

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

Monday, June 20, 1988 O&E

(F10)



Observerland boasts the state's best



RANDY BORGST/staff photographer

Maureen Scullen is one of two Mercy players on the All-Area soccer team. She will play for the University of Michigan next year.

By Brad Emons
staff writer

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP CALIBER is the only way to describe the latest edition of the All-Area Girls Soccer Team.

Observerland schools have dominated state tournament play since it began six years ago and 1988 was no exception with Plymouth Canton winning its first-ever title with a victory in the Class A finals over Livonia Churchill.

Canton finished the season 17-2-1 with coach Don Smith reaping Observerland Coach-of-the-Year honors.

The Chiefs placed three members on the first team and two on the second team.

Those repeating All-Area honors this year include strikers Jill Estey of Plymouth Salem and Carrie Maier of Farmington.

Four others have graduated from second team to first team ranks of a year ago. They include Shannon Meath of Canton, Dawn Gabriel and Kelle Davis of Churchill and Ellen Schnackel of Salem.

Coaches gathered recently to select the area's top players and here are the results of the voting.

FIRST TEAM
GOALIE

Ellen Schnackel, Ply. Salem: The senior posted seven shutouts and a goals-against average of just 0.85 en route to All-State honors this season. She was also an All-Western Lakes Activities Association pick.

In three years, Schnackel recorded 25 shutouts.

"Ellen made herself the best goalie in the state with three years of hard work, practice and determination," said Salem coach Ken Johnson. "She has all the tools to become a college goalie — height, speed, anticipation and, above all, heart."

FORWARDS

Jill Estey, Ply. Salem: Just a junior, Estey was voted the state's top player a year ago, leading the Rocks to the 1987 state Class A crown.

Carrie Maier
FarmingtonColleen Rafferty
MercyMaureen Scullen
Mercy

This season she scored 22 goals and 14 assists, increasing her three-year totals to 79 goals and 58 assists. The All-WLAA choice holds eight school records.

This season she was voted No. 2 player in the state behind Bloomfield Hills Lahser's Margaret Koppeny.

"Jill is one of the most skillful players I've ever coached in soccer," Johnson said. "And regardless of all the accolades, she's still a very quiet, steady and dedicated person who is really appreciated by her teammates."

Carrie Maier, Farmington: The two-time All-Stater still has two years of high school remaining.

The Falcons' scoring ace tallied 16 goals and five assists in 1988, raising her two-year totals to 48 goals and 23 assists.

The All-WLAA pick and team MVP will be traveling this summer to Colorado Springs, Colo., to participate at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Maier also ran track and made the All-Area team in the 800 relay. She is a mem-

ber of the National Honor Society.

Shannon Meath, Ply. Canton: The junior forward was highly instrumental in the Chiefs' state championship drive. She finished the season with 13 goals and 11 assists after scoring 11 goals and 10 assists in 1987.

The Canton MVP was described by coach Don Smith as "a hard-working, dedicated team player who gives 125 percent."

Meath, a two-time All-Western Division pick in the WLAA, added: "All through the season we proved to people that it was a team effort and not just one individual. Our team is so well balanced that anyone could have received this honor."

MIDFIELDERS

Dawn Gabriel, Liv. Churchill: Although short in stature, the Churchill senior played big down the stretch for the state runners-up.

Although she scored only six goals and three assists, Gabriel's value in the midfield position did not go unnoticed by opposing teams.

This season she was a first-team All-Stater and first-team All-WLAA choice. She also won the Chargers' Coaches Award.

"We worked really hard to make it to the finals," said Gabriel. "It was a hard loss, but we're real proud. It's a season that will have a lot of great memories."

Colleen Rafferty, Farm. Hills Mercy: The senior midfielder scored four goals and added 15 assists en route to gaining first-team All-Catholic League honors.

She finished her outstanding career with 12 goals and 28 assists.

"Colleen was a magnificent ball controller and passer who was always called upon to take on the opponent's strongest midfielders," said Mercy coach Gene Fogel.

Michelle Fortier, Ply. Canton: The junior fullback tallied five goals and five assists this season. She came on strong during the Chiefs' state championship run.

"Michelle is a tireless player," said Smith. "She works and runs, works and runs, and then some more. She's very coachable."

Please turn to Page 2

Making the grade
Canadiens choose Carnes in 3rdBy Larry O'Connor
staff writer

He looked like any other 14-year-old hockey player, waiting between periods at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Then he would lumber back to the rink and join the rest of the players on the ice. Except all of them were bigger, having already played in high school, college and even the pros.

Yet in a forest of redwoods, Neil Carnes of Plymouth still wheeled and dealt and often scored goals at will.

After the games, other players would head for the bar for a few beers. Carnes would go home with his parents and maybe have a Coke.

"I was a little scared at first," said Carnes of his summer hockey league experience. "But then everything was all right. If there were any problems, my brother (Alan) would look out for me."

Three years later, the experience seems like ancient history to Carnes. But if anything, it shows the movie instilled in the budding National Hockey League centerman even then.

Carnes was selected in the third round (46th pick overall) by the Montreal Canadiens recently

hockey

in the NHL Amateur Draft.

