

## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312



O&amp;E Monday, December 31, 1984

## Ex-All American still winning

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

"Hello, is Paul Petersen home, please?"  
"No, Paul won't be back till later on tonight.  
He's out skiing."

Skiing?  
Paul Petersen, the most successful swimmer ever to come out of Plymouth Canton High, out skiing?

What's going on? Last time we checked, Paul was swimming for Indiana University — perhaps the most prestigious swim school in the land.

What in the world is he doing skiing in the middle of swim season?

The answer was simple. Paul Petersen the swimmer no longer swims. He skis, he lifts weights, but more importantly, he studies — he's finishing up his undergraduate studies at IU.

Perhaps at this time next year we'll be calling him Paul Petersen, the investment broker (he's a finance major) or Paul Petersen, the would-be dentist (he's applying for dental school).

For certain, though, Paul Petersen is not your average run-of-the-mill 22-year-old college senior.

HE GREETED you with a warm smile and a firm handshake. His appearance is that of a corporate executive on his day off. He wears designer jeans, shirt and sweater upon his stocky, muscular physique. His serious, alert expression and receding hairline seem to contradict his actual age. There is a look of maturity about him, a look of success.

Indeed, he is mature beyond his years. And, he has known success in nearly every phase of those years.

Yet, he has also tasted failure and disappointment. He shrugs those off with a simple, "I'd rather not dwell on that."

In 1972, at age 10, Petersen set a national AAU swim record in the 100-yard breaststroke. At age 12, he retained his No. 1 national ranking in the breaststroke, as well as gaining national rankings in every other event.

*"When I first got there it was hard. I wasn't winning the races. That was different. It was kind of an eye-opener. It made me realize how much harder I had to work. But I was up to it."*

— Paul Petersen  
ex-IU swimmer



His success continued in high school. In his junior year he was state champ in two events, the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke. He was named All-American in the breaststroke. He led the Chiefs to Western Six championships in both his junior and senior seasons. His prep achievements weren't limited to the pool. He excelled in the classroom as well. He was named the top scholar-athlete in 1980, his senior year.

PETERSEN COULD have gone to any college he wanted. Scholarship offers were numerous. But, he chose Indiana University, a school that did not offer him a scholarship. Why? Because IU was the best.

"Of course, they have the great tradition," he said. "Coach Doc Counsilman, the best coach in the country, recruited me out of high school. I like the campus, I liked the school and I liked the swim program. It was everything I envisioned college to be like."

Not such a tough choice after all, was it? But the adjustment it forced upon Petersen was intense. He had been the star all his life. Suddenly, he was one of 40 others trying to make a swim team.

"When I first got there it was hard," he said. "I would make all the workouts, but I wasn't winning the races. That was different. It was kind of an eye-opener. It made me realize how much harder I had to work. But, I was up to it."

It took just two months before Petersen was swimming with IU's best.

"When I say I was able to keep up, I mean, everybody on the team is capable of winning a Big 10 championship. That's how tough everybody is," he said.

Petersen never became the "star" at IU. He never expected to. He was just one of 40 guys on the IU swim team. In fact, although the team was Big 10 runner-up in his freshman and sophomore years and champions in his

junior year, he never swam in the Big 10 conference meet.

"THAT'S KIND OF a strange thing. The Big 10 allows each team to take just 18 swimmers to the league meet. I think it's a bad rule. Anyway, the coach never chose me."

Disappointed? Sure. Bitter? No way.

"Even though I never swam at the big meet, I was still part of the team," he said. And saying you swam at IU is the equivalent to saying you played basketball at UCLA under John Wooden.

"I was able to swim with some of the best swimmers in the world," he said. "I have no regrets at all. I'm just happy I was able to be on the team."

Yet, Petersen left the swim team after his junior year. He was nearing the end of his undergraduate studies in finance and he had begun to take on a pre-dentistry curriculum on top of it. He was beginning to doubt whether he could devote all the time needed for both his studies and his swimming.

"You can't make a living from swimming and I knew that," he said. "I was at school to get an education. That was my top priority."

STILL, HE began the season with the team. He had hurt his knee playing intramural football and it began to nag him, slow him down. He decided to give up swimming.

"Yeah, it was tough to give it up. I had been swimming since I was seven," he said. "But, I keep active. I don't miss it too much. I certainly don't miss getting up at 6 a.m. for workouts. I do miss winning, though. I miss the feeling of getting psyched for the big meet and winning."

Paul Petersen could have gone to any other school in the Midwest and been a star. He could have gone to any other Big 10 school and competed in the conference meet. But, he chose to attend IU — and, without fanfare, without headlines, without winning a Big 10 championship, he has groomed himself for a successful career. Paul Petersen, the ex-swimmer, has done all right.

"I'll see you guys later," he said. "I'm leaving tomorrow for Vail (Colorado). Going skiing."

