

Bernie Carbo gets Clarenceville post

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Bernie Carbo, the man who hit two dramatic homers in the memorable 1975 World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and the Boston Red Sox, is the new baseball coach at Livonia Clarenceville.

The 41-year-old Westland native, who is replacing Mike Shearer (now at Milford), is no stranger to the area.

He was a prep star at Livonia Franklin where he was drafted No. 1 overall out of high school (1965) by the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1970 he was voted National League Rookie of the Year, hitting .310 with the Reds.

Known as a free spirit during his 11-year pro career, which included stops in Boston, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Carbo has been running "We Are Family Hair Stylists" in Wyandotte since he retired in 1980.

During the past eight years, the former outfielder has been a guest instructor at several baseball clinics around the country.

"BERNIE HAD applied at several other places, and he seemed quite serious about trying to develop a program," said Clarenceville athletic director Leo Kinsella.

Carbo, who was once turned down in his bid to become a minor league hitting instructor, is "glad the AD (Kinsella) and principal (Dave Simowski) gave me the opportunity."

"I want eventually to build up to maybe a college job, and it's a start," said Carbo. "I know I've got to start somewhere, and I appreciate the opportunity to get my feet wet."

"I'm looking forward to it. Hopefully we'll have a good turnout and we'll be successful."

It's well-documented that Carbo and Sparky Anderson clashed during their days in Cincinnati. It's ironic that now Carbo will be calling the shots as manager.

"I'M NOT GOING to have a lot of

baseball

rules, but the thing I ask is that they show up every day and that they're on time," Carbo said. "I want them to have respect for themselves and for me. I'm sure I'll have to deal with problems, but I'm strictly going to teach baseball. I'm going to teach them to play fair, play hard and to win. I'll follow what the school wants. I won't tolerate drinking, smoking or drugs. Just say no, right?"

Carbo plans to have a meeting with the players at 6 tonight at the school.

"I've got to get to know them and hopefully we'll make the right choices," he said. "I want to create an atmosphere where they want to come out every day."

Carbo said he will stress fundamentals.

"We want a good pitching staff, and we want to be strong up the middle," he said. "We'll start sometime in March indoors and go from there."

Carbo said Gordy Rutherford will work with the pitchers, while Jim Neve will become the JV coach. Carbo said he also hopes to retain former Clarenceville JV coach Mike LeMeur.

Carbo's dad Joe, a part-time scout, will also help out on occasion.

"My dad is the one who saw the ad in the paper about this job," said Bernie. "I really wanted to get into coaching, and I appreciate getting the chance."

While playing for Boston, Carbo is best remembered for his pinch-hit 3-run homer in Game 6 of the '75 series. The homer tied the game at 6-6 and the Red Sox went on to win behind Carlton Fisk's dramatic home run, which forced a seventh and deciding game against the Reds. (Cincinnati went on to win the Series.) Carbo also played in the '70 Series for the Reds against Oakland.

Going for gold Area figure skaters eye trip to nationals

By Marly Budner
staff writer

Jason Dungen and Paula Vinsagardi are new partners in the world of figure skating.

They successfully completed Phase I of their relationship over the weekend by placing first in Senior Pairs competition at the 1989 Midwest Figure Skating Championships held at the Detroit Skating Club. They will embark on Phase 2 of their quest for gold and glory at the national championships Feb. 8-12 in Baltimore.

The stellar showing at the Midwest Sectional — one of three sectional competitions held across the country — came as a nice surprise to Dungen and Vinsagardi.

"It was a goal to place first (at the Sectional), but I didn't really think we'd win it. We've only been skating together for eight months," said Dungen, a 1985 Troy Athens High School graduate.

Dungen, who's been skating for seven years, recently returned from a two-year hiatus from the sport. His comeback couldn't have come at a more opportune time.

DUNGEN and Vinsagardi, coached by former Olympian Johnny Johns, were second after their two-minute, 40-second short program. They performed a fine free skate to win that competition and take first overall by a margin of a point over Elaine Asanakis (University of Delaware FSC) and Joel McKeever (Dallas FSC).

