

# Canton duo has NMU icers in race for title

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Whenever the Podraskys visit their son, Pete Jr., a hockey player at Northern Michigan University, they usually drive to Marquette on a Friday and stay until Sunday.

"In three years, none of those weekend trips have turned into an extended vacation for the Canton residents. But with all that snow falling in the Upper Peninsula, you never can tell."

It's probably snowing there right now.

"It's gotten pretty close at times when we've thought of staying an extra day," Pete Podrasky Sr. said. "We've had some pretty hairy accounts of snowstorms up there. Some of them are unreal."

"But Pete's been playing hockey for 15, 16 years now and knowing that he's playing hockey and getting an education, the drive doesn't become such a burden. Plus, we bring the groceries, and that's always a welcome sight."

A lot more welcome than two feet of snow.

PETE PODRASKY, a junior defenseman, and sophomore Bill Pye, the starting goalie, both hail from Canton and are important members of the Wildcats, 18-9-1 overall.

It's almost impossible to see the two play unless you're willing to drive 10 hours to watch them. The only other state schools NMU plays this winter are Michigan Tech and defending national champion Lake Superior State, both from the U.P.

Northern's campus is nearly 500 miles north of Detroit, but the distance between NMU and the University of Minnesota in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association standings is nothing by comparison.

Northern (15-9-1 in the WCHA) trailed the first-place Golden Gophers (18-4 and 20-6-1 overall) by only five points, 30-31, heading into their weekend series at Minnesota.

That kind of success must help Podrasky and Pye

forget about being knee-deep in snow.

"I love it here," said Podrasky over the phone Wednesday. "It's a great atmosphere and an excellent hockey town."

"People just love Northern hockey up here. All winter and all summer long, all they do is talk about Northern hockey."

Pye has a decision in all but one of Northern's games, and he carries a 3.16 goals-against average and a .903 save percentage. He ranks third in the WCHA in saves per game and has one shutout. Podrasky has scored three goals and picked up 22 assists for 25 points.

Pye was Northern's No. 2 goalie last winter, playing behind Mike Jeffery, who is now in the Boston Bruins' system.

"THEY WEREN'T sure how well I'd do because I'm a sophomore," Pye said. "But right now we're in second place, and I've done what they asked. To just be playing is a privilege."

"My goal was to get 20 wins and now that I've got 16 I have higher expectations, and that's to guide the team to the final four of the WCHA. If we win at least one game there, most likely we'll be invited to the national tournament."

This isn't the first time Podrasky and Pye have been teammates. Both were members of the Compuware hockey team that won the 1984-85 Midget national title. Podrasky said, "Every now and then it comes up."

"It's still in the back of our minds and we talk about it, even though it happened so long ago."

Northern finished in seventh place in the WCHA last year, but Podrasky credits coach Rick Comley (259-202-4 in 13 years) for much of this year's success.

"He's great, an excellent teacher, motivator and disciplinarian," said Podrasky, a speech communication major.

"He's the main spark. We thrive on a lot of hard work in practice and that carries over into games, as you can see by our record. He keeps pushing for excellence."

Carrie Maier  
all-Midwest selection

## Salem's Estey gets top honor

For the second consecutive year, Plymouth Salem senior Jill Estey has been named an All-American in girls soccer.

Estey is one of 11 players nationwide to receive first-team recognition on the Met Life High School All-America Team. The honor is for her performance in the 1988 season.

She was a third-team All-American after her sophomore year in which she led Salem to the Class A championship and was named the No. 1 player in Michigan.

In addition, Margaret Koppmeyer of Bloomfield Hills Lahser was named to the All-America second team by the National Soccer Coaches Association. Estey, Koppmeyer and Farmington High School's Carrie Maier were three of the five state players on the all-Midwest team.

Estey, one of four forwards on the Met Life squad, had 22 goals and 14 assists last season. The Rocks were league and district runners-up, losing to eventual state champion Plymouth Canton in the district final.

Estey has scored 79 goals in her three-year varsity career and is a good bet to reach the century mark later this year in her final prep season.

She had career-high totals of 32 goals and 28 assists as a sophomore. She has tallied 56 assists in three years.

## the week ahead

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Monday, Jan. 16  
Fairfax Christian at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.  
St. Agatha at Marine City Holy Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 17  
GC United vs. Taylor Light (Hk. Rec.), 5 p.m.  
Trenton at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18  
Farm. Harrison at Luth. Churchil, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Franklin at Ply. Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19  
Liv. Stevenson at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.  
N. Farmington at Westland Glen, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20  
Ply. Salem at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Taylor Kennedy, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21  
Dearborn at Red. Thurston, 7:30 p.m.  
Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22  
Drother Rice at Blah. Burgess, 7:30 p.m.  
Warren DeLaSalle at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23  
Melvindale at Red. Temple, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 20  
GC United vs. Great. Luth. (Hkater Rec.), 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 21  
Ply. Canton at Luth. Churchil, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Franklin at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22  
Northville at Farm. Harrison, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Stevenson at Ply. Salem, 7:30 p.m.  
W.L. Central at Westland Glen, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19  
Farmington at H. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20  
Wayneville at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.  
Red. Thurston at D.H. Annapolis, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21  
Redford CC at Blah. Burgess, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Agatha at Wyand. Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22  
Clarenceville at H.W. Lutheran East, 7:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at H.B. Wesleyan, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23  
Ply. Christian vs. Southfield Christian at Westland's Stevenson Jr. High, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24  
Redford CC at Grosse Pte. North, 8 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 25  
Liv. Churchil vs. Liv. Franklin

Thursday, Jan. 26  
Liv. Stevenson vs. Southfield High at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6 and 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 27  
Liv. Stevenson vs. Bloomfield Lahser at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Liv. Franklin at South Lyon, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 21  
Redford CC at Allen Pk. Canby, 8 p.m.

### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 17  
Madonna at Grace Bible, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18  
Oakland CC at St. Clair CC, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 19  
Madonna at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21  
Madonna at Northwood Institute, 1 p.m.

Delta at Oakland CC, 7:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft at Alpena CC, 8 p.m.

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 18  
Schoolcraft at Siena Hls. JV, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19  
Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 8 p.m.

## sports shorts

### SKI FOR HEALTH

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan will again sponsor a series of cross country "Ski for Health" races this year. The first is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills.

The second race will be Feb. 4 at Independence Oaks Country Park in Clarkston and the last on Feb. 11 at Billy Rogell Golf Course in Detroit.

The entry fee is \$5 and will benefit recreational activities in each area. Participants can register on site up to one hour before race time.

Races will be divided into two heats, one in the morning for experienced skiers and another in the afternoon for novice skiers. The races at Independence Oaks will take place at 9 a.m. and noon, while the other locations will race at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### SWIMMING NEWS

Susan Herzog of Farmington Hills won three events to lead the University of Maryland-Baltimore County women's swim team (5-4) to its fifth consecutive victory, beating Drexel 103-98.

Herzog, who won the 200, 500 and 1,000 freestyle races, has the eighth fastest time in the country (NCAA and NAIA combined) in the 500 freestyle and 10th best in the 1,650 freestyle.

### SOFTBALL HALL OPENS

The grand opening of the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 25, in Westland.

The Hall of Fame honors former players, managers and sponsors, as well as individuals of meritorious service, in the game of slow- and fast-pitch softball.

A champagne reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center, Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Call 524-3484 for information.

### SOCCER BANQUET

Farmington Soccer Club will have its annual kickoff banquet 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at Oakland Community College.

The evening will feature a guest speaker from the soccer world, soccer films, door prizes and rec-

ognition of each team's final standing.

Tickets are \$7.50 and are available from fall soccer coaches or at the door. Further information is available from Ken Habich at 553-3183.

### COACHES NEEDED

Walled Lake Western is searching for a boys soccer head coach. The job vacancy does not include a teaching position.

Interested applicants should send a resume to Bob Atkins, director of athletics and physical education, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake 48088.

### SOCCER TRYOUTS

Girls with birth years from 1975 through 1978 who would like to play spring soccer for the Livonia Hawks should contact Tom Coyne at 427-3358 or Paul Dugan at 478-9849. The players will be playing in the Little Caesars Premier Soccer League.

### EQUINE SEMINAR

An eight-week equine preventive medicine and lameness course begins Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Oakland Equine Center in South Lyon.

Advanced registration costs \$75, and each additional family member must pay \$50 to join. The class is limited to 45 applicants and a minimum of 25 applicants is required in order to conduct the course.

To receive an application, write the Advanced Equine Seminar, 53262 Meadow Lane, Farmington Hills 48018. Or for more information, call 437-3561.

### MADONNA CLINIC

Madonna College in Livonia will sponsor its Annual Baseball Clinic in the Activities Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

The clinic is for grade school, junior high and high school players and their coaches. Current Tigers players Pat Sheridan and Mike Henneman will be among the instructors.

The fee is \$10 for students and \$15 for coaches. Madonna is accepting mail registration from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. Make checks payable to Madonna College Athletics, and mail to: Business Office, Madonna College, 36500 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Or call 255-1100.

## The holidays should be a happy time for a five-year-old.

Last year, Sadie had her best Christmas ever. She spent it in the warm, familiar home of the family that raised her since she was a puppy.

But this year things are different.

Two weeks ago, her family moved away. They packed up everything but an old couch that they dropped off at a neighbor's house. And Sadie, whom they dropped off at the Michigan Humane Society.

Now she's without a home.

But Sadie's got another problem. She's not a pup anymore. Though well-mannered and housebroken, to a prospective owner she's not as desirable. At five, she's already considered an older dog.

Unfortunately, Sadie's case isn't unique. Every year, the MHS takes in over 40,000 homeless animals just like her.

But, despite that fact, we refuse to treat her as a statistic.

Statistics don't like to have their bellies rubbed or chase tennis balls. And statistics don't whimper at night from being lonely in a strange place. But dogs like Sadie do.

The hard truth is that the number of animals, young or old, waiting for adoption continues to be greater than the number of people waiting to adopt them.

And that's where you come in.

We need people like you to give Sadie and animals like her what they really need this Christmas—a warm and caring home.

Or you can do the next best thing. Make a generous holiday donation to the MHS. Because it's only through your support that we can shelter and care for the countless animals that come to us every year. Your support helps us find them the homes they desperately need.

The holidays should be a happy time for a five-year-old. And with your help, they can be.



Thousands of animals are cared for lovingly each year by the Michigan Humane Society. This holiday season, won't you help us help them?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_

The Michigan Humane Society is a non-profit organization funded by private contributions. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for caring.

Please make checks payable to: Michigan Humane Society, 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit, MI 48211.

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