## CC humiliated in tournament

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

It had to be a sleepless, restless Thursday night at the Sheraton Hotel for the Redford Catholic Central basketball team.

The Shamrocks rode into the Lansing Eastern Holiday tournament with high hopes and a perfect 3-0 record. As surely the Shamrocks would be meeting either host Lansing Eastern or perennial Ohio power Toledo St. Francis in Friday's championship game.

But coach Bernie Holowicki and his CC cagers found little comfort in Capital City as Okemos handed the Shamrocks a humiliating 68-41 defeat.

Longtime CC followers may be hard pressed to find the last time their basketball team was beaten by 47 points.

"This is the worst defeat since I've been here at Catholic Central and maybe the worst I've ever had in coaching," said a distraught Holowicki. "CC is a proud school and I'm a proud coach, but some guys who wore the jersey didn't play tonight."

IT'S NOT that CC took Okemos lightly. The Chiefs have a pretty good track record, winning two Class B championships under the expert coaching of Stan Stolz.

"We came in with a purpose because we were playing a much publicized team and a much publicized player (John McIntyre)," said Stolz. "We played under control. We showed good poise and good patience, and we had good shot selection."

"The more the game went on, the more we were able to run."

Okemos tore apart CC's vaunted match-up zone defense with steady ball-handling, pinpoint passing and deadly shooting.

The Chiefs, who had no special defense planned for the high scoring McIntyre, led 18-8 after one quarter and 33-14 at the half.

Okemos continually broke CC's full-court press in the third quarter to build an incredible 66-32 lead.

Even with the benchwarmers playing most of the fourth quarter, Okemos outscored the Shamrocks, 22-9.

"WE DIDN'T REBOUND a lick," Holowicki said. "The referees told me afterwards that we were the poorest

## basketball

team they've seen. The biggest thing is that there was no hunger element.

"They beat us in every phase of the game. We've always done well in the match-up (defense), but we didn't have people in the spots. We let the ball get inside."

Nine players scored for Okemos, led by 6-foot-4 forward Scott Schewe, who paced all scorers with 20 points. Rich Holden, a 6-4 junior making his first start, added 15. Scott Layman and guard Tim Kirksey added 13 and 10, respectively.

Okemos showed its proficiency in the shooting department, hitting 32 of 41 free throws. Schewe was 12 of 12.

Although the University of Detroit-bound McIntyre led CC with 14 points, 15 below his scoring norm, it was probably his worst outing as a prep player as he made just 7 of 22 shots from the floor.

But the 6-4 senior was not alone in futility as his teammates, with the exception of reserve Kevin Rukat (9 points), seemed equally troubled, making bad decisions and blowing easy shots.

"WE'RE going to have to reassess some things," said Holowicki. "I'm embarrassed. I just hope I don't sound as bad as I do."

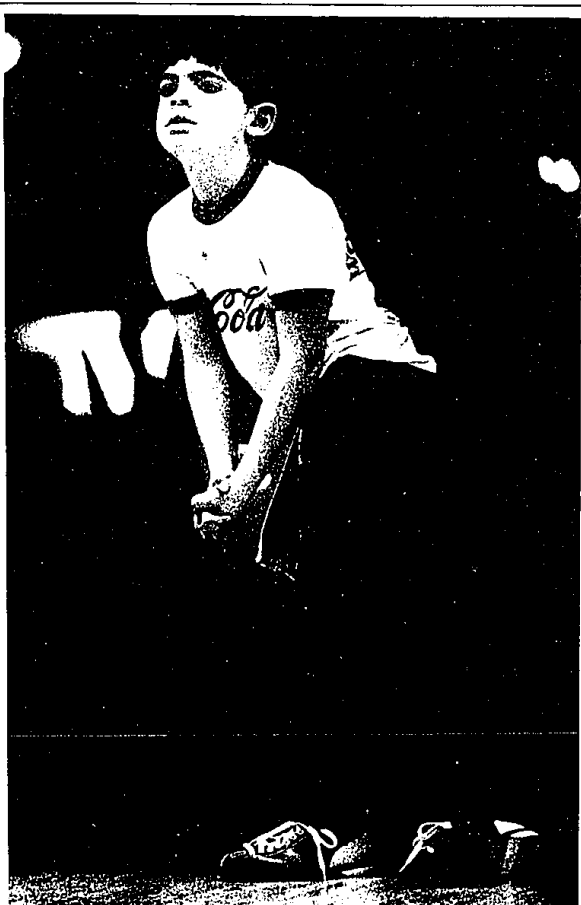
Adding insult to injury, Okemos came into the game with losses to Class B Durand and Class C Lansing Catholic Central, and was missing its leading scorer, Bill Ralls.

"I was absolutely shocked by the score," said Stolz. "We were just hoping to have a good game, but the kids came to win."

"This is the first game where we've played zone. But I'm determined that we've got to play man-to-man at some point during the season."

