

Sports

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Vellucci improving after crash

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Mike Vellucci of Farmington and Al Iafate of Livonia, recent picks in the National Hockey League's (NHL) entry draft, are both recovering from injuries sustained in a July 7 single-car crash on Highway 401 near Brighton, Ontario.

Iafate, the driver, was treated and released after suffering two fractured ribs and a head cut that required six stitches.

"Al is fine," said Mrs. Alice Iafate, mother of the standout defenseman. "He's one lucky boy."

The passenger, Vellucci, remains in

Belleville (Ontario) General Hospital with back and chest injuries, but his condition is good and his doctor reports "he's making excellent progress" according to a hospital spokesman. Vellucci's release from the hospital has not been set.

The accident occurred around 8 p.m. Saturday, July 7, as the players, both 18, were returning home from a team party at Belleville.

The two played together this season with the Belleville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). The two were also teammates on the Detroit Cupare squad that captured the National midget title two years ago.

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THE ONTARIO Provincial Police report said that Iafate apparently fell asleep at the wheel of his 1984 Mustang, which was traveling westbound on Highway 401, northeast of Toronto.

Iafate lost control of the car, which hit the shoulder twice and careened across three lanes before striking a

sign post and flipping. Both players were thrown out of the vehicle as the car came to rest on its wheels.

An OPP officer said that the cause of the accident was listed as "fatigue." The officer added that there were no witnesses, visibility was clear and that the car was traveling approximately 60 mph. The estimated damage to the 3-

door Ford was \$10,000.

On Wednesday, Iafate settled out of court and was given time to pay \$133 on a careless driving charge, according to a Provincial Court spokesman.

IAFRATE was the second youngest member of the '84 U.S. Olympic squad and finished out the year playing for Belleville. In June, he was the fourth pick overall in the NHL draft by the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Vellucci, also a defenseman, was taken in the seventh round by the Hartford Whalers.

Both players are expected to report to their respective training camps in September.



Mike Vellucci still hospitalized

MSHL games getting tighter and tighter

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Being the commissioner of a summer hockey league isn't a very glamorous occupation. Just ask Midwest Summer Hockey League commissioner A.J. Baker.

Baker, when he's not running himself ragged, is running perhaps the most successful summer hockey league in the state at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

His duties are numerous. He attends every game, keeping score, working the clock, arbitrating disputes, cooling off some of the league's hot-heads and once in a while, is pressed into duty as a coach.

Away from the ice, Baker is busy tabulating league standings, statistics and the accounting books. He also spends a fair amount of time tracking down a sponsor for the league — which he found last week in Apple Computers Inc.

One of the commissioner's biggest challenges is keeping his league competitive — that is, keeping an even balance of talent between the eight teams.

A CURSORY look at the standings and some of the recent scores will tell you that Baker has succeeded in this area. Still, some coaches don't agree.

After a close, hard-fighting contest a few weeks ago, Lakers coach Tom Norton expressed his dislike for the heated competitiveness on the ice.

"That's not what we're out here for," he said. "I think it's too competitive. This is summer hockey. The players are out here just to stay in shape and work on their game."

Said Baker: "I can understand the thoughts of the coach. The league is primarily for the players to hone their skills. We don't want it to get so competitive that it becomes a tooth and nail kind of thing."

"But, if we come out here, and there are one or two teams real strong and

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the rest real weak, that just wouldn't be any fun. You've got to have something for the players to come out here for."

So, what commissioner Baker has to do is strike a delicate balance between a good, competitive league and one that is not overly competitive to the point of being dangerous to the players.

The majority opinion is that Baker has indeed found such a balance in the MSHL. The three games played Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday offer proof of the league's balance.

ON TUESDAY, the Wolverines fought off a third-period charge to defeat the Lakers 6-4.

Phil Kaske was the hero for the Wolves. After the Lakers had earned a 3-1 deficit on third-period goals from Paul Norton and Dave Chiappelli, Kaske came back to register his second and third goals of the game to put his team back in command.

The Lakers' Chiappelli, a Michigan State University standout, scored two goals. Ron Ralston and Paul Norton also scored.

