

# Sports

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(F16)

## Weintraub receives '89 prep honor



RANDY BORSY/staff photographer

Debbie Weintraub's senior year at North Farmington was one to remember. She played three sports and also excelled in the classroom, and she has been chosen 1989 Female Athlete of the

Year in Farmington. Weintraub will enter Michigan State University next month, looking toward a possible career in sports medicine and physical therapy.

## North grad made mark in volleyball

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

The last year of high school is supposed to be a memorable experience, and that's how Debbie Weintraub will recall her senior year at North Farmington.

Weintraub was active in sports the year round, serving as captain of the volleyball and softball teams, and she also was one of the school's top academic achievers.

"My senior year was the best; I loved it," Weintraub said. "Between sports and the classes I took, it was just great."

And she also found gratifying the role and responsibility of being a senior in athletics, a trait which made her the likely choice for two captainships.

"I liked being a senior on the team," said Weintraub, who also played basketball for the Raiders. "As captain for the volleyball and softball teams, I felt I could lead the team. If you're chosen as captain, it's part of your responsibility to try and bring (teammates) up."

FOR HER leadership, accomplishments and citizenship, Weintraub has been chosen the 1989 Female Athlete of the Year by the Farmington Observer.

Weintraub's best — and favorite — sport was volleyball, playing on the varsity for three years and being named to the All-Observer squad as a senior. North coach Sandy Lubieniecki described Weintraub, the setter, as the glue that held the team together.

She played on teams that won 57 matches the last two years and, though she was in the background as the one who choreographed the offense, was the driving force behind a 26-7 season in 1988-89.

"This was my third year, so that's what I wanted to be — the leader on the court," said the 5-foot-3 Weintraub. "What made it exciting was that we went to three games a lot, but we never lost our composure. We'd lose the first one but come back and win the next two."

Please turn to Page 2

## Farmington man repeat champion

Terry Elsey is becoming a familiar area name.

A 39-year-old Farmington Hills resident, Elsey raced to his second straight Heart of the Hills 10k triumph Saturday, Aug. 5, in Bloomfield Hills. He also captured top honors in the annual back to Birmingham 10k run held last month.

"And he ran in Allen Park the night before and won that race," said Heart of the Hills race organizer Tony Sakorafas.

The third annual race attracted nearly 300 runners for the 2-mile fun run/walk, plus the 10k race. Sakorafas said everything went well despite a heavy morning thunderstorm.

"I was up at 3 a.m. getting the course ready and it was like a hurricane coming through," he said. "But the weather cleared up for us real nice by race time and everything went well."

ELSEY'S TIME was 32:25 as he outspurred John Springer to the finish line by 16 seconds. Springer's second-place time was 32:41.

The women's overall winner was Jan Jacobs of Huntington Woods with a time of 39:57. Tish Schmidt, last year's women's winner, was second in 42:11.

"We want to get a little bigger each year and we're trying to make this a quality race," said Sakorafas. "I think we have one of the toughest courses around."

Race proceeds benefit Special Olympics and Baldwin Avenue Community Center. It is sponsored by the Andover Soccer Boosters and the Bloomfield Hills Optimists Club.

Following are the top three finishers in each division:

MEN'S 20-UNDER: 1. Olaf Meier, 33:48; 2. D. Walkotten, 37:15; 3. A. Melch, 37:39.

MEN'S 21-30: 1. John Springer, 32:41; 2. Mike Lasky, 33:34; 3. John Young, 33:57.

MEN'S 31-40: 1. Terry Elsey, 32:25; 2. Tim Markus, 33:55; 3. Ric Filloramo, 35:22.

MEN'S 41-50: 1. Leo Zehnder, 40:57; 2. J. Debanti, 41:40; 3. John Herbert, 41:46.

MEN'S 51-OVER: 1. Jim McManus, 44:54; 2. Barry Harper, 45:45; 3. Gerry Cook, 46:31.

WOMEN'S 20-UNDER: 1. Allison Dahn, 42:48; 2. Kris McKimmon, 43:57; 3. Julie Moore, 45:17.

WOMEN'S 21-30: 1. Tish Schmidt, 42:11; 2. Amy Keesling, 44:54; 3. D. Hodder, 46:54.

WOMEN'S 31-40: 1. Jan Jacobs, 39:57; 2. Maggie Zidar, 43:42; 3. Donna Olson, 44:44.

WOMEN'S 41-50: 1. Kathy Morse, 47:17; 2. Rose Dorich, 52:40; 3. Nancy Taft, 52:52.

WOMEN'S 51-OVER: 1. P. Levin, 68:55.



STEVE CANTRELL/staff photographer

Terry Elsey won the Heart of the Hills race in Rochester for the second straight year, adding that title to his victory in the Back to Birmingham race.

## Compuware coup Canadian star to play in Michigan

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

The lunch room inside the Compuware Headquarters in Farmington Hills was crowded with people Friday wanting to know more about Eric Lindros, the 16-year-old hockey sensation from Toronto.

