

State powers dominate observer team

By Dan O'Meara
Staff writer

THE PLYMOUTH-CANTON Schools produced two of the state's best gymnastics teams this year, and that source of Observerland strength is reflected in the 1992 All-Area Team.

Plymouth Salem, ranked No. 1, most of the season and runner-up to Muskegon in the state finals, put five gymnasts on the honor roll and Plymouth Canton, third in the statewide poll and final finish, four.

The 15-member first team includes three all-arounders from Westland John Glenn and North Farmington. Glenn also qualified for state while North just missed in the most competitive of the four regional.

The All-Observer teams features six first-team repeaters, including Canton senior Dawn Clifford, a four-time selection.

Salem junior Courtney Gonyea and Canton juniors Kim Rennolds and Jenny Tedesco made the team for a third time. Salem sophomore Alysa Sollos and Kyna Morgan earned their second consecutive all-area berths.

North senior Jameelah Gater moved up to the first team after two years on the second team. Salem sophomore Sarah Makins also was a second-team pick last year.

Salem's Becky Martin was named Coach Of The Year. She replaced longtime coach Kathi Kinsella, who resigned at the end of the 1991 season, and guided the Rocks to a third straight Western Lakes Activities Association championship as well as first-place finishes in five Invitational and a No. 1 ranking.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Courtney Gonyea, junior, Salem; Competing in Division I at the state finals, Gonyea finished third in the all-around (36.85) and was second on vault, third on balance beam, fourth on floor exercise and eighth on bars.

She was the regional all-around champion (37.25) and captured first place on vault, beam and floor. She was third on bars. In the WLAA meet, Gonyea tied for second in the all-around (36.20) and was the top champion on floor.

Gonyea's high scores this year were 9.5 on beam, 9.35 on bars, 9.7 on vault and 9.6 on floor. The last two are school records. Her all-around score in regional competition was her best.

She is an Elite All-American on bars and all-around and All-American on vault, beam and floor.

Alysa Sollos, sophomore, Salem; Sollos was unable to compete in the regional meet because of illness and, therefore, didn't qualify for state but was unquestionably one of Observerland's outstanding gymnasts.

An Elite All-American on bars and floor and All-American on beam, vault and all-around, Sollos had season bests of 9.4 on vault, 9.45 on bars and floor, 9.4 on beam. Her top all-around score was 37.35.

Sollos was first on bars at the Canton Invitational and second at the Troy Athens Invitational and WLAA trials. She was the all-around champion at the Freedom Invitational and also had second place finishes on bars, vault and beam at the same event.

She was second on vault and beam at the same event and second on floor at the WLAA.

"Winning the Freedom Invitational was important, because all of the best teams in the state competed in it," Sollos said.

Sarah Makins, sophomore, Salem; Makins had her best meet at the regional in which she placed third on beam (8.9), fifth on bars (8.9), seventh on vault (8.85) and eighth on floor (9.0). In the all-around scoring, she was fifth at that meet (35.70).

WRESTLING CHAMP

Gary Aral of Redford Union High School took first place in the 132-pound division at the AAU state freestyle wrestling tournament Saturday at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. He advances to the five-state regional tournament June 24-25 in Battle Creek.

SOCCKER CHAMPS

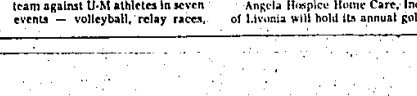
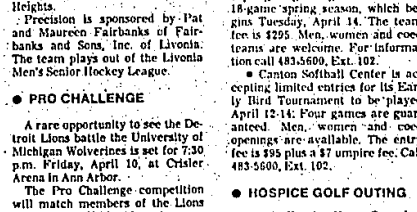
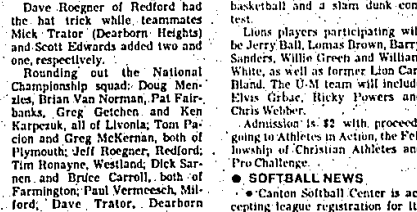
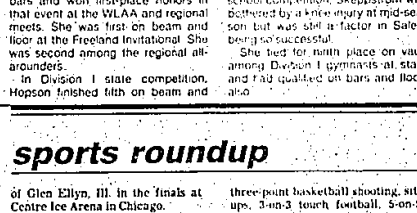
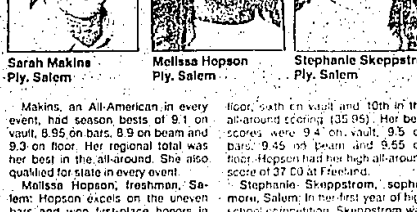
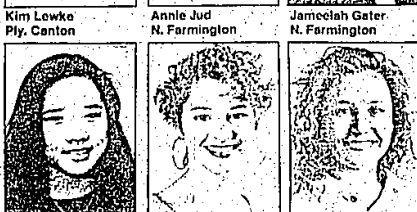
The Varsity 78 III boys' soccer team, led by MVP goalkeeper Todd Smith of Livonia, recently captured the Under-14 National Indoor title, March 27-29 in Atlanta, Ga.