Tony Nilsson, from Glimakra, Sweden, and Darrell Moise and Shawn LaVoy scored the other Wolverine goals. The win keeps Lou Iseli's Wolverines' perfect, 4-0, in the Eagle Conference while the Lakers (3-2) remain on top of the Bakes Conference.

THE FALCONS busted out of a two-game losing skid Wednesday with a thrilling 6-4 win against the Spartans.

The Falcons built a fast 4-1 lead on goals by Mike Donnelly, Greg Siodnick, Kerry Kennedy and Jon Doehr. But, the Spartans came roaring back in the third. Goals by Thomas Dow, Joe Lockwood and Peter Reed tied the game.

With three minutes left in the game, Michael Dolan scored for the Falcons. Two minutes later, Kennedy, a Bowling Green standout, scored his second goal into an empty net and the Falcons had clinched it.

Tom Dolan, a University of Michigan defenseman, scored the first goal for the Spartans.

Donnelly, from MSU, is the MSHL's leading scorer. He added two assists to go along with his goal.

The Falcons (3-2-1) are two games behind the Eagle Conference leading Wolves. The Spartans are 3-3 in the Bakes Conference.

THE LAKERS and the Bulldogs capped the exciting week on Thursday battling to a 4-3 tie.

The Lakers, as on Tuesday, found themselves in a deep hole. At the start of the second period, they trailed 6-2. The Bulldogs got goals from Steve Genyk, Patrick Marody, Jeff Dobek, Ray Charrier and two from Steve Shellman. The Lakers got goals from Paul Horton and Plymouth's Alan Carnes.

In the second period, the Lakers got goals from Dave Chiappelli, Carnes again, and Tom Torchia to pull within one.

Torchia's goal was amazing. He shot the puck from the deep corner, at an angle behind the net. He shot curved in toward the net, catching the upper corner.

Catholic Central ace Eric Socia tied the game four minutes into the third period.

The tie dropped the Lakers (3-3-1) into a first-place tie with the Huskies. The Bulldogs are now 1-3-1.



Joel Alent began the season with the Broncos, but by MSHL commissioner A.J. Baker, to keep Now he plays for the Spartans. Just another of the league's talent evenly dispersed.

Lapham: happy amateur

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

THE GAME comes easy for Trish Lapham, but that's not to say it doesn't humble her at times.

The Farmington golfer is one of Michigan's top amateur players. Her average scores range from the mid to high 70s. Friday, she tied her own course record at the Meadowbrook Country Club with a blistering 72.

Amazingly enough, the 30-year-old Lapham plays the game all of two days a week.



Trish Lapham amateur golfer

"I can't remember that last time I was on a practice tee," she said.

Lapham competed in the 68th annual Women's Michigan Amateur Golf Association State Championship at Adrian's Lenawee Country Club last week. It was the 14th appearance for Lapham in the tourney she's yet to win.

In the opening round Tuesday, she stunned seven-time champ Patti Shook Boice.

"I played real good that day," Lapham said.

INDEED, she fired three birdies and an eagle, beating Boice one up in the match play round. But, on Wednesday, she met up with red-hot Lisa Marino, a sophomore at Michigan State University and a former Plymouth resident, handed Lapham with ease, seven and six.

The game can be humbling sometimes, said Lapham, who with her dark, short-cut hair and glasses resembles Billy Jean King. "It was a combination; she played very well and I played very bad. If I had played like I did on Tuesday, I'd have beaten her."

But, Lapham is not one to fret long after defeat. She set her priorities long ago. They went this way: No. 1, family; No. 2, golf.

Lapham began playing golf at Meadowbrook at age 12. By the time she was 17, she was one of the top 100 players in the nation. She was in the same class with current professionals Amy Alcott, Laura Baugh, Hollis Stacy and Nancy Lopez.

Young as she was known to her Farmington High School classmates in those days, was being groomed for the women's professional golf circuit.

BUT, SHE HAD other plans. She got married, raised a family and is doing quite well, thanks.

"It's not a difficult decision to make when you fall in love. It was an easy choice," she said.

