

Solomon paces Hawks to 1st gymnastics win

Sophomore Tracy Solomon won all four events Wednesday night to lead the Farmington Harrison gymnastics team to a 115-25-73.75 season-opening win at Birmingham Seaborn.

The win marked the debut of new Harrison coach Linda Perkins, who replaced Kim Dennis.

Solomon won the vault (7.9), the une-

ven parallel bars (7.6), the floor exercise (7.45) and the balance beam (8.1).

Julie Runk helped out with a pair of second-place finishes in the vault (7.5) and the beam (7.45) and a third on the floor (7.8). Lauri Runk took second in the vault (7.75) and Jamie Lyons took third on the beam (7.1).



Jim Hughes

Some late gift ideas for the sports-minded

IF YOU'RE ONE of those obnoxious people who finished Christmas shopping in October, stop reading this and go bake cookies or something. The following is not intended for you.

No, this is for us die-hard, pain-seeking Christmas shoppers who wait for the end of the regular NFL football season to trek out to the overcrowded malls, search for a parking place in the same city as the mall, play human bumper pool from store to store, and stand in lines for what seems like hours.

Ah, the joy of Christmas shopping.

WHAT I HAVE for you is a Christmas list for the definitive sports fanatic. Any one of these gifts would be ideal for my colleague, C.J. Risak — who says he's not a fanatic, but we all know different.

So, Mrs. Risak, and all the other sports fanatic widows, I've compiled a list which is sure to please the addicts. After I completed my Christmas shopping (I started and finished Saturday), I decided to tour a few shops just for the fun of it. This is what I found.

● **The Mole Hole** in Birmingham had what I would call classics. The first is the "Cloud-Fillie" golf ball. You've heard of "Top-Flite," right? This is completely different, and is great for yuks on the course.

The "Cloud-Fillie" disappears in a cloud of powder upon impact, and can be yours for the low price of \$2.95. A little steep for a one-shot deal, you say. Maybe, but take a picture of the diffuser you play the trick on, and \$2.95 will seem like pennies.

Another gift for the links is the golf ball with a clock on the front of the cap. The message "Time for Golf" appears on the face of the clock. It's only \$26.95, and one size fits all.

The last sports-related gift I saw at the Mole Hole was a "Bless You Boys" lamp. For a mere \$275, you get a table lamp with a bleacher base. Sitting on the rows of bleachers are Detroit Tiger figurines. It also comes in a University of Michigan football motif.

MY NEXT STOP was the Oakland Mall in Troy. Now this place was a smorgasbord for the sports fanatic.

● **Phone America** offers two dandies. The first is a telephone, which is disguised as a football on a kicking tee. But, when you grab the ball near the laces, the phone receiver comes out of the ball. Great stuff! It even has a push-button dialing system on the receiver. Cost: \$199.88.

There's also a phone which has three baseball bats set up like an Indian teepee, with a baseball on top of the three handles. The base is home plate. You listen to the baseball end and talk into home plate. The push button dialing system is underneath home plate. Only \$59.88.

● **Schneider's Sport Shop** is one place you can find a "Bless You Boys" Christmas tree ornament. The bulb has the Detroit Tigers' logo, and is inscribed "1984 World Champions." It's ideal for Chris McCosky, the O&E's No. 1 Tiger fan. Only \$5.99. (Don't worry Al, there is a trademark on the bulb.)

● I decided to stay on the track of sports stores, and wandered into MC Sporting Goods. Salespersons Donna and Darrin tried to sell me on one-piece long underwear for about \$32.00, but I was looking for something different. It didn't take long to find it.

Sitting on a stand above a rack of coats were boxes labelled, "Pet Earmuffs." I stood there for about a minute wondering, "Are these earmuffs for your pet, or earmuffs with pets on them?" Closer examination revealed they are for humans, but the earpieces were pets. If you consider bears, lambs or pink rabbits to be pets. You or your loved one could be the talk of the ski slopes for only \$9.99 a pair.

● At Kay Bee Toy & Hobby, I found the perfect gift for my co-worker and buddy Marty Budner, the only man I know who can sit through an entire Toronto-Vancouver hockey game. The perfect gift? A Wayne Gretzky doll, advertised on the box as "le magnifique." The Gretzky facsimile comes dressed in an Edmonton Oilers uniform, with stick and skates. It must be a hot seller since it's mark down to \$4.99 from \$10.99.

Another classic from Kay Bee was a Jimmy The Greek endorsed board game called, "Football Vegas." You play the game while watching a televised game. Winning and losing means nothing, the object is to beat the odds. Now that's what I call football.

The game board has all kinds of circles with odds and categories. You know, 10-to-1 the quarterback gets sacked the next play, 3-to-1 they run for less than 4 yards. . .

