

Steelhead runs aren't far off

WARM TEMPERATURES in early March often send wily steelhead chumming the waters of Lake Michigan. These unique out-of-season fish, which spawn in the cold, realize the ice will soon disappear and access to their favorite fishing holes will be limited to the use of boats.

But to a rare few of the warm-temperament anglers, the steelhead spawning runs are just around the bend.

The fall runs of 1986 were all but raised out in Michigan last October and November as most steelhead have been patiently waiting for the ice to thaw.

Spring runs coincide with the thawing of the ice and warmer temperatures. The runs usually peak when the water temperature reaches 45-55 degrees. Traditionally, this warming trend takes place in the rivers in the lower part of the state first, usually around late March and early April. The runs usually peak in the northern part of the lower peninsula in mid-April to early May, and in the upper peninsula around mid-April to mid-May.

ALTHOUGH THE spawning runs have yet to begin, anglers are having good success with winter steelhead fishing in the southwestern part of the state. Hot spots include the St. Joseph River at Berrien Springs and the Black River at South Haven. Excellent reports are even coming in from as far north as the Pere Marquette River at Ludington.

"Winter fishing will continue

pretty much until the runs start," said Dave Borgess, assistant chief of the Fisheries Division of the Department of Natural Resources. "Right now the fishing is pretty good in the lower sections of some of the bigger rivers like the Muskegon, St. Joseph and Manistee. There's not much snow in the woods and the sportmen want to get out. Right now there are enough fish in the streams to keep them interested."

When the spawning runs do begin, and the 3-5-year-old fish return to their parent streams, the mature fish should weigh between 8 and 15 pounds. Some of the younger fish will also appear in the rivers, however, and anglers should remember that the legal size limit is eight inches in the lower peninsula and seven inches in the U.P. The 1987-88 Michigan Fishing Guide should also be consulted to check daily limits and opening dates on specific streams.

ALTHOUGH SPAWNING steelhead don't normally eat, best success in the lower parts of the rivers has been with natural bait such as night crawlers, wigglers and fresh spawn bags. When the fish move upstream you'll probably have better success with bright-colored spinners and spoons such as Little Cleos and Krocodiles. It sometimes helps to attach some orange sponge or yarn flies, which resemble spawning.

"When the fish are spawning they're not actually feeding," said Borgess. "But if something appealing to their senses happens to come by they might take a whack at it. They still have the natural instinct to feed."

CC aims for state title

Continued from Page 1

"WE'VE HIT A LOT of major tournaments and Chris has placed in a lot of them," said the CC coach. "He's doing very well, and this is his big time of the year."

Heston, a junior, survived a tough heavyweight division by toppling Bedford's Scott Warnke in the finals, 3-1.

In another tough weight class, Samin senior Dennis Deane placed in a district championship loss to CC sophomore Matt Helm with a 3-0

victory. The season series between the two now stands at 2-2.

In the 135 final, Romulus wrestler Jim Schleier won his 53rd straight match without a loss, defeating Quint, 7-5.

At 145, CC's Chris Rodriguez fell in the final to Northville's Anthony Greco, who has lost only once all season. At 165, Yeager suffered a 1-0 overtime defeat to Monroe's Kurt Thayer.

THE 167 DIVISION featured three area wrestlers including second-

Mercy skiers finish 4th in best-ever showing

By Jim Toth
staff writer

It's official. The top prep slalom skier in the state is Mike Huebner of Rochester Adams, and the top giant slalom skier is Julio Gass of West Bloomfield.

The Highlander senior skied past the field Monday in the state finals at Crystal Mountain, winning with a time of 53.79. Huebner's efforts led the Highlanders to a third place team finish of 147. Petoskey won the boys competition with a score of 100 and a third place defending champion Traverse City was second with 105.

Gass topped her competitors in the giant slalom with an effort of 47.16 as Harbor Springs finished ahead of Traverse City, which also has won the past two state titles, to capture the girls crown. Cadillac was third and Farmington Mercy came in fourth.