"I was tired and needed a break (from skating). I feel much better now, and I was really glad I took that time off," said Dungen. "I think we have a lot of work to do as a team, but we're getting there. We have to get to know each other a little more. But I was very happy we were able to finish first."

Dungen, 21, said he'd like to one day win a national championship and qualify for the Olympics. The top two placers at this year's national championships qualify for the U.S. team, which will represent the country at the world championships later this winter.

With the retirement of many of the Olympic figure skaters after the 1988 games in Calgary, Dungen figures now is a golden opportunity to make something happen within the next couple years.

"This is a perfect year to return because the doors are wide open," he said. "But that's not the real reason why I got back into skating. I came back because I just wanted to give it one more shot."

THE SENIOR men's and women's winners were Daniel Doran (Colorado Skating Club) and Jeni Meno (Winterhurst Figure Skating Club), respectively. Michelle Whitman of the Detroit Skating Club was 11th in the Senior Ladies competition.

Rochester resident Shanda Smith (Detroit Skating Club) and partner Brandon Smith (Uni-

versity of Delaware SC) placed fourth behind Dungen and Vinsagardi in Senior Pairs. Livonia resident Jodie Balogh and partner Jared Swallow (Broadmoor Skating Club), former national junior champions, placed second in Senior Dance.

Dan Hollander of Huntington Woods (Detroit Skating Club) placed seventh in Junior Men's competition. His best showing was third in the optional program. John Wright of the Garden City Skating Club placed last in Junior Men.

Angela Deneweth of Westland (Detroit Skating Club) was last in Junior Ladies competition. Birmingham's Jill Atkinson (Detroit Skating Club) and partner Richard Peal (Skokie Valley SC) placed seventh (eight competitors) in Junior Dance competition.

North Farmington graduate Jennifer Bayer (Detroit Skating Club) and partner Sean Gales had a nasty spill in their long program. Bayer fell to the ice and was taken to the hospital. She reportedly had been released and was in good condition by Tuesday.

The four-day Midwestern Sectional included more than 300 participants representing 60 clubs from 22 states across the country. It is the largest of the United States Figure Skating Association's three sectional tournaments.

The Detroit Skating Club has hosted regional figure skating competition on occasion. But this was the first Midwestern Sectional hosted by the Bloomfield Township facility.

figure skating

1989 MIDWESTERN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS
(At Detroit Skating Club)

SENIOR RESULTS

PAIRS: 1. Daniel Doran (Colorado FSC), 3.0; 2. James Cogan (Broadmoor FSC), 3.4; 3. Angelo D'Agostino (Broadmoor FSC), 3.6; 4. Jay Simons (Troy Athens FSC), 3.8; 5. Jay Murphy (Detroit Skating Club), 4.0; 6. Jay Murphy (Detroit Skating Club), 4.0

LADIES: 1. Jeni Meno (Winterhurst FSC), 4.0; 2. Toni Kovalchuk (Winterhurst FSC), 4.2; 3. Kelly Curran (Broadmoor FSC), 4.4; 4. Kelly Curran (Broadmoor FSC), 4.6; 5. Dawn Vickers (FSC of Bloomington), 4.8; 6. E. Roy Clark (Lone Star FSC), 5.0; 7. Mella Hembach (Rocky Mountain FSC), 5.2; 8. Katie Wood (Skokie Valley FSC), 5.4; 9. Carrie Weber (Colorado FSC), 5.6; 10. Giny Slater (Winterhurst FSC), 5.8; 11. Michelle Whitman (Detroit SC), 6.0; 12. Carla Schultz (Broadmoor SC), 6.2; 13. Beth Sonderup (FSC of Minnesota), 6.4

PAIRS: 1. Paula Vinsagardi and Jason Dungen (Detroit Skating Club), 2.0; 2. Elaine Asanakis (University of Delaware FSC) and Joel McKeever (Dallas FSC), 2.5; 3. Julie Thompson (Central SC) and Brian Geddes (FSC of Rochester), 3.0; 4. Shanda Smith (Detroit Skating Club) and Brandon Smith (University of Delaware FSC), 3.5

