

# Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312



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(F1C)

## C.J. Risak Individual needs are an athlete's priority

**I**N RUSSIA you'd never get away with this. A guy just can't jump from job to job, looking for what suits him best. That's because in the USSR, what's best for the individual isn't important. It's what's good for the state that counts.

The opposite is true in the USA, of course. Looking out for No. 1 is what's No. 1. If anyone cared to label this generation of Americans, "I" would be ideal — both the letter and the Roman numeral.

But many visualize sports as an entity outside of this "I-idealism." The old "for the good of the team" stuff is drilled into athletes from their Little League days on.

Team loyalty, sacrifice for the team, contribute any way possible to make the team a winner — how many times have you heard athletes spout such unselfish remarks?

**DON'T BELIEVE** them. Athletes are just like other Americans: They'll remain loyal as long as it benefits them. They'll sacrifice for the overall improvement of the team, to a degree.

Does that sound like a cynic's criticism? It's not meant to. The point is that athletes are an American as the rest of us. They, too, believe in the American Dream — improve yourself and strengthen the country.

Most of us live by that credo. But we don't allow athletes the same leeway. College athletes who transfer are a super illustration. They are perceived as individuals who see an opportunity somewhere else that better suits their individual needs or goals.

So they jump ship. Lots of folks compare this practice to mullin, but then they've never been on a Bounty.

**GREG WENDT** is a transfer. Wendt went from high school star at Redford Catholic Central to Duke and the Atlantic Coast Conference, perhaps the best college basketball circuit in the nation.

When his playing time diminished with little hope of an increase, Wendt transferred to University of Detroit, where he may be the team's most valuable and versatile performer.

Playing time was Wendt's reason to switch. At Orchard Lake St. Mary's, two of Monday's starters against Spring Arbor transferred for the same reason. Gary Pederson, who went to Michigan State, and Steve Koplacki, who attended San Diego State, "realized they couldn't play at that level," said coach Tim Domke.

St. Mary's has benefitted from players who change their minds about what college to attend. Starter Lance Davis went to Southeast Missouri for a semester before returning to St. Mary's, where he attended prep school. Davis, according to Domke, was simply "homesick."

**ERICH HARTNETT**, a fourth OLSM starter and a Plymouth Salem grad, may own the record for the quickest switch in history. Hartnett enrolled for his freshman year at Concordia College, but when assistant coach Richard Zelenaki, who recruited Hartnett, joined Domke's staff Hartnett went with him.

Do these sound like self-centered, spoiled jocks, as transfers are sometimes portrayed? Coaching and playing time are common reasons for switching schools. Walt Dixon came to Oakland University after a stint at U-D, hoping for more playing time. Former Farmington Harrison placekicker Dave Blackmer transferred from Wisconsin to Michigan State for both reasons — he was upset with the Badger coaches and he wanted to play.

The reasons vary, but transfers are lumped together, often viewed as mercenaries looking out for their own interests. Still, transferring has become a common practice despite prejudices and penalties. NCAA A bylaws deem it necessary for transfers to sit out a year.

These athletic "gypsies" weigh the pros and cons and make the jump anyway. When they do, they are tagged with labels like "quitter," or "couldn't make the grade."

The public that fastens such generalizations to transferring athletes would not think anything improper of a worker who takes a job at a competing firm where the money is more substantial.

