

Blacktop battle: 13-year-old Greg Hocking of Farmington Hills controls the bouncing puck, while Bill Carr, 16, of Livonia, on the left, approaches for the poke check.

Farmington Observer

Inline hockey from page A1

retrieve their lumber.

They play by universal rules: Instead of someone like a referse dropping the ball for a face-off, two teens hover over the sphere and click their stick blades together three times before mutually hacking at it.

times better macaing at it.
When a second goaltender
doesn't show up - as the case
on this day - the opposing
team has to hit the net's posts

for a goal.
Substitutions are made on the fly. Four players hover on the other side of the center

the other side of the center court net, walking to replace a winded skater. Equipment is sparse. Only the goaltender, Mark Rauth, wears leg pads and a mask to go along with a blocker and catching glove. Skaters go without shin-peds and helmets. Only a few wear protective gloves. Despite the early March chill,

a few even shed winter coats and play in T-shirts.

A player limped off after taking an errant stick shaft across his shin. The offender upologized, having fallen when he accidentally hit the player.

player.
"It's not my fault you can't stand up," said the teen, gri-

macing.
Another player, Isaac, goes Another player, Isaac, goes down in a heap after the corange ball, hardened by the cold weather, ripped into his high from a singahot. When a kid questioned the fallen player's toughness, another shot back, 'Hoy, that s-hurts.'

Not all revol in this spontaneous gathering of youth in their neighborhood.

One nearby resident called Farmington Hills police after a group of older teens - many driving their own cars - showed up to play. Since there is no parking lot at the

park, teens parked their vehi-cles along the road. The resulting convoy made it diffi-cult for people to get into the

park.
Police told the older teens that, technically, they're not supposed to be playing hockey on the tennis courts.
"How many kids do you know who play tennis?" said Tony Caram, 26, "Especially during the winter?

Kids prefer the fonked-in tennis courts because the payement is smooth and they

tennis courts because the pavement is smooth and they don't have to chase the ball. Caram said. Caram, who works as a substitute teacher, plays inline hockey at the courts.

"If it's the little kids, I'll play goal so I don't run them over," he said.

"If it's the little kids, I'll play goal so I don't run them over," he said.

Caram organized the inline hockey outing with the older, teens from Livonia Stevenson.

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uniderstands why the police were called, saying the officers are doing their Job.

"The police were cool,"
Caram said. "They were really nice about it.

"They said, 'Hey, you know we think it's cool kids are, out here playing, but when we get called, we have to respond."

"It was just annoying,"
Caram said. 'Here I am keeping these kids out of trouble by laying hockey."

Unfaxed by it all are the younger toens careening around the courts and wilding sticks where the plastic blades are whittled to the width of a 10-cent barber's comb. The team shooting at the goalie-less net is up 4-1.

"We've got to score," said Greg Hocking with a gold "Gangling from a chain as he proceeds to put two goals past the goalie.



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Visitor from page A1

already knew that, because his aunt happens to be his "Aunt Sue" Andersen. Jon's parents, Karen and Rie Fenske, made the initial e-mail communication to Andersen in late March or early April 1997.

That first entry was at the request of Brueck, who advocates the use of technology for teaching geography and social studies.

studies.

"I wanted to use e-mail as a lesson in technology for the kida," Brueck explained. "But had another motive, to teach the kids that there's more than their city, their country their state, their country and North America."

their country and North America."

The teacher started the ball rolling by asking her class if anyone knew someone from another country for e-mail correspondence.

"He (Ric Fenske) asked me if I'd do 'this and I said sure," recalled Andersen, who halls from Oregon. ".. I really didn't know what they'd ask me. But the variety of questions was very interesting. Like, 'Do you use the American alphabet or a different set of symbols?"

There were the expected questions from second grade-age children, about the kinds of food an animals found in New Guinea. But one student eaked about pollution and another wanted to know what kind of defense weapons are used on the small tropical island located near Australia.

Andersen – a literary specialist whose job entails visiting natives to help them develop an alphabet and grammar for their particular unwritton language—answered their questions, eneper days with the locations, even

answered their questions, one per day.

But her visit to Longacre, complete with New Guinea props, impressed the youngsters even more than her computer-processed words.

All Trimner. 8, noted how Anderson "used the part that's not sharp" to crack open a coconut.

not sharp to craek open coconut.

"You hit it and turn it, hit it and turn it," Andersen said.
"And on the third time it split open."

The guest also taught students songs using two of New Guinea's 860 languages, which Andersen called Molanesian Pidgin and

coconut, banana.
You

we or e Rollins and Ali To about the get-together.

"It was great to meet the kids," Andersen said. "E-mail is great so far as communicating ideas and talking. But to see them face to face and get their responses and questions... It's exciting to know they were really learning."

According to 9-year-old Joey Zuver, the reunion was "differ-



Getting beaded: Sue Andersen places the shell beads over the head of Stephanie Birrell, half hanging in front of her, the other dan-gling in back. Sitting next to her are Sarah Rollins and Ali Trimner.

ent, because you could actually see what the person looked like."
Stephanie Birrell, 8, said she was "surprised" at how healthy someone from New Guinea actually is, unlike the mental picture they might have been imagining.
But Jooy said the whole e-mail experience was a plus. "I learned that things were different there than in the United States. They are different things, like frogs."
Concurring was Jon Fenske.
Some things you can't e-mail, like who the person looks like, or what they wear."





