

The Scene from page

Sue Nine as coach

Last week Ebony Wheeler, a young African-American woman who graduated from Dominican High School in June, came in second in a nationwide speech contest. Ebony works a summer job as pool supervisor at the Bloumer Building Boys & Girls Clubs facility on Livernois and Michigan in Detroit.

Director Joe Koza introduced Ebony to Sue Nine, a speech major at Wayne State University 25 years ago, and a judge of the inter-club speech contest at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan. Koza asked Nine if she would coach Ebony so she could deliver an oration at a Midwest competition in Chicago.

Nine agreed to do it. "I almost fainted when I heard there were only two weeks to turn the young woman into a polished speaker," Nine said.

But Nine decided to accept the challenge and brought along her husband Paul's law clerk, Dean Groulx, to assist her. Groulx was a speech major at WSU, albeit almost 25 years after Nine, and they were both trained by Dr. George Ziegelmueller, whom Nine holds in high esteem.

"After two weeks of intensive practice, coaching and effort, Ebony became a polished speaker with excellent eye contact, appropriate emphasis gestures, and she also perfected her style," Nine commented.

Groulx of Bloomfield Hills said, "I have coached Grove students in speech, where they have won championships, but I have never seen a young woman grasp criticism or work harder in such a short time."

Ebony took second place in Chicago with Nine and Groulx present.

Tennis match

Valerie Straith is much in demand as a tennis partner, for she is a championship-level player, plus highly competitive.



Tollgate Challenge III: Danielle McCluskey-Schink (right) and Exceptional Equestrian Tim Lobur prepare for polo event Sunday, Aug. 15, at Detroit Polo field in Milford.

Former Birmingham resident and avid tennis player Weldon Yeager was in the area for two days on his way to Harbor Springs, staying with Tom and Maxine Ashcraft and Dick and Valerie Straith on different nights.

A big match on the Straiths' court was arranged with Weldon and Valerie's facing Fred Matthaei and Jim Holmes. The awesome foursome changed partners three times, so it was hard to call the winning pair in a hard-fought highly competitive game.

Wedding dress still fits

How many of us can say 40 years later that our wedding dress still fits with the 24-inch waist? Much less, attend a beach party in it.

Helen Holmes donned her wedding dress and veil for Jim and her 40th wedding anniversary family celebration at the Chicago Club in Charlevoix.

"Jim Holmes smiled broadly. 'People on the beach were startled,' he admitted.

The Holmes' three sons and their wives attended — Jim and Kathy, Steve and Mary, and Bill and Dottie — along with five grandchildren and Jim's sister Nancy Gilbert and her husband Chuck.

The Chicago Club is an enclave of 30 frame "cottages" with seven and eight bedrooms on the bluff over the lake, built early in the century by Chicago people who loved Northern Michigan in the summer.

Mackinac Race

The fastest race ever out of 69 Port Huron to Mackinac Island races, sponsored by the Bayview Yacht Club, was run last weekend with many of the boats arriving earlier than ever, breaking all records.

Nils Muench called J.P. McCarthy on WJR when he got in. J.P. announced the over-all winner was probably 70-footer Trader, although Renegade with its big spinnaker just beat them over the finish line.

Now it's Harbor Springs this coming weekend for the Little Traverse Yacht Club Regatta.

Symphony and Saks

A Symphony of Style from the headquarters of style, Saks Fifth Avenue, will feature Anno Klein's American Sportswear Collection on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at Saks at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Addressing invitations last week at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham were chairwomen Annette Kolon, Judie Sherman, Betty Williams and Barbara Fisher.

Committee members, who helped them address invitations



Tour de Birmingham: Lyle Beadle pumps his bicycle tire up to start the Olympic tour of clues relating to movie titles.



Olympic under way: Jon Uffelman brings the lighted torch to Olympic headquarter to announce 'Let the games begin!'



Addressing for DSO: Katie Valenti (left), Barbara Tucker and Gloria Clark pause at addressing luncheon at Townsend Hotel.



Man for all seasons: Tom Parks floats in a swimming pool with all kinds of athletic gear.



Ribbon winners: Winning team Jay Dienst (left), Hobb Wilson, Buck Drummond and Carrie Dillon accept Olympic medals for their Raging Bull team from perpetrator of this event Lori Parks.



Chairwomen quartet: Judie Sherman (left), Barbara Fisher, Annette Kolon and Betty Williams take time out for luncheon at the addressing party for DSO fundraiser.

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