

Farmington's Fox ranks among best in Observer area

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Catholic Central, which placed seventh at the Class A boys golf team tournament, leads the All-Observer first team with two representatives.

The Shamrocks making first team are senior Mike Pedrynski and junior Adam Peters. Senior Nick Watts earned a berth on the second team.

Farmington High School junior Derek Fox was named to the first team along with seniors Brian Fox of Plymouth Salem and Gary Kraus of Livonia Churchill.

Following is a profile of each player on the first team:

ALL-AREA GOLF

Gary Kraus, senior, Livonia Churchill: The three-year letter winner averaged 37.5 strokes per nine holes, including 34 twice. He had a round of 70 at the Class A regional at Oak Pointe, missing the state meet by one stroke.

He was the Western Lakes Activities Association champion, scoring a one-over-par 72 at Hudson Mills. He also recorded 73 at the Brighton and Pinckney Invitational.

As a junior, Kraus was co-medalist at the regional after struggling at the WLA meet.

"He was the last of the three amigos, the golf rats of that crew," said Churchill coach Kirk Osler, referring to 1996 Churchill graduates Chris Kiehler and Dan Higham. "He's got a great attitude and is extremely positive toward the game. I remember last year when he shot an 88 at the conference meet. Before we drove out of the parking lot, he was talking about winning the regional."

Kraus made recent visits to the University of Minnesota and Michigan State University.

Steve Polanski, sophomore, Livonia Stevenson: He averaged 38.4 strokes per nine holes, including a season-best 34 against Plymouth Salem at Iyld Wild Golf Course. Polanski was in the 30s 12 times and took third place at the WLA meet with a round of 75.

He shot 78 at the Pinckney Invitational before scoring 82 at the Oak Pointe Regional.

"He's got more talent than any young man I've had a chance to coach at that age," Stevenson coach John Wagner said. "He's got a tremendous future; he's very, very focused, well beyond his years. But he's not without a good

sense of humor and spirit."

Brian Fox, senior, Plymouth Salem: The four-year letter winner recorded 79 at the Oak Pointe Regional after scoring 77 at the WLA meet.

He finished in the top five with a 76 at the Traverse City Invitational and duplicated that score at both the Pinckney and Brighton Invitationals.

He averaged 40.3 per nine holes.

"He's not the type that would get angry, but he's a fairly tenacious, intense player," said Coach Wilson. "He worked hard on every hole, had a complete game. He's probably the most openly intense player I had. For him it's good because that's his demeanor."

Derek Fox, junior, Farmington: Fox averaged 39.4 per nine holes and 77.4 at tournaments.

He was medalist at the city tournament with 72 at Huron Meadows and finished with 73 at the Kensington Invitational. He had a 78 at the regional at Oak Pointe and tied for eighth place at the Western Lakes meet with a round of 82.

"Derek hits a good ball, a draw right to left," coach Miner said. "He snaps his wrist the right way and has good club head swing and course management."

Mike Pedrynski, senior, Catholic Central: He finished fifth at the Class A regional with a score of 77 at Pontiac Country Club and sixth at the state meet with a two-day total of 154 (75-79).

He was named to the all-state and All-Catholic teams after averaging 39 per nine holes and 79 at 18-hole tournaments.

He was all-tournament at the East Lansing Invitational with a round of 81 and was a dual-meet medalist four times.

"Mike has been a real consistent player; he really works year round and plays in numerous tournaments in the summer, and even in the winter," coach Phil Heyder said. "He wants to play golf after high school and has a great opportunity to do that."

Adam Peters, junior, Catholic Central: He had an average of 40 for nine holes, 80 at tournaments. He was fourth at the regional with a round of 76 and helped the Shamrocks finish seventh in the state with a total of 160 (77-83).

He was in the top 10 at the Pinckney Invitational with a round of 77 and an all-tournament member at the East Lansing Invitational with a round of 81.

"We'll count on him to improve on what he did this year," Heyder said. "He had a good opportunity to shine and really came through for us. He and Mike (Pedrynski) are pretty close as far as talent goes."



