

State's best teams, players make Observer team elite

By Brad Emmons
Staff writer

THREE STATE-RANKED teams and six All-Staters highlight the latest edition of the All-Observer hockey team.

Coaches from Livonia Stevenson, Redford Catholic Central, Livonia Franklin and Livonia Churchill gathered recently to select their dream team, which includes some of the finest players in the state.

Two-time All-Stater Tim Olchanski of Franklin, the Suburban Prep Hockey League's leading scorer, is joined by other All-State picks Fred Celina, Brian Mulcahy and Bob Tambornini of Stevenson, and Doug Thaxton and Bill Dorough of Churchill in the All-Observer squad.

Stevenson, which reached the state Class A semifinals after winning the regionals and Suburban Prep circuit, landed six on the All-Area team. Redford CC, which finished 18-4-2 and was ranked No. 2 during the regular season, also landed six.

Franklin, an 18-3-2 team, placed three on the first team as did Churchill, which finished 13-9-1. Pressing the 1986-87 All-Area hockey team:

GOALIES

Fred Celina, Stevenson: The 6-foot-10, 165-pound senior recorded nine shutouts and a goals-against average of 1.5, tops in the area.

"Fred is a hard-working goalie — quick on a call," said Stevenson coach Matt Mulcahy. "He made the big save all year. He had a great glove hand."

Celina stopped a penalty shot against Churchill and thwarted an Ann Arbor Pioneer breakaway in the regional.

Sean Foran, Churchill (16): A two-time All-Area pick, Foran made 402 saves in 19 games with a goals-against average of 3.08.

"Sean is a coachable player, excellent to work with and played tough in the tough spots," said Churchill coach Rudy Varvar. "He had a strong senior year to finish a strong career. He's one of the best goalies in Churchill history."

Jeff Vaden, Franklin (16): A senior, Vaden made 87 percent of his saves and had a goals-against average of 2.70.

Over his four-year career, Vaden's goals-against average was 3.96.

"Jeff had his best season at Franklin and matured into a fine goaltender," said Franklin coach Terry Jobbins. "Jeff was in my opinion one of the top two goalies in our league and he was a force at the regionals."

DEFENSE

Leo Ziegler, Catholic Central: The 6-4, 165-pound senior is a two-time All-Area pick.

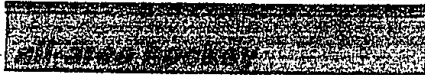
This season he scored eight goals and 12 assists and had a plus-26 rating en route to second team All-Metro League honors.

Selected to play in this year's All-Stater game, Ziegler was a force every time he stepped on the ice.

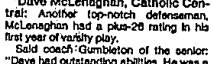
He was the leader on our power play and penalty killing teams," said CC coach John Gumberton. "He has excellent skills and is a quiet leader. He's a very competitive rushing defenseman."

Bill Baffy, Catholic Central: Making also his second straight appearance on the All-Area team, Baffy recorded seven goals and 15 assists this season with a plus-26 rating.

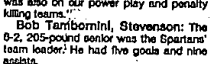
"Bill never complained," said the CC coach. "He was a hard worker, led drills in practice and was a leader by example. Just a dream to coach. He also had excellent abilities and played with great tenacity."



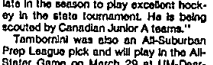
Fred Celina, Stevenson



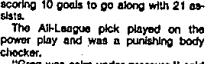
Sean Foran, Churchill



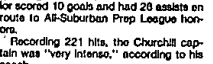
Jeff Vaden, Franklin



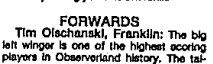
Leo Ziegler, CC



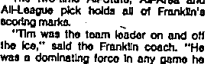
Bill Baffy, CC



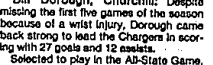
Dave McLonaghan, CC



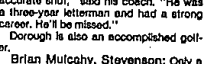
Bob Tambornini, Stevenson



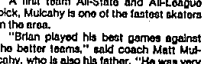
Greg Gulau, Stevenson



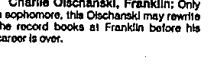
Doug Thaxton, Churchill



Bill Dorough, Churchill



Tim Olchanski, Franklin



Charlie Olchanski, Franklin



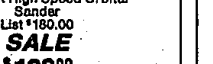
Brian Mulcahy, Stevenson



Sean Skinner, Stevenson



Ross Beck, Stevenson



Mark Johnson, CC



Todd Johnson, CC

Baffy, a senior, was always on the CC power play and penalty killing units.

"Dave McLonaghan, Catholic Central: Another top-notch defenseman, McLonaghan had a plus-26 rating in his first year of varsity play.

