

Varsity Shop girls clinch fastpitch crown

The Varsity Shop girls' softball team wrapped up the Metro Suburban ASA Women's Fast Pitch League championship Thursday by beating the Sterling One Titans 3-0 in the first game of a doubleheader.

Varsity Shop came into the doubleheader with an 11-1 record. Sterling One was 9-3 and in position to tie for the league championship by sweeping both games. The Birmingham squad put an end to that threat by clinching the title in the opener.

Varsity Shop lost the nightcap, 6-1.

Colleen McGovern (Birmingham)

Groves) went all the way on the mound for Varsity Shop. She pitched an outstanding game, allowing one hit while striking out two and walking three. She blanked Sterling One, facing only 25 batters in seven innings.

But until the bottom of the fifth, it looked as if McGovern wasn't going to get any offensive punch from her teammates. Varsity Shop and Sterling One went into the bottom of the fifth deadlocked at 0-0. Both teams had only one hit each.

MARK BITKOWSKI (Birmingham Groves) led off the Varsity Shop half of

the inning with a walk. Karen Crawfis (Birmingham Groves) followed with a single, moving Bitkowski to third base.

With runners at the corners, Varsity Shop coach Steven Crane sent Crawfis from first. Bitkowski took off for home on the throw to second. Crawfis was safe at second, and Bitkowski scored on a wild relay to the plate. Crawfis moved to third on the error.

Carol Patrick (Birmingham Seabolt) then walked, giving Varsity Shop runners at first and third again. You guessed it, Crane sent Patrick from first and Crawfis from third on the double steal. The throw down to second was wild, and Crawfis scored. Patrick took off for third where she

was waved in by Crane. Another bad throw, and Varsity Shop had a 3-0 lead. And that was all McGovern needed.

The win means that Varsity Shop will not have to play in a qualifying round to the Great Lakes American Softball Association Regional Tournament. The Birmingham team, as league champion, has an automatic bye to the tournament, which will be July 25, 26 and 27 at Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

Varsity Shop will compete in another tournament this week, playing a first-round game in the Bishop Foley Tournament tomorrow. The local team's opponent will be either Royal Oak Dondoro/Kimball or Warren Cousins.

Leafs draft ex-Rice icer

By BRAD EMONS

Livonia's Hugh Larkin is the type of hockey player NHL teams are looking for these days.

He's big (6-foot-2, 200 pounds), strong and can skate. He also likes to dig the puck out and takes pride in playing defense.

Those are just some of the reasons why the 17-year-old is now property of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Larkin has been invited to the Leafs' camp in August after being drafted in the fifth round.

A right winger, Larkin spent last winter going to high school and playing for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the Ontario Major Junior A Hockey League (OMJHL).

"Hugh has a terrific opportunity to turn pro," said his neighbor and former Bantam League coach Adam Mitchell. "He likes to work the corners. He works well with the guy in the slot."

"It's quite an honor for an American to be drafted that high."

Larkin grew up in Livonia and attended St. Maurice and St. Michael schools. He attended Birmingham Brother Rice for three years and moved up to the Soo his senior year.

"I learned a lot my first year," he said. "It was really fast. It was rough, hard hitting. You learn to get tough in a hurry."

ALTHOUGH LARKIN's team finished 11th out of 12 teams, scouts, namely Jerry McNamara of Toronto, were impressed with his potential.

Larkin scored 10 goals and drew 13 assists under the tutelage of former NHL player Terry Crisp, who coaches the Greyhounds.

"He (Crisp) knows a lot of people."

Surf topples Village

Beth Saunders broke two Village Athletic Club records but Bloomfield Surf Swim Club emerged as a 326-223 Northwest Suburban Swim League (NSSL) winner last Thursday. Saunders set records in winning the 15-17 girls' 100-meter freestyle (1:03.97), breaking her own pool record, and shattered the team's 50-meter butterfly mark (32.1) — a record that had stood for 12 years.

Kurt Maczoi surpassed his own team record in the 15-17 boys' 50-meter backstroke (31.4), but finished second

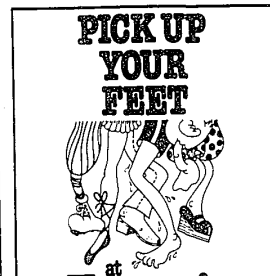


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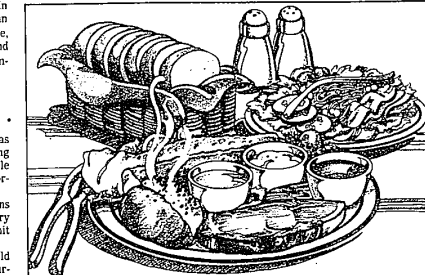
Darin Edelheit of West Bloomfield won the junior boys' 12-years-and-under singles title in the recent Automobile Club of Michigan's "Summer of Tennis" tournament at Beverly Hills Racquet Club.

Edelheit defeated Eric Wolin of Ann Arbor in the finals 6-0, 6-0.

Ed Waits, Southfield-Lathrup High School tennis coach and Beverly Hills resident, was the tournament director.

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Softball squad triumphs

Michigan Diversified Insurance (MDI) of Southfield battled back with 27-9 and 11-6 victories over Eastlund Concrete of Lansing to win the recent Derby Day Men's Slowpitch Tournament in Reed City.

MDI, coached by Buck Jerzy, won six of seven games in the 16-team double-elimination tourney.

MDI lost to Eastlund, 4-3, in the finals of the winner's bracket before rallying in the final two games.

Racquet club attracts youth

Racquetball — unknown to most adults in the '60s, but by the late '70s it had become one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Adults flocked to the new racquetball center that just opened down the street to pound a rubber ball off the wall.

Now it's the '80s, and although racquetball centers still pack in adults most of the year, during the summer months the crowds dwindle.

One local racquetball entrepreneur has battled this drop in attendance by appealing to an untapped source — children.

SOUTHFIELD RACQUETTIME, 26400 W. 12 Mile, just completed the first session of its Special Youth Program. Children, 17-years-and-

under, are offered racquetball lessons at a cost of \$15 per session. Sessions consist of four two-hour classes. Racquets and court time are included in the price. Each class is limited to a maximum of 10, with two age divisions: 12-and-under and 13-17.

A second Special Youth Program session starts today, with both morning (9-11 a.m.) and afternoon (1-3 p.m.) classes. The classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays, continuing on July 23, 28 and 30.

As an added incentive, all children taking lessons will get half-off for court time during the dates the class runs (July 21-30). For more information, call Southfield Racquettime at 358-2040.

Ann Arbor's State Street Area Art Fair & Bargain days

Come enjoy a day at Ann Arbor's State Street Area Art Fair and Bargain Days. Exhibits range from paintings, drawings, fiber arts, photography, glass work, jewelry, hand made musical instruments, and basket weaving to various types of sculpture. Some artists will have demonstrations of their craft. The Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sponsored by the State Street Area Association.

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