Like, does he have a girlfriend? What does he do besides play hockey? When does he get his braces off? And, above all, what is he doing here, in suburban Detroit, playing for the Oak Park Compuware Junior A hockey team.

Shouldn't he be playing in Quebec somewhere, preparing himself for the rigors of the National Hockey League?

For all, Lindros was the No. 1 pick last spring in the Ontario Hockey League, and some hockey experts believe he can play in the NHL right now.

Andy Weidenbach, the Compuware coach, is still scratching his head. Lindros, considered the best 16-year-old hockey player in North America, is staying with the Vellucci family in Farmington and will attend Farmington High in the fall. Mark Vellucci, 37, also is a member of the Compuware team.

"TO BE HONEST, I never thought it would be a reality," said Weidenbach, after introducing his newest player to guests and reporters. "I didn't have my hopes up. But when he came over here with his parents and they saw the (Compuware Arena) rink, I said maybe they were serious. I don't know why or how but it's great for the program. It's a real challenge for me as a coach."

"Eric is real personable. He's more mature than the average 16-year-old off the street. It's hard to tell, but he should dominate our league from Day One."

For the record, Lindros says he's too busy to have a girlfriend (although he likes what he has seen in his six-week stay in the states), he likes to water ski and he's not sure when the braces come off. Actually, the braces look a bit out of place on the burly, 6-foot-4, 215-pound forward.

The real reason here is to enhance his education. Lindros, who has attended summer school since the eighth grade, will graduate more than a year ahead of time from Farmington next January after completing a semester of school.

Lindros' stay with Compuware might be brief. By next January, midway through the North American Junior Hockey League season, Lindros hopes to be attending the University of Michigan and playing for Red Berenson, the Wolverines coach.



RANDY BORSY/staff photographer

Eric Lindros, a 16-year-old Canadian hockey sensation, has signed to play for Compuware in the North American Junior Hockey League. He will live with the Vellucci family and attend Farmington High.

Lindros, who scored 23 goals and 43 assists in leading the St. Michaels Buzzers to the Ontario Junior B title last winter, is far ahead of his peers on the ice and off. He puts his status in perspective, however.

"IT'S SORT OF like a marathon," said Lindros, who took two English courses this summer at Bloomfield Hills Andover, acting them both. "You see yourself in first place a few seconds ahead of everyone else, but you're still behind record pace. You've got to keep pushing yourself to the limit to be the best."

"Without a degree, that makes life tough after hockey. If I break a leg

Sunday and I'm out for life, what do I do then?"

Even before Sault Ste. Marie selected Lindros first in the OHL draft, he told team officials he was considering going to the U.S. to finish high school and pursue a college education. Sault Ste. Marie owner Phil Esposito, recently fired as general manager of the New York Rangers, apparently didn't take him seriously.

"He thought I was bluffing," Lindros said. "I hope they realize education is important to me now. I want to be with people my own age, and I have to get my schooling to make the climb over the mountain a little easier."

## hockey

Lindros credits his parents, Carl and Donnie, for "getting me here." He said his "adopted" parents, Judy and Frank Vellucci, have treated him "second to none."

Judy Vellucci returns the compliment.

"HE'S A GOOD kid, and his intelligence is going to carry him through," Mrs. Vellucci said. "We've taken him in like another kid. My husband describes him as very thoughtful."

And she describes his appetite as huge.

"He had seven pieces of french toast one morning, and he's had four to five sandwiches for lunch," she said. "For six weeks, we've treated him like a guest. He's just-ill in so well and enjoyed himself."

Carl Lindros, an accountant in Toronto, is excited about Eric's future and couldn't think of a better place for his son to progress.

"There's probably a high chance he'll live in an American city anyway, so it's a good opportunity for him," Carl said. "As parents, you always have concerns. But he's been here six weeks and he feels pretty comfortable. That's good news. Andy (Weidenbach) and Jim (Rutherford) director of hockey relations for Compuware) are down-to-earth, nice people and that's unusual in hockey."

Rutherford, the former Red Wing goalier, says "Only time will tell, but he's certainly the NHL's next franchise player."

LINDROS HAS been compared to modern-day stars Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux, but his style might be more similar to former Red Wing great and hall of famer Gordie Howe.

He has several idols.

"I like Mark Messier's toughness, the way he handles himself — he's a freight train," he said. "I enjoy watching Steve Yzerman's finesse, the way he bares down in front of the net. I like guys who can handle themselves without someone coming off the bench to fight for them. I liked the way Gordie played. The way he could put the puck in the net."

Lindros has grown considerably the last two years. Ronnie Lindros remembers two years ago watching her son, then only about 5-8, play. "When he was growing, it looked like he had sand bags attached to his feet," she said. "Then he kept growing and growing. He gained 40 pounds in one year and he's not fat." He's also darn good.