Neil Williams (Brighton) of Livonia also earned MVP field player honors.

Other members of Vardar, coached by Morris Lupencic, include Scott Sersen, Jeff Tomlinson and Steve Williford, all of Livonia; Hubert Vega, Westland; John Schack, Farmington Hills; Jeremy Stillings and Todd Stonestreet, Canton; Chris Charboneau and Craig Prayoga, Troy; Andre Ware, Southfield; Tim Castillo, Sterling Heights; Ty Fowler, Northville; Marko Jovanovic, Northville; Tony Muccella, Belleville; Sammy Plear, Dearborn Heights; Ryan Wells, Ann Arbor.

HOCKEY CHAMPS

The Precision Hockey Club of Livonia won the National Over 30 Championship last weekend with a 6-3 victory over the Santa Alumn



Skeppstrom was the Athens Invitational champion on vault and took fifth place in regional competition. She also was sixth on bars and floor at the regional.

Skeppstrom is an All-American in every event but beam.

Annie Jud, freshman, N. Farmington; Jud qualified for state in every event and as an all-arounder but was unable to compete due to injuries.

Nonetheless, she was one of the area's top gymnasts. In Division I at the Fraser regional, Jud was second on vault, fifth on bars and seventh on beam and floor. She scored 35.75 and took fifth place in the all-around.

Jud, the WLAA champion on vault, recorded season bests of 9.5 on vault, 9.25 on bars, 9.05 on beam and 9.35 on floor. Her high score in the all-around was 36.35.

"She's one of the most talented freshmen in the state," North coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She's very determined, a serious gymnast who had a remarkable year despite several injuries."

Jameelah Gater, senior, N. Farmington; Gater earned a medal at the state meet when she finished ninth on bars in Division I.

She qualified for state in three events, finishing fourth on beam and floor and fifth on bars at the regional. In all-around competition, she placed fourth in the WLAA (35.70) behind only Kim Rennolds, Gonyea and Lori Trussler and was 10th in the regional (34.60).

Gater's best scores were 9.25 on vault, 8.95 on bars, 9.15 on beam and 9.1 on floor.

"Jameelah is the perfect gymnast as far as attitude, determination and persistence," North coach Jeff Dwyer said.

Michelle Tsai, sophomore, N. Farmington; Tsai's greatest achievement was earning a medal in state competition, finishing eighth on bars in Division I.

Her high scores this year were 8.5 on floor, 8.75 on bars and beam and 9.25 on vault. She had a season best of 34.35 as an all-arounder.

Tsai had her best score on vault at the Athens Invitational where she placed fourth. She also was eighth on bars in the regional. She scored her best on bars at state.

"A dedicated, hard-working gymnast, Michelle always gives 110 percent," Dwyer said. "I had to kick her out of the gym every day."

Dawn Clifford, senior, Canton; Clifford has competed all-around for four years, but her best event is beam. She tied for seventh in Division I at state, was a regional champion, was second at the Canton Invitational and placed fifth in the WLAA.

Clifford, who was tied for first place on beam after the first day of state competition, also took second on vault and floor at the regional, fifth on bars and sixth in all-around scoring with a season-high 35.60.

At the Canton Invitational, she was sixth on vault and fourth among all-arounders. Clifford's season bests were 9.15 on vault, 8.65 on bars, 9.0 on beam and 9.05 on floor. She was 11th in the state in all-around competition.

The four-time All-American's vault, floor and all-around scores also are career highs while she has scored as well as 8.85 on bars and 9.3 on beam.

"I'm proud and pleased with Dawn's return to excellence this year," Canton coach John Cunningham said. "After an exceptional freshman year, a broken ankle had limited her performance until the start of senior year."

