By Chris McCosky staff writer

You read the stat sheet and won-

You read the stat sheet and won-der.
Mike Bolen, 545 at-bats, 414 hils, 228 home runs, 392 RBI, 780 aver-age Joe Young, 461 at-bats, 333 hits, 158 homers, 289 RBI, 722. Charles Wright and Doug Roberson, 411 home runs between them in 1,011 at-bats.

bats.

It goes on and on. The lowest bat-ting average on the team is .500. The team has walloped 1,928 home runs

team has walloped 1,928 home runs in 113 games.

They are the men of Steele's.

They are the men of Steele's Steele's Sports Co., the No, 1 mens slow-pitch softball team in the country. And they are coming to the Canton Softball Center this weekend.

The Steele's mens and womens teams will highlight the Coordinate same will highlight the Coordinate Steele's Open Classic Softball Tournament Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tournament director Don Dedonatis expects some 65 teams to compete in three classifications. Included are five of the nation's top 10 teams in both mens and womens divisions.

visions.

"IT'S PROBABLY one of the biggest softball events of the year outside the world tournament." Dedonaits said. "It's very rare when you get the No. I womens team and the No. I mens team playing at the same place at the same time."

The No. I womens team is Empress Chili out of Cincinnati. Steele's women are also nationally ranked. It all begins Friday night. At 7 p.m., the Steele's women will play an exhibition against a coed team of journalists from the Detroit Press Club, At 8:15 p.m., the Steele's men will take on Bluena Car Wash of Kalamazoo, the No. 2-ranked Class A team.

The round-robin tournament will be played throughout the day Salurday, beginning at 9 a.m. Dedonatis

Beechview

gets a win

The Beechvlew Swim Club won its first meet of the season knocking off Village Swim Club 304-262 last Thursday.

hursday, Jackie Rajkovick, Mellssa Pender

Jackie Rajkovick, Mellssa Pendergast, Wendeli Tucker, Todd Farabee, Michael Hoeflein and Catherine Tucker were duble event winners for the club.

Other Beechview firsts were corded by Robbie McLellan, Kelly Komula, Julie Heist, Andrea Hoeflein, Dennis Sayles, Elizabeth Tucker, Mary Quinn, Danielle King, Joe Abunassar, Tom Sayles, Scott Farabee and Maria Chalogianis.

bee and Maria Chalegianis.

FOREST HILLS swam past
Farmington Gien Thurday, 226-252,
Meredith McMahon, Carolyn
Delghan, Kara Goetz, Sarah Toal
and Chris Callan cach won a pair of
events. Lif Fey, Emily Safford, Pai
Callan, P.D. Smith, Katie Paltischeck, Katie Scallon, Jason Watson,
Steve Terrel, Will Simmons, Margeret Tibbets, Beeky Brooks, Dana
Warn, Josh Gross, Mike Clement,
Carrie Terrel, Lif Schulz, Stacy Galla, James Delghan, Brian Slewert
and Mike Sneyd each won one event.

expects games to continue through 11 p.m. The tourney will resume at 9 a.m. Sanday, with the finals slated

a.m. Sunday, with the tinais stated for 2 p.m.
THE PREMIER local entry in the tournament, without question, will be Jamies of Livonia-Westland. The team is on top of the Detroit Major Metro League and has qualified for the World Tournament this year.
Jamies, 26-8, features players from all parts of Observerland. Its leader is Farmington's Dave Kietly, Kietly is hitting, 635 with 26 home runs and 85 RBI.
Other Detroit-area entries include Coor's, Styders and the Trailblazers—all anxiously awaiting a shot at Steele's.

Coors, snyoers and the Harmstein-all anxiously awalting a shot at Steele's.

"I would think anytime people come out, they'll have a good chance of seeing Steele's," Defonatis said. They will probably end up playing five of six games."

As of Tuesday, Steele's record was 117-6. They had won major tournaments in five states. They average 34.7 runs per game and 17.4 homers.

The team's season runs from March through September and involves some 250 games. The grind, though, is beginning to show on the club.

volves some 250 games. The grind, though, is beginning to show on the club.

"RIGHT NOW, we're a little tired," said the team's public relations director, Jerome Ernest. "We have a 17-man roster, but we've got some people hurt. We're a little thin right now."

Bolen and Roberson have been out of the lineup, but are expected to play this weekend.

