Hills family has leg on happiness

BY BILL COUTANT

It was a Friday ovening and Chuck Firment, his father John, brother Dennis and mother Marty were laughing at a comicel video

tape. The Firmonts are a family that enjoy each other's company. And

The Firments are a family that enjoy each other's company. And it's a good thing. . After four years, an injury that almost cost Chuck Firment, 21, his right leg, seems to have healed enough for him to laugh jouts a lit-tle bit louder — along with his supportive family. "There's no caps" for his in-tured leg he and "Non mothing.

the bit loads - along with his supportive family. "There's no cage" for his in-jured leg, he said. "No nothing, it's all over." Although the injury has taken a swath of mucel from his calf and knee area, Chuck Firment is walking. More than that he is dancing and, despite the odd feel-ing at times. he's even bike riding, "I rode by the place where it happened," he said, remembering the 1091 hit and run accident that eff. him unconscious riser the YMCA on Farmington Road. "It was a strange feeling." The accident left him with a incken arm and leg. What sound-ed very temporary, though, be-camed a meidleal nightmare. The arm healed, but a bone infection in called ostoomyellits — left doubt about the right leg. "One doctor said we should am-putate," said Marty Firment. But Chuck is a pretty deter-

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mined young man." There were 17 operations and medical expenses of more than \$250,000. But after Chuck gave up smoking in December, the leg, which had not mended, finally be-gen to show signs of healing. "I believe it was the emoking." Meatur Eirwart seld

where nake not menuese, simily de-gan to show signs of heading. " Thelieve it was the emoking." Mary Firment said. Chuck Firment said de doesn't know what made the difference, but said he was cautious about getting his hopes up. "I had gotten my hopes up be-fore, and every other time I was disappointed." So, for the last four years the part-time computer programmer has been dealing with the pain and problem on an even keel as much as possible. But it heard been easy for his family either. "I think it's been hard on Mar-ty," said Chuck's father John, who works for General Motors. "I'the keen like a full-time joh. I've had the eaceape of work." There have been aome benefits. Although he was able to drive a specially equipped car, Chuck found himself spending more time at home and became closer to his younger brother Dennis, 18. "I think it's mostly because of our becoming more mature that we sort of went our separate ways. We do more together now."

On the mend: Chuck Firment recovers at his Farmington Hills home with father John, mother Marty and brother Dennis.

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