"Her sixth place in all-around at the regional and first place Friday

all-area gymnastics

1992 ALL-AREA GYMNASTICS TEAM

Courtney Gonyea	Ply. Salem
Alysa Sollos	Ply. Salem
Sarah Makins	Ply. Salem
Michelle Tsai	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Annie Jud	N. Farmington
Jameelah Gater	N. Farmington
Michelle Tsai	N. Farmington
Dawn Clifford	Ply. Canton
Kim Rennolds	Ply. Canton
Jenny Tedesco	Ply. Canton
Kim Lewke	Ply. Canton
Marissa Maybouser	Wald. Glenn
Lori Trussler	Wald. Glenn
Kyna Morgan	Wald. Glenn

COACH OF THE YEAR

Becky Martin	Ply. Salem
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SECOND TEAM

Autumn Burch	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
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Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem
Stacie Sheppard	Ply. Salem

HONORABLE MENTION

Jenny Tedesco	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont
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Kim Rennolds	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont
Kim Rennolds	Claremont

placement at the state finals on beam are only a few of her highlights. She had many career highs and, for the first time, is a five-event All-American.

Kim Rennolds, junior, Canton; Rennolds has been a three-year star for the Cats and this year finished eighth in the state among Division I all-arounders (36.10). She also was sixth on beam and floor.

Rennolds also has all-around titles at the Rockford Invitational and WLAA finals (37.10). In the regional at Canton, she tied for first on bars and was second on floor and vault. She finished fourth in the all-around (36.00) at that meet.

Rennolds, who has the school record in every event, also posted season bests of 9.4 on vault, 9.3 on bars and beam and 9.45 on floor. Her WLAA score in the all-around was her best.

"Kim has had an exceptional year," Cunningham said. "She has continued to 'light up' the record book at Canton, establishing records on floor (9.45) and all-around (37.10) and tying her own records on vault and bars (9.3)."

"She consistently was Canton's best performer all year. We were proud of her sixth-place finishes on beam and floor in the state finals."

Jenny Tedesco, senior, Canton; Tedesco finished sixth in the state as a Division II all-arounder (34.45) and, qualifying for finals on beam and vault, finished in a tie for 11th place in the latter.

Tedesco was a regional champion on bars and placed third on floor, second on beam and sixth on vault. She was eighth in the all-around and third among 11 competitors.

A three-time state qualifier and All-American, Tedesco recorded season bests of 9.05 on vault, bars and floor and 9.0 on beam. She tied for sixth in the all-around at the WLAA meet with a season-high 35.50.

"Jenny is Canton's most improved gymnast," Cunningham said. "Her all-around performance and tick level has improved dramatically with scores near 35.00."

"Being eighth all-around at the regional and qualifying in two events for finals are memorable highlights. Jenny has several wait-until-next-year tricks. Her senior year should be great."

Kim Lewke, sophomore, Canton; Lewke, a club gymnast competing in high school for the first time, was a steady performer for the Chiefs. She qualified for state in three events and earned All-American ratings in four.

Her highest scores were 9.35 on vault, 8.75 on bars, 9.05 on beam and 9.0 on floor. Lewke's best all-around total was 35.50. In the WLAA meet, she was second on vault and tied for sixth in the all-around.

"Kim was a wonderful addition to Canton gymnastics this year," Cunningham said. "After being demotivated by graduation in 1991, Canton could never have been third in the state or established new records for team score without her consistent, exceptional performances."

"Her strength as an all-around performer truly kept us in meets and is the reason for our success. After this year of adjustment to high school gymnastics, I expect Kim will come into her own as one of the area's exceptional gymnasts."

Marissa Maybouser, junior, Glenn; Maybouser, a Division I gymnast, has received All-American recognition for bars, beam and all-around the last two years.

She was third on vault, bars and floor at the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational, and she was fifth on beam at the regional. Her best scores were 8.7 on vault and beam, 9.0 on bars and 8.8 on floor. Maybouser's top all-around total was 34.10.

"Marissa is a consistent, dedicated gymnast who is always working for the best performance," Glenn coach Pam Yockey said.

Lori Trussler, sophomore, Glenn; Trussler is the WLAA champion on beam, having scored a season-high 9.4 in that meet. She also qualified for state on beam and was seventh in the regional.

Trussler, who was among the top nine in every regional event, also had season bests of 9.3 on vault, 8.6 on bars and 9.3 on floor. Her high all-around score was 36.20. She is an All-American in beam, floor, vault and all-around.

