

SPORTS SHORTS

Items for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for the Monday edition).

SOCCER SIGN-UP

The Farmington Soccer Club is registering players for its fall season. Forms are available at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, the YMCA and through Farmington Public Schools.

UNITED PLACES 2ND

Livonia Youth Soccer Club United, an under-13 girls team, was runner-up in the Junior Irish Memorial Day Tournament in South Bend, Ind.

United advanced to the semifinal round after finishing first in its division. LYSC defeated the Ohio Bengals but lost a shootout with the Illinois Blazers in the final.

The United players are Melissa Backus, Lisa Fabrikiewicz, Andrea Galindo, Melissa Jacobs, Loretta Moss, Stacey Nastase, Terri Owens, Jenny Schmidt, Kelly Travis and Crystal Wright of Livonia; Tina Albaugh, Redford; Angela DeDomenico, Farmington Hills; Yvonne Irimescu and Lydia Raburn, Novi; and Sarah Pezart, West Bloomfield. Mario Galindo is the coach.

O&E GOLF FAX

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are offering a five-page information package on golf courses in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne county areas.

The package lists all golf courses with phone numbers and information on par for each course and playing cost. To order at \$4.95 for the five pages, call 953-2297 and ask for item 2001.

COACH NEEDED

Farmington Hills Mercy needs an assistant varsity swim coach. If interested call the Mercy athletic department at 476-2836.

JUNIOR MASTERS GOLF

Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville will stage its 10th annual Great Lakes Junior Masters

golf tournament, July 12-14. The field is limited to the first 244 entrants (54-hole medal play).

The \$85 entry fee (deadline June 23) also includes trophies, food and beverages.

For more information, call 349-3600, Ext. 61.

SCHOOLCRAFT GOLF

Schoolcraft College has scheduled its 10th annual golf outing for Monday, June 21, on the Goldens Fox Course at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.

For the cost of \$160 in the morning or \$200 in the afternoon, you can drive, chip and putt with Senior Professional Golf Association members Tommy Aaron, Jim Albus, Terry Dill, Dick Hendrickson, Dave Hill, Orville Moody and Charles Coady.

The pros will play golf with personal customers and conduct golf clinics throughout the day. Participants will also receive a photo with one of the pros, lunch, dinner and use of a golf cart.

The golf format is a four-man scramble. The times begin at 8 a.m. Proceeds will go for Schoolcraft student scholarships.

Call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 462-4417 for more information.

SOFTBALL INFO

Canton Softball Center is accepting registrations for its summer season, which begins June 29. The entry fee is \$495 per team. There are no residency requirements. The season consists of 14 games. Men, women and coed leagues are offered.

Canton Softball Center is offering Monday morning doubleheader leagues for teams and individuals. The 20-game season begins July 19. The team fee is \$350. Call 463-5600, Ext. 102 for information.

Canton Softball Center is accepting entries for the following tournaments: USSSA men's A-B NIT and men's C, E and church, May 29-30; Black NIT and USSA men's E qualifier, June 5-6; Strawberry Festival men's C and D/E qualifiers, June 11-13; women's and youth tournament and USSA men's E June, 26-27; WCSX/Bud Light men's B, C, D, and E Travel, July 3-4. Call above number for information.

Donahue right for U-D job



C. J. RISAK

If it comes down to picking the right man for the job, the man with the proper connections, the best credentials, the most experience — then Glen Donahue will be the choice to coach University of Detroit-Mercy's basketball team next season.

No one else interested in coaching the Titans has nearly as much experience. None have proven they can recruit any better (not even Perry Watson — more on that later). And, although the other candidates would argue otherwise, they could not possibly be as committed to a school as Donahue is to UD-M.

So why the wait? What are Titans officials debating about? Why bother interviewing anyone else? Why don't they just hire him? Their answer: Well, let's be thorough. Let's be fair.

Those are just dodges, of course, which I fear will lead to one of those "other factors to consider" replies as an explanation when someone else is hired.

This much I know: If someone else is chosen to replace Ricky Byrdsong — who for a reason I will never comprehend resigned to take the coaching position at Northwestern University (I hope it was the money) — it won't be because he's better qualified.

A solid record

There's so much to be said for Donahue's credentials. Teams under his direction have won more than 600 games, with the majority coming in the college ranks. He took a struggling St. Mary's College program and in four years turned it into a contender for the NAIA national title.

What is, Donahue wouldn't have been in position to turn St. Mary's around if he had been hired at UD-M instead of Byrdsong. He had coached just one year at St. Mary's when he interviewed for the UD-M job.

But UD-M officials decided against Donahue, an alumnus (class of '58) and former assistant coach ('86-87), in favor of Byrdsong — who had no local ties but had two factors in his favor: He was young and he was black.

Donahue is neither. And, chances are, if he is passed by again, those will be key factors. The perception is only a black coach can recruit in the city, and only a young coach can relate to today's players.

Generalizations like that are unfortunate. In Donahue's case, they're untrue. He's proven he can coach and recruit in the city — he was 401-205 in 20 seasons at Highland Park Community College. And he's had no trouble relating to young players. He took over the Bedford Bishop Borgess program last fall, just two weeks before the start of fall practices, and did a creditable job.

But there are more important traits his credentials don't reveal. The right attitude.

For one, Donahue is a strong rebounder. When St. Mary's program folded underneath him, just a few days after he had taken them to the NAIA National Tournament, he was stunned.

Who wouldn't be? But he overcame it, never allowing bitterness and resentment to anchor him. He began searching for a place to coach, but not until after all his returning players at St. Mary's were taken care of.

If UD-M officials need an example of Donahue's loyalty, they need look no further. What is bound to be used as an excuse for hiring someone else is age. Donahue is 58.

