

# Summer league showcases state's best

By Tom Henderson  
staff writer

A who's who of state amateur hockey will be on display this summer at the Plymouth Cultural Center in the second annual Midwest Summer Hockey League.

Though it is in just its second year, don't underestimate the talent in this eight-team league. Assembled are many of the best players in the state—called from the midjet, prep, junior and college ranks.

"We had 60 applicants we had to turn down," said Lou Isel, an assistant coach on the Wolverine team by night and a partner in Jay Marketing Associates of Plymouth by day.

One player, Tony Nilsson, has even come from as far away as Gilman, Sweden, to play in the program, and there is another, Gordie MacDonnell, from Scotland.

"Tony's not very big and he was worried about playing well," said Isel, who is coaching Nilsson for the summer. "So what does he do in his first game? He scores two goals."

THE OTHER players may not come from such exotic locations as Sweden, but their backgrounds are no less impressive.

Among the college players represented are Mike Donnelly, Rick Fernandez, Dave Chappell and Jeff Eiseley of Michigan State; Mike Hef, Jim McCauley, Paul Kobylarz, Greg Hudis, Tom Dolan and Steve Norton of the University of Michigan; Tom Viggiano of Kent State; and Frank Damico, Judd Green and Dennis Garbar of Ferris State.

"The main goal of the program is to promote college hockey," said Isel. That, and college scholarships for the talented juniors and prep stars in the league.

Some local kids who will be hoping to attract the college scouts in attendance at the games will be Keith Walk of Livonia, Church, John Smith of the Plymouth Royals, John Moore of the Livonia Knights, Phil Bryant of Livonia Stevenson, Matt Wilhansen of Livonia Churchill, Craig Eiseley of the Plymouth Royals, Dan Phelps of Livonia Franklin, Todd Beyer of the Plymouth

## hockey

Royals, Dave Lerg of the Redford Royals, Eric Socia of Catholic Central and Bill Trisch of the Redford Royals.

Serving as a particularly impressive role model for them will be Rich Kromm, who played in the league last year, then went on to play for Calgary in the National Hockey League.

This year, Kromm will serve as an assistant coach of the Wildcats team. Playing for him will be his older brother, Dave. They are the sons of Bobby Kromm, the National Hockey League's coach of the year when the Detroit Red Wings made the playoffs in 1978.

ANOTHER MAJOR success from last year involved most of the Ann Arbor Pioneer High School team. Twelve of them played in the summer league

last year, and Pioneer later went on to win the state Class A championship.

The teams play a 13-game schedule, which began last week and which ends Aug. 6. Games are Sunday through Thursday evenings at the Cultural Center. There will be a \$1 admission charge for all games, with the proceeds going to the Special Olympics in Wayne County.

The cost for the summer season per player is \$75, "which is not quite break even," according to Isel. The difference is made up by selling advertising in programs and holding 50-50 raffles.

The league has strict rules against rowdy play. Players are disqualified from the league for fighting, spearing and bull-heading, and they are given five-minute penalties instead of the normal two minutes for such offenses as roughing, high sticking, slashing, charging and boarding.

Games are 90 minutes of stop-action time.

Editor's note: The Observer Newspaper would like to publish the results of

MHSL games. Coaches should phone in their results Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights. The following phone

numbers should be used: before 5:30 p.m. call 591-2300. After 5:30 call 591-2312.

## Hills brother team conquer ski waters

Not many people can walk on water. Mike and Matt Tjian, however, can dance on it.

The Farmington Hills brothers dominated the Michigan State Barefoot Water Skiing championship last Saturday at Ford Lake in Ypsilanti.

Mike Tjian, 18, and a 1983 graduate of North Farmington High School, took first place in the Men's 1 Division (ages 17-24). He won the wake and trick competitions and placed second in start methods. Mike attends Michigan State University.

MATT TJIAN, 16, placed first in the starts and third in the wake and trick

events in the Boys Division (13-16). Matt is a senior at North.

The barefoot water skier is a unique breed. In competition, the barefoot skier performs a series of two-foot and one-foot water ski maneuvers and tricks without skis.

The barefoot skier is pulled through the water by boats traveling 34 to 42 mph.

The Tjians have been among this unique breed for two years.

