

'Little celebration' thrills area Olympic star

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Olympic spirit carried through to front lawn and the front steps Sunday afternoon of Livonia City Hall, as gold medal swimmer Sheila Taormina came home to a hero's welcome.

The 27-year-old Taormina made history for the city when she swam the third leg of the vic-

torious women's 800-meter freestyle relay team, which set new Olympic and American records on July 25 in Atlanta.

"I'm shocked, I never expect it to be anything like this," said Taormina, who has been on a whirlwind schedule during the past week, including a stop Wednesday at the White House

and followed by a speaking engagement Thursday in Chicago.

"When I was down at the Olympic Village, my mother told me it would just be a little-city celebration with a few people, and hope you don't mind." Taormina was ushered to the front steps in a convertible and was greeted and later given a key to the city by Livonia Mayor

Jack Kirksey.

The festivities also included several proclamations from school and government officials. Members of the Livonia Civic Chorus sang renditions of "Under the Sea" and "One Moment in Time." The Stevenson High marching band (Sheila's alma mater), also accompanied the program.

Taormina thanked everyone connected with her gold medal Olympic effort, including parents Moya and Sam, who later took stage with their daughter, donning the gold medalion, on a three-tier makeshift podium.

"I'm thankful for my mom and dad, they're the ones who get to see the side of me you don't want to see," Sheila said. "They'd see my side that was tired and cranky after getting home from practice. There were nights when I just didn't want to talk at all about swimming, but they left me alone, yet they were always there for me."

One of eight children, and the youngest by birth (seven minutes after twin brother Steve), Sheila also thanked the rest of her family, who came from as far away as Idaho, Colorado and Florida, for their support.

They sent an entourage of 22 to the Summer Games in Atlanta.

"My parents loved all eight of us," Sheila added. "And with all my nieces and nephews, it was the heck of a crowd down there. You don't have that kind of support when you're at meets in Japan or England, but all of them were there in Atlanta and

it brought a smile to all our faces."

Clarenceville Swim Club coach Greg Phil, who along with Gordie Larson, began coaching Taormina when she was 9, also received high praise.

"My years swimming in Michigan were by far the best," said Taormina, who had an All-American career at the University of Georgia. "Training with Greg was the best thing that ever happened to me. Before we'd even communicate (about a workout), we'd always on the same wave length all the time."

"Greg was with me every morning the last 1 1/2 years so I could train at the University of Michigan (60-meter pool). He spent three hours of his day with me at not an extra cent. He gave up time from his own family, 15 hours a week, but his wife Julie treated me like I was just another daughter."

Taormina also thanked former teammates from Stevenson, where she was a two-event state Class A champion, as well as from the Clarenceville and Burton Hollow swim clubs.

The Olympic gold medalist also made it a point to talk about her faith. She became a Christian two years ago with the help of Pastor Phil Rogers of Plymouth Community Church in Plymouth.

"Apart from swimming, Sheila is just a wonderful person," said Rogers, who gave the opening invocation.

Taormina plans to spend the rest of month vacationing in Europe before returning to her job at Northern Engraving, an

automotive supply company in Saline.

She will begin work again on Sept. 3 after taking a leave of absence.

"Joe Bagnasco really covered two jobs for me in my absence and I don't know if I could ever pay him back," Sheila said.

The festivities, coordinated by Linda McCann, Livonia's Director of Community Services, also included the releasing of red, white and blue balloons, food courts and 16-minute video presentation inside the City Hall atrium and auditorium following the program.

Taormina also signed autographs for over an hour before going out to dinner with her immediate family as guests of WJR Radio, where she did a talk show later in the evening.

"I really can't believe it," Moya Taormina said. "It was so neat the way they did it, and they did a beautiful job with the video."

Sheila's closing remarks also brought a smile to the hundreds of faces who turned out for the special event.

"Now it's time for me to give back to you," she said. "If you have a group, or want me to speak with a child who is reluctant to receive help, whether it be an underprivileged group or whatever, don't hesitate to call me."

It was a special day indeed for Livonia's first Olympic gold medalist.

Summer Clearance Sale!

SPECIAL CLOSE OUT OF PATIO FURNITURE

Additional discounts from already low sale prices on all in stock patio furniture.

Special Group Closeout umbrellas

VALUES TO \$300

\$69.95

20% OFF UMBRELLAS & CUSHIONS

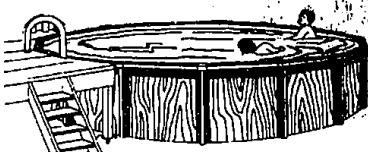
ABOVE GROUND POOLS

CLOSEOUT!

18' \$999

24' \$1099

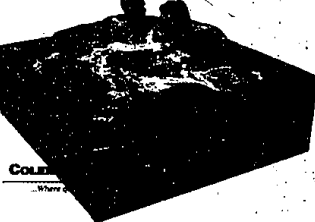
INCLUDES • POOL • 1 HP PUMP • LADDER • FILTER



POOL TOYS 20% OFF

INGROUND POOL KIT CLOSEOUT! CLOSEOUT PRICE \$3995

16' X 32'



Ann Arbor
3500 Pontiac Trail
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
313/662-3117

CORNWELL
pool & patio

1995 COLEMAN SPAS Special Clearance of 1995 Coleman Spas

Bargains like these don't come around every day...so
HURRY IN TODAY!