But he's not dummy. He knows how to turn what could be perceived as a detriment into a positive.

"One of the things I emphasized," he said from his Southfield home of his interview at UD-M two weeks ago, "is that I'd be there for the long haul. This would not be a stepping stone for me. I want to spend the rest of my career there."

And how long would that be? Donahue has no other interest except coaching. If he kept the job for eight years, he'd be third in longevity in UD-M's basketball history, which dates back to 1905. What could he bring to the program? An unwavering attitude, for one. He is always positive. And he has an established program.

A proven recruiter

He likes the running game, and he likes to use 10 players in a constant shuffle.

Could he recruit city players? He did before (at Highland Park CC), while facing tougher odds. The popular opinion is that Watson would be better suited for the UD-M job because he coached so successfully in the city (at Detroit Southwestern) before becoming an assistant coach at Michigan.

However, Watson burned a lot of bridges at Southwestern. He would probably have more trouble associating with Detroit PSL coaches than Donahue would.

And Donahue has an established association with the Detroit Catholic League, at Borgess and through St. Mary's.

He also knows what it takes to win. "The key to it has always been the players," he summed up. "I've never had a good team without good players."

Donahue is confident he will get the job. "There's been more talk that U-of-DM needs a local guy, a guy who has built up good, local ties. I really fit the bill, so I've got to be positive."

One of Byrdsong's problems was laying a foundation in Detroit after arriving from Arizona. He had just one winning record here in five seasons. "I think he narrowed the gap," said Donahue in evaluating Byrdsong's recruiting progress. "If he had stayed, they would have gotten better and better."

But he didn't, and now it will be someone else's task to put the Titans back on the map in basketball.

Can Donahue do it? Probably. Will he get the chance? Well, let's hope so.

SOCCER

FARMINGTON TRYOUTS

The Farmington Soccer Club will have tryouts for its select soccer teams between June 18 and 22. All boys tryouts will take place at Drake Field, 12 Mile and Drake roads. The girls tryouts will be at Pioneer Field, 13 Mile and Farmington roads. For information, call boys coordinator Craig Barton (478-7537) or girls coordinator Joe Pawloski (478-7899). Tryout dates and times are as follows: Under-10 boys, 5-7 p.m. June 18; under-11 boys, 7-9 p.m. June 18; under-12 boys, 9-11 a.m. June 19; under-13 boys, noon to 2 p.m. June 20; under-14 boys premier, 2-5 p.m. June 20; under-14 boys, 2-5 p.m. June 20. All girls tryouts (for age groups under-12, 14, 16 and 19) will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. June 21 and 22.

VARDAR TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Vardar III boys soccer club will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 16 and 17, at Oakland University in Auburn Hills (lower fields) for the following age groups: under-10 (coach Mike Lupencic), under-12 (Mike Lupencic), under-13 (Mark Christensen), under-14 (Matt Paukovits) and under-15 (Mark Christensen). Boys tryouts for under-16 (Monte Lupencic), under-17 (Mike Lupencic) and under-19 (Mark Christensen) are pending.

For more information, call Bruce Thomas (673-5630) or Mark Christensen (964-0140).

NORTHVILLE TRYOUTS

The Northville Soccer Association will hold select team tryouts for the fall 1993 and spring 1994 seasons. Tryouts are as follows:

Boys under-10½ (born Aug. 1, 1983 or younger), 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, June 25, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at TC3 (call coach Rich Azanger at 344-0819).

Boys under-11½ (born Aug. 1, 1982 or younger), 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, June 18, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 19, and 4-6 p.m. Sunday, June 20, at TC3 (call Jeff Weickel at 349-0605 or Cory Yetter at 347-4377).

Girls under-11½ (born Aug. 1, 1982 or younger), 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 24, and 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 26, at TC3 (call Pat Melvin at 348-6443).

OFFICIAL SPORTS CENTER IS HAVING A CLOSING SALE

At prices you won't believe! *9am to 6pm* Mon-Fri *9am to 4pm Saturday* EVERY ITEM TO GO From tee-shirts*bats*socks* sweats*caps*mitts* jerseys*jackets* xlots of odds and ends of jock-type things you or your kids always use* WOW*What a sale! SORRY, we don't sell shoes

Official Sports Center 20900 Bridge Street Southfield 353-0414 Easy to get to: 1 block West of Telegraph, North of 8 Mile Road *ALL SALES FINAL* VISA *M.C.* or CASH *

DETROIT TIGERS IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME! FOR TICKETS CALL 25-TIGER OR ANY TICKETMASTER LOCATION INCLUDING HUDSON'S, HARMONY HOUSE AND SOUND WAREHOUSE.

Social Security... You Get What You Pay For...

And More.

An estimate of your future retirement benefits.

Visual representation of Social Security forms including 'YOUR EARNINGS RECORD', 'ESTIMATED BENEFITS', and 'SOCIAL SECURITY CREDITS'. Includes text: 'Your year-by-year earnings - make sure they're correct.', 'An estimate of survivors benefits for your family.', 'The disability insurance benefits you and your family could be eligible to receive.'

You may not have thought about this before, but right now you are earning disability insurance, survivors benefits, a retirement program, and future Medicare coverage. It's all paid for by the Social Security taxes withheld from your paycheck—and matched dollar for dollar by your employer.

And now you can find out just what those taxes are earning for you. It's easy to do and it's free. Just call 1-800-772-1213 and ask for a

Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement. When you get it, you'll see a complete history of your earnings, the Social Security taxes you've paid, and estimates of what you and your family could receive in Social Security retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

And if there's an error or omission in your earnings record, Social Security will help you correct it.

Social Security—the best deal in town.