

# Chargers take hot seat

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

Last year was the first time in four years that Livonia Stevenson wasn't represented in the Class A state girls soccer championship.

Cross-town rival Churchill rose to the occasion, and behind a two-goal performance from All-State player Jamie Kubacki, the Chargers defeated Troy Athens 3-2 in overtime to claim the state title.

Churchill again looks like the team to beat, but the Western Lakes Activities Association should be much more balanced than in the past. The Chargers will get some strong competition from the likes of Stevenson and Plymouth Salem.

Farmington, North Farmington, Livonia Franklin and Plymouth Canton could also stir things up in the

## soccer

WLAA as each team has improved over last year.

**CHURCHILL COACH** Nick O'Shea has inherited a strong team from retired coach Ed Dudek. Aside from Kubacki, who scored 13 goals and had 11 assists last year, the Chargers return 11 players from that championship team. Leading the way will be senior goalkeeper Liz Monroe, who recorded 13 shutouts last season and allowed just seven goals the entire year.

Stevenson should be a contender but will first have to overcome the

loss of senior defender Becky Dimitriu, who was lost for the season with a severe knee injury. But the Spartans return 17 players and are coached by veteran, Norene Divens who enters her 11th season at the helm of the Stevenson soccer program.

Salem, which finished last season ranked fifth in the state, lost just two players to graduation and return a strong nucleus of players. All-Area second team goalie Ellen Schnackel (eight shutouts in '86) heads the list of returnees.

**FRANKLIN ENTERS** the season with perhaps its strongest team ever, returning 13 girls from last year's 7-7-3 squad. North will also add some excitement to the league race with the likes of Jean Anzovino (20 goals and 20 assists in '86) leading the Raiders to battle.

The Farmington Falcons fly into the '86 campaign with a strong contingent of seniors including All-Area player Leslie Martin (seven goals, 24 assists). Canton returns after a 10-8-1 campaign last year with just two girls lost to graduation.

In the Catholic League, the Farmington Hills Mercy Marlies could pose a threat to the pack behind the efforts of All-Area player Margaret DeMattea. The senior defender led the Marlies last year with 12 goals and 18 assists. (See area round-up).



**Kim Montgomery** (dark jersey), shown here in last year's state championship game, is one of the mainstays in the Chargers' lineup.

# Rundown on Observerland soccer teams

## LIVONIA CHURCHILL

- Head coach: Nick O'Shea, first season.
- Last year's overall record: 24-2-2.
- Time won last year: Class A state championship, regional and Western Lakes Soccer League.
- Notable losses to graduation: All-Area players Amy Weber, Jennifer Hugel and Jerry Bewick, and Penny Strong.
- Leading returnees: Colleen Churchill, junior center; Jennifer Flowers, senior forward; All-Area player Jamie Kubacki, senior midfielder; Kim Monroe, senior goalkeeper; All-Area player Liz Monroe, senior goalkeeper; All-Area second team player Shari Azzell, senior defender; Katie Davis, junior defender; Chris Packer, senior defender; Kris Schmitt, senior defender.
- Promising newcomers: Dana Dugan, senior forward; Chrissy Clark, sophomore forward.
- O'Shea's outlook: "Last year we only gave up one goal, and we only lost one goal from that defense. Our goal is to repeat (as state champions), and I think we have a good shot at doing it. Our defense is very strong, and I think we can put the ball in the net, we stand a very good chance of repeating. We're very solid at the back, and teams will have to be very, very good to get by us and score."

## LIVONIA STEVENSON

- Head coach: Norene Divens, 11th season.
- Last year's overall record: 10-1-3.
- Notable losses to graduation: All-Area player Kim Patterson, All-Area second team player Paula Divens, March 1986.
- Leading returnees: All-Area second team player Lori Green, junior forward; Julie Zatorski, junior defender; Elaine Zager, junior goalie; Tina Gensel, sophomore defender.
- Divens' outlook: "We're hurting right now with a lot of injuries and illness, but we hope to get better over the course of the season. We're very young, but we have and excellent attitude and we're looking for a good season. We'll be on the fighting and won't let anyone else walk over us."

