

HEART BENEFIT

BENEFIT DINNER

(Friday, Laurel Park Banquet Facility, 3900 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia)
The evening - complete with an individual plated dinner, silent and live auctions, 50/50 raffle and dancing - will be hosted by former Detroit Red Wings star Mickey Redmond. The high-end raffle will enable winners to grab big gifts such as a large screen Sony HDTV, 2003 Dodge Ram pickup truck or BMW MiniVan while generating revenue for Hockey Has Heart.

FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

The Farmington Hills Hockey Association and city of Farmington Hills are teaming up to host a National Hockey League-style skills competition from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena (Eight Mile, between Hallstead and Farmington roads). Featured will be competitions for the hardest shot and puck handling in addition to Score O and skating with a CD.

Admission is \$10 for children, with adults admitted free.
Capping off the festival will be "Hockey Has Heart" open skating, at 6:30 p.m. in Arena B and a Red Wing Alumni game (\$5 per person admission), 7 p.m. in Arena A.

RED WING ALUMNI GAME

The benefit contest will take place between Farmington Hills Hockey Association alumni (Midget aged players and older) and the Red Wings' alumni, which usually features former star players such as Dennis Hextall, John Ogorodnik, Nick Libett and Shawn Burr.
For more information, go to www.hockeyhasheart.com.

HEART

FROM PAGE D1

The hockey team always has some kind of community service project it must complete in order to play.

But the coach, whose team recently wrapped up a successful 21-3-3 season, emphasized there is a special reason for the Eagles giving their all for the cause.



Terry Gould

"The gentleman who has the heart problem (Gould), his nephew plays on St. Mary's," said Klanow, referring to sophomore Patrick Nagorsen. "We were looking for some kind of community involvement to do. We were looking for something to do as a team, and this just seemed like a great fit."

Klanow said teams and youth organizations who do not know Gould are just as strongly behind what the nonprofit

organization is attempting to achieve.

"The whole hockey community and metropolitan area has rallied behind this endeavor and I think it's fantastic."

Working Friday's banquet will be the Livonia Ladywood and Redford Catholic Central hockey teams.

On Saturday, during the day-long skills activities patterned after the National Hockey League All-Star Weekend, players from the Eagles will volunteer.

But so will the Farmington United Flyers, the Ice Dogs Midget Major team and the Farmington Hills Mercy high school girls team.

"I think the outpouring of support (for the nonprofit organization and Gould) stems from the close-knit amateur hockey community," said Lucy Oakleaf, founding president of Hockey Has Heart. "When my son (Michael) began to play ice hockey nine years ago, we met many families with similar interests and saw them three or four days a week at practices

and games.

"Parents band together, keeping watchful eyes on the young ones too small to play hockey. They are cool to be out when more than one child plays the sport and just help each other out. It's funny, we have friendships with people that we met when my son just started to play."

Lasting friendships

Michael Oakleaf and both Patrick and Sean Nagorsen played in the FIHA's inaugural season (1994-95) and remain friends today.

"When the hockey community learned of Terry Gould's medical problems, the word spread quickly throughout the hockey world and things started to mushroom," continued Oakleaf, about the momentum building behind the benefit effort to help Gould - and hopefully other needy hockey families in the future.

Oakleaf says the short-term goal of Hockey Has Heart organizers is to solicit input from amateur hockey associa-

tions and teams throughout the state.

The foundation hopes to grow nationwide and partner with minor league hockey associations, National Hockey League affiliates, and other national charity foundations.

"Hockey Has Heart is the epitome for those of us who understand and have played the game of hockey," said Kyle O'Malley, one of the foundation's founding officers. "It is the greatest game on earth - not because of what happens on the ice - but because of the people who gravitate to the sport."

"What makes those involved in hockey so unique, more unique than any other sport, is their ability to redirect their enthusiasm for the game toward an outpouring of support to help those in need."

To purchase tickets for the Inaugural Hockey Has Heart Benefit Gala, or to learn more about the Family Fun Festival, call 248-476-9127 or go to www.hockeyhasheart.com.
(with a Roe Homecomm.net | (734) 953-2743)

Raiders plan to reload, not rebuild

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington lost half its players to graduation, and the 2003 girls soccer team is dominated by underclassmen.

But the Raiders, who were 9-9 last year and lost to Livonia Ladywood in a district tournament final, aren't exactly starting over.

"I don't see it as rebuilding," coach Tim Russell said.

"There's definitely going to be a learning curve this year."

"But I think we're stronger than I expected, because I didn't expect to see the freshmen step up. Going into the off season, I thought we'd have more holes to fill than we do."

North's 18-player roster includes just four seniors. Michele Boothroyd and Ashley Lynch were key members of a defense that allowed just over a goal per game.

