

All-girl league doing well

Hockey: not for men only

By TOM BAER

Dan O'Mara took on the job of coaching an all-girl hockey team "more as a lark than anything else."

That was two years ago. Since then, he's been amazed at the ice skills developed by his team, the Southfield Indian Squaws, a collection of 13-19 year olds. They're not afraid to play rough in the roughest of sports.

"We have a few 18-year-old girls who should have been born boys," said O'Mara, a 21-year-old West Bloomfield resident. "If you saw them play, you'd be amazed. They really have good skills."

Southfield plays in the 10-team Inter City Hockey League. The other teams are Ecorse, Allen Park, Garden City, Fraser, Plymouth, Westland, Dearborn, Melvindale and Taylor.

Last year, Southfield topped the league with a 12-1-3 record. The Indian squaws also won the Fraser Christmas tournament, and finished second in a Dearborn Thanksgiving tourney.

Southfield is undefeated so far this season, but Ecorse is making a bid to oust the Squaws as league champs. Anytime Ecorse plays Southfield, the result is sure to be rugged hockey, according to O'Mara.

"AN SOON as you walk into their arena, you give up at least two goals and about five minutes in penalties," he said. "After one game, which we won, we lined up to shake hands, and two of our girls jumped two of our girls and started fighting."

"They (Ecorse's girls) play rock-em sock-em hockey. They have a

good skating team, but they're strange people. They play like they're possessed by the devil."

O'Mara has tried to deemphasize the rougher aspects of the sport, concentrating instead on skating and stick handling.

"I try to follow the style of the old Montreal Canadians," he said. "We skate and pass very well, looking for the open girl in front of the net. Like the old Canadians, we try to skate fast."

"If someone hits you, you don't bother to look back and find the culprit. It's a waste of time. By the time you turn around, you could have had that puck to the open girl. Maybe you'd have a goal instead of a fight."

But hockey is a rough sport, and tempers are sure to flare occasionally. Girls also can be emotional in other ways.

"I REMEMBER last year when we were defeated by Dearborn in double overtime," O'Mara said. "It's a heartbreaker to lose any game in overtime, but I went back to the dressing room and their tears were really rolling. Everybody was shouting and screaming."

"I said, 'Hey, what's going on? We haven't been eliminated. We still have one more game to go. Sometimes it gets a little tough, but what can I say. Women are emotional.'"

Some Squaws come from hockey families where brothers and fathers play on recreation teams. Lori Zwirkowski and Roseann Brunett are examples; their fathers play in the Men's Over 30 League. Ray Brunett assists O'Mara in coaching the Squaws.

"When the girls' team first started, Ray Brunett said, 'Hell no,

My girls will never play hockey,'" O'Mara remembered.

"Mrs. Brunett said, 'Well look who's talking. You've been playing hockey all your life, and your boys play hockey. If our girls want to play hockey, they'll play. Period.'"

The Squaws are sponsored by two local businesses — Art Moran Pontiac in Southfield and Quality Metal Craft, Inc. in Livonia. Most of the girls are from Southfield,

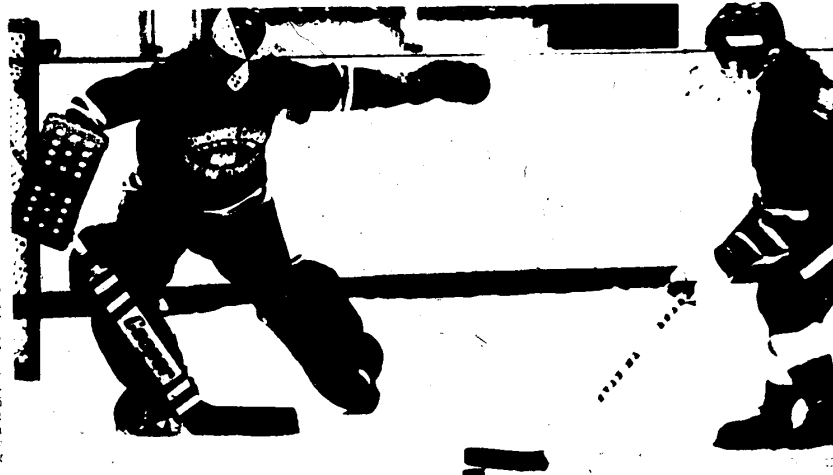
but a few outsiders are allowed, according to league rules. The team plays most of its home games at Southfield's Civic Center Arena.

Last season, Southfield won a state tournament of sorts in Allen Park. That tourney consisted of just the teams in the Inter City League.

Southfield will play in a national tournament in Westland this spring.



Coach Dan O'Mara stresses skating skills



Goalkeeper Lori Zwirkowski and Roseann Brunett during a recent practice.

Parker point blitz buries Hawks, 94-53

By TOM BAER

An exhausted Farmington Harrison cheerleader leaned against the wall at St. Benedict's old gymnasium where Highland Park High School plays its home games these days.

"I feel like my uniform is glued to my body with sweat," she said as she pushed a lock of damp hair from her eyes.

Highland Park, one of the top Class A teams in the state, had just defeated Harrison, 94-53, before a packed house at St. Benedict's gym, a building without visible means of ventilation.

