



OVERCOMING HANDICAPS — These young students are enjoying a few comments from their teacher, Peter Solar (left) while Mrs.

Jennie Canaert, an aide, and Counselor Tom Gorman (rear) look on. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)



TROPHY WINNERS — The happiest young students at Farmington Junior High are Joe Cote (left) and Warren Townsend, who competed in wheel chair games at Wayne State.

Wheel Chair Athletes Are Real Winners

By W. W. EDGAR

It would be difficult to find two happier boys than Joe Cote and Warren Townsend, seventh and eighth graders at Farmington Junior High School.

"They've just had their first taste of scholastic competition, and while they didn't win any championships, the trophies they received mean more to them than any ever won by the top stars of the day."

You see, these two lads are crippled, and competed in the recent "Wheel Chair Games" at Wayne State University.

AS THEY SAT there fondling the trophies, their counselor, Tom Gorman, remarked "They not only did a great job in the Wayne games, but they're serving as an inspiration to the other members in their class—and the entire area."

Because of this success, Gorman is hopeful of organizing a handicapped class for all residents of the area. "There'll be games available for all ages", he said, "and they'll have just as much fun as these two lads."

Peter Solar, teacher of orthopedics, and his aide, Mrs. Jennie Canaert, also pointed to the inspiration furnished by the two lads and invited all handicapped persons in the area to join hands with them.

"And we'd teach them a lot about these contests," Joe, the more articulate of the two trophy winners, replied.

With a big smile, he said "Would you believe it, they had 'souped up' wheel chairs."

WITHOUT WAITING for an answer, he explained that some of the entries had stripped down their chairs and used bicycle tires.

"They could grab them better."

Little Joe, still fondling the trophy, reported that neither he nor his buddy, Warren, was allowed to use the chairs they took with them.

"I didn't have the foot rests on mine," he said, "and it was out. And Warren didn't have the right kind of supports down in front. But we did all right with the used chairs."

They did. Little Joe finished third in the 40-yard dash, and Warren was runner-up in the four-man relay.

The two lads competed in the 40-yard dash, javelin, discus, shot put, soft ball throw, 40-yard relay and the slalom.

"I couldn't wiggle around the stakes", Warren confessed. "But I'll do better next time."

Little Joe is a victim of artho gryposis, and Warren is suffering from spinal bifida.

Week's Camp For Musicians

FARMINGTON

Marching bands from both Harrison High and Farmington Senior High schools will be heading north this summer to train at special band camps. Transportation costs were approved recently by the Farmington Board of Education.

Paul Barber, director of the Harrison High band, said he expects four busloads of students, staff and equipment to gather at Camp Sea Gull, Lake Charlevoix in Charlevoix, Michigan, from Aug. 29 through Sept. 4. He said between 75-100 students will pay \$35 apiece for the week-long outing.

Training will come from Barber, one brass specialist, one woodwind specialist, one percussion specialist and one drilling assistant. There will also be two camp directors, 10 volunteer counselors from Farmington, a nurse, water safety instructor and two cooks.

The last Saturday of camp will be set aside for parents, Barber said, to come visit the camp and see a special band performance. No specific date has been set by Farmington High band director George Heller, although he said 30-40 students and staff would leave for the Smith-Walbridge Camp in Syracuse, Indiana around Aug. 30. The camp is well-known as a training ground for baton twirlers, drum majors, cheerleaders, junior golfers and instrumental musicians. Farmington High has sent its drum major to the camp for many years and now for the second year will take its marching band along too. Daily activities consist of music rehearsals, marching drills sectional practice and individual instruction, although proper consideration is given to the students' food, sleep and relaxation. Each band at the camp is provided with a rehearsal hall and football field.

Student Wins Safety Award

FARMINGTON

A ninth grader at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Farmington was Michigan's top cash award winner in the 27th annual National School Traffic Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the American Automobile Association.

Mary Jo Giacalone, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ignatius Giacalone of Detroit, won a \$100 savings bond for her poster "Play Away From Traffic."

Laurie Thomas, a \$500 grand award winner last year, tied for third with her poster on "Pedestrian Lifelines - Walk Within Them."

She is a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy and is the 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thomas of 26164 Springfield Dr., Farmington.

Another third place winner is Kim Winston, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David K. Winston of Orchard Lake, Mich., and a ninth grader at Mercy High.

The national AAA contest drew 34,000 entries competing for 132 cash awards. Ten of the top winners are from Michigan and eight of the 10 from the metropolitan Detroit area.

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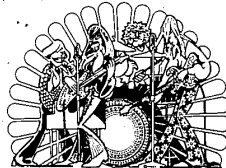
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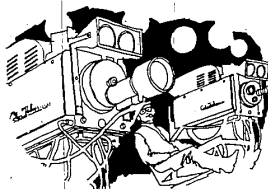


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