Ernest has a wealth of Steele's stories to recount. Here's one: They played a tournament in a small southern town. The fences at the field were 280 feet. In two mercy-rule-onded, five-inning games, Steele's banged out 80 home runs and scored 64 runs.

Tickets are \$3 for a weekend pass or \$3 per ticket.

Flower named All-American

Things were looking mighty grim for Andy Flower last week. He had smashed his father's car, and his hand, coming home from the prom (not his fault). He had shown up lant for work (his fault). And his incensed mother wasn't socaking to him.

speaking to him.
Then his high school swim coach

Then his miga service called.
"Andy, what's going on with you," said Hooker Weilman. And Flower thought, here we go again.
It was mash up the car, you're late for work, you're an All-American, your mother. ."
"""" was that what was that,"

your moher.

"What we that, what was that,"

"What we calained. "The third
thing, the third thing!

wellman wan't kidding. Plymouth Canton allestater Andy Flower
is indeed an All-American diver,
what's more, he was graded by the
National Interscholastic Swim
Coaches Association (NISCA) as
one of the five best divers in the
country.

country.

"At first I thought, well maybe be would make it as one of the 30,"

Wellman said. Then I called Emile Cajet, who handles the diving for NISCA. He said that Andy did a great job and was among the top live. He said Andy had better form than any of the other All-American selected. The only thing that beat him was the degree of difficulty of the top diver.

NISCA SELECTED its 30 All-American divers from 90 entries.

ty of the top diver."

NISCA SELECTED its 30 AllAmerican divers from 90 entries.

Flower, only the second person
from Canton to win All-American
honors (Paul Peterson was the
other), accepted the honor much
like a laborer accepts a paycheck
at the end of the week.

"You know, I think I deserved it,"
he said. "I don't want to sound
conceited about it, but it's something I worked really hard for."
Flower, unlike the laborer with
his paycheck, is willing to share his
honor with many people.

Wellman, of course, gets a large
share of credit. He provided Flowr with the fundamental training in
the early years and nurtured his
growth through high school.

Mike Lyden, the diving coach at
Eastern Michigan University, pro-

vided Flower with the high-tech training he needed to become a state champion. Flower dived eve-ry summer at Lyden's camp. And, suprestingly, Plymouth Sa-lem swim coach Chuck Otson and Salem diving coach Jim Schian hiso played a big part in Flower's success.

-also played a nig part in Flower's success.

Although Flower likes to share the credit, Wellman sets the record straight: "Andy deserves 99 percent of the credit and the rest get 1 percent. Andy did all the work, he put in all the time, he was the one jumping off the board."

AND WHAT did all the work get him besides the medals, trophies and recognition? How about a near full-ride scholarship to dive for the University of Kansas?

Actually, Flower had his pick of schools, Pennsylvania and Eastern Michigan wanted him badly, Wyoming and Yale also beat the bushes for his service. It came down to Kansas and Penn.

"It was not any one particular."

"It was not any one particular thing," Flower said of his decision. "I made a list of things that I liked and disliked about the schools, and

I ranked them. I was looking for how comfortable I was with the school and the people, how they were in my program of study (com-puter science) and the diving pro-gram.

gram.*
One of the inducing factors for Kansas was divige coach Barry Susterka. He is a native of Belleville and dived against Hooker Wellman in their prep days. He has been following Flower for three per company of the sustained to the sustaine

years.
FLOWER SEEMS eager to tackle the next batch of challenges. He
must adjust to a new environment
and to new and tougher competi-

and to new and tougher competition.

"As far as moving away, I think I'll be all right. The people there are so nice. The team really becomes your family. I'll be able to adjust. I'll probably get homesick in about three months, then come home for Christmas, "Flower said.

The final target: an NCAA diving championship.

"He can do it," says Wellman, who said something similar four years ago when asked if Flower could make all-state.

Believe it.

My tratum LAN core for these Norther Learns Apr

sports shorts

RICCIO SWIMS ON

Doug Riccio, a four-year standoui swimmer at Farmington, has ac-cepted a partial swim scholarship from Ferris State.

from Ferris State.

"We're very proud for Doug," said
Farmington swim coach Ross Bandy. "It's a great feeling when one of
your swimmers gets a scholarship."

Riccio excelled in both the freestyle and backstroke with the Fal-

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