PORTS

Vardar wins State Cup

he Vardar III boys under-16 soccer team won the Michigan State Cup championship in Midland May 22-23.

Vardar posted a 2-0 victory over the Vardar under-16 team in the final and beat the Michigan Wolves 2-1 in the semifinals. Vardar was 6-0 in the tournment and outscored its opponents 27-1. The team will represent Michigan and compete in the Region II championships June 26-30 in Springfield, Mo.

Team members are Jeff Bablinski. Dan Brody.

Springfield, Mo.
Team members are Jeff Babinski, Dan Brody,
Brian Collier, Paul Dood, Jeff Elies, Alex Garn,
Doug Herriman, Jason Howard, Vijioy Jayaraman,
Mike Kley, Justin Maraball, Brandon Moggio,
Fred Olsen, Dan Savich, Steve Tramontin, Bryan
Turph and Jim Weber. The team is coached by
Mike Lupedra under-19 boys also won the state
title, defeating Vardar under-18 in the final. Vardar was second in the under-14 boys tourney.

Youth track meet Sunday

The hy cuth track and field meet co-ponsored by the Farmington Area Speed Team and Farmington Hills Recreation Department will be Sunday at Farmington High School. The meet begins with field events at noon followed by running events at 1 p.m. Youths can register Sunday morning. There is a \$10 fee. The age, ergon competition is based on birth years: 1983 and later, 81-82, 79-80, 77-78, 75-76. For information, call the recreation department at 473-9570.

Soccer history on sale

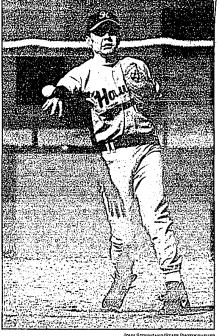
ohn K. Schroder has written and designed a program commemorating 10 years of the Michigan High School Athletic Association girls soccer championships.

Michigan High School Athetic Association state girls soccer simplionships.

The History of Michigan High School Girls
Soccer will be on sale at Saturday's state finals at Plymouth Canton for \$2. Class A starts at 1 p.m. followed by B-C-D at 330 p.m.

To order a program by mail send 33 (plus \$1 for postage and handling) to: JKS-Soccer, 4217 Highland, Sulte 193, Waterford, MI 48238.

Delay of games



Walting out the weather: Brock Goff and his Harrison teammates were hoping to play a district baseball game Wednesday after rain caused several postponements. See

Harrison's Bryant breezes to victory in 'A' state meet

As he always does, Farmington Hills Harrison's Don Bryant pointed to the sky as he crossed the finish line first Saturday at the Class A track state finals in Grand Rapids.

Bryant won the 110-meter hurdles in 14.52 seconds. When he proudly thrust his index finger into the sky, he signaled who had won to a crowd of more than 5,000 spectators.

He also was thanking the one who made it possible.

made it possible.

"As I crossed the finish line, I knew my dream came true, and I thanked God and pointed to him," said Bryant soon after recording his best time of the year in the 110 hurdles. "Once I crossed the last hurdle, I knew I had it."

it."

This was the only year Bryant had to win a state title at Harrison. The senior transferred here from Dayton (Ohio), where he missed qualifying for the state meet after placing fifth at last year's regional.

Then Bryant, who moved to Dayton from Southfield, decided to return north.

"I was real disappointed last year after missing the state meet, and I knew this year was my last chance,"

Bryant seized the opportunity to make up for last year after Redford Catholic Central's Marc Eden lost in the 110 semifinals.

The state meet also gave Bryant a chance to compete against South-field-Lathrup's Maurice Wilson, who defeated Bryant at the Observerland Relays in May. Bryant came back to

win at regional and did so again Sat-urday.

Bryant rolled through the WLAA
meet, tying a league record by win-ning the 110 burdies in 14.5 and the
300 in 39.4. He said his momentum
from the conference meet helped him
Saturday.

"That was a big meet, and I had a
lot of confidence coming into today,"
Bryant said. "That helped me a lot
today."

Dryant said. Inst neighbor the a lot today."

Nicole Pryor and Elleen O'Conneil each placed fourth in their events at the Class A state finals, leading Farmington Hills Mercy to 16th place in the girls meet.

Pryor, a senior who has a full scholarship to Howard University, ran a 58.72 in the 400 run. O'Connell, a sophomore, finished the 800 run in

2:21.1.

