nday, June 16, 1988 O&E

'I love it'

Lectka's no-hitter wins title for Franklin

By Chris McCosky

staff writer

It's time to update the big sign that stands above the entrance to Livonia Franklin High School — you know, the one that proclaims Franklin as the winner of the 1975 state Class A football champlonship.

The new sign should say: "Livonia Franklin Home of the 1986 Class A girls softball champions." And somewhere on the sign should be a picture of Tracy Lectka.

The Staturday at Lansing's Ranney Port Staturday at Lansing's Ranney Port Staturday at Lansing's Ranney Fort Staturday with Grant Staturday at Lansing's Ranney Fort Staturday with South Lyon, winning 2-0. It took 'em 27 innings, but the title

It took 'em 27 innings, but the title belongs to the Pats. Now, what's all this about Tracy Lectka? Was she a one-girl show, or what?

Not entirely — the Franklin squad played superlative defense — but close.

HERE'S WHAT Lectka accomplished in the state tournament. She tossed a no-hitter at Kettering. The only Kettering runner reached base on a sixth inning error. This was just hours after wrapping up 20 scoreless innings against South Lyon. In that game, she allowed just eight hits, six

of which came between the 11th and 17th innings Friday night. Only two runners reached third base, she struck out nine, walked only one, and made 14 assists on ground balls back to the mound.

Induct Plassits on ground balls back to the mound.

Impressed?
There's more.
Going back to the district tournament, Leckta tossed 44 consecutive scoreless innings. The last run scored off the sentor came in the fourth inning of the district finate against Farmington Hills Mercy.

Her performance in the state champlonship game provided a story-book ending to Lectka's softball carcer. Next year, Leckta will play basketball at Wayne State, not softball.

"We just played awesome," said a teary-eyed Lectka. "I love it. This is it."

SAID FRANKLIN coach Joe Ep-SAID FRANKLIN coach Joe Ep-stein: "The girls were just something clse. But it's like I've said all year, if we can score three runs, Tracy will win it. She got fired up early this morning when I told the news that she made first team all-state, And we ficteled very well behind her." The only run Franklin needed against Kettering came in the first inning. Kris Roman led off with a single. Lectka sacrificed her to see-ond and Cheric Mascarello moved her to third with a ground out.

Maria Vasseliou, a very much unsung hero for the Patriots, slapped a single to center to score what would become the winning run.

Vassellou hit the ball hard throughout the tournament and was near-perfect at shortstop. She handled seven of her eight chances in the title game, most of which were balls sollight in.

"I always felt this team had the talent," Epstein said. "I had a great admittel. I always believed in great outfletd. I always believed in great outfletd. I always believed in great outfletd. I always believed in think they finally started believing the misselves. There was a feeling on the start finals they gently and the start finals has the search, lost in the state finals last year.

Franklin, which finishes with a 31-5 record, lost in the state finals last year.

IT WAS Vasseliou's red-bet hat

ball tournament.

The game began innocently enough at 5:30 p.m. Friday, At 8:30 sign.

p.m., in the 17th inning of a scoreless game, the umpires decided to suspend the game until Saturday

suspend the game until Saturday morning.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, in the top of the 20th inning, Vasseliou lotted what seemed to be a routine two-out fly ball to center field.

While teammates Kim Godfrey and Cherie Massarello circled the bases, South Lyon's center fielder misjudged the fly ball. When the ball landed, Vassellou was standing on third, two runs were in and Franklin was in the state finals.

since the second of the second DESPITE THE run shortage,

All the breaks well the many Patriots Saturday,
Now, do something about that

Rice ousts Glenn, 1-0

Tracy Lectka gets a victory ride from the Franklin faithful and a tug from teammate Maria Vasseliou following the Patriots' victory in the Class A state finale Saturday.

The old baseball adage "It only takes one" was enough for Birmingham Brothen Rice Friday in the state Clark Aware and the Friday in the state Clark Aware and the state Clark Aware and Western Michigan University's Hyames Field.

The Warriers scratched together adouble by Tom Giroux, who moved to third on a Steve Irwin wild pitch. That set the stage for Chris Alexander's game-winning single, a bleeder through the loft side of the infield. The run came in the second inning and it was all Warriers needed to beat Westland John Glenn in a tense pitchers duel, 1-0.

Rice right-hander Steve Schutz cutuledel frevin, the Glenn ace, who suffered his first loss of the year. Schutz, who raised his record to 11-2, allowed only four hits and walked four. He was able to survive a last-ditch Glenn rally in the seventh, getting Chuck Hammontree on a bounce-out to short with two runners aboard to end the game.

"I TRY TO KEEP the ball outside

"I TRY TO KEEP the ball outside and when the better hitters are up I want to Jam them inside," said Schutz, the gritty Rice junior. "His game ranks right up there as one of my best

It's Ypsi

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Ynsilanti, who swiped six bases and took advantage of four costly Birmingham Brother Rice errors, captured their first ever Class A tile with a 6-5 triumph Jate Saturday evening at Western Michigan University.

Ypsilanti overcame a 4-0 first inning deficit to beat the Warriors, who finished the season with a 23-14 record.

Rice outhit Ypsilanti eight to six.

When Glenn's Jim Kenyon opened the seventh with an infield single and blike Wells walked, Schutz was pald a visit to the mound by Rice coach Ron Kalezynski.

"I had no real instructions for Steve other than to settle him down," Kalezynski said. "He's just a great competitor and had the adrenaline flowing. He was just overthrowing a flowing. He was just overthrowing a bit. He was a little too pumped up."

Schutz, the grusy race pounding graph ranks right up there as one of my best.
"I'm basically a fastball pitcher.
When I get behind, I like battling by throughout strikes."

