



ALL THURSTON GRADS -- Rob Spicer (left), '69 graduate of Thurston High, was selected in the ninth round by the New York Jets and his girl friend Sharron Rodgers; also a '69 grad of Thurston, holds one of the many footballs Rob

features from Indiana University. Keith Spicer (right) is a '63 grad of Thurston as is his wife Pat. Keith is currently with the Detroit Tigers' Toledo farm club. (Observer photo)



One of the more interesting pieces of mail to come our way is the monthly publication "Wonderful West Virginia." The photography is breathtaking and those panoramas of the Virginia countryside are good for the soul on a hectic workday.

In the January issue, Robert Leo Smith tells of some transplanted natives of Michigan who have thrived and rearranged parts of the State of Virginia to their own liking.

Beaver pelts were in great demand by Europeans during the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1825 beaver was exterminated in Virginia and the fur trappers moved west.

According to Smith, before the drought of the 1930s, a restocking program

was initiated so that beaver would influence water conservation. Michigan beaver were moved south and it was hoped the northerners would be content below the Mason and Dixon line.

Smith says, "The beaver quickly accepted West Virginia as home. By 1947, the beaver had already claimed most of the high mountain country."

"Wildlife biologists reported that beaver had occupied all suitable habitat, and there were few other areas it could colonize."

"But they didn't appreciate the adaptability of the animal. It moved west out of prime beaver habitat and extended its range in West Virginia to the Ohio River."

"ALTHOUGH the beaver have cut some rather large trees, over 70 per cent of the stems cut were less than one inch in diameter. The largest tree felled along the lake was a six-inch red oak," says Smith.

Evidently the animals accept the presence of man on their man-made lake. Smith adds:

"With very little imagination, any scout canoeing on the lake can be in the north country. The quiet of the evening is broken only by the sound of the paddle and loud wacks as a swimming beaver slaps his tail on the water and disappears beneath the surface."



BIG REASON for Livonia Franklin's first tournament victory in history is lanky Kevin Kaseta. The big center tallied 15 of 18 points in the opening period and led the Patriots to an easy win over Crestwood. Franklin had never won a state tournament before and never participated in any of the holiday meets. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Baseball, Softball 'Y' Adds Courts

Boys and girls in the North Farmington-West Bloomfield area must register on one of the two upcoming Saturdays to qualify for play this summer in the baseball and softball programs.

Registrations will be accepted on March 10 and 17 for boys and girls in the programs sponsored by the North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball for youth program.

Boys from eight to 21 and girls from nine through 16 are eligible for registration. Physical examinations will be held on the same days as registration in the North Farmington-West Bloomfield area.

minion high gym from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The only exceptions to registrations will be those boys and girls who move into the area after the above dates are as follows: \$25 for boys 15 and older, a family plan for boys 14 and under and for all girls as follows: \$20 for the first boy or girl, \$15 for the second, \$5 for the third, with additional children free of charge.

Current plans call for the leagues to open play on Saturday, May 19. Registration fees, established by newly appointed Commissioner Bob Eady are as follows: \$25 for boys 15 and older, a family plan for boys 14 and under and for all girls as follows: \$20 for the first boy or girl, \$15 for the second, \$5 for the third, with additional children free of charge.

from 14 Mile to Long Lake Road on the east.

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'Y' Adds Courts

The Livonia Family Y hopes to open a \$500,000 addition to its present building on Stark Rd. next September. The city council approved site plans for the addition last week. It will house five tennis courts, a combination tennis instruction area and gym, and two handball courts.

Other facilities will include a tennis lounge and pro shop

area, and an expansion of the existing men's health club.

BILL CAMERON, executive director, said the building will be financed from revenue for its operation, a "complete departure" for financing Y projects in the Detroit area.

Cameron said court rental fees have not been set.

10 Area Wrestlers In Class A Finals

Ten high school wrestlers from Observantland have won the right to compete Friday and Saturday in the state Class A championships at Grand Rapids.

Three of them captured individual titles in last Saturday's regionals at Walpole Lake Central where Ypsilanti took the title in competition with 26 other schools. Farmington placed sixth in the team standings for the best showing of any of the teams from this area.

The trio of Observantland titlists included Mark Churella of Farmington in the 141-pound class; Bob Mink of Westland John Glenn at 158 pounds and Redford Union's Paul Matthews at 188.

Others qualifying for the state meet by placing among the top four in their weight classes at the regionals include:

Jim Trehanne (101), Livonia Stevenson; Pete Back

(105), Livonia Bentley; Jack Garner (135), Farmington; Mike Kall (135), Redford Union; Jeff Krause (148), Farmington; Cliff McLellan (158), Garden City West, and Brian Partie (170), Livonia Stevenson.

Livonian Makes MSU Ski Team

By DONALD JENKS
Special Writer

EAST LANSING — A Livonia freshman, who as skied more than half his life, is competing on the Michigan State University ski team.

Kevin Marshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Marshall, 15746 Riverside Drive, Livonia, races in the downhill slalom event.

Marshall's first competition was Jan. 10 in a meet near Cadillac. He finished 20th out of a field of 136, even though he fell during the second run.

MARSHALL's event is physically demanding.

"Skiers can reach speeds up to 80 m.p.h. in downhill skiing," he said.

Marshall trains up to 24 hours a week, sometimes more, to reach such speeds. Training includes stretching exercises and climbing 12

flights of stairs six times in a row. He plays soccer to increase leg coordination and table tennis to improve hand dexterity.

Looking to his future on the ski team, Marshall said:

"I want to advance and be one of the best. I want to be good enough to qualify for the junior nationals."

Marshall also has goals for the ski team:

"I'd like to see the university support us more," he said. "Unlike MSU, other universities give scholarships for skiing."

The 16-year-old Bentley High School graduate has been skiing 10 years. He credits his interest in the sport to former neighbors in Minnesota, who were avid skiers, and to the long Minnesota winters.

Participating on the ski team and in intramural sports, he believes in balancing athletics with school.

Alaskan Trip

Open To Boys

The 17th annual trip to Alaska for young boys will be conducted by Edward J. Kuhn beginning June 25 as a revival of George E. Buchanan's "On-to-Alaska" trips which began in 1923.

Buchanan, a Detroit lumber and coal dealer, took 500 boys to Alaska before his death in 1923.

Boys who can earn at least one-third of the costs themselves are eligible. Parents must pay the balance. The three-week trip by bus, train and steamer is \$598 for boys under 12 and \$698 for boys over 12. Applications are available from Kuhn at 2295 N. Lake Angelus, Pontiac 48055.

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