

Farmington athletes assist in Team Michigan's success

A hockey team composed primarily of Michigan high school players, including five from Farmington and Farmington Hills, took first place in the Third Annual International Down Under Games in Australia.

After losing its first game, Team Michigan won its last four in a row to win the July 10-15 tournament.

Including a 7-1 victory over Hawaii in an exhibition game at the Ice Palace in Honolulu on the return trip, Team Michigan finished with a 5-1 record.

Coached by Rick Bennetts, head coach at the University of Detroit-Jesuit High School, the team also included athletes from Dearborn, Howell, Livonia, Woodhaven, Kingsford and Sagola (Upper Peninsula) and Whittall, Wis. The players ranged in age from 15 to 19.

"We were up against this year's Alaska state high school champion and a group of 18-year old Minnesota Junior A Gold players," Bennetts said.

HOCKEY

"Both teams had played together for a while, while we played together for the first time once we arrived in Australia. The success of this team is a credit to the hard work and unselfishness of the players."

"Of our 16 players, we had one goalie, 12 defensemen and three forwards, but everyone stepped up to play in the positions they were needed."

The Farmington players are Glen Hearn and Kirk Laird of the Farmington Unified High School team and Dan Ostin, Dave Stahl and Jake Gardner, all of whom play for the Detroit-Jesuit team.

Richard Foley of Dearborn was named the tournament MVP. Chris Whitney (Dearborn), Ian Weber (Kingsford), Kyle Holsworth (Sagola) and Foley were named to the all-tournament team.

After losing to the Gold Coast

Grizzlies, 4-0, Team Michigan defeated Minnesota, Alaska and Brisbane (Australia) by 4-2 scores and Minnesota again in the championship game, 4-1.

The International Down Under Games, a forum for athletes from many countries to compete in ice hockey, girls volleyball, boys and girls golf, cross country, track and freestyle wrestling, is sponsored by International Sports Specialists, Inc.

ISSI's goal is to provide athletes who excel in a sport the opportunity to experience the culture of Australia within the framework of competition in different sports. More than 6,000 athletes, coaches and family members will participate in this year's events.

Team Michigan's seven-day stay on the Gold Coast included a visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, an amusement park, a water park and one free day to play tourist. A three-day stop in Honolulu following the Down Under Games concluded the trip.



Hockey gold medalists: The Farmington Hills members of the hockey team that competed in the Down Under International Games in Australia are (left to right) coach Rick Bennetts, Dan Ostin, Kirk Laird, Glen Hearn, Jake Gardner and Dave Stahl. Ostin, Gardner and Stahl attend the University of Detroit-Jesuit High School and play hockey for the Cubs, who are coached by Bennetts. Laird (Harrison) and Hearn (North Farmington) played for the Farmington unified high school hockey team.

Lakers add tournament crown to MSHL regular-season title

No overtime required.

After needing two overtime victories to make the championship game, the top-seeded, regular-season champion Lakers trounced the underdog Warriors, 7-3, Sunday to win the Metro Summer Hockey League tournament.

The Lakers opened and closed the second-period scoring with two goals to take a 6-3 lead into the final 15 minutes of play and kept the Warriors at bay the rest of the way.

Josh Shurjan closed out the scoring with a goal for the Lakers at 9:01 of the

final period. He was the last of seven Lakers to score goals in the playoff championship game at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

Brandon Kienzie (Livonia) got the upstart Warriors, the sixth seed in the tournament, off to a 1-0 lead with a goal just 1:13 into the game. Kienzie also scored with 6:09 left in the middle period, bringing his team up to 4-3.

But Mike Vigilante restored the Lakers' two-goal advantage with a 4-3 play and Nick Jardine made it 6-3 with just three seconds to play in the period.

HOCKEY

Brian Jardine tied the score for the Lakers at 9:48 of the first period and John Vigilante gave the regular-season champions a 2-1 lead with a goal just 3:04 from the end of the opening period.

Matt Frick scored 18:10 into the second period and Sean Smith (Livonia) made it 4-1 with 12:55 to play.

Dave Moss (Livonia) scored the second Warriors' goal 2:01 later to slice the

margin to 4-2.

Nick Jardine had three assists for the Warriors while John Vigilante had two. John Pickle started in goal for the Lakers with Larry Jardine taking over at 7:47 of the second period.

The Warriors split time with their two goaltenders, too. Joseph Rutherford opened the game and Mark Lavender (Farmington Hills) came in at 7:47 of the second period.

Joe Morozu (Farmington Hills) had two assists for the Warriors. The MSHL had a skills competition

prior to the playoff championship game. Ryan Kesler (Livonia) took top honors for the hardest slap shot and hardest wrist shot.

Bryan Marshall (Livonia) was the fastest skater for a lap around the rink. Keith Townsend had the most accurate shot while Chris Powoznik (Redford) was winner of the showdown shooters competition.

Rick Marmon (Canton) was the showdown winner among goalies while Art Baker (Canton) took the top prize for rapid fire shots.



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