

# Skiers encounter problems

By GEORGE PAWLUS

Two of the stronger teams in the West Bloomfield High Invitational Ski Meet were supposed to have been Bloomfield Hills Andover's boys and Bloomfield Hills Lahser's girls.

The Invitational is regarded as the unofficial state high school championship meet. It was held Saturday, Feb. 23, at TimberLee Hills in Traverse City.

Bloomfield Hills, however, encountered problems which prevented them from capping their excellent seasons with strong performances at TimberLee Hills.

## ANDOVER

A rule which Andover Coach Don Fraser termed "very technical" ruined Andover's bid to climb any higher than seventh in the nine-team boys competition, which was won by Cadillac.

In high school skiing, skiers are automatically disqualified if they lift their poles before their run starts. It was this rule that forced the Barons out of contention.

Junior John Coats, who had the third fastest time going into the second run, was disqualified for his infraction of that rule.

SOPHOMORE KYLE McEwen then committed the same foul and Andover

had only four of its six skiers still in competition.

When another Baron fell on his second run, Andover's championship hopes ended.

Senior Ken Smith turned in a stellar effort, despite all the troubles that beset his teammates. Smith's clocking of 75.122 seconds was the fourth best of the meet.

Although his team did not perform up to expectations, Fraser still was happy with the meet's overall management.

"THE SKIING conditions were great. Tom Ilin (the meet director) had everything well organized," Fraser said. "The boys really enjoyed themselves."

The Andover coach also was in agreement with West Bloomfield's coach Ora Smith who said the burden

of a state championship meet should not fall on one school.

"I know that all the coaches are in favor of a state meet with state officials," Fraser said. "It's not fair to put the responsibility on West Bloomfield."

## LAHSER

Knight Coach Janet King said that her team simply had a bad day.

The Knights came in fifth as Hancock topped the field of eight girls teams with a time of 319.0 seconds.

"I was hopeful to place in the top three," coach King said. "I felt that my girls did not ski as well as they had."

SENIOR KIPPY Swanson was the top Lahser skier in the meet, placing 13th. Senior Sheri Greenawalt came in 20th.

Sheri's younger sister, sophomore Tami, who made the first team in all-league selections, fell during the slalom and did not place well.

Coach King was still very pleased about her girls' performance throughout the year.

"WE HAD a terrific season," the Lahser coach said. "We won all our meets and we were first in our league and regional."

Coach King also supported Fraser's proposal on the subject of an officially-sanctioned, state championship meet.

"I think the idea of the meet (West Bloomfield Invitational) is great," coach King said, "but the kids want something more official."



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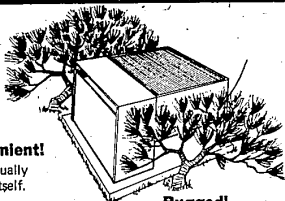
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## Cranes out of tourney

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook's varsity hockey players rang out their 1973-74 campaign on a dreary note last week.

Coach Robert Brown's low-flying Cranbrook bowed to Coach Marty Read's Ann Arbor Huron River Rats 6-3 at the Ben Yack Ice Arena in Wyandotte.

By losing, Cranbrook was eliminated from further competition during this season's Michigan Metro Hockey League (MMHL) First Division Tourney.

THE CRANES, who ended seventh in the First Division's regular season race, finished 2-2 in the two-loss knockout tourney.

Marksman for Cranbrook against Huron were seniors Kevin Dolan, Barry McNeely and Hugh Peterson.

Cranbrook netminder John Gagliardi, a junior, was credited with 29 saves. Cranbrook wound up 16-10-1 overall this season.

AN MMHL charter member, this season marked the first for the Cranbrook in the First Division after more than a decade of dominating the lower divisions.

"It's the classical argument," Brown observed. "Do you seek a competitive or easy schedule? We went for the former."

"And, in view of our abundance of one-goal losses, I think we were successful in accomplishing what we wanted to."

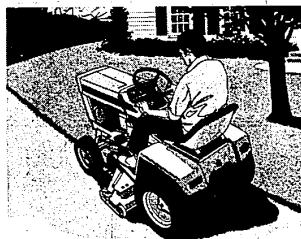
GRADUATION WILL claim 10 Cranbrook this spring, including Jim Johnson, Bill Fay, Mark Harrison and Dolan, all of whom plan to play collegiate hockey.

But, according to Brown, Cranbrook will retain a nucleus for a strong foundation next year.

Top returning lettermen, Brown notes, will be junior Jono Banks, sophomores Tom Johnston and Jeff Klabecka plus Gagliardi.

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