

outdoors Bill Parker Smelt season here

CRAB YOUR waders, net and lantern. Throw some warm clothes in the car and don't forget a large bucket or new trash can. Fill up the gas tank and get out to the river. (Don't forget to stop at the local grocery store for some munchies and the beverage of your choice.)

The smelt have started to run. Recent reports released by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources indicate that action is slow but die-hard dippers have had some success at the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron.

With warm temperatures (and a little precipitation) headed our way, this weekend could well be the beginning of the smelt-dipping season in southern Michigan.

If you've never dipped a smelt before, I recommend you give it a try. You don't have to be an expert fisherman or even an avid outdoorsman. All you have to do is dip your net into the water. If the all-very little rascals are running you're bound to have instant success.

Smelt are small fish, usually six to eight inches in length. They don't have to be scaled or filleted and a half-dozen or so usually make a nice meal for one person. They're easy to clean and pretty tasty when battered and deep-fried in a pan of boiling grease.

BEST ACTION is usually at night (between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.). When the smelt are running, traffic on the river can often be heavier than at rush hour on the Lodge.

"A lot of people (dip for smelt) and enjoy it tremendously," said DNR fisheries biologist Ron Spitzer. "Since (dippers) had some luck last weekend it should be a little better this weekend. Once (smelt) start their runs they can't revert too far. If we happen to get a cold spell they'll be out the next sluggish but they'll remain in the rivers."

Depending on weather conditions, the runs can be red-hot one day and then very slow the next. Smelt usually begin their runs when the water temperature reaches 41-44 degrees. The runs generally last for about a two-week

span. Hot spots in southeast Michigan are the foot of the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron, Sears Dock and Pine Grove Park; at St. Clair north of Pine River at Marine City and Algoma south of M-72. In Ontario Point Pelée is usually a good spot. The park will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. No cars will be allowed in the park after 10 p.m. Another good spot on the Ontario side is in Wheatley at the end of Campers Cove Road.

FURTHER NORTH, back on the Michigan side, hot spots through Huron County include Lexington Harbor, Port Sanilac Harbor, Bridgehampton River, Cherry Creek, Elk Creek, Mill Creek, Suck Creek, Elm Creek, Oka Creek, Willow Creek, New River, Grindstone City Harbor and Pinebog River.

Dippers should have a valid fishing license in their possession. (1987 fishing licenses are required after March 31.) Remember to ice the fish before making a long trip home.

"Smelt dippers should make sure only to dip as many smelt as they want," said Spitzer. "If you take too many you may not find enough hungry neighbors with willing kids to clean them once you get home."

METROPARKS KENSINGTON

• Owl Prowl, a combination slide presentation and nature walk exploring the life of owls, will be held Friday beginning at 7 p.m.

• Animal Quackers, a combination slide presentation and nature walk to observe migrating ducks and geese, will be held Sunday beginning at 10 a.m.

• Pond Awakening, an opportunity for participants to explore pond life using dip nets, will be offered Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

• Spring Birding for Beginners, a nature hike to discover the common birds, will be held Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

• For more information on any of the Metropark events call 1-800-24-PARKS.

Basketball's best

Continued from Page 1

Laure, is on the Tulane (La.) University volleyball team.

Rick Taylor, senior, Plymouth Salem: The 6-7 center became a welcome addition for the Rocks, averaging 16 points and 12 rebounds per game. Sporting a soft outside touch and strong inside moves, Taylor shot 57 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the free throw line.

He tallied a career-high 35 points in a regional loss to Ann Arbor Pioneer.

"Rick has the ability to work either at the post position or step off the perimeter," said the Salem coach. "His shooting touch and offensive rebounding ability made us a solid team this season."

Taylor, a McDonald's All-American nominee, is being recruited by the University of Detroit and Kent State.

Parish Hickman, junior, Bishop Borgess: The 6-6 center was the Spartans' dominant big man this season, averaging 14.7 points, 9.3 rebounds and 1.3 blocks per game. Several times he brought the crowd to its feet with his thunderous dunks.

The first-team all-Catholic League pick is playing his second year as a starter and should be a major force in the Catholic League next season along with Warren DeLaSalle's Mike Popowski, teammate Cordell Robinson and Southeast Aquinas' Mark Montgomery.

