

Hockey scores as new WB high sport

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
 If students want to play hockey at West Bloomfield schools, it will cost them \$600.
 But backers of the game assured the school board members at its meeting Monday that no child will be denied an opportunity to play.
 The board approved a proposal to add hockey as a varsity sport on a play-to-pay basis starting next year.
 Excluding players because they can't afford the cost was a concern raised by Avery Murav, trustee. "You have to have a provision to accommodate students who can't afford it," he said.
 He said he was in favor of the program, but wanted it open to anyone who wants to play.
 Brian Kaplan, assistant principal of Abbott Middle School and member of a group of parents pushing the sport, said, "I can guarantee that any child we will provide for. We will never turn away a youngster who is not capable of playing."
 More than 60 parents came to Monday's meeting to petition for it. "We are asking for a varsity program to begin next year funded by the parents," Kaplan said. The parents have been meeting for several months with the goal of having hockey adopted as a varsity sport.
 There are more than 600 persons in West Bloomfield who are registered players in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, Kaplan said. Of those, 130 people are high school age.
 Ultimately, the field will be reduced to a team of 20 players. The parents are doing fund

raising now, including holding a 50-50 raffle to raise \$36,300 to get the program started, which will be open to all kids, Kaplan said.
 "Girls could play," said Jim Fleischauer, a parent. "It's not strictly a boys team." He said hockey is a sport for the whole family. "It's a tremendous builder of character, a wonderful sport."
 Sharon Lipton, trustee, said the team must abide by the district's code of conduct.
 "They will follow any regulation the school has," Kaplan said.
 Several years ago some parents sought to have hockey made a varsity sport, but were turned down by the school board and the superintendent.
 This time Superintendent Seymour Gretchko supported the

parents.
 "I have become convinced that it is a unique activity," Gretchko said. "Families build their lives around it," he said. Parents get up at ungodly hours to take their kids to practice at arena arenas, he said.
 "It appears the time has come to make it a varsity sport," Gretchko said. He approved the measure provided no one is denied an opportunity to play because of cost.
 The parents said they need to know now if hockey would become a school-sanctioned sport so they could make commitments to arena arenas to rent rink time for a 28-game season.
 The board voted unanimously in favor of the measure.
 Farmington's school board approved a pay-to-play varsity hockey program in January.

capitalize on that" with plans for the future, he said.
 It's also time to remember what's important around town. "Appearance is our No. 1 concern," Lauhoff said. "We spend a lot of time making sure the city parks and roads look good."
 Lauhoff also cited Farmington's top-notch, personal city services, and a combined police/fire service.
 On the horizon, Lauhoff warned of a pending \$1.1 billion water/sewer issue facing the city of Detroit for its combined sewer system. "The suburbs that use the system are probably going to pay 20 percent of that. Farmington is taking a leadership role on those committees and meetings" knowing it's going to affect local rates.

State from page A3



'Appearance is our No. 1 concern. We spend a lot of time making sure the city parks and roads look good.'

Frank Lauhoff
 —Farmington City Manager

Making the dream real

School/business partnerships are just one way the Farmington community helps its youngsters excel.
 "This entire community has extremely high expectations," said Maxfield, the school superintendent, during his presentation. "It's a place that proves the American Dream is alive and well."
 Reaching that dream requires vision. Maxfield said the voters' approval of a bond issue demonstrates it. "In the next four years, we'll have completed sig-

nificant projects at 29 school sites," he said. In high school, Maxfield added, "We'll be creating spaces that will look much more like what you might see at TRW" than traditional woodshop or drafting classes.
 Meanwhile, the district has added extended learning programs and a sweeping elementary education plan that "promises to reform how we do business in all our elementary schools," Maxfield said.
 Community collaborations like the four after-school teen centers or the multi-cultural, multi-racial committee are among the ways the community aims for the best for its children. "We intend to do our part," Maxfield said.

INKWELL

Harrison High School senior Matt Burt has been announced as a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Of approximately 100,000 African American students who took PSAT in 1996-97, Matt was selected as one of 1,500 semifinalists in September 1997.
 Matt advanced from semifinalist to finalist status this month by meeting a number of

requirements. He has maintained high academic standards, was recommended by Principal Rando Horn, earned a SAT score that confirmed his earlier PSAT performance and completed a detailed scholarship application that disclosed his contributions to Harrison and the Farmington community, leadership abilities, and educational plans and goals. Matt is the only Farmington