**IS THERE a difference?** Many think an athlete owes his loyalty to the college that has awarded him a free education.

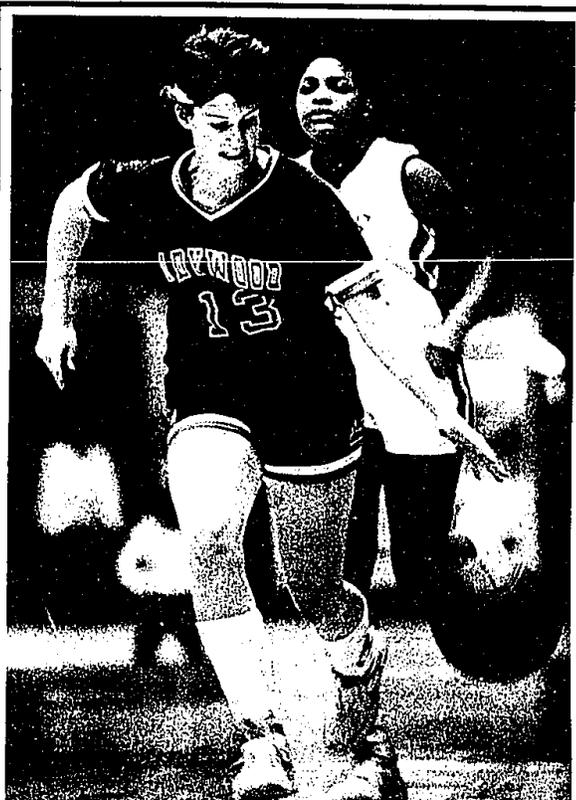
That belief doesn't hold up. College athletes are paid to play — paid with an education. If the situation they find themselves in doesn't suit their individual needs, they deserve the right to transfer. It's not an easy thing to do. A transfer who improves his athletic standing is a rarity. Changing schools is at best a lateral move, and oftentimes it's downward. Transferring means starting over, and that can be a difficult adjustment.

Like any American who searches for the best place to develop his individual talents, an athlete deserves a place where he, too, can blossom. Most transfers will never achieve their high school dreams of a career in professional sports, and they know it.

But that doesn't mean they don't deserve a chance to improve themselves. Sticking with a program for loyalty's sake robs an athlete of that opportunity.

Americans insist upon individuals achieving full potential. Athletes are no different, whether they stick at the first college of their choice or seek individual goals elsewhere.

As with any of us, an athlete's first responsibility is to himself. It's the American Way.



## Queen of Hoops

Livonia Ladywood standout Emily Waggoner, a two-time all-star and All-Observersland choice, has won the presti-

gious honor of Miss Basketball in the state of Michigan. The story is on page 4C.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

# North rules B'field Hills

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

You'd think that the North Farmington volleyball team might be wearing out its welcome in Bloomfield Hills.

After all, the Raiders have now captured the Bloomfield Hills Andover-Lahser Volleyball Invitational four consecutive years, the fourth coming Saturday in powerful fashion.

But, according to Lahser coach and tournament director Stephen Cook, the Raiders will always be welcome.

"We really enjoy having them," Cook said Saturday after handing out the hardware to the champion Raiders.

"They are an excellent team, obviously they play good volleyball. They beat us last year in the championship, you know, but I won't hold that against them."

"We'll always invite them back. Teams like North draw people to the tournament."

**INDEED, NORTH** was a marked unit on Saturday.

"When you win, people are always looking to knock you off," North coach Sandy Lubienicki said.

And North barely survived pool play Saturday.

"We had our lulls today, but in tournament play, that's going to happen. You just have to play through it. Our kids never get too far down," Lubienicki said.

North dropped three games in its pool, two to the tournament's Cinderella team Farmington Harrison.

But, with their backs to the wall, the Raiders rallied to win their last four games in pool, two from Farmington Hills Mercy and two from West Bloomfield.

From that point on, the Raiders became virtually unbeatable.

"The key is to get off your net," Lubienicki said. "Once you get out of the pool, then you are in a position to win."

**NORTH STRUGGLED** a bit early on against Clarkston in the semifinals losing the first game 15-13. But, thanks to some gritty play by substitute Kris McMinin and some nifty net play and serving from senior Donna Kojarevich, the Raiders rallied to win game

## ANDOVER-LASHER VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL

Saturday, Jan. 12

Championship match: North Farmington def. Grosse Pointe North, 15-9, 16-11.

Consolation match: (One game match) Clarkston def. Farmington Hills Mercy, 15-11.

Semifinals: North Farmington def. Clarkston, 15-15, 16-13, 15-9.  
Grosse Pointe North def. Farmington Harrison, 8-15, 15-9, 15-4.

Pool play: D'Amico def. Clarkston (7-1), Grosse Pointe North (7-1), Westland Kettering (3-5), Farmington (1-7), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (1-7), D'Amico II Farmington Harrison (7-1), North Farmington (6-3), West Bloomfield (4-4), Farmington Hills Mercy (3-5), Bloomfield Hills Andover (1-7).

Two 15-13 and game three 15-9.

"Kris really gave us a spark," Lubienicki said. "She turned the whole thing around."