"Parish has developed his game tremendously this season," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco. "He not only was an

inside threat, but he also emerged as a perimeter player with a quality jump shot.

"Toward the end of the season, Parish became a defensive player that could stop both the inside and perimeter game."

Cordell Robinson, junior, Bishop Borgess: The 6-4½ guard was tough for opponents to match up against. He averaged 16.7 points, 4.1 assists and 4.4 rebounds per game.

The first-team all-Catholic pick was an explosive player who could take control of things offensively.

"When Cordell has the ball in the middle of the floor in the open court, he can always create an exciting play," said the Borgess coach.

"He has great vision and awareness of the other nine players on the floor at all times. He will play the shooting guard in college."

Mike Fusco, Coach of the Year, Bishop Borgess: After a successful stint at Detroit St. Hedwig, a Class D school, the young and energetic Fusco moved up to the A-1 Division, transforming Borgess into a Catholic League power in just five years.

The Borgess team finished 19-4, the best record in the school's history, leading the team to the Operation-Friendship title game against No. 1-ranked Detroit Southwestern.

The future appears bright for Fusco and the Spartans, as four of the team's top five players return.

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Title escapes swim star

By C.J. Rieck

staff writer

For almost anyone, just being tagged as an All-American would be enough. It's a goal worth achieving for, worth relishing once accomplished.

Kara McGrath wanted more. That's why the Birmingham resident accepted her second-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly at the NCAA championship meet last week in Indianapolis with mixed emotions.

"I was happy with the finish," the senior at the University of Texas said. "I just wish I'd done my best time."

Goal-setting — and achieving — is what keeps athletes pushing themselves beyond accepted limits of endurance. McGrath had been an All-American before. She had finished second in the 300 fly at the NCAA meet before, too — last year, and the year before, to be precise.

BLUNTLY, SHE had few goals left. Even her hopes for her team

had been realized. "I just wish I'd done my best time," the NCAA title every year she'd been there, including this season.

By Brad Emmons

staff writer

Politics have been interwoven with boxing as long as anybody can remember and it appears another Gary Hart has entered the ring.

No, it's not the senator from Colorado with aspirations of being president.

This Gary Hart is a 27-year-old assembly worker at General Motors, who happens to be the Livonia Boxing Club's latest hope in the Golden Gloves Tournament, which begins Sunday at the George F. Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, Livonia.

Paul Soucy, who runs the LBC, isn't ready to elect Hart president just yet, but he believes the 225-pounder from Detroit has the potential to follow or even surpass former Livonia super-heavyweight Craig Payne, who made it to the finals of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Trials.

"Gary Hart has been in gym all his life, but he's had no fights," Soucy said. "It's really unbelievable because he's got possibilities. He's going to be fighting in the Open Class."

"I guess he decided he wanted to try it like Boncrusher Smith, who didn't start fighting until he was 27."

SMITH, as boxing fans recall, just

One hurdle remained to be cleared — an individual NCAA championship. But perched between McGrath and that aim was an obstacle of major proportions.

Mary T. Meagher, the Olympic gold medalist and world record-holder in the 200 fly, was McGrath's obstacle. Meagher has defeated McGrath every time they've raced, dating back to their high school days in Louisville, Ky.

That didn't deter McGrath, but her determination wasn't enough to defeat her longtime rival. Meagher won the 200 fly title once again, with a clocking of 1:55.54.

What frustrated McGrath was her distant second-place finish and a time of 2:12.36, well off from her best 1:58.91, which she swam at last year's NCAA finals. McGrath also placed sixth in the 100 fly in a personal best 54.53. Meagher won that event, too, in an NCAA-record 54.42.

"I WAS ALWAYS shooting for the win," said McGrath of her 200 fly race. "That's the only way to approach it. And I don't think it was out of reach for me."

"A national title was a goal, and

it's kind of disappointing I didn't reach it. But it was great being part of four NCAA championship teams, especially this year. We won by just 17 points, the closest in my four years."

Yet, what separates a world-class athlete like McGrath from the rest of humanity isn't just talent. It's determination to succeed and to keep trying until goals are accomplished. McGrath plans to keep trying. "I'm pretty sure I'm going to train through the summer," she said. "I do want to see how I do this summer, but I think I want to train for '88."

