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have won twice as many international matches as they have lost. They are dominant.

And yet, they have difficulty finding an audience. Monday's game attracted 3,572. Many of them were kids, with a large contingent screaming "Hammer! Hammer!" by game's end.

No, they weren't waiting for an appearance by M.C. Their hero this night was the coach of their youth team: Linda Hamilton, a U.S. team defender now living in Farmington Hills and working for Total Soccer.

Hamilton knows the score. She stood on the transplanted grass of the Silverdome answering journalists' questions about Monday's match, close to where the victorious German team accepted the U.S. Cup trophy Saturday — the same day the U.S. women were winning the Ohio Women's International Soccer Extravaganza in Cincinnati.

Asked if women could find enough of following to play soccer professionally, Hamilton said, "Quite honestly, not until they make a successful league for the men. Until it sells for the men, it won't sell for the women."

"It's going to take a little bit of marketing, quite frankly. Maybe if they would let us play before a U.S. men's game, like they do in college basketball, where the women play before the men. I think if people came and watched us play, we could sell it."

This will sound horribly biased, but the fact is no sport in which both sexes compete is controlled by women. Male athletes dominate. In sports, the object is to be the best. At present, men are.

So men's soccer must succeed if women's is to have a future. Selling soccer. That's what it all comes down to. Unlike the op-

timists, I do not believe the game is now destined for success, with the '94 World Cup acting as the detonator for a soccer explosion.

But I do not side with the pessimists, either. I don't believe an abundance of alterations are needed (although sudden-death for breaking ties is one) to juice up the game.

What male soccer promoters could use is a lesson from the U.S. women's team about selling the sport. Monday night's post-game autograph session found favor with a lot of fans.

A solid, thriving pro league could prosper, if approached properly. Conservatively. Don't overexpand. No huge stadiums. No enormous player contracts. Limit the foreign influence.

And don't expect too much. Optimism is a fine thing, but remember a pessimist is never disappointed.

## 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).

### BASKETBALL CHAMPS

Little Ma Power, a boys 13-and-under basketball team, won the Youth Basketball of America regional and the AAU Grand Rapids Invitational. Little Ma qualified for national tournaments in both.

The players are Todd Negroshian (Walled Lake), Vince Riggio (Rochester), Drew Klabath (Canton), Tom Marx (Bloomfield Hills), Phil Conlon (Fraser), Jim Eastan (Troy), John Foyer (West Bloomfield), Pat Jones (Clarkston) and Josh McCann (Waterford).

The team is coached by Tom Negroshian, boys varsity head coach at North Farmington High School.

### HOLE-IN-ONE ACES

Jim Atkinson of Farmington Hills scored a hole-in-one at Grand Monarch in Lewiston and entered the 53rd Annual Drumbule Rusty Nail Sweepstake. The 136-yard ace was recorded May 22.

Atkinson and Lee Woodruff, the golf professional who validated the sweepstakes entry, are eligible to win the grand prize, a one-week trip for two to Scotland and \$1,000 cash.

For information about the sweepstakes write to Drumbule Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 2777, Stuart, Fla., 34995-2777.

Paul Tripp of Farmington Hills shot a hole-in-one June 17 at Riverwood Resort in Mount Pleasant. He used an 8 iron on the 140-yard hole. Tripp shot 42 for nine holes.

### VIKINGS FOOTBALL

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Vikings are registering players (ages 9-14) for their freshman, junior varsity and varsity football teams. The fee is \$75.

There are limited openings, so registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call Mike Heath (737-4118) or Jim Taylor (661-4220). The season begins Monday, Aug. 9.

### HARRISON CAMP

Farmington Hills Harrison boys soccer players are invited to attend Camp Wolverine Aug. 25-28 in northern Michigan. Incoming freshmen are welcome. The fee is \$125. If interested call Lynn Rose (632-0149).

### SOCCER CHAMPIONS

Livonia Youth Soccer Club United, an under-13 girls soccer team coached by Mario Gallido, recently completed a 10-0-2, winning a divisional title in the Little Caesars Premier League.