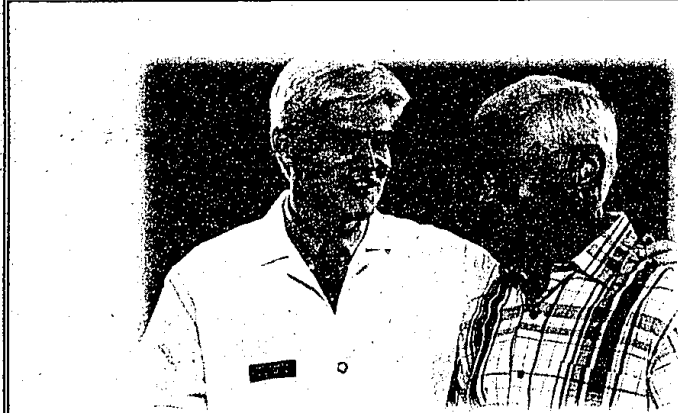
Public School student this year to receive this honor.
 The Achievement Program is conducted annually by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
 The NMSC is a privately financed academic competition initiated in 1964 to honor outstanding African American students and to increase their edu-

cational opportunities. Achievement Scholarship awards given this year will be supported by some 140 corporate organizations, company foundations, higher education institutions and NMSC's own funds.
 Of the 1,200 finalists, 800 will be selected as Achievement Scholarship winners. These students will be notified late next month.

Farmington Observer
 (525) 127-8402
 Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48030-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48030-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48030-0910. Telephone 525-1100.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 ONE YEAR (in Oakland County) \$42.00
 Newsstands per copy, 75¢
 Carriers per copy, 60¢
 Mail yearly, \$33.00
 HOME DELIVERY SERVICE per copy, 60¢
 All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, 22411 Grand Drive, Farmington, MI 48331 (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric Inc. does not have the authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Mai Thai
 RESTAURANT
 Featuring Authentic Thai Dishes
 • LUNCH SPECIALS FROM 11-4 PM
 • CARRY OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE
 Cocktails Now Available
 Reservations (248) 626-6313
 6631 Orchard Lk. Rd. at Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Ctr.
 HOURS: Mon.-Thur. 11 AM-10 PM; Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM; Sun. 12-9 PM

Dimed's
 THE AMERICAN DIN
 33300 Grand River • Downtown Farmington
 (248) 478-3300
FRIDAY DINNER FISH SPECIALS
 Your Choice
 • Fish & Chips \$5.45
 • Salmon Pate \$5.45
 All others include soup or salad & rice
 All Tasting Specials Not Available on Thurs.



We treat your illness,
 but we care for the whole person.

Caring has always been essential to curing. Knowing your patients well and caring about who they are leads to the best possible care. At the University of Michigan Health Centers, we believe the only way to know you and meet all of your health care needs is to be in your neighborhood. It's the easiest way to help you the most. Here's what else makes us ideal for your family.

- We have plenty of family practice physicians, general internists, ob/gyns and pediatricians in your community.
- Many sites offer extended hours, including Saturdays.

- We have all the services you need to stay healthy. Many locations offer laboratory tests and X-rays, too.
- If you ever need a specialist, you're already linked with the U-M Medical Center and our hundreds of experts.
- Finding the right doctor close to your home is simple, and making an appointment is easy. Just call the number below and we will help you select a physician and even schedule your first appointment.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Health Centers
 1-800-211-8181

Because world-class health care shouldn't be a world away.

Reasons to Choose
 University of Michigan
 Health Care

Insurance

For your convenience we accept most major insurance plans, including:

- M-CARE
- Blue Care Network
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan
- Aetna/Managed Care
- OmniCare (not available in Farmington County)
- PPOM
- SelectCare
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- And Others... Call to make sure your health plan is accepted.

We're In Your Neighborhood

Call 1-800-211-8181 for information about hours and providers

Brighton

- Brighton Health Center, 8685 W. Grand River

Howell

- Howell Internal Medicine, 3399 E. Grand River, Ste. 204
- Hugob Pediatric, 711 Byron

Northville

- Northville Health Center, 650 Grosswald

World Wide Web

- www.med.umich.edu

THINKING ABOUT...
AIR CONDITIONING
 brought to you by
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
(248) 476-7022
 ANYTIME
D&G HEATING & COOLING
 19140 Farmington Road • Livonia

\$ CASH \$
 Waiting For You At
Italia Jewelry
 Bring In All Of Your Old Diamonds & Gold
ROLEX
 Watches Wanted - Any Condition -
\$199 BATTERIES
 for Most Watches
 Exchange Lithium • W/Coach • Last One
 23463 W. 7 Mile Rd. Livonia • (248) 442-7278

Raboni's of Southfield Boutique
 22100 W. 10 Mile Rd. • 101% W. of Laher
 488-827-4442
 M-Th 9-5 Sat. 10-10 7: Fri. 10-10-8
 Distinctively Different & Affordably Priced
 New & R-Size • Sizes 8 to 14W
 Now accepting Spring/Summer consignments.
 See our beautiful collection of designer outfits & accessories.
 Mention this ad & save 10% off regularly priced merchandise.

Allstate
 For auto, home and life -
 Being in good hands is the only place to be.SM
 23000 Orchard Lake Road
 Ste. 80
 FARMINGTON
 (248) 474-5540
 Tom Hagner
 © 1996 Allstate Insurance Company and Allstate Life Insurance Company. Michigan, Illinois. Subject to local availability and qualifications. Other terms, conditions and exclusions may apply.