## Oakland adds 3 recruits

Gary Parson's rebuilding efforts continue to pay dividends, and on a local scale. The Oakland University soccer coach has signed three more players, bringing the number of recruits committed to six — all from within the state, including five from the Observer & Eccentric

coverage area.

His newest additions are Dominle Scieluna and Jason Ries, both
from Redford Catholic Central,
and John Gentille, of Livonia
Churchill. They join previous signees Mike Sheehy of Farmington,
Chris Speen of Churchill and
Schooleraft College, and Mail Walton of Flint Northern.

Asked which of the newest playcounted on for quick help, Parsons replied, "Hopefully, we'll get im-

#### soccer

mediate help from all three. We need help from someone."

Parsons must replace five starters and two key reserves from last year's team, which finished 12-6 and reached the NCAA Division II tournament. The Pioneers lost in the opening round 2-1 in overtime to Gannon University.

"We'll have a whole new look next year, for sure," predicted parsons. Besides replacing those lost, the OU coach plans on moving several of last year's starters to different positions.

WHICH MEANS positions are open everywhere. And that's what Scicluna happens to be good at — playing just about anywhere. He

played mostly midfield for CC, but, according to Parsons, he can also play on the wing or in the back. "He's a versatile kind of player." Ries was one of CC's most valuable players — and, according to Parsons, its best. The center back was honorable mention all-state, even though he suffered a knee injury and missed the last half of the season. He has recovered and will be given a shot at filling a defensive position.

sive position.

Genille was the center midifieldor for Churchill last season, and
that's a position Parsons needs to
fill. A second-team Class A allstater, Gentille will be given a shot,
although Parsons is hesitant to install him as a starter. "Healisticalby, I would hate to throw that much
responsibility on a freshman, but I ny, I would hate to throw that much responsibility on a freshman, but I may have to," he said. Parsons still hopes to sign a pair of forwards and another midfield-er.

# WLAA reigning power

HE DIFFERENCE.
While it can be debated
what makes a difference in
girls soccer, at least
there's no argument where the biggest difference is located.
The Western Lakes Activities Asrelative, here that a term in over

colation has put a team in every Class A state championship game in girls soccer. And until last year, a league representative had won every one of those matches.

reague representative and won every most of those matches. So is it a surprise that, in the last Class A state rankings, WLAA teams occupied the first four spots and five of the top six? Of 12 schools in the entire league, five are state-ranked. "There are really six teams (in the WLAA) that are top-10 quality," add-dT Im Storch, who coached the only non-WLAA team to win a state title Last years. Troy Athens' squd. "I think it's a tribute to their league that they've won every state championship until we won it last year."

YOU'D THINK the rest of the state would start closing in After all, we're entering the second decade of statewide competition in the sport. And yet, the WLAA's communities — particularly Livenia, Pjonouth, Canton, Northville and Parmington — continue to dominate. At least that's what the state rankings suggest. But they can be misleading, Reputation, or past performance, often carriest undescrived weight in subjective ratings.

Storch thinks any of a deen teams capacity of the state of the state of the state squads, like Kalamazoo contrait (which defeated Aheas 1-0 Saturday) or East Lansing.

Or maybe even Birmingham Marian or Farmington Hills Mercy, Both are ranked among the state's best. YOU'D THINK the rest of

BUT DON'T count on it. It says here that the WLAA will recapture the state title in 1990. The only real question is, which team will do it? Livonia Churchill currently holds the top ranking, with good reason. The Chargers have beaten Athens and Farmington already, and have tied Farmington Hills Mercy and Plymouth Canton. "Churchill is an excellent team."

Plymouth Canton.
"Churchill is an excellent team," said Storch. "The key word there is 'team.' They don't have any super-

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#### Farmington tops city for with shutout

Carrie Maier had another hat trick Monday to lead No. 3-rance Farmington's (1-0 shutout of Farmington Hills Harrison in an intra-city girls soccer game. Maier, who has scored three goals in three different games, also had three assists for the Fal-cons, who are 5-1 overall.

Michelle Lorenz notched two goals as Farmington built a 7-0 halftime lead, and single tailles came from Amy Trunk, Margaret Martin, Kelly Miller, Kim Popyk and Sue Gibson.

Trunk, Lorenz and Popyk also assisted on one goal each.

Mandy Cannon and Kristen Soper split time in goal and shared the shutout. Cannon made two saves in the first half, Soper six in the second.

The Falcons have an important Lakes Division game Friday when they play host to No. 4-ranked Plymouth Salem at 5:30

stars, but they are strong throughout their 11-girl lineup."

