

Youngsters to compete in Youth Olympics



Putting his best foot forward, a Farmington youth takes off in the running long jump at the Farmington Youth Olympic tryouts.

By C.J. RISAK

The lazy days of summer are here. Some kids are out swimming, others are playing baseball, and many others are doing nothing at all.

But in Southfield and Farmington, quite a few kids are practicing their softball throw, or seeing how many chin-ups they can do, or how far they can jump. All this is in preparation for the Youth Olympics fitness meet, taking place in both communities on Tuesday.

The meet is for youths between the ages of 8 and 15, although younger children may participate if they wish. In Southfield they will compete in seven events: chin-up, softball throw, standing broad jump, running broad jump, the hop-step-jump or triple jump, a shuttle relay race, and three dashes—50, 60, and 75 yards. The events are for both boys and girls and will be divided into four different classes.

Class A will be for 14- and 15-year-olds, Class B for 12- and 13-year-olds, Class C for 10- and 11-year-olds, and Class D will be for kids 9 and under.

Winners in each category will earn the right to compete against winners

from 100 surrounding communities at the Metro Youth Fitness meet at Kensington Metropolitan Park on July 27th. More than 3,500 youngsters are expected to participate in the Kensington meet.

"We still have openings for 14- and 15-year-olds, and in the shuttle relays," Bert Hershey said. Hershey is this year's chairman of the meet for the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department.

"For some reason, not as many kids are participating this year," Hershey commented. "School enrollment has been declining in the past few years—maybe that has something to do with it."

"But anyone who wants to can still register for the competition at their area playground. If they need any information, just call the parks and recreation office."

The Southfield Youth Olympics has the added support of the Rotary Club, which co-sponsors the event.

"The Youth Olympics got its start back in 1965 as something for the kids to do in the summer," Hershey added. "Since then it has really grown. And ever since we've had it, the Rotary Club has helped by co-sponsoring it."

The Rotary Club helps mostly by providing officials and judges for the events and giving financial support. This year, the winners who will be participating in the Kensington meet will receive uniforms to wear, donated by the club.

The Southfield Olympic meet will begin at 6 p.m. at Southfield Lathrup High School.

Farmington's meet will be slightly different than Southfield's as the city determines the athletes who will represent them in Kensington meet.

At each of the city's 12 playground sites competition was held with the winners going on to the city meet. Winners at the city meet will then go on to the Kensington meet.

The events are the same as Southfield's except that Farmington youths will race in only one dash, the 50-yarder. Age groups are the same in both cities.

Farmington had one second-place finisher and two thirds in the Metro Youth meet in 1976 and had one youngster take third last year.

Farmington will hold its meet at Farmington Harrison High School on Tuesday. For both the Southfield and Farmington Olympics admission is free.

Suit filed against schools claims lack of women's sports programs

By JUDITH BERNE

West Bloomfield School District has been charged with discrimination against women in its competitive sports program for failing to institute a girls' soccer team at West Bloomfield High School.

A formal complaint has been filed with the Health, Education and Welfare department's regional civil rights office in Cleveland by six sets of school district parents.

They have received no official response.

TAKING THE action are: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waller, 3138 Erie Drive; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mance, 4326 Walnut Woods; Mr. and Mrs. John Nutt, 4132 Old Dominion; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Vodka, 6077 Wellesley Court; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ermors, 4234 White Birch; and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mamoser, 5383 Centerbrook. Those parents and a minimum of 40 high school girls signing a petition are

out to get girls' soccer, a spring sport, on the ground at West Bloomfield High.

A bid to field a team this past spring was denied for "lack of planning time." And high school Principal Ted Cavin was pessimistic about the coming year.

He recently described the situation as "purely financial." "I appreciate the girls' position, but there is almost no chance of getting a team ready for next spring unless there is a re-ordering of budget priorities."

Cavin reduced comment on the new charges until Supt. Jerry Herman returns from vacation and can review them.

The complaint cites the high school and school district with "failing to compensate the girls and denying them equal opportunity" afforded under Title IX of the federal education amendments act by funding "22 boys' team and 13 for girls."

Passed in 1972, Title IX requires all schools receiving federal funds to implement a girls' sports program equal to boys.

Currently West Bloomfield offers nine sports for girls and 11 for boys, with cheerleading and pom-pom included among girls sports.

The discrepancy is greater when the depth of the programs are considered. Boys can participate on a junior varsity and freshman level in many more sports than girls.

The complaint documents student interest in the sport, procedures followed and reports girls' soccer is offered at several neighboring high schools including Andover, Lahser, Groves, Sealhorn, Farmington, North Farmington and Farmington Harrison. Boys' soccer was instituted at West Bloomfield High four years ago.

The number of girls' sports offered at the high school has doubled over the past few years, according to Cavin. "I think it's hard to find a high school with an equal number of men's and women's sports."

