

N. Farmington teens win computer honors

The North Farmington High School computer team has added another award to the many already earned this school year.

The four-member team comprised of seniors Jeff Abramson, Chuck Hess, Rob Randel, and Jonathan Samuels garnered first-place honors at the Detroit College of Business Competition held April 20 at the business school's campus in Dearborn.

Ten high school teams participated in the computer programming competition. The teams were given two hours to solve five problems using their own interactive computer or microcomputer system.

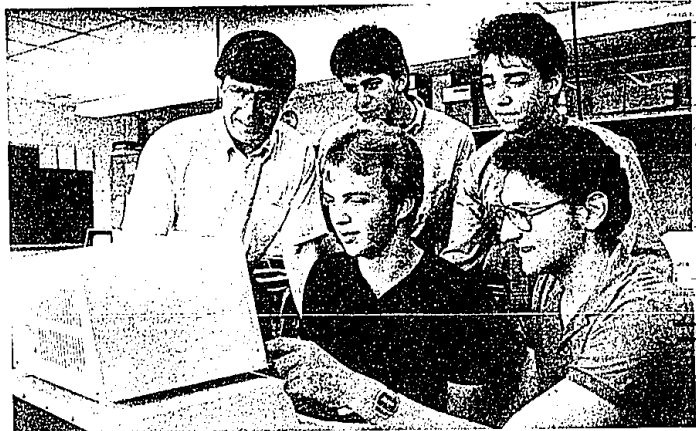
"The North Farmington team brought home a \$2,000 scholarship for its high school and \$100 cash prize for each team member.

Mike Horner, computer science teacher at North Farmington, considers his team to be among the top 10 in the state.

"These four students have been standouts all year long," says Horner. "Since its origin four years ago, the computer team has placed among the top 10 teams statewide for the past three years.

'These four students have been standouts all year long. These are the finest programmers I've worked with. I'll have to come up with a whole new team next year.'

— Mike Horner
computer science teacher



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

"THESE ARE the finest programmers I've worked with. They've been impossible to live with since their successes," jokes Horner.

To practice for competition, the team, which usually meets one day a week after school, works on sample problems from previous meets.

"They really have to learn to work as a team because they only have one key-board to use during a competition," Horner explains.

Although Horner accompanies his

students to various competitions, he is not allowed to coach them during the event.

"All I can do is sit back, bite my nails and wait for them to finish."

All of the team members have at least one computer at home they use to hone their award-winning skills.

Although Horner is proud of the successful team, he will be sorry to see them leave North Farmington.

"I'll have to come up with a whole new team next year," he laments.

Winners

North Farmington High School's computer team recently earned first-place honors in the Detroit College of Business Competition, held at the business school's campus in Dearborn. Team members are Chuck Hess (left) and

Rob Randel (sitting), and Jeff Abramson and Jonathan Samuels (standing). Computer science teacher Mike Horner works with the award-winning students.

Expressway shoot-out case going to trial

Continued from Page 1

This time, the court had few observers other than family members and friends of Barton and his companions in the May 6 shoot-out on the Jeffries Freeway (I-96) in Livonia. Two weeks ago the court hearing opened to testimony from the injured officer, Gregory Henderson, 33, and his partner, Officer Charles Baron-Klask, 42.

Wayne County Prosecutor John Sloan said then he wanted to continue the examination when ballistic reports were completed by the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in Northville. He predicted that the "contents" of those reports "would be an issue" in the preliminary examination.

BUT TUESDAY, Sloan told Brzezinski

in court that it would not be "productive" to reveal the findings at the local court level. Afterward, he declined to discuss the reports' contents or answer questions.

Objecting, defense attorney James J. Rashid said the prosecution had not established "intent" on Barton's part.

"There is nothing to tie the gun that allegedly wounded Officer Henderson to our client . . . There is no evidence to any particular gun," said Rashid. After the hearing, he said he read the ballistic report and found it was "not conclusive."

Sloan reminded Brzezinski of the two officers' earlier testimony when Henderson said Barton had pointed a gun at him and fired it and Baron-Klask said he saw the defendant reload the handgun.

"On a charge of intent (assault with intent to commit murder) you know the fact there was a shooting, a victim was wounded and that is sufficient to charge," Sloan said.

Brzezinski said Rashid's arguments would be best left to the "triers of the fact," meaning a circuit court judge. Barton is scheduled to be arraigned in circuit court on June 18.

Barton has been charged with assault with intent to commit murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. But he is also facing additional charges (see related story) stemming from events in Oakland County.

POLICE reported that Barton, along with two companions, Arthur E. Sherman, 25, of Garden City and Casimir (Charlie) Bagaciunis, 20, of Westland broke into a reputed drug den in Farmington Hills on the night before the I-96 shooting, tied up two men and a young woman in the house, and then robbed the place. Police believe they then drove away, heading south into Livonia, where Henderson and Baron-Klask saw the car, its men and contents, and decided to pull it over for a traffic violation.

Shots were fired and Sherman was killed; Henderson was hospitalized nine

days for a bullet wound he received; and Bagaciunis also was hospitalized for injuries sustained from a bullet wound.

Both officers testified they emptied their service revolvers in the shoot-out. Barton was the only other man armed at the time.

On the Farmington Hills charges, Barton will face trial in the Oakland County Circuit Court on three counts of armed robbery, four counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and one count of first-degree criminal

sexual conduct. Bagaciunis has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court on three counts of armed robbery and three counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Bagaciunis is held in the Oakland County Jail on a \$600,000 bond.

Barton, an ex-inmate at the Southeastern Michigan Prison at Jackson, was working at Franklin Fastener in Redford Township at the time of the robbery-shooting and living in Inkster. He was paroled last January after serving a 26-month sentence on an armed robbery and weapons conviction in Wayne County Circuit Court.

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