Team members are Melissa Backus, Lisa Fabrickiewicz, Andrea Gallido, Melissa Jacobs, Lanette Moss, Stacey Nastase, Terri Owens, Jenny Schmidt, Kelly Travis and goalie Crystal Wright, all of Livonia; Tina Albaugh, Redford; Angela DeDomenico, Farmington Hills; Sar-

ah Pessat, West Bloomfield; Yvonne Irimescu and Lydia Raburn, Novi. Assistant coaches are Jorge Pessat and Frank Raburn.

### STINGRAYS SWIMMING

Junior National qualifiers Jon Kershaw, Karl Kozicki and James Leslie swam excellent early-season times when the Michigan Stingrays opened their long-course season Wednesday at Bowling Green State University.

Leslie finished with a time of 6:05.69 in the 400 individual medley. Kozicki 4:24.38 in the 400 freestyle and Kershaw 59.29 in the 100 freestyle.

Newcomer and potential Junior National qualifier Paul Magoulick swam 26.63 in the 50 freestyle. All four competed in the 13-18 age group.

In the 12-and-under division, the girls 9-10 medley relay team of Amy McCullough, Lindsay Fetters, Hannah Pawlicz and Elizabeth MacDonald set a meet record of 2:42.49.

The Stingrays have summer practices at Oak Park Pool and Merch High School. For information call 474-6236.

### CRACKERBOX SOFTBALL

Crackerbox Softball at the Knights of Columbus in Farmington Hills has scheduled the following tournaments:

Coeed ball and chain June 26-27, men's Bad News July 10-11 and women's Founders Festival July 17-18.

There is limited space in the coed softball and volleyball leagues. For information call 476-9888 after 6 p.m.

## Marauders pursue Cup semifinals

The Marauders are on the verge of accomplishing something that has evaded the soccer club throughout its existence — a trip to the National Amateur Cup's Final Four.

First, however, comes a pair of severe tests in the regional. The Marauders battle the Indianapolis-Fort Wayne Soccer Club at 4 p.m. Saturday in the second of the regional semifinals at Oakland University. The first pits Scott Gallagher of St. Louis against the ACC Eagles of Chicago, at 2 p.m. at OU.

The survivors of those games meet for the region title at 2 p.m.

Sunday at OU, with a trip to the National Amateur Cup, July 16 and 18 in Indianapolis, at stake.

The Marauders advanced to the region semis with a hard-fought 2-1 overtime win Sunday against the Wisconsin state champ at Henry Ford Community College.

The Marauders scored first, with Robbie Ludwig netting a goal in the 56th minute on a play started by John Gentile, who sent a pass through to Bob Hayes. But Wisconsin tied it 12 minutes later on a header by Rose Kakua.

Five minutes into the first of two overtimes, the Marauders got

the clincher, again from Ludwig. Gentile once again started the play, getting the ball to Scott Weiger.

The excitement wasn't over, however. Midfielder Paul Kaliszewski got his second yellow card 10 minutes into the first overtime session, forcing the Marauders to play short a player. But the defense, anchored by keeper Brian O'Shea and defenders Raul Delgado, Dan O'Shea, Scott Steiner and Chris Speer, held off Wisconsin.

Others instrumental in the win were midfielders Jeff Gold and Mike Gentile.

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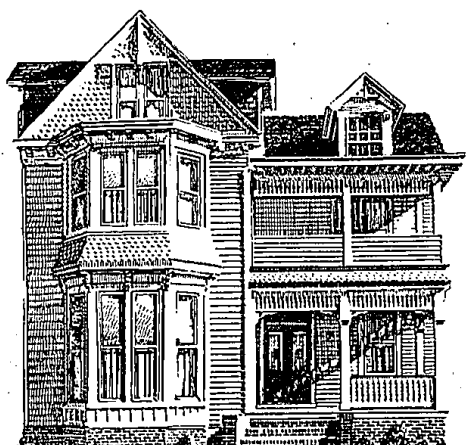
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