

Stingers on way to regional crown

Winning soccer championships is nothing new to Don Smith. His Stingers girls teams won a state title last year and came in second the year before.

But, this year's Stingers team may be the biggest and best Smith has ever had.

The Stingers, a collection of girls 13 years old and younger from the Plymouth, Farmington and Northville communities, have advanced to the Midwest Regional Soccer Tournament July 21-23 at Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia.

They did so by winning the Michigan Girls 14-under State Cup Saturday June 23 in Troy.

The Stingers, who finished 18-3-1 during the season and were the Bonanza League champions, defeated the Western Suburban Soccer League Spartans 3-2 in an overtime thriller to win the state title.

Plymouth's Jill Estey scored two goals, including the game winner in overtime, for the Stingers. Heather Flitt of Northville got the other Stinger goal.

MICHELLE FORTIER of Plymouth was superb throughout the three-game state tourney in the Stingers' goal. She shut out the Birmingham Blaze 2-0 in the opener of the tourney, then blanked Troy

soccer

Challengers 3-0 in the second round. Fortier has allowed less than a goal per game this season.

"We stress teamwork," said Smith. "We really strive to get everyone playing together. We have very good ballhandlers on this team, but mostly we are successful because we play together as a team."

The Midwest Regional Tournament at Schoolcraft will involve 14 teams from 11 states.

The Stingers are: Michelle Bright (Plymouth), Abby Edwards (Northville), Adrienne Edwards (Northville), Jill Estey (Plymouth), Kristie Everman (Northville), Michelle Fortier (Plymouth), Ticia Greenhalge (Plymouth), Candi Jones (Plymouth), Jennifer Lewis (Farmington), Carrie Maier (Farmington), Jennifer Misaros (Farmington), Jody Perris (Farmington), Kristy Redmond (Plymouth), Heather Flitt (Northville), Mary Smith (Plymouth) and Marie Wordhouse (Plymouth).

Vardar boys win

The Livonia-based Vardar II soccer team recently captured the boys under 12 Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) tournament in Troy.

Vardar will represent the state July 21-22 at the Midwest Regionals at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Vardar III captured the state cup with a 3-1 victory over the Livonia Raiders.

The winners erased a 1-0 halftime deficit with a persistent offense.

Early in the second half, Chris Williams scored the tying goal on a great second effort. Jason Flynn then scored

the go-ahead goal on a penalty kick midway through the second half and Matt Daniel added an insurance goal to put the game out of reach.

Other members of the state championship team, led by first-year Bonanza League coach Alex Nikolovski, were: Tom Cvjetanovski, Mike Sheehy, Andrew Bozian, Mike Gannera, John Gentile, Bobby Hayes, John Labadie, Shane Miller, Brian Mitchell, Christian Muzo, Jason Ries, Aaron Sawicky and Mike Zafey. Dave Dingle serves as the team's assistant coach. Rick Sawicky is the team manager.

Pro tourney slated

The United States Tennis Association's (USTA) Women's Circuit of Michigan Tennis Tournament, featuring world-class players, will take place Monday, July 2 through Sunday, July 8 at the Deer Lake Racquet Club in Clarkston (on White Lake Road off Dixie Highway and I-75).

The tourney will feature ranked players from the U.S., Canada, Japan,

Austria, New Zealand, Great Britain and Chile.

The tourney is sponsored by Tennis and Crumple Inc. All profits from the tourney are earmarked for the Therapeutic Medication Monitoring Program at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

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Falcons, Wolves jammed at top of Eagle Conference

The Falcons are soaring in the Midwest Summer Hockey League thanks to a pair of strong wings.

Paced by wingers Mike Donnelly and Kerry Kennedy, the Falcons posted a convincing 15-5 victory over the Bulldogs last week at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The win puts Lee Martilla's club 2-0-1 on the young season.

Donnelly, a standout at Michigan State University, scored the hat-trick against the Bulldogs. Kennedy, a Bowling Green State University star, notched two goals and added two assists for the Falcons.

The Bulldogs were led by the Heiber brothers, Tim and Keith. Tim had a goal and two assists, while Keith had a goal and assist.

THE BULLDOGS faced another goal explosion Tuesday against the Wolverines. The Bulldogs led 1-0 after a period, but five second-period goals by the Wolverines led to a 5-2 win.

The win keeps the Wolverines atop the MSHL Eagle Conference. They join the Falcons, each with 2-0-1 records.

Darryl Molise scored twice to lead the Wolverine uprising. Teammates Don Waddell and Dave Brantle from the Redford Royals and Mike Nelf from

hockey

the University of Michigan also scored in the second period.

Futrick Marody and Keith Heiber scored for the Bulldogs (2-2-0).

THE HUSKIES upped their record at 2-1 Monday night and kept pace with the league-leading Spartans thanks to winger Rich Hutchinson.

Hutchinson, who plays for Baltimore in the American Hockey League, scored four times to lead the Huskies past the Wildcats, 5-1.

Gordie MacDougall, from Scotland, scored the fifth Huskie goal.

The Wildcats, who suffered their second straight defeat, got their only goal from Ferris State's Ken Steimach.

The MSHL is in its second season at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The eight-team league features some of the finest amateur hockey talent the state has to offer. Games are played Monday through Thursday evenings and on Sunday.

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