Farmington defeats Southfield in American Legion baseball action

Steve Zerito tossed a five-hit shutout as Farmington defeated Southfield, 6-0, in 18th District American Legion baseball action.

The game marked the second time this year that Farmington hurlers have turned in sterling performances against the Southfield team. Earlier this season, Kevin Delp fired a no-hitter past Southfield.

Farmington got all the runs they needed in the second inning, combining singles by Doug Christensen, Larry Mendelson, Joe Brown, and Rob Silverstein for two runs.

Farmington made it 5-0 with three more runs in the fifth. Brown and Silverstein both walked, and Dave Schultz knocked in a run with a

base hit. Delp forced Silverstein at third before Bill Philip singled. Schultz was out trying to score, but Mark MacDonald doubled, scoring both Delp and Philip.

They added one more run in the seventh as Delp walked. Philip got his second base hit of the night, and MacDonald drove in his third run with his second double.

Earlier in the week, Farmington revenged a double loss to Auburn Heights suffered last Sunday by beating them, 7-1.

Kevin Delp was outstanding in the victory as he pitched a four-hitter, giving up two walks while fanning ten. Delp also contributed four hits and three runs batted in, as the team collected 15

hits in all. Marty Bona, Bill Lehman, Philip, and Silverstein had two hits apiece in the game.

Two stolen bases helped Farmington score two runs in the first inning. Bona led off with a single, stole second and scored on Delp's base hit. Delp then proceeded to steal second and scored on an error.

Farmington added two more runs in the third as Christensen singled and then to third on Lehman's hit. Lehman stole second and both runners scored on Delp's base hit.

Farmington added single runs in the fourth, fifth, and sixth. In the fourth, Tim O'Malley walked and came around on Bona's double. Schultz singled in the fifth, stole

second and scored Lehman's hit. In the sixth, Delp singled, went to second on an error, and came home on MacDonald's single.

The two victories lifted Farmington to within a half-game of Auburn Heights and the final playoff spot. The standings at present show Royal Oak in first with a 9-2 record, Berkley second at 6-2, Chief Pontiac third at 5-4, Auburn Heights fourth at 5-5, Farmington fifth with a 7 1/2-5 1/2 record, Novi 5-9, Troy-Birmingham 4 1/2-8 1/2, Milford 2 1/2-8 1/2, and Southfield 1 1/2-7 1/2.

Farmington's next two games will be at Waterford on Wednesday and Friday at home against Troy-Birmingham.

Diver named all-American

By MARC FRIEDMAN

Confidence was the secret for Kevin Schmidt in his bid to become an All-American diver.

Schmidt, a 1978 graduate of West Bloomfield High School, was picked as one of the nation's top 30 divers by the National Inter-Scholastic Swimming Coaches Association.

"I moved here from Kansas in ninth grade and didn't feel like swimming any more, so I started to dive," said Schmidt.

He averaged three hours of diving practice per day and still had time to do enough home-

work to achieve the salutatorian award for all As and one B in his four years of high school.

"I really didn't spend much time on my homework, but it really didn't matter because I could get away with not doing it most of the time," he said.

"Kevin is a very exceptional person," said Larry Hahn, the diving coach for West Bloomfield.

"This is quite an accomplishment for Kevin and he worked hard enough for it," he added.

Aside from the normal workouts at West Bloomfield Schmidt would go over to other schools and get extra time on their boards.

"Everyone was willing to help him and they all wanted him to do well even if he wasn't on their team," said Hahn.

In the summer months he has participated in the diving camp at Indiana University under the United States Olympic diving coach.

"Indiana was the best camp I've been to," said Schmidt. "I would recommend this to anyone who is really serious about diving."

Schmidt is the first male diver to complete four years of diving at West Bloomfield. Along with his diving skills he holds the varsity record for the 100-yard backstroke and has gone to the state meet for swimming as well as diving.

"I also work out on a trampoline to improve my coordination when I'm not diving. I can relate a lot of what I do on the trampoline to my diving," added Schmidt.

This summer he is the head diving coach at Orchard Valley Swim and Racquet Club in West Bloomfield.

Schmidt plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall and enter the pre-dental school.

"I'm not sure if I want to dive at Michigan. I'll have to see how the work goes and if I can handle both."

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New league formed

There will be a new twist to a well-known sport at the Beechwoods pool, and anyone who's interested is invited to play.

The sport is water polo, and the new twist is that it will be played in indoor tubs.

The indoor water polo league will get underway July 25 and

continue through Aug. 15. Games will be held at the Beechwoods Recreation Center pool, located at 2220 Beech, in Southfield. The league will be co-ed and for teens. The contests will be played every Tuesday night from 8 to 10 p.m.

For more information, call 354-9510.

