

# Science Bowl bound



photos by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Four students from Harrison High School won a regional Science Bowl competition Saturday and now go on to compete in the National Science Bowl in Washington. Pictured are (l-r) junior Morris Slutsky and seniors Stephanie Sprague, Chris Murphy and Ben Pinsky.

## Harrison team takes top honors

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Four Harrison High School students will compete in the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., this spring after winning in regional bowl competition Saturday.

Seniors Ben Pinsky, Stephanie Sprague and Chris Murphy and junior Morris Slutsky took top honors over the weekend at a regional, double-elimination Science Bowl at the University of Dayton. The competition was done in four-person teams and was structured like a traditional quiz bowl.

It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

While other teams got together twice a week to practice before the event, the Harrison team simply worked with their knowledge base, the students said. "We pretty much went in cold," said Murphy.

Harrison was the only Michigan team represented among 32 in the regional competition. Sprague said she used a lot of word association to come up with answers, since many questions had to be answered before they were completely given. "Sometimes luck helps," she said. "We had to be pretty quick with the buzzers."

The win was "very surprising," said Pinsky. "It felt really good."

COACH AND Harrison science teacher Dennis King said the four students were selected because all were strong in mathematics, and each had a specialty in the areas of physics, biology, chemistry and computers. Slutsky also studied up on geology and astronomy, which helped the team in those areas.

In the final two rounds Saturday, the Harrison team beat out Beaver Creek High School from Ohio, whose students had won first place in the regional competition last year and took fourth place in national competition. The final round score was a close Harrison 94 to Beaver Creek 74.

"The last one — that represents a team effort," King said. "They each answered key questions. It was really fun to watch them mold together as a team."

"They had a lot of tough competition."

As first place winners, the Harrison students received \$2,000 scholarships to the University of Dayton, \$500 savings bond, and school trophy and an all-expense paid trip to the National Science Bowl at the Cray Foundation in Washington, D.C., in April. There, they will compete with 32 teams from around the country. They also got a number of fun items, such as T-shirts and Science Bowl watches.

IN ADDITION to the Science Bowl win, junior Slutsky got word Monday that he was one of 60 students nationally to make it to the national finals of the Physics Olympics. That field now gets narrowed to 20 students who will spend two weeks in intensive study, then five of those students will compete in the physics finals.

King said he is proud of all the accomplishments of students, but especially the academics. "I think we spend too much time promoting athletics and not academics," he said. "I just decided we'd compete in these things (academic competitions)."

"We have a great academic program at Harrison and I'm out to prove it."

King also coaches a student team in the TEAMS competition, a national competition which matches wits, knowledge and encourages student teamwork.

TEAMS is an acronym for Tests of Engineering, Aptitude, Mathematics and Science.



Harrison science teacher Dennis King coached the winning Science Bowl team which competed in Ohio last Saturday.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### ● ASSAULT REPORTED

Farmington police are seeking felonious assault charges against a Southfield woman, relating to a Feb. 20 incident in which a wine bottle was thrown through an apartment window at Kensington Manor Apartments on Farmington Road at a man staying there.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, a man reported the incident after a friend, a 24-year-old Southfield woman, had left the apartment angry and apparently intoxicated then returned and knocked on the bedroom window. She then reportedly threw the bottle at him, shattering the bedroom glass and causing glass to strike the victim's head and neck.

He told police he believed the woman was trying to hit him with the bottle. A 12-inch by 18-inch hole was left in the window, causing about \$77 in damage.

### ● VERDICT IN

It took a jury four hours to return a guilty verdict against a 31-year-old Farmington Hills man charged with the use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime and possession of an unregistered machine gun, according to U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman.

Martin Allan Cook as found guilty of the charges Feb. 19 before U.S. District Judge Robert DeMascio in Detroit. Cook will be sentenced at a later date.

"The evidence presented at trial established that on June 15, 1990, police officers from Livonia and Southfield found Cook in possession of a shotgun which Cook used to protect more than 751 grams of marijuana, which he intended to sell," said assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Holman. "When federal agents later attempted to arrest Cook on gun charges, they found him in possession of a rifle along with the parts and instructions on how to convert

the rifle into a machine gun."

Cook faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years for use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. He also faces an additional maximum penalty of up to 10 years and a fine of \$10,000, or both for the machine gun conviction, Holman said.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms conducted the investigation that led to Cook's arrest and conviction, Markman said.

### ● ARMED ROBBERY

A Bedford couple, in their late 50s, was in the parking lot of Newberry's Restaurant, early Saturday evening, after finishing dinner. They were approached by a clean-cut man with a knife, who demanded money. They each gave him \$7. But he demanded more, adding that he had a gun and AIDS, so he had nothing to lose. He removed the woman's bracelets, valued at \$90 and a \$119 each. However, the thief told the woman that he wouldn't take her wedding ring because it had sentimental value. He then fled.

### ● TRASH FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$350 after a trash can in a room at the Radisson Suites Hotel, 37529 Grand River, caught fire Friday, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

When firefighters arrived they found light smoke in the hotel corridor and bathroom, with the bathroom door propped open. A utility employee extinguished the fire and took the contents of the trash can to a kitchen sink where investigators found an ashtray, cigarettes and paper in the trash, according to the report.

The hotel's fire alarm was reset and occupants allowed to return to their rooms.

### ● MINOR DAMAGE

Minor damage was reported when a trash compactor connected to the K mart building at Grand River and Halsted caught fire Feb. 23.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, the fire of unknown origin caused about \$100 in property damage, and caused smoke to fill a storage room inside the building.

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### ● CAR FIRE

A motorist used a shovel of snow to extinguish a fire in his car at a Manufacturer's Bank on Eight Mile, Friday, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

The told firefighters he went into the bank at 33452 Eight Mile, and when he returned found his car on fire, believed due to a mechanical failure.

Damage as a result of the fire was estimated at \$204.

### ● TRUCK DAMAGED

A total of \$900 in property was stolen and \$400 damage done to a Chevrolet Blazer Feb. 22, in what police believe was an attempted truck theft.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, a woman told police she was followed as she drove along Eight Mile, then north on Farmington Road. As she left the vehicle to go into a downtown Farmington store to get help, someone attempted to steal the truck, and took the AM/FM radio and some women's clothing.

The woman told police she believed a kill switch she had installed on the truck had stopped a theft of the vehicle. Damage was reported to the door lock and steering column.

### ● TICKETS ISSUED

Two Farmington teens were ticketed for operating motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles on the Flanders Elementary School property, 32600 Flanders. Neither boy carried a driver's license.

Neighbors reported seeing the boys driving on the school field at about 6:30 p.m. and called police.

### ● THEFTS REPORTED

A total of \$100 in cash and jewelry was reported stolen from a purse in a car at Farmington Hills School, 32000 Shawwassee Feb. 24.

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