THE BOOK ON Carnes is that he's a good scorer, a hard skater and a tenacious checker. He netted 31 goals and 34 assists for the Verdun Canadiens of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

The knock against Carnes is his height (5-foot-9). Eric Taylor, scout for the Montreal Canadiens, merely laughs at that one.

"You want to check him, you'll find out how solid he is," said Taylor in a telephone interview from Montreal.

Taylor, who was instrumental in bringing Carnes to Quebec, remembers one game against Trois Rivieres. Carnes moved on a player along the boards, and bam, the player was ushered off the ice and into the clinic. Carnes went in for another clean check, and bam, that player was need-

ing first aid, also.

Size has never been an issue with Carnes.

"I never found it to be a disadvantage or a special challenge," said Carnes, who weighs 184 pounds. "That's what I was given. You have to work with what you have. I never had a problem with it until the draft."

Carnes thought he would go in the second round to Washington Capitals. Taylor said the Canadiens had him going in the first round.

But Carnes is certainly not disappointed about going to the Canadiens. The club has a history of strong drafts, starting back with former general manager Sam Pollock, who discovered the likes of Guy Lafleur, Ken Dryden, Bob Gainey and Larry Robinson.

"IT MADE ME feel real good," said Carnes about being drafted by the Canadiens. "I talked with the new coach, Pat Burns. He coached Hull in the Quebec League. I think he respects my play."

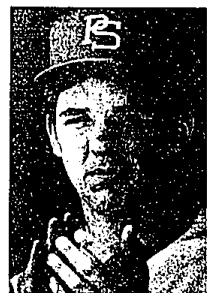
As a matter of fact, the Canadiens do. Taylor ran off a list of scouts who were impressed with Carnes' play, most notably Claude Ruel.

Please turn to Page 2



Neil Carnes of Plymouth hopes a professional hockey career is in his future after being drafted by the Montreal Canadiens.

A dream come true: Marion picks U-M



Todd Marion of Plymouth Salem will wear maize and blue next year.

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

A possible baseball scenario of the future:

It's the bottom of the seventh inning, the University of Michigan is leading Miami (Fla.) 4-3 and Todd Marion is pitching for the Wolverines.

The Hurricanes have runners at second and third with two out. Tension is high as the suspense reaches its zenith.

Marion strikes out the man at the plate and clinches the College World Series championship for U-M.

That may be just a dream right now, but Marion already has found out that dreams really do come true. Marion, who graduates from Plymouth Salem High School this month, realized a longtime ambition when he received an athletic scholarship to play baseball for the Wolverines.

THE MULTI-TALENTED player

made it official when he signed a national letter of intent to attend U-M earlier this spring, but he has been committed to the Wolverines since last fall.

There was never any doubt in Marion's mind where he wanted to spend his college days or what he wanted to do once U-M coach Bud Middaugh put the scholarship offer on the table.

"As a kid growing up, I was a Michigan fan and hated MSU," he said. "I never imagined I'd be going there and playing a sport. I have to pinch myself every now and then to make sure it's true."

Marion did visit the Michigan State campus, and several Mid-American Conference schools showed an interest in his baseball skills, but U-M was the first to make a firm offer. The others knew they shouldn't bother calling any more.

"I always wanted to play for a Big Ten college," he said. "Michigan was my No. 1 choice, but I would have been extremely happy to play for

baseball

anybody in the Big Ten. This is all the better."

Marion had an outstanding junior year in high school and distinguished himself as one of the area's top pitchers, the position Middaugh recruited him to play.

HE DECIDED IT was in his best interest to attend as many Major League and instructional camps as he could last summer, and a trip to Ann Arbor was on the agenda.

Middaugh, who saw him pitch against the Plymouth-Canton Elks in a Connie Mack game, gave Marion some personal tutoring at the U-M camp. Marion's next stop was the Cincinnati Reds camp at Eastern Michigan where a U-M assistant saw him putting into practice the pitch-

ing advice Middaugh had given him.

"He apparently was impressed with that," said Marion, who accepted the invitation to visit the campus in the fall. "Before the Canton game, I hadn't even thought about playing there, and, by the end of September, I had a scholarship."

"I guess all the camps I went to and the recognition I got paid off in the end."

Marion was unable to pitch during the final three weeks of his senior season because of soreness in his right arm, but that isn't expected to hinder his future as a pitcher. The inflamed condition should go away after extended rest.

HE INJURED THE arm while pitching at Farmington Harrison where he was having trouble adjusting to the different dimensions of the mound.

I wasn't concentrating in warm-ups," he said. "I was more concerned about not falling on the mound. Instead of throwing the ball, I was

short-arming it more than I thought."

With U-M pitchers Jim Abbott (Oakland Athletics) and Mike Ignasiak (Milwaukee Brewers) being drafted this year, Marion could be needed sooner than expected to shore up the Wolverine staff.

"(Middaugh) hasn't talked to me specifically about what I'll be doing," Marion said. "It'll be a big step for me. I'll be the young one, and I'll just do my part when I get there."

Before the arm trouble developed, Marion was 4-2 this year with a 1.02 earned run average after working 41 innings. He had struck out 87 batters and walked 14. He opened the season throwing a no-hitter against Northville.

While he was recruited as a pitcher, Marion also is tough on opposing pitchers. In fact, he might be as good a hitter as he is a pitcher.

Please turn to Page 2