

MSHL title chase goes down to wire

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

At the outset of the season, commissioner A.J. Baker said his Midwest Summer Hockey League, in its third season, was "the best it's ever been." He couldn't have known at that time "the title chase in each division would come down to the final game of the season."

But that's exactly what has happened. Five of the eight teams are in the running for a division crown in the league's final week.

Each team has one game remaining (after Monday night). In the Tex Conference, the Wolverines and Bulldogs are dead even with 7-3 marks. In the Bakes Conference, the Huskies hold a one-point lead over the Wildcats and Lakers, both 5-5.

It'll all be settled by Saturday. On Tuesday, the Wildcats and Broncos battled, as did the Spartans and Falcons. On Wednesday, the Huskies and Wolves

rises went at it. Tonight, the regular season concludes with the Lakers battling the Bulldogs at 9:30 p.m.

THE MSHL playoffs commence Saturday (see playoff schedule). At stake is a trip to Chicago for a four-team tournament Aug. 17-18.

On the Plymouth Cultural Center ice last week the play had already reached playoff intensity.

Sunday, the Bakes Conference-leading Huskies blew a 7-4 lead against the last-place Spartans, but Steve Szpydlowski came to the rescue with a goal late in the game to give the Huskies an 8-7 win.

Dave Bramble, the league's scoring leader with 13 goals and 19 assists, earned the hat trick for the Huskies. He also notched a pair of assists. Fourteen-year-old Neal Carrea of Plymouth scored a goal and added three assists.

For the Spartans, Livonia Franklin's Tim Olchanski and John Galsardi

each scored a pair. Livonia Churchill's Ed Shepler also scored.

In a Tex Conference showdown Sunday, the Bulldogs earned back their share of first place by outdueling the Wolverines 10-7. The Dogs fell behind 3-0 early. It could have been much worse.

Bulldog goalie Jeff Safran (Catholic Central) came up with several crucial stops to keep his team close.

Finally, New York Islander Mark Hamway and RPI College's Rick Tosto began finding the net. When it was over, Hamway and Tosto each scored three times, with Hamway also getting a pair of assists.

Tony Byers scored twice for the Wolves.

THE FINAL contest Sunday pitted a pair of teams going in opposite directions. The Lakers, winners of three straight, knocked off the Wildcats, losers of five in a row, 8-5.

For A.J. Baker's Lakers, brothers Darryl and Bobby Moise brothers in of the eight goals. Darryl scored three times and added two assists, while Bobby scored two goals.

Sean Flynn scored twice for the slumping Cats.

The excitement continued Monday as the Wolves and Bulldogs survived serious challenges to stay atop the Tex Conference.

THE WOLVERINES ousted the Broncos 7-5. Rob Brown scored three goals including the game-winner. Tony Byers stayed hot with two goals and an assist.

Todd Krygier scored three goals for the Broncos.

The Bulldogs kept pace by nipping the Falcons, 4-3, despite the excellent play of Falcon goalie Mark Tardish (Country Day).

Joe Hamway scored a pair of goals and Mark Hamway one for the Dogs. Mike Stanley also scored.

Rick Osborn, Paul Kobylarz and Brian Glimoty scored for the Falcons.

The Midwest Summer Hockey League, sponsored by Little Caesars and Chrysler-Plymouth, features players from pro, college and high school as well as the best players throughout the Observer & Eccentric coverage area.

hockey standings

MIDWEST SUMMER HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS (through July 31)				Mark Hamway (Dogs) 13 19 21		
TEX CONFERENCE				Paul Tosto (Dogs) 10 10 20		
Wolverines	7-3			Tim Osborn (Falcs) 6 14 20		
Bulldogs	7-3			Dennis Smith (Cats) 6 14 19		
Broncos	4-6			Todd Krygier (Bron) 11 5 19		
Falcons	5-2			Paul Kobylarz (Falcs) 12 7 19		
				Tony Byers (Wolv) 12 7 19		
WEEK AHEAD						
				Thursday: Lakers vs. Bulldogs, 9:30 p.m.		
BAKER CONFERENCE				PLAYOFFS		
Huskies	5-4-1			Saturday: Baker Conference, first vs. fourth, 9 p.m.; second vs. third, 8 p.m.; Tim Conference, first vs. fourth, 7 p.m.; second vs. third, 8:30 p.m.		
Lakers	5-5			Sunday: Tim Conference winners, 8 p.m.; Baker Conference losers, 4:30 p.m.; Tim Conference winners 7 p.m., 4:30 p.m.; Baker Conference losers, 8:30 p.m.		
Wildcats	5-5					
Spartans	5-5-1			Monday: Concession limit 7 p.m.; Championship team breaks 8:30 p.m. (Championship team breaks 8:30 p.m.)		
BOOKING LEADERS				— Games played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.		
Dave Bramble (Husk)	13	19	21			
Jeff Dobek (Husk)	12	9	21			
Earl Clements (Wolv)	12	9	21			

Women's, Men's golf tournament sponsored by O & E/Whispering Willows

Women's 18-hole medal play: Saturday, Aug. 24. Entry fee is \$17.50. Handicap maximum is 40.

Men's 36-hole medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14-15. Entry fee is \$30. Handicap maximum is 36.

Women's entries close Saturday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m. For starting times, call 476-4493 after 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 19.

Men's entries close at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6. For starting times, call 476-4493 after noon Thursday, Sept. 11.

Name Handicap

Address

Phone

Send entry blank with check (not cash) payable to tournament director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia 48152.

Pairings will be made by the tournament committee. No requests for individual pairings will be taken. No changes will be made.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

U.S.G.A. handicap or six 18-hole score cards are required.

Sports festival buoys skaters' hopes

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

If you haven't seen Denny Deck skate in a while, you might want to head out to the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills on Friday.

Deck, the pretty Plymouth Salem senior, is beginning to make a serious push toward the 1988 Olympics.

Fresh from a not-so-disappointing eighth-place finish in the senior pairs figure skating competition at the National Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La., Deck and her partner, Luke Hohmann, of Buffalo will be participating in the Pops on Ice exhibition at the Detroit Skating Club beginning at 8 p.m.

The exhibition will feature U.S. National Ice Dance silver medalists Renee Roca and Donald Adair as well as local skaters who have achieved national and international acclaim.

Included in the program will be Susan and Jason Dungen of Troy (third at the Sports Festival), Shanda and Brandon Smith of Rochester, Micki McMahon of Garden City, and, of course, Deck and Hohmann, the 1985 junior pairs champions.

"WE WON'T be doing the programs we use in competition," the personable Deck said, taking a break from her workout Tuesday afternoon. "We will be using our show program, which is nice."

Deck came away from the National Sports Festival with a very positive outlook on her future in figure skating.

"We placed eighth but I don't really feel too disappointed," Deck said. "Of course we hoped to do better. But we went out there just to get experience. It was our first competition in seniors. Going from juniors to seniors is a big step. The experience we got was the big thing."

To add a little extra pressure, Deck and

Hohmann used a brand-new program at the festival.

"We made a few mistakes, but considering it was the first time we used the program, it wasn't too bad," she said.

How far are Deck and Hohmann from challenging the elite in senior pairs?

"A couple of years or maybe just a year," Deck said. "It all depends on timing and experience. We have to go out and perform well every time. They are looking for consistency in pairs. If we can be consistent, we can be there with the best."

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