## LIVONIA FRANKLIN

- Head coach: Judy Bida, fourth season.
- Last year's overall record: 7-7-3.
- Notable losses to graduation: Kim Owens and Laura Alcala.
- Leading returnees: Heather Cohen, senior left winger; Andrea Korn, senior midfielder; Lisa McCull, senior forward; Deanne Bida, junior forward; Carrie Moud, junior leftback; Kathy Kula, sophomore leftback; Anne Sigmaler, sophomore leftback.
- Promising newcomers: Kaye Chedee, senior leftback; Kelley Kronberg, freshman goalie.
- Bida's outlook: "This is probably the strongest team Franklin has ever had. We're really anxious to start the season. We have good talent and high hopes. Hopefully, we'll only have three or four losses over the season."

## PLYMOUTH SALEM

- Head coach: Ken Johnson, seventh season.
- Last year's overall record: 13-3-2.
- Notable losses to graduation: Julie Torino (first team All-Area) and Suzie Bakoni.
- Leading returnees: All-Area second team picks — Nikki Stojche, senior sweeper; Jill Earty, sophomore forward; Ellen Schnackel, junior goalie; Also, Michelle Ogden, senior defender; Lisa Hyisko, senior midfielder; Jennifer Behart, senior midfielder.
- Promising newcomers: Sarah Hayes, freshman midfielder; Michelle Minton, freshman forward; Jennifer Marshall, freshman defender; Jennifer Degebarth, freshman defender.
- Johnson's outlook: "I think it will be a tough battle in the league but we should go along very, very well and very big. We have good teamwork, aggressive defense and good

speed up front. We're improved over last year and should have a real good season."

## PLYMOUTH CANTON

- Head coach: Don Smith, first season.
- Last year's overall record: 10-8-1.
- Notable losses to graduation: Kendra Whitaker and Beth Frigo.
- Leading returnees: Cheryl Nippa, senior leftback; second team All-Area; Shelly Tutor, senior leftback; Shannon Mastie, sophomore right winger; Renee Rice, junior center-halfback; Jen East, junior goalie.
- Promising newcomers: Julie Starnick, sophomore forward; Michelle Fortier, sophomore left winger.
- Smith's outlook: "Pretty nice balance at all positions. We shouldn't do too badly, even though we're a pretty young team. We won't be a pushover and I think we'll surprise some people. I'd like to pick off one of the top teams."

## FARMINGTON

- Head coach: Ed Darram, seventh season.
- Last year's overall record: 10-9-0.
- Notable losses to graduation: Laura Dingle (first team All-Area) and Karen Pennywell.
- Leading returnees: Leslie Martin, senior halfback/forward; first team All-Area; Jennifer Cunningham, senior sweeper; second team All-Area; Amy Smith, senior stopper; Cynthia Riden, senior goalie; Tracy Schalm, junior halfback; Denise Hyberg, junior right winger.
- Promising newcomers: Margaret Martin, winger; Amy Trunk, forward; and Carrie Mator, forward (all freshmen).
- Darram's outlook: "The girls all have high hopes and expectations, and we have a high morale. I feel we'll be able to play with anybody in the league. We're pretty solid this year. As in the past, our conference (Western Lakes) will be tough."

## NORTH FARMINGTON

- Head coach: Cathy Cole, fourth season.
- Last year's overall record: 6-6-2.
- Notable losses to graduation: None.
- Leading returnees: Jean Anzovino, senior forward/defender; first team All-Area; Kristi McKinn, senior forward; second team All-Area; Also, Sandy Smith, senior stopper; Mo O'Brien, senior midfielder/forward; Lisa Nordini, junior midfielder; and Donna O'Brien, sophomore defender.
- Promising newcomers: Leanne Ade, freshman goalie; Chrissy Aoki, sophomore defender.
- Cole's outlook: "It's big advantage to have everybody returning. I look to see a .500 season or better. Our No. 1 goal is to capture the city title."



