

swimming

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN SWIM LEAGUE RESULTS

BEECHVIEW SWIM CLUB 307 HUNTINGTON WOODS 270 (Thursday, June 27)

DOUBLE WINNERS

15-18: Max Hoffman, 50 free (31.6) and 100 free (1:58.6); Veronica Forbeger, 50 back (35.0) and 100 free (1:57.0).
 13-14: Nancy Harvey, 100 IM (1:17.28) and 50 breast (37.35); Andrea Hoffman, 50 back (38.06) and 50 free (30.95).
 11-12: Patrick Duhon, 50 free (39.08), 50 back (38.84) and 50 free (33.89); Chris Leand, 100 IM (1:20.38) and 50 breast (37.91).
 9-10: Julie Kuka, 50 free (38.06) and 50 back (44.21).
 8-under: Jennifer Duhon, 25 free (21.89) and 25 fly (24.45).

SINGLE WINNERS

15-18: Jason Bannerg, 100 IM (1:10.33); Jo Murray, 100 IM (1:19.73); Julie Host, 50 breast (34.04).
 13-14: Michelle Fanteles, 50 fly (35.69); 9-10: Dennis Gogus, 50 back (46.53); Kristin Schaefer, 50 fly (40.65).
 8-under: Scott Abbey, 25 back (25.58); Danny Dzekan, 25 breast (30.71); Kerry Smith, 25 breast (30.75).

RELAY WINNERS

40-year combined medley: Eric Phelps, Jimmy Gabriel, Julie Kuka and Danny Gabriel (1:13.2).
 52-year girls medley: Nancy Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Michelle Fanteles and Dana Dzekan (2:24.7).
 50-year boys medley: Jim Nazzari, Matt Walker, Chris Leand and Brian Atkinson (2:25.1).
 64-year girls freestyle: Wendy Leand, Julie Host, Lisa Tonia and Veronica Forbeger (2:06.9).

TRI-CITY SWIM LEAGUE

PIEMONTESE CLUB 352 BEACON SQUARE 177 (Monday, June 24)

TRIPLE WINNERS

Maurice Gerasimowski, 15 fly 50 fly (24.43); Maurice Gerasimowski, 13-14 50

breast (37.04) and 13-14 100 IM (1:15.75); Jo Bannerg, 15-17 100 free (1:03.85); 14-15: Scott Abbey, 25 back (25.58) and 50 back (36.59).
 Mark Benavente, 8-under 25 fly (33.02), 8-under 25 back (23.29) and 8-under 25 free (19.44).
 Danny Bannerg, 11-12 50 fly (34.34), 13-14 50 back (37.06) and 11-12 50 breast (36.07).
 11-12: Scott Abbey, 15-17 50 fly (32.93), 15-17 100 IM (1:04.63) and 15-17 100 free (55.16).

DOUBLE WINNERS

Todd Benavente, 9-10 25 breast (20.07) and 9-10 50 free (32.33); Ben Gogel, 13-14 50 fly (31.56) and 13-14 50 free (32.47); Lindsay MacQueen, 9-10 25 fly (23.75) and 9-10 25 breast (24.41); Adrienne Perry, 11-12 50 fly (41.89) and 11-12 50 free (47.97); Mary Suma, 15-17 50 back (38.04) and 15-17 50 breast (42.63).

SINGLE WINNERS

15-17: Amy MacQueen, 100 IM (1:15.03); 13-14: Sean Hollister, 50 breast (38.74); Karen Lukewicz, 50 free (30.97); John Testa, 100 IM (1:25.02).
 11-12: Shawn Hopper, 50 free (35.22); Amber Murray, 50 breast (45.94); Adam Webster, 50 back (41.78); Carole Weems, 50 back (45.51).
 9-10: Nicole D'Amato, 25 back (23.31); Bay Gateway, 25 free (21.53); Alex Gogel, 25 back (21.25); Devin Hopper, 25 free (15.45).
 8-under: Andrea Cervellari, 25 fly (28.90); Danielle Cervellari, 25 back (28.78); Con Hopper, 25 breast (31.25); Lisa Scher, 25 free (24.93).

RELAY WINNERS

40-year girls freestyle: Kim O'Meara, Erin Zakra, Emily Gatin and Nicole D'Amato (1:22.48).
 52-year girls medley: Adrienne Perry, Amber Murray, Sherry Bartlett and Lisa Kambouza (2:24.4).
 64-year girls freestyle: Mary Suma, Karine Gattman, Amy MacQueen and Nicole Gerasimowski (2:27.23).
 40-year boys freestyle: Todd Benavente, Devin Hopper, Bay Gateway and Scott Kneib (1:02.91).
 52-year boys medley: Adam Webster, Sean Hollister, Shawn Hopper and Marc Alonzo (2:41.44).

Senior runner in national meet

Continued from Page 1

Sproule, who has run in the Free Press Marathon and was running 60 miles a week in 1987 before developing the foot ailment, has seen steady improvement in his times this year.

The 6-foot, 170-pound Sproule has been training six days a week for the last 13 weeks in preparation for the national meet. In the process of losing 18 pounds since January, he has seen his 800-meter time drop from 3:46 to the personal best 3:19 last week.

He also has kept a daily log of everything he does as part of his workouts since 1980. He included stationary bicycling as part of his routine when he developed the heel spur and, in the last 13 weeks, has charted miles on the bike as well as times recorded running hills, sprints and distances.

"I CAN GO back and say 'Am I losing it or getting better,'" Sproule said. "I'm faster than I was 10 years ago."

