

The Observer & Eccentric publishes the "Recreation Center" every Sunday in Sports. To submit results of competition, items for the Rec Roundup or local story ideas, call staff writer **Chris Moyer** at (248) 901-2589, fax him material at (248) 644-1314 or write to him at: The Observer & Eccentric Sports Department, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009

Striders gear for start of '98 racing season

Kozloff is about to embark on his 24th year as president of the Motor City Striders, the oldest and



"This weather ranks among the nicest we've ever had to start a season," Kozloff said. "A lot of runners are already out there training."

The month of March will feature four Striders races, including the Bill Walker Memorial Run. The 16th annual St. Pat's Corktown Races are scheduled for Sunday, March 15, the Second Annual Detroit

"This will be one of the busiest months of March I can remember," Kozloff said. "But with the nature of scheduling the races, once you're done with one race you can't dwell on what happened. You have to close it down and prepare for what's coming up."

The Bill Walker Memorial Run begins at 10 a.m. this

Run begins at 10 a.m. this morning. Kevin Hanson won last year's event with a time of 15 minutes, 39 seconds.

The Detroit Pistons Fast Break 5K will begin at 10 a.m. March 21 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Entry fee is \$20 through Friday, March 13 and \$25 on race day.

For more information on any of the upcoming races, call the Motor City Striders at (248) 544-9099. The Recreation Center, in addition, will publish details of upcoming races and the results of all events.

Spring ski season comes early to Northern Michigan

Ken Griffin, president of the Michigan Ski Industries Association (MSIA) and general manager of Nichol's Ski and Sports in Waterford and Dearborn, reports that in spite of virtually no February snowfall for Southeastern Michigan, ski areas in Northern and Upper Michigan are enjoying the earliest spring skiing season in recent years.

"Now is a great time to take advantage of the early spring El Niño has brought Michigan," says Griffin. "You can dress

Nighttime temperatures in the twenties have allowed ski areas to make snow on the slopes and with proper grooming, ski areas

can provide an excellent spring

IN THE SKIN

like skiing experience. Downstate Michigan ski areas will be open for weekend skiing as weather permits, and the MSIA recommends that you call ahead for up-to-date ski conditions and hours of operation.

"Some weather forecasters say Michiganders will pay for this mild weather next year," says Mickey MacWilliams, MSIA executive director. "So just in

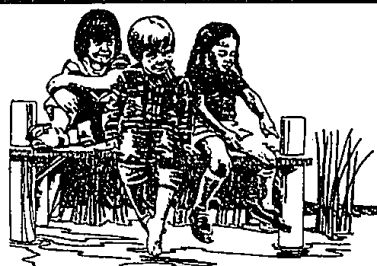
case next year is the coldest ever, savvy skiers may want to head out to their favorite ski retailer now to take advantage

of this year's early sales on ski clothing and equipment."

Wayne State University

Super Summer for Kids

1998 CAMP AND ACTIVITIES FAIR



SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1998

11:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

33737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

(between Farmington Rd. & Drake)

Meet representatives of local and national summer programs who will help you choose the right summer experience for kids, 3-18

- Day Camps • Overnight Camps • Specialty Camps
- Year Round Cultural Programs • Teen Adventures and Tours
- Academic Enrichment • Summer Employment

For information call 313/872/1790

MetroParent

CRITTENTON CLINIC

If you have always wanted to be a runner, the Crittenton Fitness Institute has designed a program just for you. The Crittenton Fitness Institute will offer a "Beginning Running Clinic" on Tuesday, April 7 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at CFI. Dr. John Samani and a team of physical therapists will provide information on how to start a running program, common injuries, motivational tips and proper stretching and strengthening methods to prevent injuries. Cost is \$20 per person and registration is required. The program is limited to the first 20 participants. To register or for more information, call the Rochester Hills-based CFI at (248) 652-5653, Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. The facility is located at 1720 S.

HALF-MARATHON AND FUN RUN

TIME
The 22nd Annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run returns to the streets of West Bloomfield on Sunday, April 19, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will begin at West Bloomfield High School and travel along rolling terrain through the city. Last year, 1,168 runners and walkers participated in the Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run. West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation co-sponsors the Half-Marathon and 5K with Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield, Henry Ford Health System's Maplegrove center co-sponsors the kids Fun Run with Parks and Recreation. A portion of each entry fee from the Half-Marathon will go toward Kaleidoscope Kids' Hospital, a part of the Henry Ford Health System. The event also requires the assistance of more than 150 volunteers, handling such duties as passing out water at aid stations, course marshals and registration. Each volunteer receives a t-shirt and invitation to a post-race banquet. For further information, contact West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at (248) 738-0950.

R & D RACE DIRECTORS

R & D Race Directors kick off its 1998 schedule Sunday, May 3 with the First Annual Great Lakes State Games Regional event. Scheduled for 10 a.m. on the trails at Independence Oaks in Clarkston, this event features a 5½-mile run, 2.4-mile walk and 1½-mile Kiddie Run. It will be held in conjunction with the annual Great Lakes State Games in Lansing. Call 1-800-763-9820 for more information regarding R & D's exciting 1998 schedule.

FUND-RAISERS

ADULT RECREATIONAL STANDINGS

[illegible]

TROY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTAL STANDARDS

BASKETBALL STANDINGS			
DIVISION A			
FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS			
TEAM	W	L	PCT
ay. l'apa Romanos	13	1	.929