I'm willing to give 5-to-1 odds this game is not a big item on the market. It's marked down to \$3.99 from \$15.99.

Kay Bee also sells tennis-skate skates for \$13.99. They are actual blue tennis shoes with roller skates on the bottom. How they're selling in Michigan is still a question mark, but I hear they're making a killing in California.

● If you are a parent in either Troy or Livonia and you don't know what you want your youngsters to do in the fall, Kregas has the answer. For \$7.97 you can buy a "Fluff" football and soccer set.

● **Hoffritz for Cutlery** sells Trivial Pursuit All-Star Sports Edition 12-ounce coffee mug for \$5.00. The cup has six questions, along with the answers.

I think I'll buy one for Brad Emons, our resident sports trivia buff.

● Now, if you can afford to dish out a little more cash, here's some ideas. Send that football fan to the Cotton Bowl to watch Doug Flutie work his magic for Boston College against Houston. I called Vacation Tours Inc. of Birmingham and was told round-trip air fare to Dallas can be purchased for \$359. You have to leave Dec. 29 and stay over Saturday night (Jan. 5), and book the flight seven days in advance.

If you really want to lighten up the bank account, you can spend around \$800 for a round trip to see the Aloha Bowl in Honolulu. The trick is finding a spot on a plane, since the time of year makes it difficult to make a reservation late. And hotel accommodations are few, if any, so bring a tent.

Still, \$800 isn't much to pay to see Notre Dame against Southern Methodist. (This gift is not recommended for atheists.)

I hope this list helps you last-minute shoppers. If any of these gifts work for you, let me know.

Just don't call me New Year's Day. I'll be playing Football Vegas with my boss.

Merry Christmas!

sports roundup

● MILLER, ALL-AMERICAN

Farmington Harrison senior John Miller, for the second straight year, was selected to the Bally All-American Football Team by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Miller, the only player from Michigan selected, was named to the team as a defensive back.

● GIRLS HOOPS

The Farmington Hills Parks and

Recreation Department will offer a high school basketball program for girls in grades 9-12, beginning Saturday, Jan. 5 at Oakland Community College.

The 8-week program costs \$14. Registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 28.

For more information, call 474-6115, ext. 277.

● QUARLES STILL KICKING

Dave Quarles, a 1984 graduate of Farmington Harrison, proved an accu-

rate placekicker for the Cornell University freshman football team this fall.

Quarles hit on 7 of 8 extra points and 3 of 4 field goals. His 20 points were second best for the 1-5 Cornell frosh.

● WAGNER HONORED

Sue Wagner, a native of Farmington Hills, was a second-team selection on the all-MIAA field hockey team. Wagner is a junior at Calvin College.

● RECORD SETTERS

The volleyball season and collegiate careers are over for Karen Kelley and Nancy Hughes. But the pair of former Schoolcraft College spikers left their marks at the University of Georgia.

The Bulldogs finished third in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) standings and compiled a 28-11 record. Kelley, a Livonia Stevenson grad, set team standards in career kills (1,452); kills in a season (981); and career hitting percentage (.317).



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Classified Deadline 5 p.m. Retail Deadline 12 noon	21 Creative Living 4 p.m.	22
23/30	24/31 Classified Deadline 12 noon Retail Deadline 10 a.m.	25 Christmas	26	27 Classified Deadline 5 p.m. Retail Deadline 12 noon	28 Creative Living 4 p.m.	29

Because Christmas and New Year's fall on Tuesday this year, you'll find us at your home on the Saturday before each holiday (instead of Monday).

This means our carriers will spend Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with their families.

This means your local business people can let you know about last minute

Christmas gifts and specials in time for you to take advantage of them (the gifts, not the merchants).

This means you can do the same with our Classified section—place an advertisement or respond to one before the holiday.

And, finally, this means a few temporary changes in our deadlines:

Deadlines for Saturday, December 22 and Saturday, December 29 editions:

CLASSIFIED RETAIL Thursday, December 20 and December 27 — 5 p.m.
Thursday, December 20 and December 27 — 12 noon

Deadlines for Thursday, December 27 and January 3 editions:

CLASSIFIED CREATIVE LIVING RETAIL Monday, December 24 and December 31 — 12 noon
Friday, December 21 and December 28 — 4 p.m.
Monday, December 24 and December 31 — 10 a.m.

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IT'S HOCKEY SEASON

Can't you just feel it!

RED WINGS vs. QUEBEC NORDIQUES
DEC. 20 - 7:30 P.M.
Kids Day - All Kids (14 & under) \$5
Courtesy of: The Detroit Free Press and the Greater Detroit Chrysler-Plymouth Dealers

Red Wings vs. Edmonton Oilers
WXON-TV 20
Dec. 23 - 8:00 P.M.
Red Wings vs. Pittsburgh Penguins
Dec. 31 - 7:30 P.M.

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