Boothroyd, who was the sweeper, can play anywhere on the field but will move to mid-field and occasionally striker.

"She's done her time, playing defense," Russell said. "She wants to play midfield, and we'll try to accommodate that."

PREP SOCCER

"She's just a fantastic team player. She was good as a freshman and has gotten better every year. She's one of our anchors."

Lynch was a wing defender but will play in the middle of the field, possibly stopper. She has a flare for offense, too, and was the second-leading scorer.

"She has good foot skills; she's aggressive and she's hard-working," Russell said. "She does what you ask very well."

Brie Loveland is a tri-captain with Boothroyd and Lynch. The defensive, marking midfielder has become a solid and consistent contributor, according to Russell. Forward Chris Gabriel is the fourth senior and, like Loveland, a third-year varsity player.

The junior class consists of Catherine Munaco, Kristin Hogan, Amanda O'Steen, and Megan Navas and Meg Callahan.

Munaco rarely came off the field while playing outside mid. She helped control the middle of the field by winning 50-50 balls; she's a good passer with

good field vision, Russell said.

Hogan is one of the most skilled players, and the Raiders will count on her to keep possession and generate offense in the midfield.

"O'Steen has improved considerably and should be a solid contributor in the midfield, according to Russell, who was still undecided on a starting lineup.

"The same holds true for Callahan, a returning varsity player who will be a midfielder, and Navas, who moved up from the JV and will play defense."

North has a veteran goalkeeper in Bridgette Bears, one of six sophomores on the team.

"It was first year last year, but she learned very quickly," Russell said. "She went from being inexperienced to being an all-district keeper. She has a terrific attitude and is working hard to be better this year."

Annie Gabriel was a striker on the JV, and Christine Taylor is a returning starter on defense; Nicole Buchwald, Kelly Davis and Katie Rivard are former JV players, too.

Davis, a state champion in tennis, will likely start on defense; Buchwald and Rivard

can play either midfield or defense.

Russell will keep three freshmen on the varsity - Avis Caplan, Kristina Navas and Adrienne Sundquist. All are projected as starters.

"They allow me flexibility with the rest of the team," Russell said. "Navas and Sundquist make it possible to take last year's defense and move it up, so we have a stronger midfield."

Three JV players, sophomore Jackie Murens and freshmen Sam Kelman and Stefani Licavoli, could have some varsity minutes, too.

"It's a no-lose situation; we're so young and so talented," Russell said. "Even if it's a learning year, by the end of the season, I'm sure we're going to be faring pretty darn well."

"My goal is to make it rewarding for the seniors this year, because they've put so much into the program."

The Raiders, who will be in Division III of the Oakland Activities Association, start the season Monday at Milford.

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SOCCER

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The outside mids are juniors Kristin Pietila, Katy Johnson and Maria Lockhart, all of whom played a lot last year.

Pietila is one of the fastest girls on the team, and Johnson, who played goalie as a freshman to help the team and had

12 shutouts, is a quick and aggressive player. Montgomery said. Sophomore Kelly Hay will start at center defense with Derro, and sophomore Kate Kelly returns at the goalie position.

"We expect her to be one of the top goalies in the area and to keep us in close games," Montgomery said. "She's done nothing but improve. She's bet-

ter than she was last year." Sophomore Katie Piascecki and Ava Kilawee are moving up from the JV. Freshmen Lindsey and Mary Peszek will likely start at forward, and freshman Laura Kakos will help on defense and in the midfield.

"I think we're going to score a lot of goals," Montgomery said. "For teams to beat us, they're

going to have to stop us. "Two years ago we scored 70 goals, and I think we're going to have that kind of year or better."

"We're really hoping to have a good season."

The Falcons start Friday at Livonia Franklin and are idle for a week before they play host to Grosse Pointe North on March 28.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

MU VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

Madonna University will host a series of summer volleyball camps. Cost is \$120 (\$97 for youth camp). Morning sessions will be from 8:30 a.m.-noon - June 29-July 2 (Elite); July 7-10 (Setters); July 13-16 (Hitters). Afternoon sessions will be from 1-4 - June 29-July 2 (General Players); July 7-10 (Youth); July 13-16 (Defensive Specialty). For more information and registration, call MU head volleyball coach and camp director Jerry Abrahamson at (734) 254-0598 or the volleyball office at (734) 432-5612.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Total Baseball will stage a spring break baseball and softball camp (ages 7-17), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, April 21-23, at Powers Park in Novi.

The cost is \$135 per player (\$10 discount for second child). The camp will feature instruction by Lee Bjerk, a member of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, along with Jessie Milosek of Bowling Green State. Hitting, pitching, fielding and base running will be covered. For more information, call (248) 658-0166 or visit www.eteamz.com/totalbaseball. You can also email totalbaseball-wizom@aol.com.

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