

# Coach of state champs honored

## sports shorts

**● SOCCER CHAMPS**  
The Farmington Strikers, an under-12 girls team, are co-champions of the Western Suburban Soccer League Division II for the 1991 season. The Strikers were 6-1-1, allowed only eight goals and had three shut-outs.

Team members are Martina Bennett, Ruthann Bindon, Dianna Boyer, Emily Curtin, Annie Howard, Danielle Jacques, Liana Kimbourn, Tiffany Nelson, Tiffany Okopy, Andrea Platt, Suzanne Reako, Alexa Rukstele, Annemarie Seale, Kristen Schlott, Christine Snyder, Tara Szyglicki and Emilie Villemonte.

The coaches are Vince Scanio and Pat Curtin.

**● BASEBALL CHAMPS**  
The Indians won the Pinto Division championship in the South Farmington baseball organization this year with a 15-0 record.

Team members are Brad Hocking, Nick Ramirez, Ryan Stigleman, Matt Wingblad, Gordon Niebyski, Schyler Boyd-Grant, Brian Shinnay, Tom Gresham, Bill Watts, Matt Buell, Steve Marano, Buddy Roberts and Matt Lee. Wingblad, Boyd Grant, Gresham and Lee were on the all-star team, too.

The head coach is Ken Lee and the assistant coaches are Tom Gresham, Bob Hocking and Ray Shinnay.

**● SWIM FUND-RAISER**  
Members of the Onondaga Valley Swim Club will participate in a swim-a-thon Wednesday, July 10, to raise money for SCAMP — Special Children's Camp — which provides summer recreation for physically,

emotionally and mentally impaired children at West Hills School in West Bloctown.

The Orchard Valley swimmers raised \$2,500 last year, enough to send five children to camp. Approximately 80 swimmers from the Farmington area are taking pledges per pool length. The swim-a-thon takes place between 10 a.m. and noon Wednesday.

The participants are motivated by "the knowledge they're doing something for someone less fortunate than themselves," said event organizer Helen Smith, who at age 70 will be the only adult swimmer.

The goal this year is \$3,000. For information call the Orchard Valley Swim Club at 851-2658.

### ● GOLFING FEAT

Rick Asher of Farmington Hills recorded a double eagle on the par-5, 502-yard third hole at Foniaux Country Club last week. Asher used a driver on the tee and then a 3-wood to cover the last 240 yards to the hole.

### To call sports:

Anyone wanting to report sports scores or talk with Farmington Observer Sports Editor Don O'Moira should call 953-2139. This is a round-the-clock, direct number to the Observer sports department.

Continued from Page 1

Scott Kennedy, senior, Canton, pitcher: The blazing right-hander was 10-4 with 130 strikeouts as opposed to 47 walks in 84 innings. Kennedy also had five saves and a 1.89 earned run average.

He was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 35th round but will attend West Palm Beach Junior College instead. Kennedy finished his high school career as the winning pitcher Tuesday in the 10th Annual Michigan All-Star Baseball Classic at Tiger Stadium.

"He probably has as much potential as anybody I've ever coached, and he coached a lot of players," Canton coach Fred Crissey said. "If he stays healthy, the sky is the limit for him."

Scott Niemiec, senior, Salem, catcher: Niemiec was a three-year starter for the Rockets, and his all-state selection fulfilled the potential his mentor, Salem assistant coach Dale Rumberger, a former standout catcher at Plymouth High, saw in him.

Niemiec excelled defensively, having 20 assists on the bases. He was 8-16 throwing out runners trying to steal, and he had 11 pickoffs — five at first base and six at second.

"He was such an outstanding catcher we could be asked to do anything we wanted as a pitching staff," Gravin said. "He one has worked harder at getting better and playing the game to the best of his ability than Scott Niemiec."

Niemiec received a scholarship to the University of Michigan, batted .361 with a team-leading 35 hits. He led the team in runs scored (29) and had 18 RBI, two homers, seven doubles and two triples. Niemiec hit a game-winning, three-run homer Tuesday in the annual all-star game at Tiger Stadium and was named the most valuable player.

"There have been great catchers in the history of baseball in Plymouth, . . . but never one who has the total package like Scott Niemiec," Gravin said. "That's why he will have the chance to play for one of the greatest catchers of all time (Bill Freeman) at Michigan."

Dave Roman, senior, Franklin, infielder: Roman played shortstop but also pitched for the Patriots (15-9). He batted .433 with 29 hits in 67 trips to the plate, and he had eight doubles, two homers and 23 RBI. He also scored 20 runs.

Roman was 5-2 with four saves as a pitcher. He worked 49 innings, striking out 49 and walking 27. He had an impressive 0.98 earned run average.

"He had a banner year, and was the sparkplug of our team," Franklin coach Jim Karoub said. "I saw nobody who was better day in and day out. He matured this year and was a silent leader. He was a clutch player who initiated a lot of things for us."

Chris White, senior, N. Farmington, infielder: White helped the Rockets

win their first district tournament in 12 years. As one of the team's key hitters, he had a .354 average with two homers and 18 RBI.

White also excelled in the field, making only four errors at shortstop and finishing with a .930 fielding percentage. He was the primary relief pitcher for the Rockets.

"He had a fantastic year and career," North coach Iv Horvitz said. "I'm very proud of him, and he will be sorely missed at North Farmington."

White, who also played three years of varsity football and basketball at North, hopes to make the University of Missouri baseball team as a walk-on player next year.

"Ed Gundry, Junior, Salem, infielder: Gundry had a team-leading five home runs, and the last one enabled Salem to win the state title. With the Rockets facing a 1-0 deficit, he hit a 400-foot, two-run homer to center field at Babey Park in Belle Creek. Salem eventually won 4-1.