At 5-foot-2, McMinin was the smallest girl on the floor, but she made two outstanding plays at the net, one resulting in a point, the other a side out.

Cashin, serving for the first time this season (she's recovering from a shoulder injury), served three straight points in game two to break up a close game and shift the momentum to North. She also kept the taller Clarkston team off balance at the net with several well-placed tip shots.

The other semifinal game featured the tournament's biggest surprise: Farmington Harrison. The young Hawks roared out of their pool having knocked off North, Mercy and Andover twice each.

"We're just delighted to be here," Harrison coach, Ron Shortt said after his team made it to the final four. "If you would have told me I would have got out of our pool this morning, I wouldn't have believed it."

**BUT THE HAWKS** were playing inspired volleyball. Led by junior Jennifer Hughes and senior Collette Cashin, the Hawks breezed by Grosse Pointe North in game one of the semi's, 15-8. Cashin served out the final 8 points of the game.

But the road ended suddenly for Harrison. Grosse Pointe North, taller and

Please turn to Page 2

# Take a dive With Oakland scuba class

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

**B**UD UREN HAS some words of advice that would raise a few eyebrows around the boxing ring: Take a dive.

Actually, his advice has nothing to do with the pugilism profession. Rather, he's talking to adventurous outdoor enthusiasts.

Uren, a 1966 Troy High graduate and co-owner of U.S. Scuba Center in Rochester with Dr. Heather Sellick, offers scuba diving instruction and scuba trips to such fantasy islands like Cayman and Cozumel.

His classes meet one night a week for seven weeks, and, upon successful completion of the course, students are certified for life to dive. Only certified divers can purchase air for the scuba tanks.

**UREN'S SCUBA** interest had an inauspicious beginning, considering he had trouble even treading water much less submerging in it. His curiosity was peaked some 14 years ago when a scuba shop caught his eye.

"I was driving down John R. in Madison Heights and I saw a dive shop," Uren recalled. "I kept driving by and thought that was something I'd like to do. Then, one day, I just said, 'What the heck, I'm going to go in there and sign up for diving school.'"

Sellick, a 1956 Royal Oak Kimball grad, took a somewhat different route. She was active in swimming and racing, and, unlike Uren, "just loved the water."

"There was a period in my life when I wanted something new and different. I had been snorkeling before, and I wanted to try scuba diving. I went to the Yellow Pages and talked to Bud (who was working at a shop in Royal Oak at the time)."

They eventually hooked up, and, in June of last year, opened their store in Rochester.

"It works great because Bud knows the teaching aspect of diving and I come from a consumer's perspective."

Uren, who forced himself to take private swimming lessons before he had his open water training, is addicted to diving. Since those first days in the water, his love for the sport has grown as much as his center's bimonthly newsletters. Take a dive.

"I FOUND that it used to be a trend," he said of scuba diving. "When I first started at Madison Heights, there were a lot of motorcycles outside and people came in wearing leather jackets. It was a macho-type thing. Now, the trend is families and a lot of professional people who travel a lot."

"The age varies, too. Teaching 12-year-olds is not uncommon, and, I just certified a 73-year-old grandmother. She needs help getting into the water because of all the equipment, but once she's in the water, she's great."

Uren's classes, which meet at Rochester, Avondale and Ulster high schools, are three-hour sessions — equal time blocks in the classroom and the pool. The goals are to familiarize the student with equipment, procedure, safety, rules and the physics of diving.

After the classroom portion, students must participate in open water training, which takes place in waters such as Stony Lake. Upon successful completion of the open water portion comes certification.

The cost of the class and pool segment of the school is \$120, and the open water portion costs \$70.

Although the initial cost of scuba diving is exorbitant, Uren says it's worthwhile over the long haul for serious divers. The cost of equipment, he says, is around \$1,000, but, "it's not uncommon for the equipment to last 10 years. You're only other cost is \$3 for fill and maintenance."

**HOW DEEP** a diver goes — and Uren recommends no depth greater than 100 feet — determines how long the air will last. The average diver, Uren said, can spend an hour underwater on one tank of air. His recommended diving depth is 80-90 feet.

Please turn to Page 4

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## Paul D. Tobias

has joined our firm  
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