WHICH MEANS the Olympics. There are factors in McGrath's favor as she begins her trek toward a medal. For one, all international swim races are competed in 50-meter (long course) pools, instead of the NCAA's 25-yard pools.

"Long course has always been my best, so that's to my advantage," said McGrath. And even though Meagher holds the 200 fly long-course world record, she's thought to be slightly better at shorter races with more turns (seven turns in a 200-yard race, three in 200-meters).



Kara McGrath
2nd at NCAA meet

Still, it's a race McGrath has never won. And it's a race she thinks she should win. "That's how I feel," she said. "Even when I finished at the NCAA meet in Indianapolis, I thought I was better than that. I don't know if I could have done better right then, but I think I could do better."

"That's what keeps swimmers going, I guess."

Club boasts a new contender

lost an uneventful 10-round decision to world champion Mike Tyson, but came away with a big payday.

Whether it's the pros or the Olympics, the gloves often prove to be a stumbling stone for aspiring fighters.

Livonian John Larkin, a 20-year-old student at the University of Michigan, is entered in the 160-pound Senior Novice class. He has won his last six fights.

Others entered from the LBC include 27-year-old heavyweight Richard Singer, Senior Novice B; 18-year-old lightweight Martin Rosario of Sunset Rock, Novice A; and 19-year-old super-heavyweight John Banoura of Detroit, Novice.

ONE OF SOUCY's brightest prospects, 15-year-old Bob Diffebaugh of Livonia, a student at Stevenson High School, will not be eligible to compete because he is too young. Diffebaugh, who has captured his last two fights, can enter next year.

Eighteen bouts are scheduled for the card, which begins at 3 p.m. The Monaghan Hall is at 18801 Farmington, between Seven and Eight Mile roads.

The boycott of suburban shows by Detroit fighters has ended after a three-year squabble. Semifinal winners advance to the Detroit-area Golden Gloves finals, Wednesday,

April 8, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Detroit. (The card begins at 8 p.m.) The National Golden Gloves finals will be held next month in Knoxville, Tenn.

Tickets are \$5 general admission and \$5 ringside (limited seating

available). Tickets are available at either Monaghan Hall or K.O. Video Store in Livonia (9211 Merriman).

For more information, call 470-7675 (K.O. Video) or 476-8353 (Monaghan Hall).

the week ahead

BASEBALL
Tuesday, March 31
Bibb Borgess at C.L. St. Clair, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 3
Redford Union at Liv. Stevenson, 4 p.m.
D.H. Annapolis at Clarensville, 4 p.m.

Bishop Borgess vs. Bishop Foley at Redford's Capitol Pl., (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
Liv. Franklin at Ypsilanti (2), 11 a.m.
St. Agatha at Del. Henry Ford, 1 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Wednesday, April 1
St. Agatha at Del. DeForest, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 3
Liv. Stevenson at Redford Union, 4 p.m.
Clarensville at D.H. Annapolis, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
St. Agatha at Divine Child (2), 4 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK
Thursday, April 2
Garden City at Bism. Marquette, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, March 30
W.L. Western at Farm. Harrison, 3:30 p.m.

Liv. Stevenson at Farmington, 5 p.m.
W. Bloomfield at N. Farmington, 5 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.
W.L. Central at Phy. Salem, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31
Woodhaven vs. Borgess (at Farmington), 4 p.m.
Eagle Ford vs. Garden City (at HPH), 4 p.m.
Northville at Phy. Canton, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1
Redford Union at Farm. Harrison, 4 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at Farmington, 5 p.m.
W.L. Western at Liv. Stevenson, 5 p.m.
N. Farmington at Phy. Canton, 7 p.m.
Phy. Salem at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 2
Garden City at Redford Union, 4 p.m.

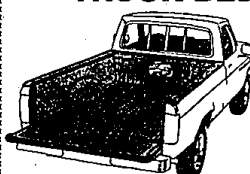
Friday, April 3
Liv. Church at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
Northville at Liv. Franklin, 4:30 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at N. Farmington, 5 p.m.
Phy. Canton at Farm. Harrison, 5 p.m.
Farmington at Phy. Salem, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
Garden City at Trenton, 11 a.m.

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