

Lahser grad wheels toward Olympic berth

By Eric Weiler
special writer

Bicycling has become a year-round occupation for Hans Peterson.

A three-time state champion in sprint racing, Peterson trains four hours and rides between 40 to 60 miles a day in quest of a berth on the United States Olympic team.

Peterson, who graduated from Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School, believes he has the skill and the determination to make the team. But, he says competition for the three Olympic spots will be intense between himself and six other riders.

"He has an excellent chance (to make the team), but he doesn't have enough racing experience," said Mike Walden, Peterson's coach and president of the Michigan Bike Federation.

"He's got the raw talent, but it isn't cultivated yet," Walden said.

Peterson has been racing the past four years and is believed to be one of the nation's top ten sprinters. Walden said Peterson has the leg speed but needs to develop his tactical skills to compete at the international level.

"When I get to the nationals 80 percent of my racing is going to depend on my tactics," said Peterson.

BUT IT'S HARD to refine those skill because of the fierce financial demands of the popular amateur sport. Peterson's monetary support comes mainly from his parents and his home club — the Wolverine Sports Club.

"I need more support from outside sources," said Peterson. "My parents and the club can't cover all the expenses."

Peterson participated in the 7-11-sponsored Bicycling Magazine Grand Prix in Los Angeles over the weekend. That is only the start of what promises

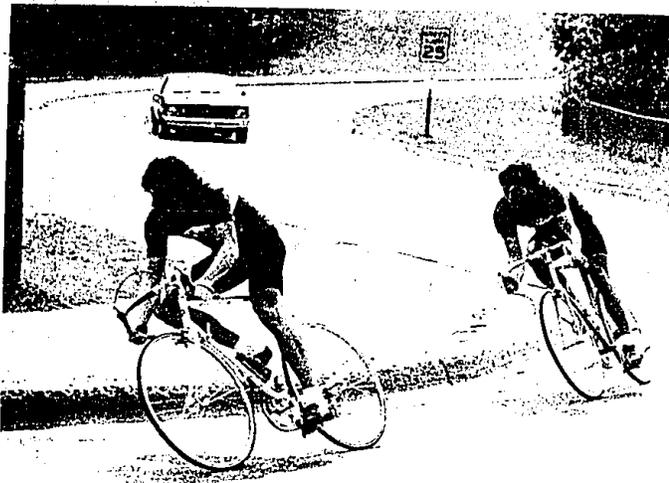
to be a very busy and important summer season for the senior at Western Michigan University.

Peterson was scheduled to have participated in this week's World University Games in Edmonton. After that, he'll go back to Los Angeles for the national championships — the final determining race for the Olympic team.

He is hoping the experience from that highly competitive schedule will be enough for him to make the '84 Olympic squad.

"If I can place in the top four of the national and have good performances in the 7-11 race and the World Games, then I will stand a good chance of going (to the Olympic trials)," said Peterson, last week.

PETERSON FELL in love with biking when he entered the 1979 Birmingham Bike Chase Race.



Hans Peterson (left) has hopes of making the United States Olympic bicycling team.

All-Staters highlight Soccer stars

Continued from Page 1

• Staszal, a junior forward, was a second-team all-stater. She scored 23 goals and added 21 assists.

• Fells, a sophomore forward, was a second team all-stater for Garden City. She scored 16 goals and assisted on 14 others.

Oakland County's first-team All-Area representatives are:

• Eickholt, a senior forward, was the second-leading vote-getter on the all-state team. She scored 13 goals and picked up one assist for Athens.

• Suttie, a sophomore forward, was a second-team all-stater for Troy. She picked up 27 goals and contributed 15 assists.

• Ferguson, a senior forward, was a second-team all-state performer. A big scoring threat whenever she touched the ball, Ferguson scored 34 goals in 14 games for Harrison.

• Porterfield, a senior midfielder, was an honorable mention on the all-state team. She scored six goals for Groves.

• Leonard, a junior forward, was a first-team all-stater for Lahser. She scored 21 goals and collected 13 assists.

• Wojasick, just a sophomore, was a second-team all-stater for Marlan. The striker kicked in 18 goals and added 18 assists in her first year of varsity soccer.

• Bedmark, a sophomore winger, was a second-team all-state selection from West Bloomfield. She scored seven goals and picked up four assists.

Livonia Stevenson is located at 33500 W. Six Mile, west of Farmington Road.



photos by GARY CASKEY/Staff photographer

Troy Athens all-stater Renee Eickholt receives a pass during practice.



Farmington Harrison's Sue Ferguson moves with the ball after taking a pass from teammate Lisa Leonard from Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

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