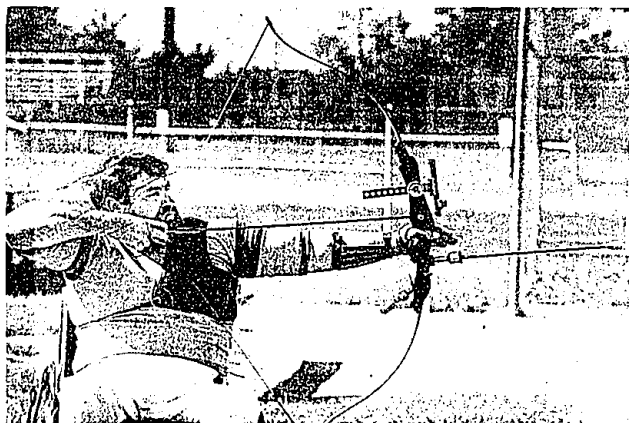




Lou Cherwak (left) helps Mark Gasoyne make a table tennis play. Table tennis was one of several events at the Wheelchair Olympics.



Roy Nungester takes aim during the archery competition of the Michigan Athletic Wheelchair Association's regional qualifying meet.

Wheelchair athletes roll into regional tests

By Jill Arquette
special writer

ON YOUR mark, get set . . . roll. More than 100 dedicated athletes wheeled into Troy High School and the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College last week to display their skills at the Michigan Wheelchair Athletic Association's regional qualifying games.

Disabled athletes from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania attempted to qualify for national and international competition in such sports as weightlifting, table tennis, air weapons, archery, swimming, and track and field events.

The athletes, many of whom have established national records, take the competition seriously, training on a regular basis. Events follow rules set by U.S. Olympic committees.

Harry Allen, a 64-year-old Franklin resident who claims to be the oldest wheelchair athlete in the U.S., has qualified for wheelchair competition in swimming and air weapons.

Allen, an outstanding athlete before he became seriously ill in 1978, began swimming for rehabilitation. "When I was an able-bodied person, I had been good enough for the world Olympics," he said, "but I never made it."

"When I was an outpatient, the physical therapy department at Beaumont Hospital started me swimming. One thing lead to another and they kept beating me on to try competition. Now I'm into it — tooth and nail."

ALLEN SAID he trains constantly to keep in shape. "It's the only way I can keep at it," he added. "I swim three days a week and work out with discus and javelin at least one day a week."

Jimbo Boyd, a 27-year-old Farmington Hills resident, began competing in his wheelchair in 1975. He has qualified for the competition at the national level every year since.

Boyd has a national ranking in track and swimming, but his real love is wheelchair road racing. His goal is to be a "wheeler" in the Boston Marathon.

"It's a very prestigious event for wheelers, moreso I think than for runners," said Boyd, who started working out after a 1974 diving accident left him in a wheelchair. Now he wheels in 26-mile marathons.

Rochester's Rosemary Ryan, a regular competitor in swimming, track and slalom, owns two silver medals for her efforts in swimming events last year.

"The local (meets) are fun," she said, "and, if you can get to the nationals, that's where you really have a lot of fun."

Wheelchair athletics give people a chance to compete in what they do best on an equal footing with others who have the same disability, Ryan said.

David Crowley of Rochester Hills competed in track, slalom, javelin and table tennis during last weekend's events.

He competed in national competitions in archery and slalom in 1981 and '82, taking a silver medal in archery the latter year. He said he enjoys the events for the

"physical and mental advantages" they bring. "And there's great camaraderie," he added.

BEVERLY CORNELL of Farmington Hills is a wheelchair athlete who is able to compete with the able-bodied in her special event — swimming. Cornell, who has one leg, was the only disabled person competing nationally in the U.S. Masters competition for older swimmers. She won three gold, three silver and one bronze medals.

Archery, swimming, field events, slalom, weight lifting and table tennis were held at Troy High. The air weapons was held at OCC-Orchard Ridge in Farmington Hills.

An awards banquet was held last Saturday night at the Holiday Inn in Troy.



Janet Nungester helps her husband Roy prepare for the weightlifting event.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Kevin Lafuente, 25, of Farmington Hills, has earned the title of master electrician by passing the certifying examination June 11. He's a Farmington Harrison High School graduate.