The state championships this year were sponsored by the Ford Lake Ski Club, the Michigan Water Ski Association and the American Barefoot Club.

## WMU's Greg Brake picked by A's

By Rich Swenson  
staff writer

Former Redford Bishop Borgess star pitcher Greg Brake's head has been so spinning.

In one week, the Western Michigan University graduate was named to the All-MAC (Mid-American Conference) and All-American baseball squads. To top it off, he was selected in the ninth round by the Oakland A's in the 1984 free agent draft.

Two days later, he was on a plane to Medford, Ore. where he was assigned

to pitch with the Class A minor league Medford A's.

"It was incredible," Brake said from the A's clubhouse just before his team took the field against the Bend (Ore.) Phillies. "Everything happened so fast—it was all very exciting."

"I HAD AN INKLING that I would go high in the draft, but I was surprised at I went as high as I did."

He was even more surprised when he found he was drafted by Oakland.

"I thought the Tigers were going to draft me," he said. "They were interest-

ed, but I guess it just didn't materialize."

"But I'm happy to be with Oakland. Medford is a beautiful town and Oakland is a first class organization. The people here have really been nice."

Brake's goal this summer is to prove to the Oakland brass that they made the right choice.

"I just want to pitch well and become accustomed to playing professional baseball," he said. "If I keep throwing strikes, I should move up to play at Modesto (the A's Class A long season team) next season."

ALTHOUGH HE'S HAD just one week to show his stuff, Brake has earned a spot on the A's five-man pitching rotation. He was scheduled to start his first game Saturday.

Brake closed out an illustrious career at Western this spring with some impressive statistics.

The ace of the Bronco staff, he posted a 9-2 record with an earned run average of 0.95, one of the lowest in the nation. He completed nine of the 13 games he started, fanning 77 batters while walking 36. He also recorded three shutouts.

## Woodbrooke nipped, Beachwood does the splits

Normally, when a swim team posts seven double-event winners it wins the meet.

Not so for the Woodbrooke Hills Whalers last Thursday night.

Woodbrooke lost to Cranbrook 308-270 in Northwest Suburban League Class B action.

Rich Hampe, Keith Lee, Carrie

Worthen, Cindy Cramer, Heather Stocman, Margie Cramer, and Lisa Tunney each scored a pair of first for the Whalers.

Other winners for Woodbrooke were: Kristin Kranz, Maria Walquist, Karen Mulbarger, Jenny Morton, Kathy Pierog, Dave Anderson, Kevin Lee, and Jeff McCaffrey.

Woodbrooke is now 1-1 on the season.

BEACHWOOD SWIM Club had an easy time beating Kendallwood Swim Club Thursday, 310-238.

Despite the setback, Kendallwood got double wins from Kerry Doran, Chris Knoche, Charles Chuba, Roger Johnson and Tracy Johnson. Chris

Heintzman, Gant Shively, Matt Harmon, Cindy Grush and Tim McMillan each won one event.

Beachwood was not as fortunate against Orchard Valley. The meet came down to the final relay where Beachwood lost out by one second. The final score, Orchard Valley 281, Beachwood 275.

## Farmington 9 splits pair with Royal Oak

Sometimes a baseball team is satisfied with a split in a double-header. Other times it isn't.

The Farmington American Legion baseball team split a double-header with Royal Oak Sunday, losing the first game 4-3 in eight innings and winning the second 8-0. Coach Randy Meder was satisfied with his team's performance—but then again, he wasn't.

"We're playing well," the first-year coach said. "Royal Oak is one of the best teams in the league. It was one of our better efforts defensively."

Yes, the defense was fine, but the offense got a bit frustrating. Especially in the opener.

Farmington left 11 runners stranded on base in the opener. Scott Drap-

er's RBI in the seventh tied the game at 2-2, then Neil Davis knocked in the go-ahead run in the eighth.

ROYAL OAK, however, rallied for two in the bottom of the eighth off losing pitcher Rich Muller to gain the victory. Muller pitched a strong game allowing just six hits and fanning six.

The Farmington bats came alive in game two. Draper went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, Keith Weyer knocked in two more and Bob Wasczenski knocked in another.

Scott Glinski and Dan Zang teamed on a four-hit shutout. Glinski went five innings for the win.

The split puts the Farmington legionnaires at an even 3-3 keel in District 18 action.

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