

Lathrup net team tips Troy

Southfield Lathrup lost the first match of a gusty, dark day Friday, then won the next six to post a 6-1 homecourt win over the tennis team from Troy.

Jerry Sovierinsky eked out a tight, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 win over Ross Wilber in No. 1 singles, then the Chargers came on to live up to their nickname.

In quick order, Bobby Glenn dispatched Dean Krutzy in No. 2 singles, 6-4, 6-2; Marc Schechter beat Glenn Gurney, 6-2, 6-2, in No. 3 singles; and Dan Healy outlasted Ron Cross in No. 3 singles, 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-0.

Southfield got even tougher in doubles, giving up just seven games in six sets.

Mike Noorley and Dean Slinger teamed to beat Noel Maxam and Dave Snyder, 6-2, 6-1; Rob Granader and Doug Velick topped Jeff Tenniswood (yes, that's his real last name) and Drita Baraha, 6-2, 6-3; and Eric Kovan and Kevin Kelley rolled over Steve West and Mark Evans, 6-0, 6-0.

TRACK

Farmington High School won seven events to post a 65-58 victory over Livonia Churchill Friday afternoon. The meet was originally scheduled for Thursday but was rescheduled due to rain.

The Falcons' field-event winners were Linda Killy in the high jump and Beth Sherman in both the shot put and discus.



Jerry Sovierinsky, subbing for No. 1 singles player Steve Kalf who was ill Friday, defeated Troy's Ross Wilber.

Southfield sets sights on June anniversary run

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

The City of Southfield is getting into the running craze in an impressive fashion, co-sponsoring what it hopes will be a big 10-kilometer road race Saturday, June 12.

The race already has a name, the 2001 Run, a route laid out along U.S. 10, and an impressive list of sponsors.

Department of recreation officials are optimistically planning on 2,000 entrants, which will make it one of the bigger road races in the state. The annual Free Press International Marathon in October draws nearly 5,000 runners, and some of Emily's Fun Run races downtown have drawn more than 10,000 runners, but Sunday's West Bloomfield Half-Marathon was considered wildly successful, for example, by drawing 950 entrants.

The city will plan the race and run it, but it will be paid for by the sponsors, who already include WDIV-TV (channel 4), PR Associates, Macabees Mutual Life Insurance Co., Northland Center and Providence Hospital.

THE RUN will begin and end at Northland, with most of the course running along both sides of a stretch of

U.S. 10. The City Council has even gone so far as to ask the Michigan Department of Transportation for permission to close three off ramps from the highway (northbound to Evergreen, southbound to 10 Mile and southbound to 9 Mile).

The Council also has asked the Oakland County Road Commission for permission to close 10 Mile at Northwestern Highway for 2½ hours for the run, which will begin at 8:30 a.m.

One wrinkle planned for the event is to do away with the T-shirts that usually go to race entrants. "We're going to go with a visor instead," said Jim Szilagyi of the Parks and Recreation Department. "And we're going to have other goodies, too, as soon as we work them out with the sponsors. But we'll have a visor for sure."

The early registration fee is \$4 and late registration is \$9. For information on obtaining an entry fee, call 844-9603, Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

"We have forms here, and they'll also be available at sports stores and retail outlets throughout the city," explained Szilagyi.

Southfield used to sponsor a Mother's Day race, but it is being consolidated into the 2001 Run.

Eastern lands a pair of prep cage stars

Spartans miss on McCaskill

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Michael McCaskill must have been asked the same set of questions repeatedly, and by Thursday afternoon, his response had become routine.

The flashy basketball star from Southfield High turned down an offer to continue his collegiate career at Michigan State University in favor of Eastern Michigan when he signed letters of intent Wednesday afternoon to play ball in the Mid-American Conference.

"Well, you know, there were a lot of things (reasons) why I chose Eastern," McCaskill said. "They have more to offer, and I think they can spend more time with me in both the classroom and basketball court. I think I'll have a better opportunity to play (MSU head coach) Jud Heathcote wasn't promising me anything."

To coin a cliché, State's loss was Eastern's gain, and Huron coach Jim Boyce will attest to it.

"I'm very happy to have signed him," Boyce said of Southfield's 6-foot-4 leaper. "Michael McCaskill will give our program a tremendous boost. He's not only an excellent athlete, but a solid student and a good person with a lot of class."