Ann Arbor
3500 Pontiac Trail
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
313/662-3117

CORNWELL
pool & patio

Plymouth
874 W. Ann Arbor Rd.
Plymouth, MI 48170
313/459-7410

Store Hours: Mon., Thurs. & Fri., 10-8; Tues. & Sat., 10-6; Sun. 12-4; Closed Wed.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within Farmington-area connections. Send a brief biographical summary including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired, to: *Business Editor, Farmington Observer*, 2841 Grand River, Farmington 48335. The Observer's fax number is 1-810-

477-9722.

Services Marketing Specialists. Hirsch & Silberstein, a Farmington Hills accounting firm, SMS is creating a marketing brochure for them.

Susan Walz of Farmington has joined Gannett Outdoor as national account manager. She will be responsible for a variety of client advertising and value-added programs.

Robert Kozol, M.D., chief of surgery service at the Detroit VA Medical Center and associate professor at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, was appointed chairman of the Council of Chiefs of Surgery within the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, Kozol of Farmington Hills has been appointed to the VA Field Advisory Committee for Surgery.

Russell Riddiford, vice-president of ANCA, Inc., Farmington Hills, was elected to the board of directors of the firm's parent, ANCA Pty Ltd., Victoria, Australia. ANCA is a world leader in CNC tool grinding machine manufacture.

Farmington Cycle World, in Farmington Hills has been honored for "outstanding snowmobile sales performance" during the 1995-96 season. They received an award for selling at least 200 Polaris snowmobiles last season.

L. Bryn Fortune, of Farmington, was appointed by Gov. Engler to the Commission on Disability Concerns. Bryn currently works for ARC Michigan, a state organization on mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, and is Oakland County coordinator of the

Family Support Network of Michigan.

Meredith Meyer has been promoted to senior account executive at Hermanoff & Associates, a Farmington Hills-based, full-service public relations firm.

Tracy Muscat of Farmington Hills was appointed by WTVS Channel 58/Detroit Educational Television Foundation to the newly-created position of Director of Major Giving. She will be responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating major donor fundraising activities to build annual support through the WTVS Society of Excellence. She is a graduate of Madonna University.

Podiatric Residents at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills won the coveted Alvin Yarrows Award given to the best Botsford Hospital resident or intern to present original research in their field. Dr. David Hesse, Dr. Joseph McGuire and Dr. Eric Pillinger, along with podiatric residency director Dr. Marshall Solomon, won first prize for their comparative analysis of proximal first metatarsal osteotomies. This marks the first time doctors of podiatric medicine have won the annual award.

John Randolph, CFP, of Randolph Fence & Supply Co. in Farmington Hills, attended a mid-year board meeting of the American Fence Association in Wakefield, MA. As a member of the AFA board, Randolph played an important role in key budget decisions and strategic planning for 1997.

Back To School - The Forgotten School Supply

Your child struggled through school all last year. The teacher suggested A.D.D. You hope and yearn for a better year this year.

It's frustrating, for parent and child. We worry. We plan a fresh start. We... check their vision?

20/20 sight simply means the child can focus 20 feet away. But what about up close, which he does in school all day? What about seeing double, losing focus after a few seconds, not being able to move your focus from far to near, the board to the book?

Dr. John P. Jacobi, a specialist in vision related learning problems, has tested hundreds of children who have learning difficulties, including A.D.D. He has discovered that most of them have undiagnosed vision problems.

Most passed their school screenings. "That test is very basic," says Dr. Jacobi. "Vision skills, though rarely tested, are a must for any child at risk."

Parents agree. Tommy was really struggling in school, having excessive homework and seemed frustrated most of the time. Tommy has really worked hard and the improvement is unbelievable. The amount of homework he brings home has drastically reduced and he sets and does it without getting frustrated. Tommy's teacher has said she has never seen as big an improvement in a student in as short a time as she's seen in Tommy. She said he seems happier and is able to work without squirming. I think Tommy feels better about himself because he's able to get his work done just like the others in his class. I would recommend this program to anyone having the problems Tommy was having. It really works!," says a Redford Parent.

Testing goes far beyond even the most comprehensive eye exams. "In addition to addressing focus and double vision, we will test and treat visual learning problems such as visual memory, eye hand coordination, and reading comprehension," shares Dr. Jacobi.

If your child has these symptoms, call his office for an appointment for a screening, at no charge, at (813) 525-8170.

- easily distracted, cannot sit still or finish a task
- headaches and fatigue after school
- works slowly, brings work home to finish
- tilts the head or gets too close to study
- avoids reading and paperwork
- poor memory and poor spelling
- letter reversals
- poor handwriting, but they draw well



...with his vision therapist.

21st ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY AUGUST 26 12-5:00 P.M.

CRAFT SHOW

Over 125 Crafters, Community & Food Booths.

Sponsored by Walled Lake Parks & Recreation Commission

Displays Include:

- Woodcrafts, Ceramics, Jewelry, Country Crafts, Antiques, Hand Painted Clothing, Face Painting, Pony Rides, Restaurants and many, many more.

Free Admission Rain or Shine

Entertainment Includes:

- Dance Dynamics, The Whistle Stop Cloggers, Wolverines Country Western Dance, Young at Heart.

Enjoy Music By:

SKEE BROTHERS 3-5 pm

Call Walled Lake City Hall, 624-4847 for more information.

Handicapped parking available at Market and Walled Lake