DANCE: 1. Renee Roca and James York (Broadmoor FSC), 2.0; 2. Jodie Balogh and Jared Swallow (Broadmoor FSC), 2.5; 3. Dorothy Rokek and Robert Nardizza (Lone Star FSC), 3.0; 4. Elizabeth Pankonin (Lone Star FSC), 3.5; 5. Mimi Wacholder (University of Delaware SC) and Bruce Montemayor (Kent SC), 4.0

JUNIOR RESULTS

PAIRS: 1. Shepherd Clark (Broadmoor SC), 2.0; 2. Tommy Jasper (Skokie Valley SC), 2.5; 3. Doug Bruno (Lake Minnesota FSC), 3.0; 4. Brian Schmitt (St. Paul FSC), 3.5; 5. Paul Dubois (Broadmoor SC), 4.0; 6. Damon Allen (FSC of Rochester), 4.5; 7. Dan Hollander (Detroit Skating Club), 5.0; 8. Rick Zierhorn (Denver FSC), 5.5; 9. Chris Brown (Dallas FSC), 6.0; 10. Grant Rorick (Colorado SC), 6.5; 11. Mel Chapman (Garden City FSC), 7.0; 12. Dave Torrey (Garden City FSC), 7.5; 13. John Wright (Garden City FSC), 8.0

LADIES: 1. Robyn Petroskey (St. Paul FSC), 3.0; 2. Meredith Vaughan (Broadmoor FSC), 3.5; 3. Stacy Rinkowski (Skokie Valley SC), 4.0; 4. Alice Sledge (Garden City of Lake Michigan FSC), 4.5; 5. Maden Carpenter (Academy FSC), 5.0; 6. Alyson Fenton (Rocky Mountain FSC), 5.5; 7. Shannon Karpis (Winterhurst FSC), 6.0; 8. Leanna Naczynski (WC of Indianapolis), 6.5; 9. Caroline Lee (DuPage FSC), 7.0; 10. Amy Holmberg (Rocky Mountain FSC), 7.5; 11. Anna Tuma (Rocky Mountain FSC), 8.0; 12. Angela Deneweth (Detroit Skating Club), 8.5

DANCE: 1. Jeannine Jones and Michele Thrope (Winterhurst FSC), 3.5; 2. Krista Schatz (Port Huron FSC) and Jonathan Sims (Broadmoor SC), 4.0; 3. Holly Robbins (Broadmoor SC) and Kyle Schreibe (University of Delaware SC), 4.5; 4. Katherine Williamson and Ben Williamson (Broadmoor SC), 5.0; 5. Leslie Lane and Rick Ferencic (WC of Indianapolis), 5.5; 6. Kanako Kozuma (Detroit Skating Club) and Robert Peal (Skokie Valley SC), 6.0; 7. Jill Atkinson (Detroit Skating Club) and Richard Peal (Skokie Valley SC), 6.5; 8. Amy Nell (Broadmoor FSC) and Kirk Strohm (Kent SC), 7.0

intermediate results

PAIRS: 1. Curtis Socha (Broadmoor SC), 3.0; 2. Eric Schatz (Port Huron FSC), 3.5; 3. Jeremiah Jackson (FSC of Minnesota), 4.0

LADIES: 1. Courtney Erickman (Chicago FSC), 3.0; 2. Jenny Rand (St. Paul FSC), 3.5; 3. Erin Ferguson (Broadmoor SC), 4.0; 4. Dawn Darius (Detroit Skating Club), 4.5

DANCE: 1. Kelly Donnelly (Lone Star FSC) and Chris Rossier (Seattle SC), 2.5; 2. Kimberly Hanley (Rockville FSC) and Ross Lyons (Winterhurst FSC), 3.0; 3. McCabe and Colin Ward (Glenwood FSC), 3.5

novice results

PAIRS: 1. Eric Dohndorf (Broadmoor SC), 5.0; 2. Ryan Hunka (Winterhurst FSC), 5.5; 3. Mike Gross (Rocky Mountain FSC), 6.0