It was no contest from start to finish. The Parkers, who dominated every aspect of the game, put it away in the second quarter, outscoring Harrison, 36-8.

TERRY DEURD, a 6-1 1/2 guard, took game scoring honors with 26 points on 12 floor shots and two of four from the foul line. Most of his field goals were outside shots.

Deurd was joined in double figures by three teammates: Morris Wright (11 points), Edgar Ken-

nedy (10 points) and substitute Tyrone Richardson (10 points). Highland Park outrebounded Harrison, 38-21, with G-4 center David Payton grabbing 10.

Bob Mason led the losers with 12 points. No other Hawk finished in double figures. Mike Styles scored nine points, while Mark Brozak and Paul Wick each added six.

HIGHLAND PARK used a devastating full-court press for the entire game, forcing Harrison into 23 turnovers and numerous bad shots. The Parkers combined the press with a variety of zone defenses.

What's to be learned from losing such a mismatch? Plenty, according to Harrison coach Bob Suther.

"I'm glad they pressed us for the whole game," he said. "They showed us a lot of defensive combinations, and that'll help us face the teams we play."

"We're going to have to block out and rebound better if we're going to win. That's something I hoped they'd learn by playing a team like this. We have to learn individual responsibilities as far as blocking out and rebounding go."

HIGHLAND PARK coach Darrell Pursell defended his use of the press in the closing minutes of the game when the substitutes were playing.

"The press is our game," he said. "If I don't press our kids, especially our substitutes, then they won't be learning our game."

The victory lifted Highland Park to 5-2 this season. The Parkers have lost to River Rouge and Saginaw High.

Harrison is now 4-2 with the other loss coming against Livonia Churchill. The Hawks resume Western Six play on Friday (Jan. 10) at home against Waterford Mott. Harrison plays nonleague Bloomfield Hills Andover on Jan. 14. Both games begin at 8 p.m.

HIGHLAND PARK (94): Deurd 12, 2-4, 26; Wright 4, 3-4, 11; Kennedy 4, 2-3, 10; Richardson 5, 0-1, 10; Payton 3, 3-4, 9; Draper 4, 1-2, 9; Baldwin 2, 0-0, 4; Whitehead 2, 0-0, 4; Dorch 1, 0-0, 2; Turner 1, 0-0, 2; Axis 1, 0-0, 2; Harden 1, 0-0, 2; Thomas 0, 1-2, 1. Totals: 41, 12-21, 94.

HARRISON (53): Mason 4, 4-6, 12; Styles 4, 1-2, 9; Strader 1, 2-2, 4; Slotnick 0, 4-4, 4; Adams 0, 4-4, 4; Wick 3, 0-0, 6; Brozak 2, 2-2, 6; Spout 0, 2-2, 2; Vulaj 0, 2-2, 2; Otto 1, 0-0, 2; Chartler 0, 0-0, 0. Totals: 35, 22-27, 53.

Total Fouls: Highland Park 23, Harrison 16.

HIGHLAND PARK 19 34 22 17-54
HARRISON 12 8 12 21-33

Cops to play firefighters

The Southfield Police Dept. will play the Southfield Fire Dept. in a benefit basketball game Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. at Southfield High School Ten Mile and Lahser roads.

Tickets at 1.50 may be purchased at the door or in advance at the following locations: the Parks and Recreation Building, the Civic Center Arena, and the Beechwood Arena. Proceeds will benefit the Metropolitan Society for Crippled Children.

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Sports coming up

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| <p>Basketball</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Ferndale High at Southfield High, Ten Mile and Lahser roads, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Royal Oak Dendero at Southfield-Lathrup, 19301 Twelve Mile Road, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Waterford High at Farmington Harrison, 32000 Shawwassee Road, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Waterford Mott at Farmington Harrison, 29953 Twelve Mile Road, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Oak Park High at North Farmington, 32800 Thirteen Mile Road, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Southfield Christian at Bloomfield Hills Roper, 2150 N. Woodward, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Swimming</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Bloomfield Hills Andover at Farmington High, 32000 Shawwassee, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Southfield-Lathrup at Birmingham Seaborn, 2436 W. Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Southfield High at Hazel Park, 23400 Hughes, 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Hockey</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Livonia Franklin at Southfield High, Beechwood Arena, Beech Road near Nine Mile, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Friday (Jan. 10) Southfield-Lathrup at Livonia Stevenson, Ford Lee Arena, 3341 Livonia, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wrestling</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Wallied Lake Central at Farmington High, 32000 Shawwassee Road, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Thurston High at North Farmington, 32000 Thirteen Mile Road, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Farmington Harrison at Wallied Lake Western, 600 Beck Road, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Southfield High at Hazel Park, 23400 Hughes, 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday (Jan. 9) Southfield-Lathrup at Utica Eisenhower, 5500 Twenty Five Mile Road, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Friday through Sunday (Jan. 10-12) Southfield-Lathrup, Southfield High, Farmington High, Farmington Harrison and North Farmington in the Schoolcraft Invitational, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, events begin at 9 a.m. Friday.</p> |
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