

Kadrich

Joyous first soccer dad experience

had been a soccer dad for all of five minutes before I realized I'd already violated one of the cardinal rules. I'd forgotten that little canvas director's chair all soccer parents sit in on the sidelines.

To that point, I'd done everything else a first-time soccer dad was supposed to do. I'd overpacked Robert's soccer bag, put an unnecessary turtleneck beneath his jersey in ease he got cold.
Obviously, running around the soccer field actually made him hot, a circumstance I realized after the first period. When my dynamical mental conduction of the was hot in the turtleneck. He looked at me, sweat on his

hot in the turtleneck. He looked at me, sweat on his brow, cheeks rosy red - and I decided not to repeat the question. We simply removed the turtleneck. Other than that, things went pretty well on my first day as a soccer dad. There we were on the elementary school field right on time Saturday for his second game, but my first. I didn't bring my chair, but as it turns out, the chair would have been empty anyway, because I couldn't stop prowling the sidelines.

have been empty anyway, because I couldn't stop prowiling the sidelines. I'd been the same way as a high school wrestling coach, unable to keep my seat. Why I thought it would be any different when my own son was playing the game is beyond understanding. The chair's only purpose would have been holding my jacket (sort of like the treadmill at home).

Robert doesn't know all the kids' names yet, so as we approached the field, he'd see a teammate and call out, "Hey, No. 2" He does know the other Robert's name, but he's still learning the rest.

He was excited, but nowhere near as excited as 1 was, I wrestled and talouted.

nowhere near as excited as I was. I wrestled and played football and a little baseball in high school and, as a typi-cal male jock, couldn't wait cal male jock, couldn't wait to watch my son on an ath-letic field of some sort. My older sons live in South Carolina; Matthew doesn't play sports and I've not yet seen one of Marcus' baseball

games.
So I'd waited a long time for this, an eternity to feel the thrill of watching my progeny exert his influence in an Olympian effort, propelling his team to victory isn't that what all fathers assume is going to happen.

pelling his team to victory! len't that what all fathers assume is going to happen? Their sons are always going to be the ones who hit the game-winning home run, or score the deciding touch-down on, in this case, knock in a kick from the B to win the game.

Every father throughout history has wanted that opportunity, the chance to acream. "That's MY boy!"

It didn't happen for me, at eart not on this Statuta, Only one parent got to have his one cover the game-winner, locause Robert's team the Shark Attacks - won the game, by the state of the game winner, locause Robert's team the Shark Attacks - won the game, by State feelings, my chest swelling with pride as Robert jogged into the fray with his teamniates.

His coach, a young woman amed Debbie who seemed named Debbie who seemen very nice, had them organ-ized. She took the players and walked them to their positions - Robert started at midfield - and showed them the area they were to patrol.

PLAN DE SOCCER, C6

d

'Never too old to learn'

Observer Life



At age 78, Marian Yagoda of Southfield, is preparing to graduate from high school.

Southfield woman, 78, to receive long-awaited high school diploma in June

At age 78, Marian Yagoda is fulfilling her lifelong dream, that of finishing high school once and for all. Yagoda, of Southfield, has

once and for all.
Yagoda, of Southfield, has
been taking a night government class though Farrington
Hills Community Education
and will receive her longawaited diploma on June 12.

'I had three classes to take:
American history, government
and English, and my teacher
said, 'You don't have to take
history, because you are history,'
said Yagoda.

To her fellow students,
Yagoda has provided real-life
history lessons, telling stories
about the days of the Agree

Bepression, World War II and
working in a factory as a rivet-

er. During the war, Yagoda worked at Briggs

Manufacturing Co. in Detroit, which made parts for B-17 and B-29 airplanes. "I was a rivet-

'When she talks about it, she just lights up. It really is the dream of her lifetime to get

Alexis Logan Marketing Coordinator, The Trowbridge

er on the wingtips of the planes. I made \$1.39 an hour, which was a very good wage for that time because it was during the war, "she said. Her fellow students have

been kind and very interested in her stories, she said.

They are excited for me. They keep on telling me, '28

more days, 27 more days. I feel like a teenager again. Alexis Logan, marketing coordinator for The

Access Logan, marketing coordinator for The Trowbridge, the senior apartments where Vageda lives, says the complex is hosting a graduation party for her.

When she talks about it, she just lights up. She is so excited to get this; said Logan. 'It really is the dream of her lifetime to get this.' I went to a trade school; said Vagoda. 'I was pursuing dress making. My brothers and sister all graduated and went to college and I didn't. Ifelt that I was inferior and I vanted to get my high school diploma.' Yagoda said neither her father nor her husband supported her wish to finish

father nor her husband sup-ported her wish to finish school, saying women don't need an education.

