

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1996

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON SPORTS SCENE

Fast-paced tour bike racing set for downtown Rochester

Bike racing is back in downtown Rochester. Fast-paced, two-wheeled action will be the feature attraction when the Tour of Rochester bicycle race hits the streets of downtown Rochester on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Contested on a downtown course, the Tour of Rochester will follow a criterium, or "circle-style" format with cyclists riding several laps around a very challenging one-mile course with six, 90-degree corners. There are races for all ages and abilities, from beginner to elite, and for the grade-school aged to the seasoned veteran.

Exciting to watch and fun to ride, the event has, in the past, served as the final stage of a state-wide tour, drawing large crowds of spectators and some of the best bicycle racers from around the country. This year's edition of the Tour of Rochester is sponsored by Evian Water, 7-Up, and Sunny Delight, in cooperation with the Rochester Downtown Development Authority.

Riders will compete for cash and prizes, with races slated to begin 10:30 a.m. There are five race categories: Masters 40-over and women at 10:30 a.m.; Beginners Under 18, Beginners 18-29 and Beginners 30-and-up - all starting at 11:30 a.m.; USFC Category 4 and 6, plus all USFC licensed Juniors at 12:30 p.m.; Kids under-12 at 1:30 p.m.; and all USFC Category 1, 2 and 3 riders at 2:15 p.m.

In addition to the races, all children under 12 years of age are eligible to participate in a bicycle safety rodeo at 1 p.m. This extremely popular event offers safety tips and helps with riding skills in a fun, non-competitive and interactive atmosphere. Free of charge, the only requirement is that all children wear a helmet.

There is an entry fee for all but the 12-under age group (children race for free, with medals awarded to all participants), and all riders are expected to register at least one-half hour before race time. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Registration and number pick-up begins 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Walnut Street and Third Street (one block west of Main Street). For more information, call (810) 652-0511 or write to: The Tour of Rochester, 116 W. Second Street, Rochester, MI 48307.

Hershey track and field

Four Southfield youngsters had a sweet time at the recent Hershey's Track and Field Youth Program North American Final.

Candice Galleby, Calicia Johnson, Quinne Kunkel and Taylor Washington teamed to place second in the girls 4X100-meter relay race. Their time was 55.35.

The four young athletes were among 16 Michigan representatives at the meet that was held Aug. 10 in Hershey, Pa. A grand total of 10,480 athletes - ages 9-14 years - from across the United States and Ontario, Canada participated in relays, sprints and a variety of other activities that promote physical fitness, friendship and sportsmanship.

"The 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta added a lot of excitement to this year's North American Final," said Rafer Johnson, 1960 Olympic Decathlon Gold Medalist and North American Spokesperson for Hershey's Track and Field Program. "The children from all the different regions came together to celebrate the Olympic spirit."

Yankee baseball tryouts

The Rochester Yankees, playing in the Mickey Mantle Division of the North Oakland Baseball Federation, will be having tryouts for the 1997 season at Rochester's Borden Park 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25.

All boys ages 15-under as of July 31, 1997 are invited to tryout.

For further information, call 810-299-6923.

Warriors hire Stanczak

Rex Stanczak, the former boys basketball coach at Ypsilanti and South Lyon high schools, was hired as the new boys basketball coach at Walled Lake West. Stanczak's Braves posted a 15-7 record last year at Ypsilanti and in 1998 his South Lyon squad won the school's first regional championship.

Stanczak takes over the Warrior program from Pat Adams, who resigned at Western to take the head boys basketball coaching position at Warren Woods Tower.

Southfield Swim Club

The Southfield Swim Club, a member of United States Swimming, has openings for new members ages 6-over who are able to swim 25 yards unassisted.

Registration and group placement will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Sept. 9-10-11 at the Southfield High School pool (10 Mile and Lahser roads).

For more information on fees and joining the competitive winter swim program, call 423-1144.

Tints and titles



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY KOTHEMER

Popular colors: Detroit Country Day's blue and gold uniforms are among the state's most popular color combinations.

What are the most common colors and nicknames among the Michigan High School Athletic Association's member schools? The MHSAA compiled the following data, and here's how some schools fared in the overall picture as of June 18. The total number of schools fitting the specific category is indicated on the far right.

MHSAA	
1. Blue/White	Country Day, Charleston, Southfield Christian, W.L. Central 97
2. Red/White	Southfield-Lathrup, O.L. St. Mary's, St. Lawrence Northwood 81
3. Blue/White	St. Lawrence Northwood, Rochester, Farmington 62
4. Orange/Black	Birmingham Brother Rice 54
5. Green/White	Birmingham Groves, Lake Orion, West Bloomfield 48
6. Maroon/White	Birmingham Groves, St. Lawrence Northwood, Rochester 27
7. Maroon/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 23
8. Red/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 23
9. Royal Blue/White	St. Lawrence Northwood 22
10. Green/Black	Farmington Hills Maroons 21
11. Black/White	Bloomfield Hills Lakers 20
12. Maroon/Black	Farmington Hills Maroons 13
13. Brown/Black	Rochester Adams, North Farmington 10
14. Red/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 9
15. Red/White/Black	Bloomfield Hills Maroons 8
16. Black/White	Troy 7
17. Blue/White	St. Lawrence Northwood 6
18. Blue/Orange	St. Lawrence Northwood 5
19. Red/Orange	St. Lawrence Northwood 4
20. Red/Black	Troy 3
21. Blue/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 2
22. Blue/White/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 2
23. Blue/White/Black	St. Lawrence Northwood 2
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Teams sport various colors, names

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

Colors and nicknames are truly distinguishing features of an athletic team. But have you ever wondered what's the most common color combination or team designation among the Michigan High School Athletic Association's member schools?