LADIES: 1. Kristen Stoll (Rocky Mountain FSC), 3.0; 2. Stephanie Hildstrom (FSC of Minnesota), 3.5; 3. Danielle Onnott (FSC of Minnesota), 4.0

PAIRS: 1. Jamie Sharpe and David Walker (FSC of Memphis), 2.0; 2. Stephanie Ostrom and Mark Forbes (Skokie Valley SC), 2.5; 3. Meg Peterson and Paul Spevitz (Detroit SC), 3.0

DANCE: 1. Susan Schmitt (Alpine SC) and Da-

vid White (Denver FSC), 2.5; 2. Patricia Fulton (individual member) and Douglas Valau (Ice Land FSC of Houston), 3.0; 3. Jodi Lenore and Erik Smith (Port Huron SC), 3.5

SENIOR DANCE: 1. Hazel Wexel and Michael Ochs (Denver FSC), 2.0; 2. Sandy Burtons and Alan Nany (Cleveland SC), 2.5; 3. Lisa Bruce (Denver FSC) and Greg Hartman (Pueblo FSC), 3.0

JUNIOR DANCE: 1. Hop Ads and Tanner Ads (Midland FSC), 2.0; 2. Susan Mathes and Harlan Higgins (WC of Indianapolis), 2.5; 3. Kathleen Schmitt (Piquette FSC) and Gregory Pfeiffer (FSC of Indianapolis), 3.0

Divine Child assistant Balaj to coach Trojans

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Vic Balaj, an assistant coach the past eight years at Dearborn Divine Child, is now football coach at Livonia Clarenceville High.

Balaj replaces Ralph Weddle, who went 120-83-1 in 22 years before retiring at the end of the 1988 season.

Balaj was Divine Child's defensive coordinator the past two years. He also served as the weight training coach, in addition to being the secondary and wide receivers coach.

Prior to his stint at DC, Balaj coached three years at Utica Ford.

"We were impressed primarily with his background and experience," said Clarenceville athletic director Leo Kinsella, who interviewed six candidates before the job was pared to two finalists. "Vic has 11 years on the varsity level, and he comes from a highly successful program. He has some positive ideas to get the participation back to where it should be."

LAST YEAR the Trojans finished 6-3, despite finishing the season with only 17 varsity players and no JV team.

"He's very enthusiastic and wants to revamp our weight room and wants a conditioning program for all our athletes," Kinsella said. "It's going to take money, but he's going to start some fund-raising efforts."

Balaj, who teaches English, social studies and physical education at Divine Child, could not be reached for comment. He was in Ohio attending his grandfather's funeral.

Divine Child coach Wes Wisbert said "it was" me feel good" that another one of his assistants has become a head coach.

football

"This is my fifth coach who has gone on to either a head varsity position in high school or college job," Wisbert said. "Vic is very organized and he knows how to coach. You're not going to get anybody who works harder. He's a good addition to a school like Clarenceville. He's a disciplinarian and a hard worker."

"It's a loss to our program. I'm happy in one regard, and not happy in another because I'm a little selfish. But they're going to get a man who eats, drinks and sleeps football."

BALAJ, who holds a master's degree in athletic administration, was a part of some very good DC teams.

While he was at DC, Balaj was part of a staff that appeared in six Catholic High School League A-B Division finals. The Patriots also captured 37 straight league games and won the 1985 state Class B championship.

Kinsella said that record impressed principal Dave Simowski along with superintendent Dr. Mike Shiber.

"I talked to the principal myself about Vic, and I see Clarenceville as a model for other schools," Wisbert said. "They see sports as an important identity to the school."

Kinsella said that Balaj will be forming a staff in the near future. The AD indicated that the lone two headcoaches from Weddle's staff, Bob McCamant and Steve Buell, will be interviewed as well.

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