



Detroit Tigers pitcher (left) Frank Tanana and Detroit Lions linebacker Jimmy Williams share stories with East eighth graders (from left) Heather Hopkins, Danielle Peric, Kim Burkhart and Corrie Dunn.



Detroit Tigers left-hander Frank Tanana pitches to students and staff at East.



East teacher Gloria Tweedy takes a swing at a pitch from Detroit Tigers southpaw Frank Tanana.



East eighth grader Danielle Peric listens as sports personalities deliver their anti-drug messages between sporting events.

# Athletes, students show team spirit

By Casey Hans staff writer

Professional athletes competing against student sports heroes brought the student crowd at East Middle School to its feet with a roar—especially when the students won.

"I'm sweaty and I love it," yelled Detroit Tigers pitcher Frank Tanana, as he prepared to talk to the all-school assembly in Farmington Hills.

With the snappy sounds of the Harrison High School Jazz band drawing everyone into the gymnasium for the assembly, student athletes prepared for the Pro-Challenge, where they met face-to-face with such athletes as Tanana, Detroit Lion Carl Bland and Lion linebackers

Jimmy Williams and Paul Butcher. Volleyball, sit-ups, relay race, tug of war, football and basketball were all the order of the day.

"We hear there's some real pros in this room," said the "voice of the Detroit Tigers," Ernie Harwell, who emceed the event. "They thought they might want to challenge you."

THE PRO athletes also challenged students to "say no to drugs" between the competitions.

"We want to encourage you to take a stand against that," said Bland, a wide receiver for the Lions. "It's good to know we can come out here and enjoy ourselves without any drugs or alcohol in our systems."

The Pro-Challenge visited East, Farmington

High and Farmington Hills Harrison High during its tour last week. They were three of 30 schools selected in the Detroit area.

East eighth graders Jeff Clisio and Corrie Dunn wrote letters inviting the athletes to their school. Both are athletes at East.

"I wanted to know more," said Jeff, a member of his student council. "All the other kids thought it would be cool to have them here."

Corrie, who plays volleyball, basketball and track, said she was also interested in hearing what the pros had to say.

"As big as the drug problem is, I really think our school would benefit from this assembly," she said in her invitation letter. "There would be someone coming to our school who people look up to."

JEFF, AN all-around athlete who currently wrestles at East, said he has four brothers who always warn him against steroids and other drugs.

"My friends and I would really like (it) if you shared what you know about this issue," he said in his letter.

The Pro-Challenge, which occurred between Jan. 17-19, offered schools a 45-minute competition in which they could pit their student athletes against the pros. Three professional teams, doing nine schools per day, participated in the event.

Other athletes visiting East, Farmington and Harrison included Brad Havens of the Cleveland Indians and Paul Hansen, an all-American soccer player from Penn State who coached the pro team.

# Tree ordinance OK'd

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Better late than never is what some are saying about a new ordinance regulating the removal and destruction of trees in Farmington Hills, including single-family occupied lots.

The Farmington Hills City Council enacted the ordinance Monday in a 4-1 vote. Councilmen Ben Marks and Joe Alkateeb were absent. Councilwoman Jody Soronen opposed enactment.

"I feel very strongly that this should not apply to private property," Soronen said when the ordinance was introduced Jan. 16. "I think it needs to apply to undeveloped land or land that is about to be developed. But I don't think we're going to be able to police it."

"I think on practicality, I can't say it's entirely not necessary. But if you look around at all the homes, the new homes, the old homes built in the city, everybody plants trees," Soronen said.

But the city council, with many residents' blessings, maintained the restrictions on single-family property owners with some exceptions. The city council also denied Detroit Edison its request for a one-year exemption from the ordinance.

Violation of the proposed ordinance would be a misdemeanor carrying a maximum \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

BECAUSE OF residents' suggestions when the ordinance was introduced, city council members admit some provisions need work. "The public seems to be very willing to get something on the books and something that's workable, and then we'll work the kinks out," Mayor Terry Sever said.

Halsted Road resident Don Millington urged the council to adopt the ordinance despite some concerns about private property owners, subdivision open spaces, lack of provisions governing public rights of way and a 15-day waiting period for permit approval or denial.

"It will get something on the books for us. It will prevent the mass destruction of trees we're seeing within our community of late. Yet at the same time, it won't be overly restrictive if we came back with changes that would be amenable to everybody," Millington said.

The ordinance, which becomes effective Feb. 13, prohibits removal or destruction of certain trees in the city without a permit from the department of planning and community development. The permit does not require a fee.

Though the city is about 80-90 percent developed, the ordinance was proposed to save what trees remain, particularly in undeveloped sites. In the past, developers have cleared sites before making zoning requests or applications for site plan approval, according to former senior

planner Callum Murray.

A PERMIT will be required to remove, relocate, damage or destroy what is called a landmark tree. A landmark tree is one that stands apart from its neighbors by size, form or species and any trees 24 inches in diameter measured four feet above the natural grade. The ordinance also provides a list of landmark trees.

WHEN A permit is applied for, it must be accompanied with a tree location survey showing existing trees. A survey is not required to remove or relocate trees on occupied single-family lots or when a permit is required to remove fewer than three trees.

The ordinance offers some exemptions. Trees such as the box elder, catalpa, poplars, silver maple, tree of heaven and willows are exempt from the ordinance. Also exempt are any trees less than six inches in diameter measured four feet above the natural grade.

Under the ordinance, single-family property owners may remove two trees, other than landmark trees, per calendar year. Single-family property owners with lots one acre or greater may remove eight trees other than landmark trees, or no more than 10 percent of all the trees on the lot greater than six inches in diameter.



Don Millington of Halsted Road resupplies a feeding station for the deer that live near his property. The white object at right is a salt lick, also for the deer. Millington supports Farmington Hills' new tree protection ordinance.

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