"I didn't expect us to finish that high," said Adams coach Kevin Karl. "I figured we would be somewhere in the middle. We were seventh after the morning in the giant slalom, then took second in slalom."

"Usually teams up north dominate. It was a very good showing for us," Karl continued. "I believe it's the highest an Adams team has ever placed."

HUEBNER FINISHED ahead of Houghton's Greg Kyle (54.65) to win the title. David Kucipal of Petoskey

was third (54.94) and teammate Mike Sullivan (55.61) finished fourth.

Huebner also earned a top 10 finish in the finals of the giant slalom, winding up seventh with a 47.79. Kyle won his third straight giant slalom title with a time of 47.12. Gass, a senior of East Grand Rapids, was second at 47.51 and Sullivan came in third at 47.65.

"I kind of expected Mike to be up there," said Karl. "He has been skiing well all year and I felt he had just as good a chance as anyone to take the race. He sat around third place after the first run, so he skied very well to win it. That is what he has been shooting for all year. The slalom is his specialty and he really wanted to take first place."

Other top slalom finishes by Adams skiers included a 13th by Phil Bogard, 22nd by John Oterberg and 24th from Joe Zajack, who, according to Karl, "skied very well."

In the giant slalom, Zajack finished 13th and Mark Ernst 34th.

"It was a real nice weekend," Karl said. "All the hard work these kids put in all year really paid off."

THE OTHER HALF of West Bloomfield's Gass connection, Carol, managed a third-place finish on slalom and a ninth on the giant slalom. The defending slalom champion finished at 59.94 on slalom and 48.47 on giant slalom.

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Bill Parker

According to a report issued by A.A. of Michigan, the most improved runs should be in Lake Huron tributaries from Au Gres to Rogers City, and in Lake Michigan tributaries from Benton Harbor to Muskegon.

The best runs in western rivers should be in the St. Joseph, Grand, Ronne, Muskegon, Little and Big Manistee, Betts, Platte and Bear rivers. Lake Huron tributaries expected to produce the strongest runs are the East Branch of the Au Gres, the Pinnebog and the Au Sable.

Fishermen in southeastern Michigan should find an ample amount of steelhead in the Huron River. (Brown trout are being taken in the Clinton River at Yates Cider Mill.)

In the upper peninsula the best runs will be on the Big Cedar, Manistee, Whitefish, Huron, Two Big Hearted and Carp rivers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Metro-West Steelheaders Spring Fishing Show and Clinic - Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., at the Wayne Community Center.

- Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show - Sunday, beginning at 9 a.m. at Cobo Hall.

- Boat Show '87 - through Sunday at the Summit Place shopping center in Pontiac.

place finisher Tim Howell of Garden City, who fell to Lincoln Park's Ron Ruchle in the final, 4-2; third-place finisher Krueger and fourth-place finisher Brian Clemens of Churchill.

Churchill's Mike Kruse reached the 135 final before losing to nemesis Jason Horowitz of Lathrup. Horowitz also beat Krause at the district two weeks ago.

Other area state qualifiers included Livonia's Steven's, Dave Wojciechowski, third at 105; Salem's Sean May, fourth at 112; Westland John Glenn's Bryan Krazel, fourth at 116; Glenn's Rob Malignan, fourth at 124; Churchill's Dave Zenas, fourth at 126; and Garden City's Don Giese, fourth at 148.

The Class A preliminaries are at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Lansing Eastern. Individual tickets are \$2.

sports shorts

FARMINGTON HOSTS LEGION BOWLERS

For the third time in the past six years, the Michigan American Legion Bowling Tournament will be held in the Farmington area.

The Groves-Walker American Legion Post, 31775 Grand River, will host the tournament at Country Lanes. The tourney will run six consecutive weekends beginning Saturday.

Some 3,000 bowlers are expected to compete. Call 478-9174 after 2 p.m. for more information.

