

Physics fitness

Harrison senior earns All-American honors; says 'I like to be challenged'

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Jon Anderson doesn't carry a football or bounce a basketball, but he's an All-American all the same.

He's scored a winning tally where matter is what matters most — physics. The Farmington Hills Harrison High senior was named as one of the top 100 high school students in the subject by the American Association of Physics Teachers. He earned the distinction after scoring well on two physics tests: A multiple choice exam and the other a problem solving quiz.

History was on his side, though. Anderson follows previous Harrison High Physics All-Americans: David King, 1988, Morris Slutsky, 1992; Avi Driesman, 1994; and Brendan Fay, 1996. The studious senior has that little bit something special, a Harrison High teacher said.

"He's awesome," said Dennis King, Harrison High physics teacher. "I rate him as one of the top five intellectually out of the students I've had."

Another thing that sets Anderson apart is his willingness to help teachers, King said. He's been a teacher's assistant in King's class and for his English class.

Anderson is also the go-to guy when

there are problems in the computer lab.

"He's very helpful to so many teachers," King said. "I was saying to another teacher how much Jon has helped me. The other teacher said, 'He's like that with everyone.'"

Such pitch-in spirit comes natural for the Farmington Hills teen. Anderson is involved with activities and served as youth leader at the Mormon Church of Latter Day Saints.

Academic success requires another type of devotion, Anderson said. That's why he doesn't take part in idle chit-chat or other distractions in the classroom.

"The thing that works for me is I spend every minute in school... always concentrating," Anderson said. "I always try to see the connection between things."

"I keep my school work and the social stuff separate. Because of that, I don't have to do very much studying. The teacher pretty much tells you what you need to know."

He's in the know. Anderson is a National Merit Scholarship finalist and finished among the top 100 students in the state on the Michigan Math Test.

The All-American knows a thing or two about teamwork, too.

He was a member

of the school's Tests in Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science team. The team won the national championship last year. This year's TEAMS contingent captured the state title for the seventh consecutive year.

He also took part in the Robo-Hawks robotics project, which was a joint venture with Harrison High students and Farmington Hills engineering firm TRW. The squad took rookie-of-the-year honors in the national FIRST competition at the Epcot Center.

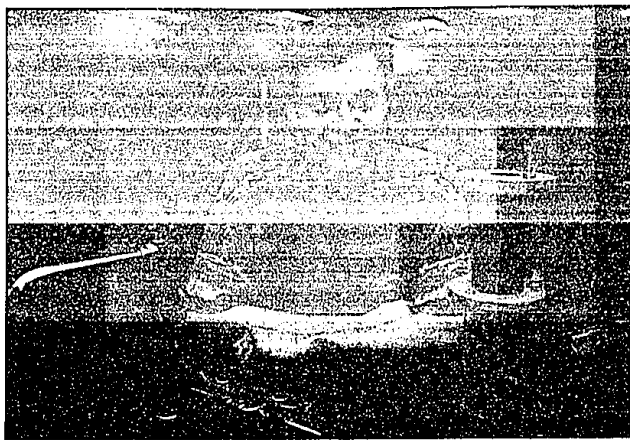
Anderson will be working on an internship program at TRW this summer before starting at the University of Michigan in the fall. He plans to major

in electrical engineering but added, "I'm open to other forms of engineering." The top 100 physics selection was a surprise, Anderson said. He prepared for the tests by skimming over physics materials.

When it comes to the subject, Ander-

sen doesn't sound much different than a linebacker describing how much he relishes a quarterback sack.

"I like understanding how things work and how the universe is set up. That's what physics is all about," Anderson said. "I like to be challenged."



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LAMBERT

Concentration: Jon Anderson of Farmington Hills doesn't waste time with distractions in school and brings the same can-do attitude to the rest of his life. He was named as one of the top 100 physics students in the nation.

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills City Council
City Hall, 474-6116
7:30 p.m. Monday, May 12

Agenda items include:

- Recognition of Harrison High School Robo-Hawks Team.
- Presentation of official Mayor/Miss Farmington portrait by Miss Farmington Annette Hohl.
- Proclamation in honor of the "Stand for Children" program.
- Resolution honoring National Public Works Week.
- Consideration of ordinance amending the city code providing for employer pick up of member contributions to the employees retirement system.

retirement system.

■ Presentation on motor carrier enforcement program and consider ordinance to promote safety upon public highways by regulating the operating of certain vehicles and to provide penalties for violations.

- Consider adopting a policy regarding political activities in city-owned buildings.
- Consider adopting a policy regarding city contributions to non-profit organizations.
- Consider canceling May 26 city council meeting for Memorial Day.

Farmington Board of Education
Workshop
Power Middle School, 34740

Rhonswood
5:30 p.m. Monday, May 12

Agenda items include:

- Discussion of focus groups and town hall meeting on bond issue proposal.

Special meeting
Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman Building, 489-3300
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13

Agenda items include:

- Bond issue proposal.
- Reports from board committees on superintendent's evaluation and curriculum.

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