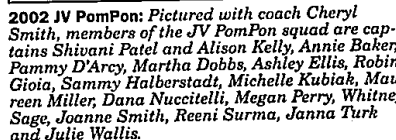


The Farmington High Varsity PomPon team took home a Division II championship last month, after just narrowly qualifying for state finals at the Mid American PomPon Regional Competition held Feb. 2 at Churchill High School in Livonia.

Hosted by Saginaw Valley State University, the event drew teams from all over the state. The top five placements included Livonia Stevenson-2nd, Midland-3rd, South Lyon-4th and Waterford Kettering-5th.

The team expressed appreciation for the coaches' effort, as well as technical help from Jennifer Michaels (FHS Pom Coach 1995-2001) and last year's co-captains Sara Niskanen and Amy Lennon, who dedicated their college spring break to the effort.



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Poe attempted to get the shotgun out of Whitehead's hands but was unsuccessful, police said. A shot did blow out the passenger window of the Mustang. Poe then saw a police car and flagged the officer down.

After Poe, his 17-year-old sister, 8-year-old brother and great-grandfather left the home, Whitehead barricaded himself inside while police from the Hills, the city of Farmington, Livonia, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police set up positions.

'He seemed like he was OK'

Farmington Hills resident Stephen Beierschmitt, 19, said he met Whitehead a few times as the two were mutual friends of Mark's.

"He seemed like he was OK," Beierschmitt said, while witnessing the standoff Tuesday. "But he said if he ever got kicked out of his home he would do something like this."

"I told him I would hang out with him today if he wanted."

Beierschmitt said the great-grandparents at the Poe home always treated Mark's friends with respect and that kids in the neighborhood enjoyed hanging out there.

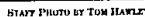
Nebus said Whitehead had a criminal record in California and Georgia, including possession of narcotics.

The assistant chief said the outcome Tuesday was a disappointment considering negotiators felt Whitehead was talking as though he was willing to come out peacefully during the beginning of the standoff.

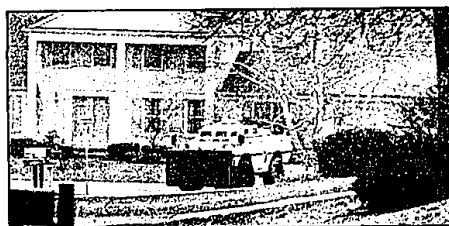
But shortly after 1 p.m., the young man stopped communicating with police.

At around 4:45 p.m., special services deputies from the Sheriff's Department entered the home and found Whitehead dead.

"It was very disappointing," Nebus said. "We felt he was going to give himself up."



Helping a friend: Steve Beierschmidt, 19 of Farmington Hills, talks to the media after dropping off Mrs. Poe near her home, where the gunman was holed up. Beierschmidt is a friend of Mark Poe, the grandson, and also knew the victim, "K-Dog" Whitehead.



A presence: The Oakland County Sheriff's department's Armored Personnel Carrier was set up near the house on Tralee Trail.

The City of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority (DDA) have launched an innovative road construction outreach program to ease citizen confusion and help downtown businesses maintain customer contact during the reconstruction of Farmington Road, announced Judy Downey, Director.

"Farmington Road will be under construction from mid-March through October," said Ronald G. Oglesby, President of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. "The DDA wants to help downtown

Farmington visitors negotiate the construction area as easily as possible, minimize driver frustration and aid customers in their efforts to locate available parking."

Developed by Marketing Communications Counsel, Inc. (Farmington) and Silver Birch Engineering, LLC (Ypsilanti) the program consists of three elements:

■ A special Farmington Road Construction Status web site section has been created and added to the City of Farmington's web site. Updated construction drawings, current parking

availability and bypass routing information will be posted and viewable at <http://www.ci.Farmington.mi.us/construction.htm>

■ E-mail update newsletters are being sent to the general public and downtown Farmington customers. The City of Farmington is offering two free tickets to the Farmington Civic Theatre for signing up to receive the update e-mail newsletters.

■ DDA businesses will provide coupons and special offers that will be distributed with the e-mail newsletters as an incentive for visiting downtown Farmington during the construction period.

Said Oglesby, "The e-mail newsletters and the construction status web site will help minimize the discomfort our downtown Farmington visitors and customers might encounter during the construction of one of the main Farmington thoroughfares. And, the e-mail coupon incentives will thank them for their patience."

The City of Farmington Downtown Development Authority consists of approximately 150 businesses that are located in downtown Farmington.



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