**Liz Monroe** Churchill



**Leslie Martin** Farmington



**Margaret DeMattea** Mercy

## FARMINGTON HARRISON

- Head coach: Glen Bruhan, first season.
- Last year's overall record: 0-17-1.
- Notable losses to graduation: Jennifer Hughes.
- Leading returnees: Jenny Blarick, junior stopper; Christine Eldridge, junior sweeper; Gwen Platt, junior defender.
- Promising newcomers: Kory Sharp, sophomore striker; Laura Wilkinson, sophomore midfielder; Susan Vohin, sophomore defender; and Sandra Lovell, freshman midfielder.
- Bruhan's outlook: "We're a very young team with a lot of inexperienced players. We've got to win one game first. A realistic goal is to be in most of the games and to win five. We're not looking ahead to next year, but we'll play this year and we'll be starting at the basics."

## LIVONIA LADYWOOD

- Head coach: Paul Dugan, second season.
- Last year's overall record: 7-4.
- Notable losses to graduation: Four players including Lisa Hall.
- Leading returnees: Jennifer Gatt, senior goalie; Angie Garzon, senior center-forward; Lisa Yonstad, sophomore leftback; Katie Farkas, sophomore leftback.
- Promising newcomers: Cassie Grog, freshman forward.
- Dugan's outlook: "We have a lot of girls coming back with a lot of experience. I think we'll be right in the middle of the pack (of the Catholic League's Central Division). Martin and Bishop Foley will be right up there. They'll have a little edge, but we'll give them a good battle. Defense will be our strong suit. We just don't have a lot of experience in our goal-scoring positions."

- Kathy Flail, senior (out with knee injury).
- Promising newcomers: Sophomore Jenny Kuma, Leigh Ann Gallagher, Erica Jones and Shannon Baber; freshman Ann Guden, Liz DeMattea, Kathy McDonald and Donna Wilkins.
- Fogel's outlook: "I have real concerns of repeating because of injuries (to Notta and Flail) and depth. We had 17 returning letter winners, but five did not come back out. We've got a strong nucleus, but Martin and Ladywood will be strong in our league. We've got to play to our peak. If we're going to have a chance to repeat."

- Last year's overall record: 2-12.
- Notable losses to graduation: Norene.
- Leading returnees: Team MVP Lisa Larson, defender (team MVP); Kelli Lantick, defender; The Gensel and Denise Taggart, midfielders; Lori Hodges and Kathy Kassa, forwards.
- Promising newcomers: Chery Hutzler, senior midfielder; Chris Guggo, goalie; Lisa Trombley, forward.
- Valla's outlook: "During the last six games last year we didn't have enough and we got some close games. This year we're working with 20 people and have a good nucleus. We should go over .500. I just want my kids to enjoy it and I will be a few more years."

## REDFORD BISHOP BORGESS

- Head coach: Ron Predmistry, third season.
- Last year's overall record: 0-7-1.
- Notable losses to graduation: Dana Pedersen, All-League (now an assistant coach).
- Leading returnees: Chris Cole, senior defender; Beth Olop, senior leftback.
- Promising newcomers: Six sophomores and six freshmen.
- Predmistry's outlook: "We set a goal to win three games with a possibility of four. We consider that an accomplishment. This season is for learning. And the only way to learn is to play the games. They're interested in playing in the off-season and they have a good attitude. The kids are real easy to coach and seem to have the concept down."

## GARDEN CITY

- Head coach: George Vella, third season.

- Last year's overall record: 2-12.
- Notable losses to graduation: Norene.
- Leading returnees: Team MVP Lisa Larson, defender (team MVP); Kelli Lantick, defender; The Gensel and Denise Taggart, midfielders; Lori Hodges and Kathy Kassa, forwards.
- Promising newcomers: Chery Hutzler, senior midfielder; Chris Guggo, goalie; Lisa Trombley, forward.
- Valla's outlook: "During the last six games last year we didn't have enough and we got some close games. This year we're working with 20 people and have a good nucleus. We should go over .500. I just want my kids to enjoy it and I will be a few more years."

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