

Domke moves from sideline to spectator seats

BY JOE KYRIAKOZ
STAFF WRITER

Tim Domke sits at his desk at home. It's a place that's familiar to him now.

Home is where the coach is. The long-time West Bloomfield High School basketball coach called it quits after the 1996-97 season at the age of 50.

No more pacing the coach's box. No more summers in a feverishly hot gymnasium. No more watching his family leave for Christmas vacation while he hopped in the car and drove to the next tournament site.

That lifestyle no longer belongs to Domke. He's back home now, after 28 years of calling hardwood floors home.

I'm trying to drop my waistline and my (golf) handicap," Domke said of his current time off. "I may need some coaching of my own."

BASKETBALL

He's already enjoying the luxuries of being away from the bench. Domke traveled to San Antonio for Memorial Day weekend with his family, something nearly out of the question while coaching.

"Coaching is fun but you're working with people," Domke said. "There are no short cuts. It takes time. It becomes a year-round commitment."

Luckily for Domke, his wife, Kay, a teacher at West Bloomfield, is a Tim Domke lifer.

"Coaching ruins a lot of marriages," Domke said. "My wife has supported me all the way. Now that we look back it was all worth it."

Domke keeps himself busy, though, in his off time with a

growing sports administration graduate program. While a coach at West Bloomfield, Domke coordinated the program at Wayne State University, which had a lot to do with Domke leaving basketball.

"The program at Wayne keeps growing and both (coaching and teaching) involved too much running around," Domke said. "I just don't like all the running around. I've had wonderful experiences because of coaching."

Running camps during the summer and partaking in tournaments during holidays limited Domke's chances at getting away.

"It was time to have some holidays back," Domke said. "I want to do some of the things I always wanted to but never could."

Domke began coaching at West Bloomfield High School in

1972, a stint which lasted three years. He took the head coaching job at Birmingham Detroit Country Day the following year, but a year passed and Domke received a call from none other than Dick Vitale who was leading the University of Detroit through its glory years. Vitale brought Domke on as an assistant for two years. "We had a ball for a couple of years," Domke said of the Division I coaching experience.

College is where he remained for the next nine years when he accepted the head coaching job at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake.

When the Wayne state graduate program was formed, Domke could no longer coach at the college level and teach at the same time, so West Bloomfield was the place for him, again.

In his final stretch in Laker-

land, Domke had the opportunity to coach both of his sons, Matthew and Tim, an experience he described as "wonderful."

"The best part was just knowing all their friends and teammates," Domke said.

Sure, Domke's teams were successful, logging records of 24-2 and 23-3 on occasion, but that wasn't the gain.

"I've always prided myself on the kids playing hard," Domke said. "(28 years) have all been fun. I always wanted to teach kids to learn to enjoy the game. That's rewarding."

Coaching at St. Mary's was also gratifying, but in a different way.

"The fun part of college was just getting all these high school stars to work together and be a team," Domke said.

Now, 10 years later, the most

important team in his life is his family, with whom he plans to take a wealth of vacations.

There are other things he plans to do, too.

"I live on a lake and I haven't been fishing in a few years," Domke said.

Domke said goodbye to coaching for the right reasons. He no longer felt he wanted to be there.

"I was at home watching television, working at my desk when all of a sudden I just didn't want to go to practice," Domke said. "When you're not looking forward to it, it's not fun any more. But I have no regrets."

It was time for Domke; it was time to walk away from the sidelines.

Then again, the love for coaching may never leave.

"I could always go back if I miss it."

Schoolcraft soccer coach exudes optimism as season nears

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Nothin' quite like the week pre-season practice.

How can a coach, in whatever sport, be anything but positive?

For Van Dimitriou, coach of Schoolcraft College's men's soccer team for more than a dozen years, such optimism is what keeps him going. It's part of the job, it's expected.

If there was a time for his perpetually positive outlook to be challenged, wouldn't this be it? After all, his team is coming off a disappointing 9-7-3 1996 season; for one of the few times in Dimitriou's tenure, the Ocelots did not win the NJCAA Region 12 title, and they did not advance to the Inter-Regional Tournament.

I suppose the obvious reply to the aforementioned question is affirmative. The rest of the answer is, Dimitriou is ready to answer the challenge.

He believes he has recruited one of his most talented freshmen classes ever. The difference this year is, a large portion of this group of freshmen may not get a whole lot of playing time.

Or to put it in proper perspective, they'll have to earn what

COLLEGE

playing time they get.

That's because Dimitriou has 10 players from his '96 squad returning, including eight starters and a ninth who was pencilled in as a starter before cracking his collarbone prior to the season and sitting out the entire campaign.

"That's a great number (of returnees)," the SC coach said. "It's just a matter of putting the pieces together again, but I like our chances a whole lot better than I did a year ago at this time."

So how good are his newcomers? Good enough to push at least some of the eight returning starters for playing time. "Six or seven (freshmen) will be in and out, either starting or as top subs," said Dimitriou.

OK — the next question seems both logical and obvious: How good are the returning starters?

The answer: Good enough to earn SC a No. 12 ranking in the NJCAA pre-season poll.

"The talent is there," insisted Dimitriou. "It's just a matter of learning to play together."

Of the returning starters, sev-

eral are noteworthy: Billy Krips (from Brighton), the team's most valuable player last year at stopper; Chris Jaskolski (Plymouth Salem), voted the team's best defender as a marking back; Pete Lechewicz (Livonia Stevenson) at midfield; Garrett Maki (Dearborn Crestwood) at forward; Travis Miller (Redford Catholic Central) at goalkeeper; Matt Keller (Rochester) at midfield; and David York (Novi) at forward/midfield.

