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those lanes is considering.

Scott Wright, forward, Canton: Rated the fourth-best player in the state. Wright was one of the most consistent scorers in the state. An offensive mid-fielder, he scored in 18 of the Chiefs' 23 games — a total of 27 goals with seven assists. He was named to the all-WLAA conference team and to the state's Dream Team.

He was definitely a big-time goal scorer," said Smith. "The thing was, you never saw him miss badly. If he missed, it was never by much.

"When he got the ball, he always did something good with it. He's deviously fast, and he's got good ball control, too."

Tom Eller, forward, Stevenson: The junior is making his second straight appearance on the All-Observer squad.

This season he finished with 18 goals and 15 assists, earning All-WLAA, All-District, All-Region and first-team All-State honors.

He had three goals and two assists in a 7-1 win over Beverly Hills County Day and a hat trick in the WLAA championship game over Plymouth Canton.

"From what I was able to see, Tommy was the most dynamic player in the state this year," Richters said. "When he gets the ball, you simply expect something special to happen."

CC coach Dana Orsucci said the Shamrocks improved when Graf was moved from defender to midfield a month into the season. Graf, a captain and third-team Class A all-state selection, finished with four goals and five assists.

"We moved him because we needed to control the midfield more," Orsucci said. "His size is such a great asset to him. He uses his body extremely well, tackles hard, and for a big man has great ball skill. You wouldn't think a big man could control the ball and have a great touch and passing skills like he does."

"He's extremely strong in the air as well. He kept a lot of teams on their toes, pushing up and dishing the ball out."

Sergio Mainella, midfielder, Stevenson: The senior co-captain had seven goals and 16 assists en route to All-WLAA, All-District, All-Region and second-team All-State honors.

Mainella was a vital cog in the Spartans winning 17 of 19 games, including the Western Lakes championship.

"Sergio was our engine and a great leader by example," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "His energy, work ethic and desire spread throughout the team."

Mark Sicilia, midfielder, Churchill: A three-year starter, Sicilia finished the season with 17 goals and 13 assists.

His varsity career totals are 26 goals and 25 assists.

He also served as team captain this



Plymouth Canton's Don Smith was selected the 1998 Coach of the Year after leading the Chiefs to a 16-6-1 record and a berth in the Division I state semifinals. Smith is 133-59-23 in 10 years as the Canton coach.

season.

"Mark was a very physical player, it was hard to knock him off the ball," Churchill coach Chad Campau said. "He had a cannon for a shot and he goes to the goal with speed and power."

Mike Randall, defender, Luth. Westland: The three-year letter winner was named Metro Conference MVP, first-team All-District, All-Region and All-State (Division IV).

Randall, a senior, played stopper, leading a defense which allowed just eight goals all season.

"Mike often had the job of marking the opposition's biggest threat while still being responsible for supporting the attack," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "Michael was given the nickname 'Animal' his freshman year by his teammates for his aggressive style of play."

"That aggressive play often resulted in many fouls, but this year he disciplined his game and greatly reduced his fouls while still playing with great intensity."

Aaron MacDonald, defender, Salem: As McCarthy noted, making an impression as a defender is never easy, and yet MacDonald managed it. An all-WLAA and all-state selection, MacDonald's ability as a marking back was so sound he was named his team's Most Valuable Player.

"He's an aggressive marking back," said McCarthy. "And he's good in the air. I'd rate him as the premier marking back in the state. He was by far the best player on our team."

"You won't win a state title if your marking backs aren't any good, because you're bound to see some of the state's best forwards during the tournament."

Bill Fischer, defender, Franklin: The four-year starter never missed a game for the Patriots.

He was second on the team in goals, including three off set pieces, and led Franklin in assists. He made All-Region and was named honorable mention All-State.

Fischer is a two-time All-Western Lakes selection.

"Bill's obviously the best player I've had since I've been at Franklin," coach Dave Hebestreit said. "He's a great player and a great kid. We didn't have a

good year, but the coaches in our league recognized what kind of player he was."

"He was the person who secured our defense and was a creator in the middle field."

Fischer is considering Madonna, Eastern Michigan and Michigan State.

Nick Szczecowski, sweeper, Salem: Szczecowski was in one of the most responsible positions on a team ranked No. 1 in the state for much of the season — and he handled it with relative ease.

"He is one of the most poised, calm players I've ever seen," said McCarthy of Szczecowski. "He's a great distributor, he has great vision, and he's strong in the air."

"Nick's a three-year starter at sweeper — and that doesn't happen at Salem too often."

Szczecowski was a third-team all-state selection and was named to the all-WLAA team.

Joe Suchara, goalkeeper, Stevenson: The co-captain won 15 of 17 games, allowing just nine goals with 10 shutouts.

The highlight of his season was a 19-save performance in a 2-1 victory over top-ranked Plymouth Salem.

Suchara made All-WLAA, All-District, All-Region and second-team All-State.

"Joe is athletic, dependable and a competitive player," Richters said. "And he is certainly one of the very best goalkeepers in the state this year."

Doug Koontz, goalkeeper, Canton: Koontz made his first year as Canton's first-string keeper a solid one, making every key shot for the Chiefs. In the 21 games he played in, he surrendered 30 goals (1.43 goals-against average) while posting six shutouts.

He was chosen to the WLAA's all-Western Division team and was honorable mention all-state.

"He had some real good ball games for us," said Smith. "He had some good games against Stevenson, against Salem he came up big both times, and he had some big games against Churchill. He'll play some more (in college), there's no doubt about it."

Koontz is considering several schools, including Hope College, Adrian College and Madonna University.

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