Well, the MHSAA did. The organization recently sifted through the data generated by its 700-plus member schools and analyzing the results is just as interesting a process.

If you attend Southfield Christian, you're a part of a special group. As of June 15, Eagles was easily the most common nickname and a whopping 97 MHSAA schools don blue and gold (Capac was the only school in the gold and

blue category since the school's prominent color was listed first).

Southfield Christian was one of 47 MHSAA schools nicknamed the Eagles. Panthers (27) ranked second, Vikings (26) followed in third, Bulldogs (23) came in fourth and Wildcats (21) rounded out the top five.

The most common nickname among schools in the Eccentric and Farmington Observer coverage areas boiled down to a tie between Warriors (Birmingham Brother Rice, Southfield Franklin Road Christian and Walled Lake Western) and Falcons (Farmington, Rochester and Birmingham Groves).

Meanwhile, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood (Aardvarks and Cranes), Bloomfield Hills Andover (Barons), Orchard Lake

St. Mary's (Eagles), Farmington Hills Marcy (Marlins), Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart (Gazelles) and Bloomfield Hills Reeper (Roughriders) have unique nicknames in the MHSAA.

There were over 100 different color combinations elicited from the data, from blue and burgundy (Detroit Mumford) to Columbia blue and black (Grand Rapids Christian), scarlet and navy (Boysie City). Ironically, 16 Eccentric and Farmington Observer area schools fall within the seven most commonplace color schemes.

The runner-up to gold and blue was red and white. Eighty-one schools sport that stylish combination, including Southfield-Lathrup, OLSM and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest. Blue and white (Andover, Farmington and

Rochester) finished third at 62, orange and black (Brother Rice) was fourth at 54 and green and white (Birmingham Groves, Lake Orion and West Bloomfield) ranked fifth at 45.

When it comes to catchy color combinations, these schools are in a class all their own: Detroit Crockett Technical (turquoise and purple), Detroit City H.S. (aqua, orange and white) and Muskegon Tri Valley Academy (magenta and navy blue).

And among the nifty nicknames were: Bluestars (Port Hope Community), Chix (Zeeland), Dreadnaughts (Dexter), Emeralds (Manistique), Flying O's (Gladwin), Modeltowners (Gwin) and Wykons (West Iron County).

Meltdown heat up roller hockey foes

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER

Victories and championships always bring sports teams a certain degree of prestige. For the Michigan Meltdown those accomplishments have led to a national reputation as an in-line hockey power.

The world of puck roller hockey is competitive as it is fast-paced, and it hasn't taken long for word to spread about the talent-rich Meltdown. But that's one ramification of winning a national title.

The Meltdown, a second-year junior division (16-under) team directed by coach Gary Begdorian (an OFT and sponsored by Louisville Hockey), is comprised of talented players hand-picked from Jr. A, Midget Major and high school ice hockey teams. This is a young junior team in terms of average age, but that's made little difference this summer.

The current 13-player roster includes defenseman Jodey Thomas (Rochester) and Cody Begdorian (Troy) from the Eccentric area and Oberverland defenseman Josh Carter (Plymouth) and goaltender Joe Blackburn (Livonia). The four have extensive ice hockey backgrounds but agree roller hockey is both gratifying and helpful.

"I thought playing over the summer would help

in 'West of my guys are at the highest level of ice hockey for their age and they're well known in the community of ice hockey... And to win at the national level that's what you have to have.'"

Gary Begdorian
—Meltdown coach

me stay in tune with my ice hockey game and help me stay in shape," said Thomas, 18, who recently graduated from Rochester Adams and is a member of the Detroit Jr. Freeze ice hockey team. "This is my first year playing roller hockey at this organized a level and it's a lot of fun. After playing for this team and playing against other teams at this level of competition, I think by far we're the best team around because of all the (ice) hockey skills and (ice) hockey backgrounds we have."

Success in '96

On this Tuesday night just past nine at the Rochester Hills Skating Center, the Meltdown

are wrapping up a practice in preparation for the summer's most challenging event.

The North American Roller Hockey Championships (NARCh), to be played Aug. 23-27 at The Odeum in Chicago, is considered the most prestigious tournament of its kind in existence, and the Meltdown would like nothing more than to capture the Junior/Gold Division crown and leave an indelible mark on the 1996 season, a season that brought them their first national title in July and a second-place finish at another national event two weeks later.

The Meltdown were the Michigan Rockets in 1995. A victory at the local NHL Breakout '96 tourney concluded a successful debut season, but the program took off when coach Begdorian hooked up with Louisville Hockey earlier this year. Louisville Hockey also sponsors a Canada-based men's gold division team.

The association with Louisville Hockey resulted in the name change (the word "Meltdown" can be found on Louisville Hockey equipment) and has likely figured in the team's recent success. The Meltdown qualified for three national tournaments this summer and was eyeing a possible "Triple Crown."

See MELTDOWN, C1