"We're young, and we're just not there yet. But we played well tonight. I think we'll jell by January."

The ways things went Thursday night, January came early for Okemos.



## Alley cat

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Michael Bashara, 7, of Livonia watches intently as his ball winds down the lane in the third annual Open Junior Bowling Tournament at Wonderland Lanes. The event, held Thursday and Friday, drew

youngsters ages 8 through 17. Results of the event, sponsored by Livonia VFW 3841, Pro Am Bowling and Trophy Sales and the Observer Newspapers, will appear in the Thursday edition.



Brad Emons

## Holiday cheer: a look at 1984

EVERYBODY ELSE on the sports staff has had their say at the end of 1984, so here goes some New Year's Resolutions for myself and Observerland sportsters.

There's been a lot of criticism of referees during the past year. Now it's time to praise some of the better ones.

I wish Garden City's Bob Dropp would win a state baseball title the way Emil Majeski did at Thurston last year.

I haven't seen the Stevenson basketball team yet, but I hope they're playing with the enthusiasm of a Magic Johnson.

You've got to feel for Plymouth Salem boys basketball coach Bob Brodie, who took over for Fred Thomann. It's quite an adjustment and I hope the people at Salem realize that. The fans have to have patience.

With the closing of Bentley, hopefully Tom Lang will be coaching a varsity girls basketball team soon in Livonia. He should be a No. 1 priority when a vacancy appears.

AFTER BEING NO. 1 in the state last year, the Stevenson girls volleyball team should have only one thing on their minds this year: No. 1.

I hope the Farmington Harrison fans support their football team next year like they have the past four years with John Miller.

Tom Nienz honored his two-year commitment at Livonia Bentley so I hope he goes out a winner (he's 2-2 so far). Then I hope he's a No. 1 priority in Livonia when a boys basketball coaching vacancy appears.

Farmington's football team shouldn't rest on a 6-3 season. The Falcons can be better in 1985.

I hope to see Mike Teachman's Harrison basketball team challenging for the Western Division side of the Western Lakes Conference. That victory over Salem could do wonders.

Wouldn't it be nice to see Bentley go out a winner and capture a state title? Is the girls soccer team listening?

How about Livonia's Al Iafraite (and Toronto Maple Leaf) on the All-NHL Rookie Team?

NOW FOR some of the crimes, disappointments and oddities of 1984.

How could Observerland football coaches leave off Catholic Central wide receiver Ron Wandzel, Bentley safety Pat Schnieder, and Franklin libman Doug Sutter from the All-Observer first team? Show 'em in college, fellas!

More sadly, a Garden City football team went 7-2 and didn't place anybody on the first team, and only one on the second team.

The biggest helst of the year, however, was the way the Western Lakes Conference raided the Northwest Suburban League, excluding Garden City and Redford Union. Enough said.

It was sad to hear that two Thurston softball players were fighting on the on-deck circle in a game last spring.

It was sad to see that Redford Bishop Borgess and Farmington Harrison couldn't win a girls basketball game. Hang in there, Mike Resmer and Gary Sine.

It was also disappointing to see a talented John Glenn girls basketball team lose in the first round of the district.

What a crime to see such well respected coaches Fred Thomann, Brian Gilles and Tom Williams step down in Plymouth because the administrators wouldn't give them the support they needed.

Wasn't it ridiculous to watch the state high school football playoffs being played in the mud?

It was sad to see that All-Observer running back Fred Owens play only three games his senior year after going down with a knee injury.

It was a crime that Bishop Borgess guard Joe Gregory was left off the first team in the All-Observer balloting for boys basketball.

ENOUGH ABOUT the bad things. How about the good things that came my way.

Watching little David Lee of Garden City battling the giants on the football field was something to behold.

What nice touch having the Observer-Eccentric All-Star Girls Soccer Game for the second straight year, even without a P.A. system.

What a job Fred Owens, Chuck Gregory and Co. put on at the Observerland Track Relay. Hats off also to Fred Price and his Churchill staff for running the meet.

It was great to watch a girls basketball team overachieve like the Franklin girls basketball team did. I'll take people like Jill Phillips, Carolyn Smith, Gayle Chesdie, Kris Lovich and Tracy Leetka on my team any time.

What about the job Tim Newman turned in as girls basketball coach at Franklin? Not bad for a young coach.

And how about Andy Rama, the CC sharpshooter in soccer? What a great season he turned in, capped by a berth in the prestigious Dapper Dan Classic.

WHAT A GREAT decision Schoolcraft's Carlos Briggs (the nation's leading junior college scorer) made by going to Baylor. The Bears, 6-23 last year, are 7-1 with Briggs, who leads the Southwest Conference in scoring at 23 points per game.

You've got to admire the way the Stevenson boys soccer team conducted themselves after losing a heartbreaking game to Troy Athens in the state final.

Hats off to Sherrie Sudek of Stevenson, Observerland's lone state champion in girls swimming.