Derek Fox
Farmington



Brian Fox
Plymouth Salem



Adam Peters
Catholic Central



Mike Pedrynski
Catholic Central



Steve Polanski
Livonia Stevenson



Gary Kraus
Livonia Churchill

ALL-AREA

1996 ALL-OBSERVER
BOYS GOLF TEAM

First Team

Derek Fox Farmington
Brian Fox Detroit CC
Mike Pedrynski Detroit CC
Steve Polanski Liv. Stevenson
Gary Kraus Liv. Churchill

Second Team

Jeff Lear Ply. Salem
Nick Watts Detroit CC
Chris Tompkins Wsld. Glenn
Craig Piscopink Wsld. Glenn
Mett McGlinch Red. Thurston
Ryan Deschaw Ply. Salem

Honorable Mention

Stevenson: Brett Reinhold, Justin Kerr, Nick Kuba; Salem: Adam Wilson; Canton: Ben Tucker, North Farmington: Chris Reading, Brian McCoy; Farmington: Pat Hickey; Farmington Harrison: Jeff Bowman, Adam Tandon; Churchill: John Grech; Franklin: Tony Feltus; Detroit CC: Ryan Ossensmeyer, Greg Berger; Redford Thurston: Kirk Wasmund, Bob Faint, Bryan Collett; Redford Union: John Corey; Garden City: Brent Pichla.

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League foes line up for shot at reigning champ

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill hockey coach Jeff Hatley could be wearing a big bulls-eye on the back of his top coat this season.

After a 20-4-1 season which resulted in a Suburban High School Hockey League championship, along with a run to the Class A regional final, the Chargers return just about everyone for the 1996-97 season.

They will be the biggest target in the area.

crown.

"We respect all our opponents," he said. "On paper, it looks like Churchill is the favorite, but we'll be ready to play."

For the first time, the SHSHL will split into a pair of divisions.

The South alignment will contain Churchill, Stevenson, Livonia Franklin, Birmingham, Walled Lake Central and Redford Union.

The North Division will consist of Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Bloomfield Hills Andover, Southfield, Walled Lake Western and Royal Oak.

Franklin (13-6-4) finished third in the league last year.

Coach Terry Jobbitt, now in his 16th season as the Patriots head coach, will rely on third-year center Greg Job (48 points), third-year left winger Dan Hofelich and fourth-year center Eric Hillebrand.

The defense is led by a pair of seniors, fourth-year performer Rick Leiret and third-year player Dan Boyle. Gonlie Tom Taylor also returns.

"I'd say Churchill and Stevenson are favored, and don't count out Birmingham," Jobbitt said.

Detroit Catholic Central (16-6-3) also made a strong tournament run a year ago, losing to Trenton in the quarterfinals, 9-3.

The Shamrocks led captain Mark Woloschager, a first-team All-Area right winger who had 15 goals and 13 assists.

One of the area's top snipers, senior center Eric Bratcher, returns after scoring 18 goals and 21 assists in 23 games. Second-team All-Area defenseman Scott Curlin also returns.

CC, which plays in the tough West Division of the Michigan Metro circuit, will get stiff challenges from Grosse Pointe North and Birmingham Brother Rice.

HOCKEY

HOCKEY

"Expectations are high from last year," Hatley said. "Our league games are going to be more competitive than last year. Our schedule is going to be difficult. We play Trenton, Brother Rice, East Kentwood and Port Huron Northern, all on the road."

"Nothing will come easy for this team."

Last year the Chargers reached the regional final at St. Clair Shores, only to lose to eventual state Class A champion Trenton, 4-0.

Lost to graduation off the Chargers' league championship team is center Chris Kiehler (26 goals and 28 assists) and right winger Dave Higham (18 goals and 31 assists).

A strong defensive corps, led by second-team All-Observer picks Brandon Marton and Matt Wysocki and senior Sean Marshall, a third-team All-Area pick. Gonlie Mark Felker is also back for his fourth season.

Livonia Stevenson (13-9-1) hopes to challenge for the SHSHL title led by senior defenseman Mike Schmidt and senior center Andy Domalski.

Coach Mike Harris is confident his team can contend for the

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