SCHUTZ, despite being behind on the count to Tom Rogala, made the Glenn left fielder whilf on a swing-

ing third strike before getting the dangerous Hammontree on a ground out.

"It thought that with our pitcher that the score would be the other way around," said Glenn coach. Norm Hoenes, whose team bowed out with a 26-3 record. "But their kid (Schutz) did a great job. When he got behind he kept coming back.

"I'm pretty disappointed, but we played well. We just didn't hit the ball. We might have swing at a few bad pitches. That may lave hurt us." I want the hard-throwing righthander with the hard-throwing righthander, was a season," said Hoenes. "I can't complaio. We were collected two of Glenn's four hits. Kenyon had the other two).

"WE WENT 26-3 and had a great scason," said Hoenes. "I can't complaio. We were one base hit away from winning it."

Not only was Schutz tough when he had to be, the Rice defense was equal to the task.

The Warriors turned a double play in the third after thwarting Glenn carlier in the inning on a sacrifice bunt attempt.

"Before the end of the season, we had 73 crors (sa a team)." Kalezynski said. "But in the last 10 games, we've been playing the way I know we've been playing the way I know we've been playing the way I know work and the safe way in the bast one of the best around, too."



inning rally, Gionn bowed out of the state title

Observer kick stars hope to keep streak alive

By C.J. Rlank staff writer

Think depth isn't Important when all-star teams meet?

Think again. Both the Observer.

Think again. Both the Observer.

Think again. Both the Conserver when this again. Both the Observer will be without key performers will be without key performers. The game will be at 8:30 p.m. "They're obviously the flavorites," Wednesday at West Bloomfield High School.

That's where depth comes in. The deper the talent runs, the better when the will be able to overcrome the least of the we match up really well. It cam will be able to overcrome the least runs, the better merc."

School.

That's where depth comes in. The deeper the talent runs, the better a clarent will be able to overcome the loss of a key player.

As it's shaping up right row, it's the Observer team's depth that will be tested the most. Three first-learn all-Observer players — Jenny Huesian Liboserver L

FOR THE ECCENTRIC team, first-team selection Carrie Bree of Bloomfield Hills Andover will not be available because she'll be out of

That favors the Eccentrics. So does another very important factor: incentive.

BOTH TEAMS are planning to utilize an aggressive, attacking style of play, which should make the game that much more interesting.

"We plan on going offensively against them," said Ed Dudek, the Observer coach from state Class A champion Churchill, "People enjoy a

wide open offensive attack, with a lot of goals."
But there was another reason for Dudek's strategy. "We only have three fullbacks," he said, "so we want to play as much offense as possible.

want to libaces, he said, so we want to play as much offense as possible of the said of th

game and holds the record for most goal scored in the serier history by one player with fee. In the second game, Clinuchi's dendie Flawers scored two goals to pace the Observe clinuc, Lest year the Eccentric team roared (

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS: 1983; Mr. Kay Hussey (Sievenson); 1984; Annelle Re Kay Hussey (Slavenson): 1984; Annette Rog piero (Farmington Mercy): 1985; (tie) Katy Andreae (Seaholm), Lisa Broccardo (Slaven-son).

"WE'RE GOING to try to put a littte more pressure on the Observer
defense than they're used to," said
Dilworth. "I know we're a lot quicker than I thought we were. (Wings)
Dana Nessell (West Bloomfield),
Emily Ritemer (Troy) and Kara Deput (West Bloomfield),
Emily Ritemer (Troy) and Kara Deput (West Bloomfield),
Tim hoping their skill and speed
will open things up in the middle."
Patty Boyle (Marian) adds more
speed and depth to an already wellstocked area for the Eccentrics.
The Observers, toe, are skilled on
the forward line, despite the loss of
Huggli (35 goals) and Weber (20). Jill
Estey and Julie Tortora of Plymouth

Salem, Lori Green and Mary Pelloni of Livonia Stevenson, and Laurie Dingle of Farmington will alternate.

"We'll try to put a line of Steven-son players together up front as a group, then a line of Salem players, to let them play with people they're' used to," Dudek said.

BUT THE KEY battle could be waged at midfield. Both coaches think that is the area where they are strongest.

think that is the area where they are strongest.
"Our defense is strong," said Dilworth, "but our midfield is just fabrious. With Andreae, Jacqie Silagyi (Athens) and Betsy Clement (Marian) we have some really talented players there. I've got an idea we'll control the midfield."

Dilworth will have Kathleen Guz-inski (Athens) and Margaret Kop-meyer (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) to strengthen his claim to midfield su-periority.

Dudek merely said, "We are very strong at midfield" with players like Kim Paterson (Stevenson), Jamle Kim Paterson (Stevenson), Jamle Kubacki (Churchill), Leslie Martin (Farmington) and Amy Stock (Farm-legton Hills Mercy).

A MISCUE at midfield will result in a difficult task for the defense, considering the offensive talents each team possesses. Both coaches figure their defenses will be severely tested.

Dudek will call on Margaret De-Mattia (Mercy), Jean Anzlovar (North Farmington), Marcie James (Stevenson) and Shari Acitelli (Churchill) on the Observers' de-ense, On the back line for the Ec-cantries will be Heather Lawler (Troy), Kelly Fitzgerald (Athens), Michelle House (Troy), Caroline Johnston (Scaholm) and Angel Capal-di (Marian).

Liz Monroe (Churchill) will start in goal for the Observers. Lynn Eck-hout (Athens) and Brooke Gillespie (Troy) are the Eccentric goal-keepers.

"I'm kind of worried about them," admitted Dudek of the Eccentric team. "I know they have some good offensive players, so I know they can score goals. I think it'll be a pretty competitive game."

It's certainly shaping up that way,