



STEVE CANTRELL/staff photographer

Chip Bagley, the top singles player at Bloomfield Hills Andover, was honored by being picked for the Observer & Eccentric's All-Area Tennis Team.

Bagley highlights O&E tennis team

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Keith Johnson, the Observer & Eccentric's tennis Coach of the Year for 1981, was asked to name the best player he's coached in his 16 years at Bloomfield Hills Andover.

Without the slightest hesitation, Johnson said, "Chip Bagley."

Bagley, a senior who capped an outstanding prep career by winning the No. 1 singles championship at the recent Class A state meet in Midland, highlights a talent-laden O&E all-area tennis team.

The team, picked by a panel of area coaches, includes 14 singles players and three doubles teams.

As in past seasons, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, the perennial Class B state champion, dominated the all-area team with 10 selections — its entire starting team.

Andover, Southfield-Lathrup and Detroit Country Day School each had two selections, and Farmington Harrison, West Bloomfield, Birmingham Brother Rice and Rochester each had one.

BAGLEY, who is headed for Miami University in Ohio on a tennis scholarship, finished with a 23-1 record. He

outlasted East Lansing's Marco Wen in the finals of the No. 1 singles flight at the state meet, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. He can't claim the Southeastern Michigan Association top singles crown, however, because his lone loss was to Berkley's Seth Jacobson.

CRAIG HAMMOND, Bagley's teammate at Andover, spent his senior season compiling a 20-2 record, playing mostly at No. 2 singles. He won the regional title and then advanced to the state meet semifinals where he lost in three sets to Ann Arbor Huron's Fred Shepperd, 2-6, 7-6, 6-2.

DAN BROMBERG, a junior, played at No. 1 singles for Cranbrook and posted a 22-5 record against some excellent competition. He won the regional and advanced to the state meet semifinals, where he lost in three sets to the underdog Mike Woody of Clawson, 6-2, 6-2.

KEITH SOTIROFF, another Cranbrook junior, won 21 of his 27 matches at No. 2 singles. After winning the No. 2 flight title at the regional, he made the flight finals at the state level and lost to Mike Kiewit, of Three Rivers.

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Adam Gordon Harrison



Mike Simpson Rochester



Ken Frank Lathrup

Tops in prep tennis

TOP SINGLES PLAYERS

From Cranbrook: Dan Bromberg, Keith Sotiroff; Brad Weyburn, Glenn Saperstein; From Bloomfield Hills Andover: Chip Bagley, Craig Hammond; From Southfield-Lathrup: Ken Frank, Scott Kait; From Detroit Country Day School: Brad Goodman, Carlos Moravek; From Farmington Harrison: Adam Gordon; From Rochester: Mike Simpson; From Birmingham Brother Rice: Eric Holey; From West Bloomfield: Jeff Greenberg.

TOP DOUBLES TEAMS

From Cranbrook: Keith King and Jeff Trees; Bruce Hendrick and John Solik; Charlie Moore and Bob Jasmer.

COACH OF THE YEAR: Keith Johnson, Andover.

'Pleasant' life Big Apple beckons veterinarian

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

In the moments preceding his unsuccessful bid for the third jewel of the Triple Crown at the recent Belmont Stakes, even Pleasant Colony wasn't receiving as much attention as his veterinarian, Dr. Janice Runkle of West Bloomfield.

The 27-year-old graduate of Michigan State University's School of Veterinary Medicine was the subject of a network television interview.

It's not that Runkle is a recent arrival in horse-racing circles. After graduating in 1976, the 5-foot-4, 110-pound vet set up her own practice at Belmont Park in New York.

"When I was little, I thought I had to go to the Big Apple to be successful," Runkle said.

"When I first saw Belmont, I thought it was the most beautiful place I'd ever seen. I decided to settle here because I figured that if I was going to be confined to a job seven days a week, it may as well be at a place with the most possible rewards and with the possibility of working with a potential Triple Crown winner."

RUNKLE HAS REALIZED her dream. A month before the Kentucky Derby, Pleasant Colony was afflicted by an ailment that baffled his trainer, John Campo. "I passed a laryngoscope (an illuminated tube) up his nose and diagnosed a minor throat infection," Runkle said. "I prescribed antibiotics and gave him a vaccination."

That apparently did the trick — the horse went on to claim an astounding win at the Derby.

Runkle, who owns two horses, was again on hand after Pleasant Colony's impressive win at the Preakness, administering fluids and worm treatments after the race.

"The Belmont was a little more hectic because of the television show," Runkle said. "I wasn't with the horse much at all."

"It was so exciting and confusing I didn't have time to react. I waited for him (Pleasant Colony) at the rail and walked him back to the barn after the race. I was just relieved to see he was sound — that he hadn't been hurt and that he'd be able to run right away."

"The outside post turned out to be more difficult than we anticipated," Runkle

said, referring to Pleasant Colony's third-place finish. "With the inside post he'd have had a lot more time. But he didn't have much choice."

"There were horses in there that have no business on the track. Had there been six legitimate horses in the race he would have had a lot better chance," she said.

THE NORTH FARMINGTON High School graduate said she's loved horses "probably from the time I was a baby — I don't know why."

"On my eighth birthday, I remember

my mom asking me what I wanted for a present. I said riding lessons, and when she said okay, I knew I'd be hooked for life."

Robert and Shirley Runkle remember their daughter's devotion to animals beginning even earlier.

"She wanted to be a vet ever since she was three," said Mrs. Runkle. "A lot of kids outgrow that, but Janice never changed her mind."

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Janice Runkle, shown above with a horse named Peggy Bank, has a love of horses that led her from West Bloomfield to the big race tracks as Pleasant Colony's veterinarian.

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