About 30 years ago, Yagoda went back and took

an English cluss but her second husband encouraged her to quit, saying that he wanted to take care of her.

In 2001, after he passed away, she decided to try again. Her old high school records had remained after 60 years.

At her June # graduation, she will have a large cheering section including her son, her siblings, cousins, her accountant, and another special guest State Rep. Paul Condino, of Southfield, whom her met at a restaurant

Condino, of Southfield, whom she met at a restaurant recently and shared her story with.

Yagodn says she is now thinking of going to college, taking some knitting or cro-cheting courses at Oakland Community College.

"You're never too old to learn," she said.

Memoir shares grief, memories of his Louise

We build a fire with our tove, it lasts a lit-lie while and the world puts it out. So we build another little fire, and so on. That's not failth. That's taking direct action. Love is not a gift from God. ... Love is our invention: it is heroism against prepos-terous adds.

- from My Louise, A Memoir

BY JONI HUBRED STAFF WRITER

The book that took David Collins 10 months to write repre-sents a lifetime of memories for his 8-year-old daughter — memo-ries of a mother she never got to



A first-time author, Collins looks

Collins looks too young to be a widower, except when you look into his eyes. A hint of sadness remains, even though he has literally closed the book on grief over his belowed wife death. Witten with unflinching honsety, My Louise: A Memolrizonats the life and death of an extraordinary woman who faced the ord of her life just as the life of her first whild began.

Louise was seven months preg-nant with daughter Robin when doctors diagnosed her breast can-cer. She died less than three years later, leaving David the single father of a 2/-year-old child who didn't really understand what had happened.

Taker, it away, be a single and a single and a laphened.

For a while we thought it was just going to be a long..., David pauses, searching for words. Of course we thought that the was going to be all right. You know it going to change everything.

After a number of setbacks, however, it became obvious Louise wasn't going to pull through. Over the course of those months, David became more and more responsible for Robin's care. In My Louise, he writes about that time, but also of the life they shared — from their first kiss to their last moments together on earth. For him, the writing was everything and finishing the book his only goal at first. Never a "support group" kind of guy, David does attend larger American Cancer Society fundralsers. But writing, he said, is about the only thing he is ever been really good at, and the book was something unique he could do that fit with hir talents. "I started about a year after," he said. "It had been in the back of ny mind to do it.... I felt I had to

do it, just as an exercise to deal with the whole thing. As I kept going, I thought There's a book here. It was a cathartic act. I wanted to pursue it as far as I could.

could:

An editor with 15 years of experience at Farmington Hills-based Gale Group, David had done some freelance work and published shorter pieces, but he knew publishing a book would be an arduous process. After landing an agent, he ended up finding a publisher through a family connection.

lisher turbugh a samp control ton.
Ontario Review Press, owned by noted author Joyce Carol Oates and her husband, publishes only four titles a year. In fact, it hired a publicist who works only with David's book, which has received great critical reviews, including one from

the Lists. Note twenty for the property of the control of the cont

PLEASE SEE LOUISE, C9

Mercy High School senior wins Gale writing award

Aisa Villarosa, a senior at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, is the winner of the 2003 Lavies Mooney Collina Creative Writing Scholarship, Her work "Squint" vas named the most outstand-ing entry in this year's contest and has carried

her a \$3,000 college scholarshin.

holarship. The Collins scholarship

scholarship.
The Collins scholarship
for creative writing is the
largest in Michigan. It's
sponsored by Farmington
Hills-based Gale, the
renowned e-information
publisher that serves the
world's reference and education needs.
The Collins Scholarship
is open to high school students in Southeastern
Michigan. Each year,
schools submit poems or
prose from their top three
students. The judges, all
seasoned editorial staff at
Gale, select one scholarship winner and five runners-up. Winners are

selected on the merits of their imagination, creativ-ity, writing excellence and command of language. Runners-up for 2003 include William Carduner (Labser High School, Bloomfield Hills); Lauren Lissellar (Grusse Painte Bloomfield Hills): Lauren Linsalata (Grosse Pointe Linsalata (Grosse Pointe South High School, Grosse Pointe): Laura McIntosh (Howell High School, Howell): Anne Osburnel; and Parker Plague (John Glenn High School, Grosse Pointe); and Parker Plague (John Glenn High School, Westland): Each will receive a \$100 Border's gift certificate. Villarosa will accept her award on May 20 at the awards dinner held at Gale's headquarters in

Gale's headquarters in Farmington Hills.
The Collins Scholarship

contest was created in honor of Louise Mooney Collins, who spent 14 years as a popular, hard-

MEASE SEE SENIOR. CO