Local girls find international basketball to be tough

International basketball is a much faster and agressive game than the brand played at the high school and college level in the United States found

couege ievel in the United States found two area women during a five-day trip to Mexico City earlier this summer. Jeanette Fisher, a junior, and Lynn Yadach, a freshman, made the trip with their Oakland University teammates to help celebrate the 7sth anniversary of the Mexican Baskeball Federation. Fisher, an alumna of Garden City Fisher, an alumna of Garden City

versary of the Mexican Basketball Federation. Fisher, an alumna of Garden City Fast, and Vadach, a Livonia resident who graduated from Farmington Hills Mercy, both agreed that even though their learn was badily beaten in three games in Slevico, basketball in the experience. The Mexicon basketball in the opening of the Mexicon Olympic Team, 109-12 to the Mexican Olympic Team, 109-12 to the Mexican World Games Team, 72-51. Each of the women started two of the three games, Fisher, a 5-9 ½ for-and, had the difficult task of having to defend against the Soviets 7-3 center.

center.
- Yadach, a guard-forward, netted 10 points against the Mexican Olympic

team.
"The Russian center would move into the low-post position," said

Fisher, "She was quite big—mammoth in fact. It was quite difficult to guard her. She's the biggest human I've ever

her. She's the biggest human i ve ever seen."
Team USA used a zone defense without much success against the much taller Soviet women.
"The Soviet Women."
"The Soviet Union iteam is a lot more organized." said Fisher.
"They're a lot older. We took a lot of big steps by just taking the trip.
"To actually logal the Bussan team was really an experience." she continued. "You see them on TV during the Olympics, but to actually play the thems something else."
"Once we get more exposure." we'll

"Once we get more exposure." we'll do better." said Yadach, who helped lead Mercy to the Class A state cham-

pionship last year.
"Girls are getting started in the sixth and seventh grade now." she said. "They're better players than we were at that age."

"International rules are different." said Fisher. "It's a speed game. Americans have a tendency to dribble the ball. The Soviets moved it by

"We didn't move down court as fast. We kind of got caught a little in

he and to "

"It was almost a completely different game for me," said Yadach, "It's quicker, there's more passing, it's

Some of the more basic differences tander international rules are a 30-sec-ond shot clock, putting the ball in play without an official touching it after a whistle and a pyramid-shaped three Both Fisher and Yadach said they prefer the more rugged international game to the American style of play.

"I love it (contact)," said Yadach, "It's a funner game. In Michigan, they seem to want to play touch-me-not. It (international game) is more of a sport."

"Roughness is what makes it enjoyable" concurred February and the concurred February Conc

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women were able to practice together only six times before leaving. That, plus the rules differences and

the more experienced competition put Team USA at a disadvantage right off the bat

the bat.

Fisher, Yadach and Swidzinski, however, all believe that their trip and future trips can do nothing except improve the quality of Americans' performance in international competition in the years ahead.

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NFWB team wins tourney for national championship

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield entry in the sophomore division (13-14 year-olds) of the National Amateur Baseball Federation came from behind Sunday to defeat the Long Island, N.Y., team, 7-4, and clinch the national championship. The NFWB team pounded out 15 hits in the championship game of the tournament, which was held in Birmingham. Alabama. Dale Sklar, Kevin Shaw Keith Knight, Kirk White, and Jeff Long all contributed two hits to the victory.

Shaw was the winning pitcher in relief. Knight started the game and

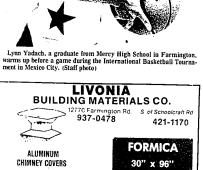
Jeff Long all contributed two fits to the victory. Shaw was the winning pitcher in relief. Knight started the game and was relieved by Skar in the second. Shaw came on in the fourth after Sklar some that the start of the start

the team batting average was .373, and they were successful on 16 of 17 base

the team batting average was .303. am they were successful on 16 of 17 base stealing attempts." Enroute to its championship, the NFWB team defeated baseball squads from Columbus, Ohio: Dayton, Ohio: another team from the Long Island, NY.. area: and twice beat the Detroit Police Athletic League champions.

Fource Atteute League enampions. Fourteen teams competed in the tournament, all of them having won NABF league championships in their regions. The NFWB team qualified by wirning the Detroil Suburban Amateur Baseball Federal playoffs, held at West Bloomfield High School.

Six of the NFWB starters were named to the All Tournament team, led by shortstop Sklar, who was the tourney's Most Valuable Player, Sklar was also the winning pitcher in two of NFWB's six playoff victories and led all players with a .577 batting average.



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