"HE CAN play three positions — small forward, big guard and point guard. I'd say he can walk right in and play with our top 10 people. I'm very happy with all our recruits. They still have to do it yet, but I think they can put it all together."

Eastern, which finished with a 12-15 record last season, also landed Bishop Borgers' Lewis Scott, Westland John Glenn's Paul Grunulis and Ed Davidke from Flintship.

McCaskill, a two-year Observer & Eccentric first-team All-Area selection, was a key figure for the Blue Jays the past two seasons. Both years, Southfield advanced to the Class A state semifinals before bowing out of the tournament.

As a senior, McCaskill averaged 17.5 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, and two blocked shots per game. He is an exciting player, who electrified crowds with his slam dunks even before the University of Houston's celebrated "Phi Slamma Jamma" show caught fire in the NCAA tournament.

"I think he'll be a dominant player in the MAC," Southfield coach Greg Blum-



The waiting is over for Southfield basketball star Michael McCaskill, who signed letters of intent for Eastern Michigan University.

he said. "It's a lot more probable he'll have a lot of success in the MAC over the Big 10. But there's absolutely no way he thought he couldn't play in the Big 10."

McCaskill always has been a team player who used whatever skills needed to help the Blue Jays win games. He's been called a versatile player by his coach and rival coaches. He can tell

you what type of player he thinks he is, but McCaskill would rather let the spectators be the judge.

"I feel there's several things I can do," he said in a modest tone. "People say I'm versatile. I can rebound and score. I can do a lot of things."

"This is all so crazy," he said concerning the recent activity over his signing. "I'm glad it's over."

Chances are, it's just beginning.

Bieszke answers Huron call

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

A few schools knocked on the door, but when Eastern Michigan University pounded, Karen Bieszke answered.

Bieszke, a 5-foot-11 basketball player from Troy Athens, is expected to sign with Eastern Michigan Tuesday. The announcement comes after the senior academic all-star entertained offers from Northwest Oklahoma, Northern Kentucky, and the University of New Mexico Highlands.

She is the first Red Hawk basketball player to earn a scholarship at a Division I college. Bieszke, Athens' career scoring and rebounding leader, has compiled a 3.87 grade point average during her high school years. She will receive a \$1,500 academic scholarship, and an athletic scholarship will cover the balance.

"I believe in her," Athens coach Joe Clinton said. "She can make it on the court and in the classroom. She's a dedicated person. I can tell you this, she's not going to wait around for September to begin preparing."

AS A SENIOR, Bieszke averaged 10.8 points and 11.3 rebounds per game in helping the Red Hawks to their best season ever. Athens was 18-3 overall with championships in the Metro Suburban Activities Association and the Class A Berkeley District. She also was an 80 percent free-throw shooter.

She was a first-team all-league and All-Area selection, and was nominated for consideration in the Michigan High School Basketball Coaches Association all-star game.

"We like her grade point average, and she has great high school (basketball) stats, too," Eastern women's coach Kathy Hart said. "She likes to play player defense. She had some nice honors at Troy (Athens)."

"We have six returning players, and I feel Karen will have a good shot at making some major contributions early. It's up to her to see how she does."

Bieszke, who most likely will play a power forward at Eastern, said she has to develop upper body strength to play in the Mid-American Conference.

"I just want to play and go as far as I can with it," Bieszke said. "I played with them and some of them are pretty good. They're a lot stronger than I am. They have a lot more upper body strength than I do, and that's something I have to work on."



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Athens' standout Karen Bieszke will make her announcement official Tuesday when she signs a letter of intent for Eastern Michigan.

ALTHOUGH BIESZKE is concerned with building upper body strength, Clinton is convinced it will come naturally.

"She's a late bloomer," said Clinton, an Eastern grad himself. "As a player, she was a 17-year-old senior. She's still growing."

"The difference between her and other good basketball players is she wants it. She's not one to sit back and look at all this."

"She's going to go after it, and she's going to start right now. Karen is still learning and is willing to make the commitment to be an outstanding college player."

"She's so excited she could hardly talk about it. How would you feel? You get off the phone with a college coach and you know they want you."

The Hurons finished with a 13-14 overall record last year, and a 9-9 mark in the conference.