So there's one difference separating Churchill from the rest of the state's teams' depth of talent. Indeed, players on the Chargers' bench would start for almost anyone else. Another difference is attitude. Churchill's coach, Nick O'Shae, is unsatisfied. Rankings don't mean any

thing to him; a title would. And he hasn't won a state title in his four previous years as Churchill's coach.

HE WANTS to see effort and improvement. That's why O'Shea got his team together 90 minutes before Monday's 3-0 win over North Farmington. He was unhappy with their performance in Saturday's scoreless; tie with Canton. "There was no one running, no one moving against Canton," he said. "So I started them running at 5:30, before the North game."

I started them running at 5:30, before the North game."

O'Shea's complaints with his team
continued through the win over the
Raiders. Yet his criticisms also provided insight, and another difference. Stuff like not finishing plays, the box untouched, not using the fleld wisely, trying to force passes into a box packed with seven defend-

ers....
Understand, there are a lot of coaches out there trying to get their players to put two passes together. They're teaching basic skills, while O'Shea is refining.

THERE'S ANOTHER difference THERE'S ANOTHER difference, although O'Shea may disagree: committenent. There were no games scheduled for any school during spring break, and almost every team was Idle.

Not Churchill.
While O'Shea allowed his players to miss practice time without penalty to go on vacation during the break, only two did so. The rest practiced.

ited. don't pay to give a team with so many advantages another one. Other teams were trying to regroup after 10 days without a practice; Churchill was moving forward (although O'Shea may argue otherwise, using the Canton game as an examnle).

using the Canton game as an example).
So it seems others in the state are making progress, but the WLAA teams keep finding ways to stay better. Youth programs provide an advantage, sure, but there are lots of communities with superb age group programs, Yet few — Troy and Rochester are exceptions — can challenge the WLAA's dominance.
Maybe it won't last forever, but the prediction here is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction there is it'll last another year — and probably more prediction that it is not be in the probably more prediction that it is not be it in the probably more prediction that it is not be in the probably more probably more predictions and probably more predictions are predictions and predictions are predictions are predictions and predictions are predictions are predictions are predictions and predictions are predictions are predictions are predictions and predictions are predictions are predictions are predictions are predictions and predictions are predic

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### State's top team blanks North

Anyone wandering onto the Livonia Churchill soccerfield moments after the result of Monday's match had
been erased from the scoreboard would have surmised
North Farmington had pulled off a major upset.
After all, the Ralders were laughing and cheering,
while Churchill was subdued. The Chargers quietly reinvoced the nest from the football goalposts and walked
toward the school, passing celebrating North players on
route.

route.

The obvious conclusion would be a Churchill loss and a North win. And, in a sense, that might be correct. But not when the score is the determining factor: Churchill 3, North 0.

3, North 0.

3, North 0.

5, No

MAYBE. BUT then again, North never really threat-ened to score. Churchill keeper Dana Keller recorded her litth shutout without having to make a save. Play remained in the North end of the field almost the entire

her its assument that the least state of the least

half. Several other opportunities were missed, including three excellent chances for Nicki Johnson in the first half. Which is what bothered coach Nick O'Shea. Still, he felt the Charger's performance was better than in the scoreless ite against Plymouth Canton Saturday.

Indeed, the Canton match had an impact on Monday's game. O'Shea had his team on the field 90 minutes before the North game, running. Movement was somefore the North game, running. Movement was some-thing that had been lacking against Canton.

Still, the Chargers remain the state's top-ranked squad with a 5-0-2 record. North slipped to 2-3-1.

Defending champion Boyle Chevrolet made its 1990 softball debut in the Livonia Men's Modified Fast-Pitch League with a 13-3 victory over Malarkey's Pub Monday.

Malarkey's Fub Monday modified start, was the winning pitcher, holding Malarkey's to five list and three walks in seven lunings.

Steve Dawson alammed a two-run homer for the winners, and Jim Foster and Dong Kirkpatrick had solo home runs.

Keith McManaway blasted a three-run triple during a seven-run fifth inning that gave Boyle its 10-run lead. He also had a sacrifice fig.

Jim Stoikaladis, Dawson and Foster had two hits apiece, with everyone in the Boyle lineup hitting sately at least once. Chevy had 13 hits off losing pitcher John Barringer.

Boye makes its season debut in the Plymouth Modified League next

Boye makes its season debut in the Plymouth Modified League next Wednesday.

by 13-3 tally

Boyle Chevy

wins '90 debut

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