

Athens stalks dynasty after 3 years

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

TROY ATHENS varsity soccer program is just three years old, but already head coach Tim Storch is on the verge of building a dynasty.

In those three years, the Red Hawks have won two state championships and posted a record of 57-4-2 for a winning ratio of 90 percent. Saturday's 3-0 victory over Livonia Stevenson — the defending state champion — was Athens' fourth straight shutout in tournament play.

You get lucky and you have a good youth program like we do in Troy," explained Storch. "We have 65 kids at Athens who come out for soccer, and they all have a broad background to begin with. I have to trim 40 people from that, and the 25 I end up with are very talented players. It's just a matter of getting them to play together."

The 1983 Red Hawks certainly played well together. Athens was 21-0-2 — the only unbeaten team in the state in any class — with its lone blemish being 1-1 ties with Rochester Adams and Royal Oak Kimball. The Kimball game was called at half due to poor weather conditions.

The Metro Suburban Activities Association champs scored 94 goals this year, and allowed just 16 for a difference of 78. Goalies Rick Baker, Doug Rosenkranz and Nino DiCosmo combined for 11 shutouts. Baker was the key in the playoffs as he posted consecutive shutouts over Warren De La Salle (4-0), Livonia Bentley (1-0 in two overtimes) and Stevenson (3-0).

Steve Smith, who scored the winning goal against Bentley, had 40 points this season (25 goals and 15 assists). Mark

soccer

Noffert followed with 14 goals and 12 assists, while Kevin Dwyer had 14 goals and six assists.

Defense — a question mark prior to the season — was a major key this year.

"Basically, the entire defense graduated, and we had to rebuild back there," Storch said. "It helped when

Keith Drittler transferred in. We expected an outstanding season from Alex Petruska, and he provided us with one. Tony Alati did an admirable job as a sophomore, and Jamie Stewart did a tremendous job filling the shoes of an all-star (Terry Chow). He had the skills, but he developed into a leader."

Even with the holes to fill, Storch believed his team was capable of big things.

The obvious question is for Storch to compare the feeling after he won the Class A-B championship against Stevenson in 1981, with the feeling he experienced this season.

"This one feels a lot better," Storch said. "The first year, we had three outstanding players (Marty Hagen, Paul Scheel and Dave Wright) who probably were three of the top players in the state. The rest of the team was supportive."

"This year we had good, talented players, but not one was a super star. We were a much better team because of the balance from all our starters, and also, from No. 1 to 25."

"It was also gratifying because we played 10 games against teams rated in the top 10 in the state."

sport shorts

Thomas Sheehan of West Bloomfield will be inducted into the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame next month.

An outstanding amateur golfer for three decades, Sheehan is one of 11 sports personalities slated to be honored at the 7 p.m. banquet Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Roseville's Athens Hall. Sheehan still shares the Oakland Hills amateur record with an 18-hole round of 65.

John Maxwell, a longtime sponsor of various sports throughout Metropolitan Detroit, will also be honored. Maxwell runs Maxwell Enterprises which is located in Troy.

Maxwell started by sponsoring a single team of bowling in 1970. He now sponsors more than 200 teams around the city. In addition, he has spent the past five years building the sport of soccer through sponsorship of numerous youth programs in southeast Michigan.

Thomas Carmichael (badminton), Ann Setlock (bowling), William Hamilton (fast-pitch softball), Bob Sullivan, Tom Nolan, John Trompkins and Virgil Zetterling (baseball), George Omelchuk (speed skating) and Quentin Rina (hockey) are others who will be honored.

Tickets for the 18th annual awards banquet may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Executive Director Tom O'Rourke (626-1960).

MSAA GRID ALL-STARS

Following are the Metro Suburban Activities Association's 1983 offensive and defensive football all stars.

The offensive linemen include Scott Taylor (Groves), Jack Baum (Lahser), Andy Sherman (Lathrup), Bill Kupp (Lahser), and Steve McAnelly (Athens). Gregg Madzia (Rochester), Steve Adkins (Rochester), Bruce Crosthwaite (Rochester), Steve Sullivan (West Bloomfield), David Hansen (Lahser), Mark Snyder (Groves) and Larry Davison (Athens) are other first-team offensive players.

The first-team defensive players are Wayne Stobie (Rochester), Brian Schremp (Lathrup), Chuck McSwain (Lahser), Barney Jacob (Athens), John Merana (Athens), Tim Horrigan (West Bloomfield), Darren DeBastos (Dondoro), Jeff Childers (Rochester), Todd Reimund (Athens), Brian Tauber (Groves) and John Upton (Dondoro).

Crosthwaite and Merana are the offensive and defensive captains, respectively.

MIRONOV RUNNER UP

Zinalda (Zena) Mironov, a modern rhythmic gymnastics coach, is one of four runners-up in the 1983 United Foundation Sportsman of the Year voting.

A resident of Lathrup Village, Mironov, assisted by her husband, Vladimir, has developed a nationally recognized gymnastics program. She was nominated recently by the United States Gymnastics Federation as coach of the year.

One of her students, Michelle Borube of Rochester, won athlete of the year and three bronze medals at the National Sports Festival this past summer.

Mironov, a teacher at Detroit Country Day School, is currently in France coaching the U.S. Gymnastics Team at the World Championship competition.

Ann Doyle, former television sportscaster, was named UF Sportsman of the Year.

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Michigan Blades-Cranbrook School International Ice Hockey Tournament will be held at Cranbrook's hockey rink starting 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, and 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26 and Nov. 27.

There will be eight teams (140 students) playing in the division, which is comprised of 13-year-old players. Cranbrook Middle School athletic director, Mickey Price, said this is the first year Cranbrook has hosted the annual tournament.

"We'll have the opportunity to see some of the finest young hockey players anywhere," said Price. In conjunction with the tournament, Cranbrook School's varsity team will play Upper Canada College 8 p.m. Nov. 25 and 7 p.m. Nov. 26. Cranbrook is the state's defending class B champions.

FIGURE SKATING

The Birmingham Ice Arena will conduct registration for Series II figure skating lessons beginning Wednesday, Nov. 16, and lasting until Nov. 19.

Registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4-8 p.m. each day. Birmingham residents can register Nov. 16 and non-residents on Nov. 17.

For further information, call 645-0731.

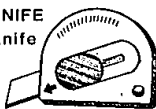
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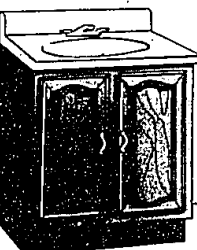
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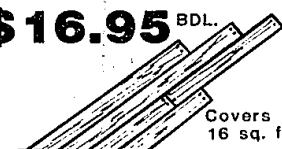
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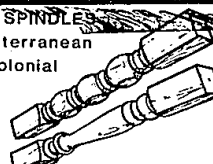
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