Kevin Fritz (Brighton), a midfielder who earned a starting spot by the end of the '96 season, also returns. So does Shaun Pratt (Sterling Heights), the starting sweeper who broke his collarbone last pre-season.

Of the newcomers, Dimitriou figures those who will see plenty

of action are keeper Eric O'Neil, midfielder/forward Jim Bullock, midfielder/defender Paul Tokarsky, and midfielder/forward Bart Mays, all of whom helped guide Stevenson to the Class A state championship last year.

Dimitriou called Tokarsky, Bullock and Mays versatile players with excellent skills, while O'Neil should pose an immediate challenge to the returning starting keeper, Miller, who was solid in goal in '96.

A player who should bolster SC's offense, which sputtered at times last season, is forward Ryan Kowley (Plymouth Salem). "He has a terrific shot and a nose for the ball," said Dimitriou.

Others to watch are Jeff

Cullen (Haslett), a Class B all-stater who will vie for playing time at midfield or forward, and two older players: midfielders Paul Graves (Milford) and Todd Vilanueva (Walled Lake Central), both 21 years old.

Vilanueva is no certainty. He was taking six credit hours during the summer session to qualify to play. "I tried to get this kid three years ago," said Dimitriou. "He would be a great addition. He has great leadership ability."

There are others who could break into the rotation, like stopper Mike Longlois (South Lyon); midfielder/forward Ruslan Blajci (Southfield), a native of the Ukraine; forward Mike Stempien (Lakeland), who scored 13 goals

as a senior; midfielder Kevin Graham (Redford CC), who didn't play in high school but shows plenty of promise; defender Andrew Stevens (Redford Thurston); midfielder/forward Blair Schmidt (Redford CC); keeper Mike Ferraro (Thurston); and three or four more.

The Ocelots won't have to wait long to prove themselves. Following their pre-season scrimmage at Valparaiso College Aug. 23, they'll open their season at the Springfield (Ill.) Tournament against the host team on Aug. 30. The following day, they play Forest Park (from St. Louis), both teams finished among the top eight at the NJCAA Tournament last season.



1 DAY ONLY!
Saturday
August 16th

Walter's
HOME APPLIANCES
"What Are You Looking For In An Appliance Store?"

10:00 AM TO 8:30 PM

SAVE UP TO 60% OFF

1 DAY ONLY!
Saturday
August 16th

SIDEWALK SALE

SAVE ON NEW IN CARTON FLOOR MODELS. AND ONE OF A KIND MERCHANDISE - ALL QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED

<p>VIDEO RECORDERS</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$99</p> <p>TOSHIBA RCA HITACHI</p>	<p>MICROWAVE OVEN</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$59</p> <p>Panasonic Amana</p>	<p>DISHWASHERS</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$177</p> <p>BOSCH MAYTAG KitchenAid FRIGIDAIRE</p>
<p>CAMCORDERS</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$399</p> <p>SONY RCA SHARP Panasonic</p>	<p>CORDLESS TELEPHONES</p> <p>1 DAY ONLY AUG 16TH</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$39</p> <p>TOSHIBA SONY Panasonic</p>	<p>RANGES</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$199</p> <p>Amana THERMADOR FRIGIDAIRE KitchenAid PREMIER</p>
<p>TELEVISIONS</p> <p>13" PRICES START FROM \$109</p> <p>25" PRICES START FROM \$209</p> <p>MITSUBISHI RCA SANSUI HITACHI</p>	<p>UPRIGHT VACUUM</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$49</p> <p>Panasonic EUREKA</p>	<p>WASHERS/DRYERS</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$247</p> <p>Amana Whirlpool KitchenAid MAYTAG</p>
<p>BIG SCREEN TV</p> <p>46" PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$999</p> <p>MITSUBISHI RCA HITACHI TOSHIBA</p>	<p>5-DISC CD PLAYERS</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$117</p> <p>KENWOOD PIONEER ONKYO</p>	<p>REFRIGERATORS</p> <p>15 CU FT TOP FREEZER FROST FREE</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$377</p> <p>25 CU FT SIDE BY SIDE REFRIG. With ice and water in the door</p> <p>PRICES START FROM</p> <p>\$827</p>

Walter's
HOME APPLIANCES

"What Are You Looking For In An Appliance Store?"
Save At All 4 Walter's Locations


Brighton: 8180 West Grand River 1/4 Mile north of I-96 (810) 229-5000

Canton: 39915 Michigan Avenue 1/4 Mile east of I-275 (313) 728-9600

Dearborn: 21747 Michigan Avenue 1 Mile west of Southfield (313) 553-1900

Livonia: 34224 Plymouth 1/2 Mile west of Farmington Rd. (313) 427-7310

ALL STORES OPEN DAILY: 10AM - 8:30PM • BRIGHTON & LIVONIA STORES OPEN SUNDAY 12PM-5PM



Tomorrow Night
7:30pm vs.
MONTERREY LA RAZA

Luch Sods for the first 5,000 fans, compliments of Keebler/Sausheen and Meijer

Tickets at the Palace & Pine Knob Box Offices and Safari Charge: (248) 645-6666 or call (248) 377-0100.

SAFARI

This Space at Safari Soccer is the CMC Soccer Ground of Central States