

Star strikers

Observer & Eccentric recognizes 15 All-Area boys' soccer selections

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with young people. He's got the ability to convey his knowledge to kids," he added.
Knecht's award was based on improvement — and his record bears it out.
During the first half of the season the Barons were 5-2-3. In the second half they improved to 6-2 and finished third overall in the Northwest Suburban Soccer League — just missing the state playoffs.
"This (Coach of the Year) is an honor that has eluded him, and he deserves it," said Quinn.

TOP FIVE PLAYERS

NIKKI GOGRI — LAHSER

Bloomfield Hills Lahser's senior captain Nikki Gogri scored 12 goals and 22 assists on the way to a No. 1 ranking in the North Suburban Soccer League East Division selections.
Gogri, who maintains 3.7 scholastic average and is a member of the National Honor Society, made the 1979 and 1980 All-State first team and was named this week to the All-American squad.

JEFF FREEBURG — GROVES

Jeff Freeburg, selected by his teammates as Birmingham Groves' Most Valuable Player, was ranked second on the East Division's first team.

Another all-stater, the senior midfielder/forward scored nine goals and six assists. Freeburg made last year's all-NSSL soccer team. His grade point average is 3.86.

MARSHALL PFAHLER — SEAHOLM

The Maples' senior midfielder placed second in league scoring with 12 goals and 10 assists. He was the No. 3 player selected on the East Division squad. Pfahler, a three-year letterwinner at Seaholm, was a second-team all-state selection.

MARSHALL PA'AJARVI COUNTRY DAY

The No. 4 player selected on the all-area and NSSL team is Marshall Pa'ajarvi, a senior ex-

change student from Sweden. He scored 32 goals and 15 assists, overall, for the Yellow Jackets this season.

The 6-foot, 169 pound, Pa'ajarvi "is one of the top midfielders in the state," according to his coach Paul Bartoshuk.

Pa'ajarvi is a second-team all-stater.

PAUL SILVI — LAHSER

The Knights' Paul Silvi led the NSSL with 12 goals and scored 18 goals and had 10 assists overall en route to his all-area honor.

The 5-10, 140-pound junior forward was rated No. 5 in the East Division.

OTHER PLAYERS

Detroit Country Day's senior captain JIM ZADEH coordinated and commanded his team's defense and was voted best defensive player by his teammates.

Zadeh, an all-league varsity lacrosse and basketball player, made the first team of the East Division of the NSSL.

KEN CUTLER and DAVE EBERLY represent Bloomfield Hills Lahser on the all-area soccer team. Cutler, a fullback turned sweeper, made the first team of the East Division.

The co-captain competed in varsity soccer for three years. According to assistant coach Sam Sakorafis, "Cutler was a team leader, saved many goals and has a good academic record."

Cutler was captain and all-league in track and holds the Lahser long jump record.

Eberly, a senior goalie, also was selected on the East Division's first team.

It was the 6-3, 180-pound Eberly's first year as goalkeeper.

"He had no previous experience at the position," said Sakorafis, but has good instincts as a goalie and good maturity."

Eberly serves as captain of the hockey team as well.

Birmingham Groves' GLENN WACHLER and BRIAN HEFELE also made the all-area squad. He-

fele, a senior midfielder and tri-captain, scored three goals and had 10 assists this season.

"He played with more savvy than most high school players," commented Groves coach Tim Bussell.

"Hefele is an outstanding defensive player and at the very top of the East Division's second team. Wachler, also a tri-captain, was chosen as an all-area center halfback. The 5-10 junior tallied seven goals and 12 assists and made the first team of the East Division.

"Wachler is like a quarterback," said Bussell. "He's able to go in and control the tempo of the game. His star is still rising; he's potentially a professional soccer player."

Lahser's RUSS LANE and DAVE KASSAB also represent the Knights on the all-area squad. Lane, the Knight's co-captain, excelled at sweeper back. The 5-11 senior scored four goals and had 10 assists.

Kassab, 5-9 and 150 pounds, earned his honor at left halfback. As a junior, Kassab made the all-league second team. The Lahser senior maintains a 3.5 grade point average.
BRIAN FITZGERALD represents the only all-area player from Southfield.

Fitzgerald, a 15-year-old sophomore, scored eight goals and 10 assists as a center midfielder and lettered for the second time this year.

The 5-6, 120-pound Fitzgerald was the only Blue Jay to play every minute of every game for the last two years.

"He dominated the field for us," said Southfield coach Frank Catalano.
"As a sophomore, he is capable of slowing down 21 players and controlling the tempo of a game."

MARK BARTRAM, a senior midfielder and co-captain, is Farmington's sole representative on the all-area team. As a junior, Bartram made the all-state second team in soccer and the all-conference and all-area second-team in wrestling.

Bartram was selected on the first team of the West Division of the NSSL and was a second-team all-stater this season.

"He's the envy of any other coach," said Farmington coach George Sepetya.

"He's the kind of player you can build a team around — truly a blue chipper."

Senior captain HENRY WHITING was elected to the all-area squad from Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook. Whiting made the second team of the East Division and was named Best Senior by the World Cup Soccer Clinic.

He received an honorable mention as a junior. Whiting competes in lacrosse and academically ranks in the top 5 percent of his class.



PAUL SILVI
Lahser



DAVE EBERLY
Lahser



KEN CUTLER
Lahser



RUSS LANE
Lahser



MARK BARTRAM
Farmington



JIM ZADEH
Country Day



HENRY WHITING
Cranbrook



BRIAN HEFELE
Groves



GLENN WACHLER
Groves



BRIAN FITZGERALD
Southfield



DAVE KASSAB
Lahser



ERNE KNECHT
Coach

Off a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day.

—Charlotte Bronte



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