Sparks open cage season

The Westland Sparks lost only three of 48 basketball games last season. But one of those defeats came in the semilinals of the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

A seventh national championship was on the Sparks' minds when they opened their 1980-81 campaign last weekend in Pittsburgh against the Steelwheelers.

weeken in American Steelwheelers. The Sparks' first home games will be played the weekend of Dec. 6-7 against the Cleveland Comets and the Steelwheelers, doubleheaders both

dates.

All of the Sparks' home games will be played at the Melvin Bailey Recreation Center, 36551 Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh Roads in Westland.

land.
Tickets are \$1. Persons in wheelchairs are admitted without charge.
The Sparks will be further motivated
to succeed by the knowledge that they
will be hosting the \$3rd annual National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
April 3-4 at Westland John Glenn High
School.

School.

Two of the 14 players for the Sparks have local ties. Chuck Dillon, a forward, and Denver Branum, a guard, reside in Cantion.

But Rumming, the coach who also played to the Sparks of the Sp

STEVENSON 100 — FARMINGTON 72
200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — Livonia Stevenson (Sue Hollman, Polly Adazma, Mary Rozman, Karen Walter) 1:52, Farmington High, Parmington High, Parmington High, Parmington High, Sermington High, Sermington, Ser

ards (F). 200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — Sally Rozman (LS) 2:18.8, Laura Schoenle (LS), Kim

Rozman (LS) 2:18.8, Laura Schootle (LS), AID Pogue (F).

59-YARD FREESTYLE — Karen Wolter (LS) 2:5. Amy Edwards (F), Jo Smith (F).
DIVING — Jeenay Railiff (F) 182:60 points, Jill Rossin (F), Lisa Temby (LS).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Mary Rozman (LS) 1:0.10, Saily Rozman (LS), Dawn Stanton (F).

10- VARD FREESTYLE — Karen Wolter (LS)- 922, Karen Bierman (LS), Amy Edwards (F)-500-VARD FREESTYLE — Kim Pogue (F)-5228, Beth Nolan (LS), Denise DeCarle (LS)-100-VARD BACKSTROKE — Dawn Santon (F) 1873, Karen Tatigian (LS), Sue Hollman (LS)

IF 1375, Audit Jangan (26), Set 1976, Audit Jangan (26), Audit Ja

Swimming summaries

"Only four guys (on the team) actually stay in it all the time," Rumple said.
"The rest can walk by themselves or with the aid of crutches.
"To say it simple, if the guy can't play regular baskethall, he can play (wheelchair). He may have a pin in the hip, a pin in the knee or a pin in the ankle," Rumple added.

There are nolly a few rules chances

ankle." Rumple added.
There are only a few rules changes
to accommodate the wheelchairs.
A lane violation occurs in five seconds rather than three.
A player is allowed two pushes of the
wheels on the chair when he has possession of the ball. He then must dribble,
pages or shoot.

sion of the ball. He then must dribble, pass or shoot.

A player must remain seated at all imes. "If the but rises off the seat, it's a technical foul," Rumple said. Most other rules are the same as used by the National Collegiate Athleic Association.

A game consists of two 20-minute halves. The wheelchair is considered to be part of the body for purposes of fouling. The ball must be moved over the midcourt line in 10 seconds.

The Sparks are good, but they work

midcourt line in 10 seconds.

The Sparks are good, but they work at it. They practice twice a week, three hours at a stretch.

"The league were in — I'm not bragging — no team in our conference can look up to us," Rumple said. "It's not so much difference in talent that he way we play. If we don't have as much togetherness or play as a team, we won't win."

Among the national records compiled by the Sparks over the years are:

200 YARD MEDLEY RELAY - North Farmagton (Kirstan Kinsman, Mary Manderfield, Lath Harmden, Michele Lister)2:02.1, Garden ity East, Garden City East.
200-YARD FREESTYLE — Mary Shuey KIP 2:16.2, V. Woonce (GCS), Deanne Miller

Käty Harnden, Michele Lister, 2021, Garden City Past, Garden Miller (1972) 1973, AND FREESTYLE Mery Sasey (1972) 1974, AND FREESTYLE JAMES MANDEREY — Miller Garden City Large Grethe (CCE). How Manderfield (NP), Large Grethe (CCE). How Manderfield (NP), Large Grethe (CCE), Kim Walgelist (NP).
DIVING — Diana Smolar (CCE), Rim Walgelist (NP).
DIVING — Diana Smolar (CCE) 18270 points, Susie Moove (NP), not Mird place. Point More (NP) 1121. Sadar Favella (CCE), Relater MacKende (NP).
1124. Sadar Favella (CCE), Relater MacKende (NP).
1124. Sadar Favella (CCE), Relater MacKende (NP).
1125. Sadar Favella (CCE), Relater MacKende (NP).

ettenstock (NF). 500-YARD FREESTYLE — Deanna Miller F) 6:37.7, Diane Hilliard (GCE), Kim Thomp-

(NF) 83-77, Diase Hilliard (GCE), Kum 1 aomyco (GCE).

100-VARD BACKSTROKE — Sondra
Pawelak (GCE) 1:11.8, Hekto Sue Howard
(NF), Kerrie Pridemore (NF).

100-VARD BRACKSTROKE — Katy Hardzon (NF) 1:20.1, Erra Williams (GCE), Mary

100-VARD BREASTROKE — Katy Hardzon (NF) 1:20.1, Erra Williams (GCE), Mary

100-VARD FREESTVILE RELAY — North
Farmingion (Judy Kettenstock, Stavey GreegPassan Willer, Helen Sue Howard)

4:35.5, Garden City East, Garden City East. 30

'It's not so much difference in talent than the way we play. If we don't have as much togetherness or play as a team, we won't win.' -Coach Bud Rumple

- Highest scoring average for a season 100.9 points.
 Most points in a tournament game 92.
 Most points in a champlonship game 76.
 Highest scoring average in tournament play 70.

Rumple said that the Sparks do not have a sponsor. "We do some fund-rais-ing and sell ads through our book," he

may me sens aux inrougn our book," he said.

Rumple said that he hoped more people would come out and watch the Sparks play, not out of pity or to view a freak show, but to see a group of athletes do their thing.

"I can't but to see a group of athletes do their thing.
"I can't but to see a group of athletes of their thing.

"I can't but to see a fore, but we got the said." I still would like more support."

November 8-9, at Pittsburgh Steelwheelers, 15-16, at Grand Rapids Pacers, 22-23, at Cleveland Comets

January 10-11, at Toledo Silverstreaks: 24-25, Invitational Tournament at Nashville, Tenn.; 31-1, Invitational Tournament, at Lexington, Ky.

April 3-4, 33rd annual National Wheelchair Bas-

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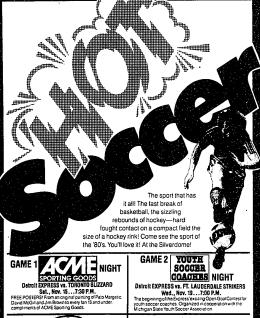
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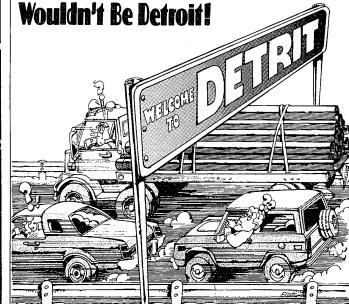
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Remainder of Indoor Schedule

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