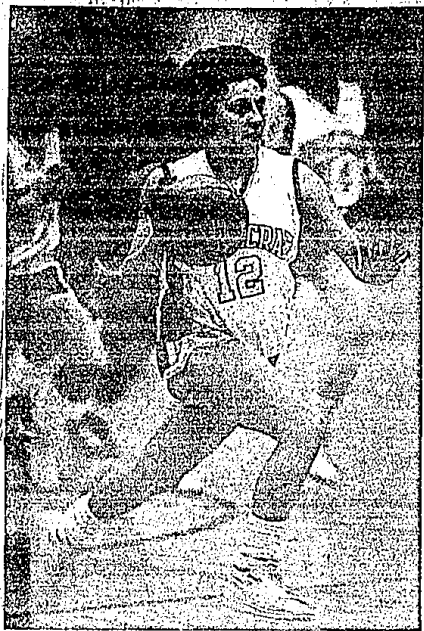
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The Farmington Public School District is accepting non-teaching

SC can't stop Muskegon

The first 25 seconds of Schoolcraft College's Michigan Community College Athletic Association women's

basketball semifinal against Muskegon CC Friday set the tone for the game.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Schoolcraft's Dobbie Georgovich helped get the Lady Ocelots rolling in the second half against Muskegon CC.

Borgess in Friendship tilt

Coach Mike Fusco and his Redford Bishop Borgess basketball team, newly crowned Catholic League champions, have a monumental task.

The Spartans (17-2) will play No. 1 ranked and unbeaten Detroit Southwestern (19-0), the Public School League champions, in the Operation-Friendship final beginning at 8 p.m. Friday at the University of Detroit's Calhoun Hall. (Detroit Cooley and Center Line St. Clement meet in the consolation game at 6 p.m.)

Southwestern, which has been

runner-up in the state Class A finals five straight years, may have its best team ever, led by senior veterans Anderson Hunt, Doyle Callahan and Derek Vinard.

"Southwestern is a very good transition team and they press very well," said Fusco, the Spartans' fifth-year coach. "We cannot be affected by their press and we've got to keep them from running."

"They're not really tall, but they're big - physical-wise. They're very strong and they're very quick."

Borgess may be as high as a 20-

In those early moments, the Lady Ocelots were whittled for three fouls. With their defensive aggressiveness stilled by foul troubles, SC fell behind quickly and never recovered in losing 87-74 Friday at Glen Oaks CC.

Everything that could go wrong for us did," was SC coach Jack Grean's description of the first half. "Our shots were bouncing out, we were missing free throws, and Muskegon hit everything. They shot 70 percent in the first half."

Which is why the Lady Ocelots trailed 44-22 at the intermission. Grean switched defenses in the second half, going to a full-court man-to-man, and SC mounted a comeback.

THE LADY OCELOTS rally was going strong - until it got fouled up. With 3:48 to play and the Lady Ocelots with the ball trailing by eight, Debbie Georgovich was called for an offensive charge. SC stopped Muskegon on its next attempt and regained possession, but then Lori Abbas was called for a charge.

The offensive fouls cost the Lady Ocelots, who never got closer than that eight-point spread. MCC connected on nine-of-10 free throws down the stretch to ice the triumph.

Tracy Ladouceur's 18 points paced SC. Sue Lubbe had 17, Abbas scored 15 and Sharon Miller finished with 14.

For her efforts, Lubbe was selected to the all-tournament team. She also joined forces with teammates Ladouceur and Abbas and other Eastern stars to take on the best from the Western Conference in an all-star game before Saturday's MCCA final. Abbas and Lubbe each scored eight points and Ladouceur added seven, but the west won 75-74.

MCC finished its season with a 75-74 triumph over Glen Oaks in the MCCA championship game Saturday. It was MCC's second-straight title, and the second-straight season it has eliminated SC from the tournament.

point underdog against the Prospectors, whose closest game was 10 points during the regular season against Cooley.

"This is the first time we'll play a team as quick, if not quicker, than we are," Fusco said. The Spartans will start four juniors and one senior against Southwestern - 4-foot-7 Farris Hickman, 6-4 Cornell Robinson, 6-3 3/4 Dajuan Smith, 6-4 Dwayne Kelley and 5-11 Kevin Van Hook (the only senior).

— Brad Emmer

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