And she doesn't harbor any regrets when she looks upon her professional friends and their huge paychecks.

"No, I know how hard they have to work," she said. "I would never turn pro. It's too much work. I could never do it."

Still, it doesn't hurt to specialize. How do you think you'd have done if you were a pro?

"I'd probably make a living, but I'd probably be real good," she said.

She listens herself to Bonnie Lauer, who played junior golf with Lapham before turning pro. She has won just one pro tourney, but makes a decent living — not nearly enough to make Lapham want to give up her family.

LAPHAM HAS enjoyed a relaxing, successful amateur career. She plays at a course (Meadowbrook) that she says is "a great course to play every day," she has been the Women's Amateur Golf Association's District Match Play champion three times, and she has been the Michigan State Amateur champion twice.

All that, plus enjoying her 7-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter. (Dad? "I sometimes say, 'you couldn't have your cake and eat it too'")

National All-Star team battles Michigan's best at Schoolcraft

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Talk about basketball talent! The Schoolcraft College gym will be loaded with it — Monday, July 23.

The 7UP National AAU select team, which tours Europe later this month, will hold a six-day training camp at the community college beginning Saturday.

The team will be headquartered at the Plymouth Illinois. They will play the Michigan AAU squad, comprised of the state's best, in a two-game exhibition series beginning Monday at Schoolcraft, and ending Wednesday at the University of Detroit's Cullen Hall.

Who's coming? For starters, there's 6-foot-4 DeWayne Brooks of Michigan City, Ind., one of two high school players invited to the U.S. Olympic basketball trials.

IF YOU'RE looking for star, you'll find it in 6-foot-11 Junior Tate of St. Louis, Mo., who's been named the U.S. Olympic basketball team's top pick.

The only player on the 7UP select team is 6-7 Danny Perry, who led

well-known DeMatthea High School to a No. 1 ranking in USA Today.

In May, the 7UP squad assembled in St. Louis, Mo. to play the Russians, but the game was scratched because of the impending Olympic boycott.

The 7UP squad played anyway at Kiel Auditorium, beating a team of Missouri and Illinois college seniors, 101-84.

Purdue-bound Troy Lewis, a 6-4 guard who was Indiana's co-Mr. Basketball with Brooks, led the National AAU team with 18 points. Brooks scored 12; Billy King, a 6-7 forward headed for Duke, added 12; and 6-9 Al Lorenson, who will play at Iowa, notched 11.

A St. Louis crowd of 5,000 watched the select team shoot 59 percent from the free-throw line and outrebound their opponents 40-20.

THE 7UP ARE quality kids and an outstanding group of young men," said Keith Pickett, a corporate public relations representative of 7UP. "All 13 of them are 6-6 (grade point average) students or better. They'll be good ambassadors for our country."

The Michigan AAU squad, coached

by Schoolcraft's Quinton Watkins, will have their hands full in the two-game series.

But Watkins isn't short on talent with the likes of Michigan's Mr. Basketball, Detroit Chadeay's Demetreus Gorr, Jeff Geyer, of Class A champ Flint Northwestern, Bill Parker, Pontiac Central; Tony Hollifield, Oak Park; Turcotte Gross, Flint Central; and sharp-shooting Archie Talles of Saginaw Foresta Vista.

The team also features All-American standouts Tom Donahoe (Livonia Groves) and John McIntyre (Catholic Central), one of two seniors on the squad.

The 7UP-Michigan AAU clashes at Schoolcraft and U-D are scheduled for 7 p.m. with a preliminary game each night at 6 p.m.

THIS GAMES will be played under international rules, which includes wider free throw lanes and a 30-second clock.

Tickets, available at the Schoolcraft College athletic department and the U-D student union, are 50¢ in advance. They are 25¢ at the door.

For more information, call 621-6455.

Farmington legion drops 3rd straight

Which led to three more road games, Farmington took a 3-3 lead in the second inning, Chris Green walked, DJ Murray singled and Dave Chiappelli

scored the runny run base. The two

Went on to score three runs, all

in the first inning, the first win

in the series. The game was