Gundry, who started the year in center field but moved to shortstop, hit .343, scored 28 runs, knocked in 24 runs and had seven doubles.

"He showed flashes of brilliance to the point he was the best player around," Gravin said. "Ed Gundry was the big-play player on our team. He just becomes an exceptional player at times."

"He makes some of the most incredible diving stops. He possesses a tremendous throwing arm and is probably the best all-round athlete on our team. He has a quick, strong bat and is going to be one heck of a player in his senior year."

Gary Pierce, senior, Glenn, infielder: Pierce was a three-year varsity player who came into his own as a senior, hitting .447 as the leadoff batter for the Rockets, who were 23-3 and ranked No.

2 in Class A for most of the season.

Pierce received 22 walks, had seven doubles, drove in 18 runs and scored 31 runs. He had 38 hits in 85 chances. Pierce, who started school early and graduated at 17, will play for South Florida Junior College next year.

"I wish I had him one more year, because he's a fairly young player even though he was a senior," Glenn coach Norm Hones said. "He really knows the game and has a real good feel for it. He loves to play and to practice."

"The difference between his junior and senior years is remarkable. I never thought he could be that kind of hitter, but he made tremendous improvement in strength and was hitting the ball a lot harder."

Gary Devine, senior, Harrison, outfielder: Devine, a three-sport athlete who earned all-state honors in football, too, and competed in wrestling, was the team's No. 1 pitcher and an excellent center fielder.

Devine was 6-3 as a pitcher with a 1.74 earned run average. He holds five school records for a career in stolen bases, walks, hits, doubles and at-bats.

He is Harrison's third all-time leading hitter with a career batting average in excess of .500. He hit .440 from his leadoff spot this year. Devine will play baseball for Wayne State University next season.

"He is a fine young man, and he proved he's big enough in physical stature to play three sports," Harrison coach John Herington said. Though he is only 5-foot-5 and 150 pounds, Devine played tailback and rushed for more than 1,000 yards in football last fall.

Lawrence Scheffer, senior, Glenn, outfielder: Scheffer was the premier power hitter in the area this year with 10 home runs, easily breaking the school record of four in one season.

All-American lost two games Sunday 14-6 to Ryan Industries and 8-4 to Bill's Boys of Port Huron — and was eliminated. White was the losing pitcher in both games.

Ryan outbait All-American 20-6 and scored eight runs in one inning. Longridge had two hits and one RBI, and Pierce and White knocked in two runs each.

All-American outbait Bill's Boys 11-6 despite losing the game. Tiller was 2-for-5, Longridge 2-for-3, Dave Fenney 2-for-2, Dillon and Rodney Shellenberger 2-for-4.

Becoming a more disciplined hitter this year, Scheffer batted .363, walked 18 times and scored 35 runs. He also had 40 RBI, two doubles and one triple.

"As a junior, he wasn't as patient," Hones said, adding that Scheffer would get frustrated when opposing pitchers refused to throw him a fastball. "He kept his head in the game and grew up a lot this year. I was really happy to see that."

Scheffer played the outfield but was also a good pitcher. He was 5-1 and had 33 strikeouts and eight walks in 37 innings. He appeared in 14 games and posted a 1.32 earned run average.

"Maybe first base would have been more the position for him defensively, but we needed an outfielder and he was willing to go out there and do the job," Hones said.

Jason Riggs, senior, Canton, outfielder: Riggs batted .427 while hitting clean-up for the Chiefs (22-7). He had only three strikeouts in 82 chances but collected 35 hits.

Riggs, who also had 24 RBI, plans to attend Kalamazoo City Community College and play baseball.

"He was the sparkplug for our team," Crissey said. "He came to the park to play every day. I had him hit in all the pressure situations. He was very good defensively and had an assist at every base."

Scott Kapla, Junior, Redford CC, at-large: Kapla was Catholic Central's top pitcher and played either first base or shortstop when he was on the mound.

He had a 9-3 pitching record with 80 strikeouts and 27 walks in 78 1/3 innings. Kapla had nine complete games and also two saves. His earned run average was 1.61.

Kapla, who was CC's most valuable player, hit .340 in the leadoff position and led the team in runs scored (33) and stolen bases (nine). He also hit three home runs and drove in 23 runs.

"He was our best all-around player," CC coach John Sailer said. "He's also an excellent outfielder and can play anywhere."

"He's a good control pitcher. He should be even better next year and should be a good college prospect."

John Gravin, coach of the year, Salem: Gravin, a former assistant on coach Fred Crissey's staff at Canton, became the Salem varsity coach in 1984 and has a 143-66 record in eight seasons.

Gravin is a 1972 graduate of Bay City All Saints High School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. He teaches social studies at Salem.

"At Plymouth Salem, we try to create a total program," Gravin said, adding assistant coach Dale Rumberger "is one of the best baseball people in southeastern Michigan. The total program gets credit for this type of honor; it so happens my name is at the top."

## AA Sports gets 3rd

Continued from Page 1

two RBI. Longridge had two hits and four RBI, and Brubaker and DeBenedict had two hits and two RBI apiece.

Brubaker was the leading hitter in the third game. He was 3-for-4, scored three runs and had one RBI.

All-American had 17 hits with Dillon, Longridge, Tiller, Dan Pierce, Kirkpatrick and White contributing two each. Pierce hit a home run and a triple. Longridge also had four RBI, Pierce three, Tiller and Kirkpatrick two apiece.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Please be advised that the Farmington Hills City Council has amended their summer meeting schedule and will meet on the following Mondays:  
July 15 and July 22  
August 12 and August 19

The meetings previously scheduled for July 8 and August 26, 1991 have been cancelled.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,  
City Clerk

Publik July 8, 1991

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