

# U-M matman joins Athletes in Action

By John Raby  
staff writer

For Luigi Milani, wrestling is much more than physical competition.

He and some buddies are getting together to wrestle for God.

Milani, a former Farmington High School grappler now rolling on the University of Michigan mats, is among 36 wrestlers and coaches hoping to spread their faith to Latin America.

They represent Athletes-In-Action, a group encompassing various sports with one goal in mind — scoring points by spreading religion.

Wrestlers and coaches nationwide meet today in Orlando, Fla., for nine days of training and getting to know one another. The group will divide into smaller groups.

## Farmington's Luigi Milani

One group will head to Guatemala and Puerto Rico, while Milani's crew travels to Peru and Panama. The entire ensemble will return home July 16.

MILANI, WHO will wrestle at 149½ pounds for Athletes-In-Action, welcomes the change in uniforms.

Our main purpose is to share our Christian faith and to show how Christ works in us through athletics," Milani said. "Sports is a huge avenue in order to get through to people. Athletes-In-Action spreads the faith through sports."

There are other (non-athletic affiliated) groups who go down to Latin

America and share their faith alone. Through athletics, you can attract people.

"You watch them on TV and there's a lot of excitement," he said. "Then people will say 'Hey, that kid's really great, what makes him so good?' That will open up a great conversation as to how you perform and why you perform like that."

In Latin America, Milani's group will wrestle both Olympic and national teams, as well as university teams in the vicinity. Last year, a similar AIA trip attracted 8,000 spectators, Milani said.

"Wrestling is big there, but not as much as in Russia or Japan," Milani said. "They know little about religion."

"It's going to be hard for us. They may be reluctant towards us in some cities, or in others we may find that they're really hungry for the word of God."

"It's possible that their government — like in Russia, they ban the people from having Bibles — drills into the people's heads what they're going to have," he said. "Then again, they may be happy to greet us."

In his sophomore year at U-M, Milani became involved in Campus Crusade for Christ, whose sports affiliate is Athletes-In-Action.

When he completes his trip, Milani will continue to train for next year's wrestling season at U-M.

Meanwhile, the trip leaves a dent in Milani's wallet. His costs are expected to reach \$3,400, about \$2,000 more than he has.

However, his coaches have given Milani, who had a personal 7-11 record this year as a member of U-M's wrestling team, a 12-month reprieve in which to pay for the trip.

Anybody wishing to help finance Milani's trip can have a tax-deductible contribution made out to Athletes-In-Action, addressing the envelope to Luigi Milani, 31895 Lamar Drive, Farmington 48024.



Luigi Milani heads for South America

# Troy Athens golfer shines at state meet

Cyndi Evans of Troy Athens paced all area golfers as they attacked the par-72 Gracewold Country Club in Grand Rapids last Monday during the girls state tournament.

Evans fired an 84, good enough for third place, three strokes behind

medalist Jill Smiley of Stargis. Linda Schlander of Ann Arbor Huron fired an 82 for second place.

Churney from Marian shot an 84, tied for fifth place with three other girls.

Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern won the team competition with a score

of 357. Lansing Waverly finished second with a score of 363.

Marian was the top finisher in schools from the area, shooting a team score of 375, good enough for sixth place, one stroke ahead of Rochester.

Troy Athens finished with a score of

389, finishing in a 12th-place tie with Flint Powers.

### STATE GIRLS GOLF TOURNAMENT TEAM RESULTS

1. Forest Hills Northern, 357 strokes; 2. Lansing Waverly, 363; 3. Ann Arbor Huron, 367; 4. Spring

Lake, 369; 5. Greenville, 372; 6. MARIAN, 375; 7. ROCHESTER, 376; 8. Midland Dow, 378; 9. Battle Creek Lutheran, 381; 10. Chautauk, 385; 11. Grand Haven, 389; 12. TROY ATHENS, 389; 13. Flint Powers, 389; 14. Dearborn, 392; 15. Sturgis, 405; 16. Jackson, 420.

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Jill Smiley, Sturgis, 91; 2. Linda Schlander, Ann

Arbor Huron, 82; 3. CYNDI EVANS, TROY ATHENS, 84; 4. Lisa Marico, Dearborn, 85; 5. Heather Westphal, Midland Dow, 86; 6. Alison Andrews, Jackson Lutheran, 86; 7. LUANNE CHURNIEY, MARIAN, 86; 8. C. Holland, Lansing Waverly, 87; 9. Traci Burgess, Lansing Waverly, 87; 10. Chris Fraude, Spring Lake, 87; 11. Bobi Koka, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, 87.

# Area kick boxer seeks world championship

By Roger Hart  
staff writer

Several months of hard work is about to come to a climax for local fighter Kerry Roop. He enters the ring tonight at the Premier Center in Sterling Heights to go after the light heavyweight kick boxing championship against Dan Macaruso.

The fight is the main event on a program which will begin at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m., with the Roop-Macaruso bout slated to begin between 9:30 and 10 p.m.

Macaruso, a kick boxer from Rhode Island, defeated Roop in a previous match about three years ago. The match took place early in Roop's fighting career, and his inexperience really showed against the veteran Macaruso.

"I didn't know too much about boxing then, only the karate aspects of kick boxing," Roop said. "I'm just getting myself in dynamic physical shape. I'm in the best physical shape I have ever been in," he added.

ROOP'S TRAINING has included much road work and running stairs to increase the strength in the legs. Roop has also sought the coaching help from fight trainer Luther Burgess from Detroit. Burgess has trained many boxers in and around the Detroit area.

Roop has been training about three hours a day just for the fight and also has sparred two 12-round matches against sparring partners. The match against Macaruso is a scheduled 12-round bout.

A sell-out crowd of 1,000 local kick-boxing enthusiasts are expected to be at the Premier Center for the bout. Many of the spectators will be students of Roop, who is the director and instructor of the Nature's Way Martial Arts Academy in Rochester.

"I am ready for him (Macaruso)," Roop said. "Sure, it is a bit of a revenge match, but I didn't know then what I know now. I am ready." Tickets are priced at \$15, \$20 and \$25. For ticket information, call 284-1111. The Premier Center is located on Van Dyke between 13 and 14 Mile.

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