Sproule will run in the Michigan

Senior Olympics Aug. 9-12 in Battle Creek, and his goal for that race is 3:00.

"If I get that, I'll start thinking about 2:50 and getting more weight off," he said. "It's a goal and when you're retired you have time to do these things."

"Last year 3:10 was tops and, if I can get down to 3:05, I could be shooting for first or second in my age group. But you also might have someone (who is faster) moving up from the other age group."

Sproule, who started running in

the early 1970s after reading a book about the aerobic benefits of exercise, would be rated a successful runner by most standards since he remains so active at an age when many men limit their sporting activity to the golf course.

"It's like a natural high," he said. "In training for a marathon, you go out for a 15- to 18-mile run and get lost in your thoughts. It's like a drug. They say it's good for people who are depressed. It makes them feel better about themselves. It's good therapy."

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The Hometown and Observer and Eccentric "Creative Living" section has the largest selection of suburban display real estate ads in the metro area.

Observerland has 4 in all-star game

By Brad Emons staff writer

The Americanization of Makoto Iwata apparently is not over.

Originally scheduled to return home on June 10, the Lutheran High Westland pitcher, via Saitama, Japan, has been granted an extended stay, scheduled to be on the mound Tuesday at Tiger Stadium for the 10th annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association East-West All-Star Game.

The right-hander is one of four Observerland players who have been chosen to play for the East squad. The others include catcher Scott Niemiec of state Class A champion Plymouth Salem; Detroit Tiger draftee Scott Kennedy, a pitcher from Plymouth Canton; and Farmington Harrison outfielder Gary Devine.

Iwata's parents, Kazuyoshi (his father) and Shigeko (his mother), are flying to the U.S. for the first time (on Saturday) to see their son pitch.

"Everything will make me nervous," admitted the 19-year-old Iwata, who came to live with the Cooper family of Westland in April of 1990. "I think a lot about it."

While several other Japanese exchange students from Lutheran High Westland have already returned to their homeland, Iwata remains here, determined in pursuit of going to an American university (with aspirations of continuing his baseball career).

"I WILL BE disappointed if I cannot stay here and play baseball for some college," Iwata said. "If I can pitch (Tuesday), I hope somebody will watch. I'd like to go to Eastern Michigan. They have a good baseball team."

Iwata is an unknown quantity among college coaches and scouts. Perhaps many are suspect of the Class C competition Lutheran Westland plays against each spring.

But Iwata's statistics alone may raise a few eyebrows. As a senior, the 5-foot-11, 152-pounder went 7-2 with a 1.13 earned run average. In 62 innings he fanned 90 batters, while walking only 10.

He also led the Warriors in hitting, a .422 average (72 for 64) with 20 RBI and seven extra base hits.

The All-Michigan "Independent Athletic Conference" pick also played first and third base when he was not on the mound.

"Makoto is a very good all-around player," Lutheran Westland coach Marty Moro said. "He's a very good fielder and picks up things very quickly. I'd say he throws around the low 80s (MPH)."

His baseball talents, however, are not the biggest obstacle. There is a language barrier. Iwata did not speak a word of English when he arrived at the Jim and Ann Cooper's doorstep nearly 15 months ago. (Sue Kamin, a friend of the Coopers from Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran in Canton, made the referral.)

BEATING THE TOEFL Test, an English exam which could gain

'I will be disappointed if I cannot stay here and play baseball for some college. If I can pitch (Tuesday), I hope somebody will watch. I'd like to go to Eastern Michigan. They have a good baseball team.'
— Makoto Iwata

him admittance into a school such as EMU, is his most immediate challenge. He is 90 points shy from a passing grade.

"The test is very difficult, even for me," Ann Cooper says.

By becoming fluent in English, Iwata believes it will open a lot of doors for him in Japan and abroad.

"I'd like to work some day for a company as an interpreter," he said. "That's why I'd like to go to college here in the U.S."

"He's come along quite a bit," Ann Cooper says. "He's just a great kid. No matter what I ask, he does. And I thought the Japanese had no sense of humor, but every day we laugh about something."

Although he struggles with English, Iwata makes it clear about his passions for MTV, mashed potatoes, barbecue chicken, pizza, Michael Jordan, the Pistons, chocolate, his catcher and teammate Jason Zielinski, not to mention the kidding he takes from his adopted family, which also includes Melissa, a junior at Westland Glenn, and Jeffrey, an '89 Glenn grad.

IWATA'S HOMETOWN, Saitama, is a 1½-hour ride (by train) from Tokyo.

His father, who owns two clothing stores and a gift shop (where his 22-year-old brother Yutaka is employed), is a former baseball coach.

But frustrated by the regimented, disciplinary baseball traditions of the Japanese, Iwata's father suggested his son try the sport in the U.S.

"We do a lot of running," said Makoto, who was recruited to play high school baseball in Japan. "We weren't very good and it was too serious with the coach."

"When we're working here we have fun. We do a lot of different things, not just one thing. I like it."

Iwata's favorite professional team in Japan is the Tokyo Giants, where Americans Warren Cromartie, now with the Kansas City Royals, and Bill Gullickson (ace of the Tigers' pitching staff) once played.

Makoto's favorite American players are former University of Michigan star Jim Abbott (now with California), Rickey Henderson and Jose Canseco (both of the Oakland A's).

And on Tuesday, Iwata and Abbott will have something in common. Both will have pitched in the MHSBCA All-Star Game.

And Iwata hopes somebody will notice.

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