

Science Olympiad stimulates student learning

Working throughout the year, teams of students from more than 30 middle and high schools prepared for this year's Science Olympiad at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield.

The Olympiad began in 1983 in Michigan and Delaware as an alternative to more traditional science fairs. Now it operates in all 50 states.

At St. Regis School in Birmingham, coach and mother of five Camille Fath helps train her charges "after school, noontime, anytime I can" — and with winning results.

Son John Austin was top scorer for the B division with two gold and two silver medals plus a fourth place ribbon. Not to be outdone was his sister, Lauren, who received a gold medal.

Olympiad tournaments feature students participating as teams and as individuals, but group planning and cooperation is stressed. Participants rely on everything from their knowledge of science facts to application of science skills.

There was nothing dull about this year's Olympiad.

Students did everything from designing and building a device to keep an item aloft for the greatest time to constructing an insulated structure to house and retain heat.

The intensive work took its toll. "My husband (John) is expecting a homemade meal sometime within a month to redeem my

■ Would she do it again? She could only answer with another question: 'How could I not do it?'

*Camille Fath
Olympiad coach*

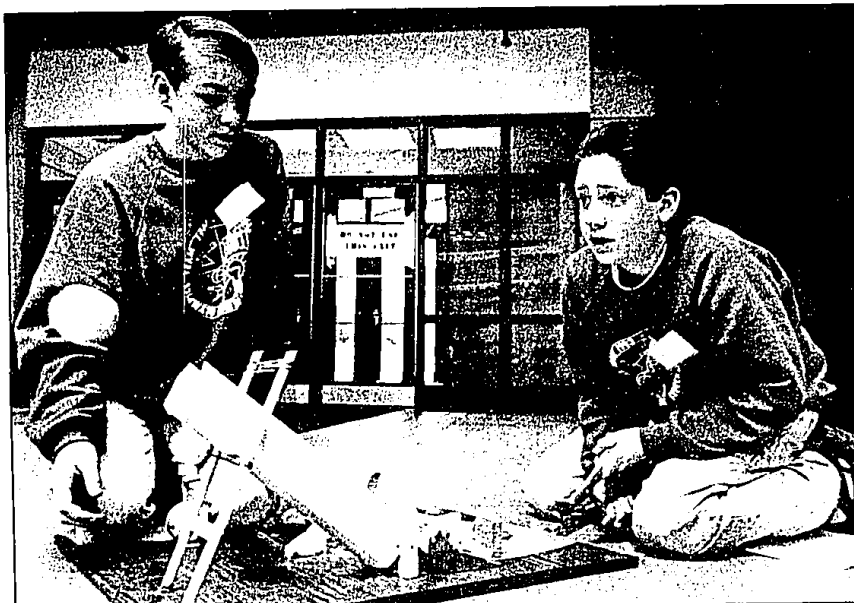
marriage," she said, joking. But would she do it again? Fath could only answer with another question: "How could I not do it? The kids are so psyched up to go to state competition, one just asked his mother for \$30 in kite books."

Statewide competition is April 23 at Michigan State University in Lansing.

"It's worth it just to let them see what college is, even if we don't go anywhere else," Fath continued.

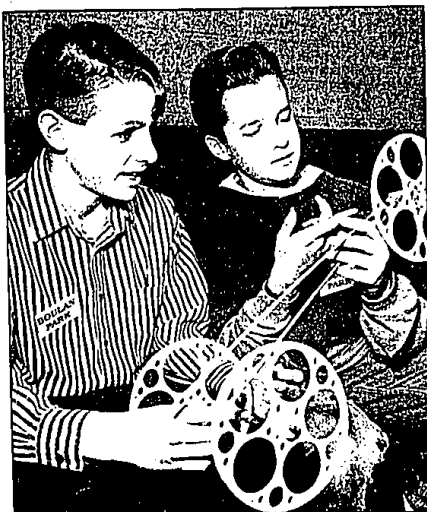
Eccentric area middle schools were Boulan Park (Troy), Albot (West Bloomfield), St. Regis (Birmingham), Detroit Country Day (Beverly Hills), Walled Lake, East Hills (Bloomfield Hills), Clifford Smart (Walled Lake).

Eccentric area high schools were North Farmington, Brother Rice, Detroit Country Day, Andover (Bloomfield Hills), Rochester Adams, West Bloomfield, Cranbrook Kingswood, Troy and Troy Athens.



Medal winners: St. Regis students John Austin Fath (left) and Michael Brownfield work on their trajectory experiment.

That goes where?: Putting together "mission possible" at right are Detroit Country Day 13-year-olds Dan Daman (left) and Angil Singal. Not pictured, but also on the project, is Rajesh Kottamasu. At left Boulan Park Middle School students Paul Di Mosto (left) and John Kulbuck work on their project.



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