. Rich Kramer (Rice) ..... 4:58.2
8. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 5:02.7
9. Ben Sierra (Rochester) ..... 5:02.9
10. Mark Hollington (Southfield) ..... 5:03.3

**100-YARD BACKSTROKE**

1. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 56.4
2. Guy Del Franco (Andover) ..... 56.6
3. Dan Davis (Andover) ..... 57.7
4. Kip Kimble (Southfield) ..... 58.9
5. Kevin O'Connor (Rice) ..... 59.0
6. Todd Avery (South) ..... 59.2
7. Dan Clements (Groves) ..... 59.3
8. Kurt Mares (Rice) ..... 59.4
9. Jeff Green (Southfield) ..... 1:00.8
10. Allan Babcock (Harrison) ..... 1:00.7

**100-YARD BREASTSTROKE**

1. Scott Hammond (Andover) ..... 1:01.5
2. Tom Armstrong (Andover) ..... 1:02.6
3. Jim Gasser (H. Farms) ..... 1:04.2
4. Keith Gardner (Southfield) ..... 1:04.8
5. Tom Mates (W. Bloom.) ..... 1:05
6. Bob Lutz (Brooklyr Day) ..... 1:05.8
7. Jeff Martin (Rochester) ..... 1:06.6
8. Steve Kamm (Groves) ..... 1:07.1
9. Bernie Gayles (Andover) ..... 1:07.3
9. Wade Hanson (Groves) ..... 1:07.3

**400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY**

1. Birmingham Groves (Kevin Knight, Dan Clements, Eric Shiley and Scott Hoskamp) ..... 3:18.8
2. B.H. Andover ..... 3:21.5
3. West Bloomfield ..... 3:24.3
4. Birmingham Southfield ..... 3:24.9
5. Brother Rice ..... 3:25
6. Southfield ..... 3:27.4
7. Southfield-Lathrup ..... 3:31.5
8. Groves ..... 3:32.4
9. Scott Whetter (H. Farms) ..... 3:35.6
10. Rochester ..... 3:42

**200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY**

1. B.H. Andover (Guy Del Franco, Scott Hammond, Dan Davis and Paul Elliot) ..... 1:42.4
2. Birmingham Groves ..... 1:42.9
3. Birmingham Southfield ..... 1:43.9
4. West Bloomfield ..... 1:46
5. Southfield-Lathrup ..... 1:48.4
6. Brother Rice ..... 1:48.6
7. Southfield ..... 1:48.9
8. North Farmington ..... 1:49.3
9. B.H. Lahser ..... 1:49.6
10. Rochester ..... 1:50.2

**200-YARD FREESTYLE**

1. John Ruffell (Harrison) ..... 1:47
2. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 1:47.7
3. Shawn Keating (Rice) ..... 1:47.8
4. Dan Clements (Groves) ..... 1:47.9
5. Marty Holland (Southfield) ..... 1:48.4
6. Rob Mackie (Rice) ..... 1:48.6
7. Mike Schmidt (Groves) ..... 1:48.6
8. Paul Koenig (Groves) ..... 1:49.4
9. Tom Mates (W. Bloom.) ..... 1:49.6
9. Mark Hollington (Southfield) ..... 1:49.6

**200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY**

1. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 2:04.3
2. Bill Egan (Groves) ..... 2:04.6
3. Kip Kimble (Southfield) ..... 2:05.8
4. Mike Schmidt (Groves) ..... 2:06.4
5. Scott Hammond (Andover) ..... 2:06.7
6. Todd Avery (Lathrup) ..... 2:07.4
7. Manuel Bartush (Southfield) ..... 2:07.5
8. Guy Del Franco (Andover) ..... 2:07.6
8. Jeff Lundy (Southfield) ..... 2:07.6
10. Dan Clements (Groves) ..... 2:08.1

**50-YARD FREESTYLE**

1. Kevin Knight (Groves) ..... 32.4
1. Jon Roberts (Lathrup) ..... 32.4
3. Guy Del Franco (Andover) ..... 32.5
4. Tom Mates (W. Bloom.) ..... 32.5
5. Paul Elliot (Andover) ..... 32.7
6. Jeff Lundy (Southfield) ..... 32.7
7. Scott Hesslam (Groves) ..... 32.9
8. Shawn Keating (Rice) ..... 33.0
8. Todd Avery (South) ..... 33.0
8. Kirk Kooek (H. Farms) ..... 33.0

**DIVING**

1. Mike Wantack (Andover) ..... 340.6
2. Bob Cloutier (Groves) ..... 290.45
3. Jay Waterbury (Southfield) ..... 285.55
4. Andy Walsh (Athens) ..... 279.1
5. Todd Winsten (Lathrup) ..... 262.2
6. Steve Noren (South) ..... 245.6
7. Scott Whetter (H. Farms) ..... 238.4
8. Josh Sherbin (Groves) ..... 236.4
9. Joe Shanahan (Lathrup) ..... 225.8
10. Brian Rubin (Lathrup) ..... 225.8

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