The 3,200 relay team of senior Dawn DiPonio, O'Connell, senior Sharmila Prasad and Proyr finished seventh in 9:52.4. Prasad, who will attend the University of Michigan, had a personal best in the 3:200 run of 11:45 but did not place.

Mercy coach Gary Servais said he takes more pride in his athletes con-tinuing on to college than any victo-ries. DiPonio will run at Alma Col-

lege.
"It's good to see them getting to that next level," Servais said. "I don't know when we'll have that kind of caliber of runners here again."
The fourth-place finishes by Pryor and O'Connell were the highest by a Servais-coached runner in his six warm of Marcu.

Hamilton battles hardships to continue playing soccer



There are countless stories documenting an athlete's willingness to subject to endless hours of pain and misery so that he can recover from an injury and return to play the sport he loves. Often, those stories neglect to mention the million-dollar contracts that serve to motivate the

athlete.
Toughness is an attribute an athlete must possess to exceed ordinary status and become ellie. Mentally and physically, for an athlete to succeed, toughness is a necessity.

athlete to succeed, toughness is a necessity. Which is one reason, in my mind, it's been difficult for many people to accept women as athletes. Until the last decade, the only sports really open to women were mostly non-contact: tennis, swimming, track. Men controlled sports, and in the past women were supposed to be soft, domure, charming. Not rough and tough.

charming.
Not rough and tough.
Times have changed. Linda
Hamilton provides proof, a female
athlete of the '90s. She is determined, aggressive, confident—
and were your tough.

nd very, very tough. People shake their heads in

aympathy when they read stories of Joe Namath, former quarterback, having both knees replaced. Or Bo Jackson, fighting back after having an artificial hip implanted to play baseball once again. They pray for Joe Montana (elbow) and Lawrence Taylor (Achilles tendon) to overcome their injuries and play one more football season.

Brave men, to be sure. But they

son.

Brave men, to be sure. But they have nothing on Hamilton — except, perhaps, one thing: They each had strong financial inducements to continue in their sports.

Injury-filled soccer life

Injury-filled soccer life
Hamilton does not. She continues only for the love of soccer, a sport she is as adept at as any of the above named are at theirs.
What has she endured? Five knee operations, two of them total reconstructions — both times on her left knee.
There has also been a broken noss that required surgery



quired surgery Hamilton elbow, as well as other assorted "minor" injuries.

turned 24 last Friday. Quite obviously, nothing's

come easy for her — and that's not all of it. Yet Hamilton continues to excel. A marking defender, she has been a part of the U.S. national team since '87.

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That's right.— she was part of
the World Cup championship
aquad in '91, the first American
soccer team to capture a major international title. Hamilton started in the tournament by working
her way back into the lineup after
undergoing the second reconstructive operation on her left
knee just seven months before.

While sourceastlys from that

While recuperating from that operation, she dislocated her clow. With so much going wrong, no one could have blamed Hamilton if she quit. But this was the first-ever women's World Cup, and she desperately wanted to be part of it.

"I just wanted to make the team," she said. "I would have been happy to go as the water girl."

No way. She started. They won. And in the U.S., hardly anyone

More than physical

So much for physical toughness. What about the mental part

of the game?
So little recognition is difficult to deal with. "We should have

Stevens eyes top finish in Prix event

Coming off a successful race in his last attempt, Jim Stevens of Farmington would like to think he has momentum on his side for his not race this weekend. Stevens will race in the TransAm event for the second-straight year at 4 p.m. Saturday on Belle Isle as part of the Detroit Grand Prix.

Isle as part of the Detroit Grand Prix.

The 23-year-old Stevens, who drives for the Livonia-based Jack Roush team, recently went from 16th to fifth place at Road Atlan-ta, Ga., and is 12th in the Sports Car Club of America point stand-ings.

"The last race went real well for us, and I believe Detroit is going to be even better," he said. "We know Detroit, we're on an equal playing field with everybody else. The Jack Rouah team has won twice there, on the other track." The other track was the street of downtown Detroit, but the races were moved to Belle Isle last year.

Stevens had a tough go in his first local Trans-Am race. It was his first race after completing the semester at WMU, and the new track caused some problems when it started to break spart. He placed in the high teens.

Stevens likes the course and

believes the track will be better this year, having had a full year to

cure.
"It's a lot nicer than other tracks we race on, because it's not raced on all the time," he said, adding it is tight with no real straighteways. "But it's not a downtown course. The track is preity much purpose built and has some fluid turns."

Stevens was 22nd at Long Beach in his only other SCCA event this year, but he was second at Daytona in the International