"Dave had outstanding abilities. He was a hard-hitting, a rushing defenseman. He was a quiet leader and never complained. He just does his job with few mistakes. He was also on our power play and penalty killing teams."

Bob Tambornini, Stevenson: The 5-2, 205-pound senior was the Spartans' team leader: He had five goals and nine assists.

"Bob is an excellent stick-handler and tough checker," said the Stevenson coach. "He came back from a leg injury late in the season to play excellent hockey in the state tournament. He is being scouted by Canadian Junior A teams."

Tambornini was also an All-Suburban Prep League pick and will play in the All-Stater Game on March 29 at UM-Dearborn.

Greg Gulau, Stevenson: A junior, Gulau was an offensive defenseman, scoring 10 goals to go along with 21 assists.

The All-League pick played on the power play and was a punishing body checker.

"Greg was calm under pressure," said Mulcahy. "He was a good stick-handler and passed the puck well."

Doug Thaxton, Churchill: The senior scored 10 goals and had 26 assists en route to All-Suburban Prep League honors.

Recording 221 hits, the Churchill captain was "very intense," according to his coach.

"Doug is a hard worker with good puck skills," said the Churchill coach. "He had three very strong years at Churchill."

FORWARDS

Tim Olchanski, Franklin: The big left winger is one of the highest scoring players in Observerland history. The talented left winger notched 30 goals and 40 assists this season for 62 points. His career totals are 124 goals and 121 assists.

The two-time All-State, All-Area and All-League pick holds all of Franklin's scoring marks.

"Tim was the team leader on and off the ice," said the Franklin coach. "He was a dominating force in any game he played and was given his full in every game. Tim should have a successful college career."

Bill Dorough, Churchill: Despite missing the first five games of the season because of a wrist injury, Dorough came back strong to lead the Chargers in scoring with 27 goals and 12 assists.

Selected to play in the All-Stater game, Dorough is also an accomplished golfer.

Brian Mulcahy, Stevenson: Only a junior, Mulcahy scored 30 goals and added 40 assists for a team-leading 70 points.

A first team All-State and All-League pick, Mulcahy is one of the fastest skaters in the area.

"Brian played his best games against the better teams," said coach Matt Mulcahy, who is also his father. "He was very strong and was a hard body checker. He also had an outstanding state tournament."

Charlie Olchanski, Franklin: Only a sophomore, this Olchanski may rewrite the record books at Franklin before his career is over.

center on our 'Lunch Pal Line.' He was a tenacious forechecker and had a very positive attitude."

Nicklasmed "Wisko," Lock: scored a total of five goals during one week in wins over state-ranked Trenton and Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Ross Beck, Stevenson: The junior left winger tallied 30 goals and contributed 50 assists in 30 games.

"Ross was an excellent skater and a real sniper at scoring goals," said the Stevenson coach. "He is a good body checker and tough corner man. He was the best penalty killer I've seen and is a real playmaker. He will be Franklin's new leader."

Todd Johnson, Catholic Central: A first-year varsity player, Johnson was a talented center who scored only four goals, but had 20 assists with a plus-14 rating.

Only 5-3, 132 pounds, CC coach John Gumberton called Johnson "a hard-nosed playmaker who was hard-working in both practices and games."

"Todd wanted to win and was very competitive," said the CC coach. "His tenacity went above his size."

Johnson centered a dangerous power play unit along with his brother Mark and teammate Scott Haller.

Sean Skinner, Stevenson: A 6-2, 170-pound senior, Skinner scored 29 goals and added 40 assists on his way to All-League honors.

"Sean is the best conditioned athlete on the team," said his coach. "He was a great stick-handler, a magician with the puck. He was an excellent special teams player. He was first on the ice at practice and the last off."

Skinner has also been selected to play in the All-State Game.

Scott Lock, Catholic Central: The sophomore center scored 16 goals and added 10 assists for the Shamrocks. He was the team's second leading scorer with a plus-19 rating.

"Scott started slowly, but improved his skating and skills as the season progressed," Gumberton said. "He was the

COACH OF YEAR

Matt Mulcahy, Stevenson: The third-year coach guided Stevenson to a perfect 14-0 record in Suburban Prep Hockey League play and led the Spartans to their first regional crown.

HONORABLE MENTION

Livonia Stevenson: Leo Genova, Gordie Wilson, Paul Tustian, Chris Schultz, Steve Kujala, Redford Catholic Central: Scott Haller, Chris Hoptak, Dave Fenner, Jim Huber, school, Jeff Hodges, Livonia Franklin: Paul Craner, Mike Livenberg, Chris Berger and Mike Zajac; Livonia Churchill: Sean Green, John MacDonald, Scott Patterson, Brett Campbell.

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