Kyna Morgan, senior, Glenn; Morgan was eighth (34.40) in the state among Division II all-around gymnasts. She also placed fifth on floor, seventh on bars and 14th on vault. She was a state qualifier on beam, too.

In the Canton regional, Morgan was first on floor, second on bars, fifth on vault and seventh on beam. She was 10th in the all-around and fourth among Division II competitors, and she placed fifth in that category in the WLAA.

Morgan's best scores were 8.8 on vault, 9.35 on bars, 9.3 on beam, 9.15 on floor and 35.55 in the all-around. She is a two-time All-American in every event. Also.

"We could always count on a solid performance from Kyna," Yockey said.

sports roundup

of Glen Ellyn, Ill. in the finals at Centre Ice Arena in Chicago.

Dave Roegner of Redford had the hot trick while teammates Mick Trator (Dearborn Heights) and Scott Edwards added two and one, respectively.

Roundout over the National Championship squad: Doug Menzies, Brian Van Norman, Pat Fairbanks, Greg Getchen and Ken Karpeuk, all of Livonia; Tom Pajon and Jeff McKernan, both of Plymouth; Jeff Roegner, Redford; Tim Honayne, Westland; Dick Sorren and Bruce Carroll, both of Farmington; Paul Vermeesch, Milford; Dave Trator, Dearborn Heights.

Precision is sponsored by Pat and Maureen Fairbanks of Fairbanks and Sons, Inc. of Livonia. The team plays out of the Livonia Men's Senior Hockey League.

PRO CHALLENGE

A rare opportunity to see the Detroit Lions battle the University of Michigan Wolverines is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 10, at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

The Pro Challenge competition will match members of the Lions team against U-M athletes in seven events — volleyball, relay races,

three-point basketball shooting, sit-ups, 3-on-3 touch football, 5-on-5 basketball and a slam dunk contest.

Lions players participating will be Jerry Ball, Lomas Brown, Barry Sanders, Willie Green and William White, who was former Lion Carlos Williams. The U-M team will include Elvin Gribbe, Ricky Powers and Chris Webber.

Admission is \$2 with proceeds going to Athletics in Action, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Pro Challenge.

SOFTBALL NEWS

● Canton Softball Club is accepting league registration for its 18-game spring season, which begins Tuesday, April 14. The team fee is \$295. Men, women and coed teams are welcome. For information, call 483.5600, Ext. 102.

● Canton Softball Club is accepting limited entries for its Early Bird Tournament to be played April 12-15. Four games are guaranteed. Men, women and coed openings are available. The entry fee is \$95 plus a \$7 umpire fee. Call 483.5600, Ext. 102.

HOSPICE GOLF OUTING

Angela Hospice Home Care, Inc. of Livonia will hold its annual golf

outing Thursday, May 21, at the Links of Pinewood in Walled Lake. The event starts at 7:15 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by a shot-gun (four-person scramble) start at 8 a.m.

The \$125 donation (per golfer) also includes greens fees, cart, buffet luncheon, open bar, awards and prizes. (Hole sponsor, \$100; lunch, \$30 per person).

To register, contact Dorothy York at 591-5157.

GOLF LEAGUES

Senior citizens can play in a golf league Tuesday mornings, beginning May 5 at Fellows Creek Golf Course and continuing through Sept. 1. The fee is \$12 plus weekly greens fees.

The league is open to any area golfer age 50 and older. An informational meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the first-floor meeting room of the Township Administration Building. For information call Canton Parks and Recreation Services at 397-5110.

● A women's Friday morning golf league will begin play May 11 and continue for 16 weeks at Fellows Creek Golf Course. Tee time is 9 a.m. until mid June when it switches to 8 a.m.

The fee is \$12 plus weekly greens fees. There is no residency requirement. League members play nine holes each week and establish a handicap. Call Canton Parks and Recreation Services (397-5110) for information.

the week ahead

PREP BASEBALL

(all games 4 p.m. unless noted)

Thursday, April 9: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Friday, April 10: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 11: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Sunday, April 12: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Monday, April 13: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Tuesday, April 14: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Thursday, April 16: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Friday, April 17: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Saturday, April 18: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Sunday, April 19: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Monday, April 20: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 21: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Wednesday, April 22: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 24: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Friday, April 25: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 26: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Sunday, April 27: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Monday, April 28: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Tuesday, April 29: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.	Thursday, May 1: Liv. @ Canton at 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL

(all games 3:30 p.m. unless noted)

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GIRLS TRACK

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GIRLS SOCCER

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