Kevin Lafuente

COMING ABOARD

Amy Aiken, a North Farmington High School graduate, has joined Ogilvy & Mather Advertising, New York City, as an assistant producer of television and radio commercials. Aiken graduated with high honors in January from New York University's Film School. She was a writer at Geer, DuBois Advertising, New York City, prior to joining Ogilvy & Mather.

WINS AWARD

Phoenix Group, Inc. captured a Silver and an Honorable Mention Award for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. at a recent Business/Professional Advertising Association awards ceremony. The Silver Award was for an employee incentive program called "The Mystery Game." The Honorable Mention Award was for a four-phase direct mail campaign that offered Michigan Bell Custom Calling Services.

HE'S PROMOTED

Detroit-based Price Waterhouse has announced three Farmington Hills residents who have been promoted to the positions indicated effective July 1: Stephen Superis, senior manager; Steven Bell and Robert Nanza, senior accountants.

NAMED DIRECTOR

Derek Carissimi of Farmington Hills was named human resource director at Hutzel Hospital, Detroit. Carissimi previously was assistant director of human resources at Hutzel.

NEW POST

James McLaughlin of Farmington was named associate director of development for the Providence Hospital Foundation, Southfield.

He previously held development positions with the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce and Boysville of Michigan.

PR FIRM CHOSEN

Book Couzens Travel has chosen Hermanoff & Associates as its public relations agency.

Book Couzens, with offices in Southfield, was founded in 1958. It offers corporate, domestic and international travel services, including air, land and sea arrangements. The company is planning to expand its offices and add personnel in August. Hermanoff & Associates Inc. is a public relations firm with offices in Farmington Hills.

NEW IN TOWN

Dr. E.J. Kozora has opened a new center, the Osteoporosis Evaluation Center, dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, a loss of bone strength severe enough to cause fractures.

The center is at 27620 Farmington, Suite 107, Farmington Hills. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend and evening hours are available. For an appointment, call 553-2870.

The new facility has available a relatively recent technology called dual photon densitometry, which precisely measures a patient's bone mineral status. According to Kozora, the procedure can predict a patient's risk for fracture of specific bones. More importantly, it can assess the efficacy of drugs and other therapies on osteoporotic patients, making it possible for a physician to modify or discard ineffective treatments.

NEW SYSTEM

Grace & Wild Studios has purchased a second Betacam recorder and Ikegami HL79E camera.

The Betacam recorder is a Sony BVW-25, combining record and playback capabilities in one self-contained unit. Farmington Hills-based Grace & Wild is the first video production facility in Detroit to offer the newest Betacam system.

In addition to the new BVW-25, Grace & Wild has also purchased a second Ikegami HL79E camera with triax. The new HL79E can be configured as a Betacam air pak, or used on Grace & Wild's remote truck

or 60- by 40-foot stage as a fourth camera source. The additional triax capability enables the company to cover larger multi-camera live events such as those held in convention centers, stadiums, or concert halls.

As well as a remote service company, Grace & Wild specializes in stage production, film-to-tape transfers, multi-format editing, and graphics and special effects.

LEADERS COUNCIL

Farmington Hills residents Grace Obringer, Carol Otto, and Carol Phillips are the newest members to join the ranks of the Michigan Bell Communication (MBC) Leaders Council. Membership in MBC's Leaders Council is based on total sales performance, exceptional contribution or achievement and corporate ranking during 1985.

Through their achievements and outstanding sales performance, implementation/repair center supervisor Grace Obringer, marketing/sales manager Carol Otto, and telemarketing account executive Carol Phillips have each earned a trip for two to Palm Springs.

HE'S HONORED

The Engineering Society of Detroit honored outstanding and dedicated members at its annual meeting in ESD headquarters, Rackham Memorial Building.

Farmington Hills resident Henry Nickel, general manager, engine division, Ford North American Operations, was inducted into the ESD College of Fellows, a grade of membership recognizing unusual distinction.

GAINS AWARD

McMahon & McDonald, Inc. of Farmington Hills has won national recognition by the frozen food industry as a winner in the Golden Penguin Competition for March — National Frozen Food Month.

Golden Penguin Awards will be presented during the 1988 National Frozen Food Convention and Exposition in Las Vegas Oct. 15-18.

TOP SELLER

Chris Brown, new vehicle salesperson for Town and Country Dodge, Farmington, received an award for individual performance in selling Dodge vehicles.

A resident of Farmington Hills, Brown has reached the silver level of recognition in Dodge's Sales Professionals Club.

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