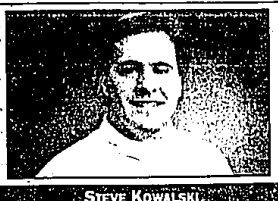


# SPORTS



MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1993



STEVE KOWALSKI

## CC hockey coach boasts experience

New Redford Catholic Central hockey coach Gordon St. John was talking the other day over the phone about his coaching career, which began, ironically enough, with another team called the Shamrocks.

Turns out that one of his players on the 1959 AAA Junior team which played in the old Detroit Olympia League was Matt Mulcahy, who currently coaches at Livonia Stevenson.

Wait a minute, I thought. Mulcahy is 49 years old. How old does that make St. John?

About 70? "No," laughed St. John. "Matt was about 17 and I was 23 or 24."

St. John recently turned 56, and after meeting him the other day over coffee and breakfast I found out he's as organized and full of energy as anyone half his age.

Mulcahy remembers St. John as an intense coach who rewarded those who worked the hardest.

He also rewarded those who skated the hardest. Back then, ice time cost about \$20 per practice, according to Mulcahy. St. John would collect \$1 according to each practice; then, at the end of each session, those who won the last aprint race would get the dollar back.

Mulcahy usually went home with a dollar in his pocket.

"Gordie would play those who worked the hardest, and I found that out early because I got a ton of ice time from him," remembers Mulcahy. "He's my kind of coach."

St. John had two stints as an assistant coach at CC under fired head coach Jack Gumbleton. In between, he coached at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, where he won a Class B championship.

St. John wasn't CC's first choice, but it's no shame to be second behind Birmingham Brother Rice coach Mike Brown, a CC graduate who chose to stay at Rice. Brown has won a Class A championship at Rice and was successful before that at South Lyon. Brown's practices also are as smooth as the ice they're held on — just ask some of the state's best coaches who walk the Oak Park Arena on occasion to take notes on the way Brown runs a practice.

St. John will be a great addition at CC, and his job will be easier if some players would wake up and start playing high school hockey instead of seeking more games and competition in the Junior or Midget ranks.

It must have killed former CC goalie Mike Brusseau to watch the Shamrocks get the headlines and march to the Class A final last year when he was playing Midget hockey in a cold arena far away in front of a handful of fans.

Livonia schools don't lose as many players to Junior or Midget hockey, but it sure would be nice to see Mulcahy's best player, goalie Daryl Chamberlain, return as well.

If they even have sports in Livonia.

## World Cup instruction

Players from the Michigan Hawks Girls Soccer Club were among great company last week.

About 70 Hawks spent every day at Livonia's Joyce Park getting instruction from former and current Women's National Team members, including camp director Linda Hamilton. It was appropriately called the Michigan Hawks World Cup Camp.

Hamilton, who lives in Farmington and plays currently for the Women's National Team, brought in retired teammate Carin Jennings-Gabarra and current teammates Sarah Rafanelli and Saskia Webber.

Another featured instructor was Regen Coyne, a Stevenson graduate and former Hawk who stars at North Damp.

Hamilton, who graduated from the University of North Carolina, had a couple noticeable wounds on her knees and got razed throughout the week about it by campers.

She got them while falling off in-line skates. "It's amazing," said Hamilton, a Michigan Hawk coach, "I can play at the top of the world in one sport and can't stand on my feet in something else. It's been the object of discussion many days."

Other discussion centered on fundamentals, 4-on-4 games played on smaller fields, and even a game of tag on Thursday night that amazingly got players from ages 11-17 happily involved.

Hamilton said 4-on-4 games are worthwhile because the players touch the ball more times than an average game of 11-on-11. "It's been proven that some players touch the ball only a total of three to four minutes in a 90-minute game, she said.

"All the coaches make it fun," said Angie Sijja, who will be a freshman at Stevenson in the fall. "We're lucky to have them here."

## Hawks eye successful hoop season



The Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team is minus former star Heather Hopkins, but the Hawks have four starters back and a quality transfer player to replace Hopkins. With a solid lineup and bench, Harrison anticipates a good year.

BY NEAL ZIPPER  
STAFF WRITER

A Pete Mantyla continues to take the Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball program up the mountain to respectability and success, the third-year coach has a new star to lead the way.

The Hawks depended on the inside play of Heather Hopkins last season. But, with Hopkins having graduated, Mantyla didn't have to look far for help.

Enter Carey Perkins, a three-year starter at North Farmington. The senior transferred in January and has developed into Harrison's leader on the court.

"She has already been voted by the team as the captain, and that says a lot," Mantyla said.

Perkins is filling some big shoes. Hopkins, an All-Observersland performer who now plays for Lake Superior State College, was a four-year starter at Harrison and scored 1,358 points in her career. She led the team last year with 15 1/2 points, 7 1/2 rebounds and three blocks per game.

"We'll definitely miss her," Mantyla said. "She was a great person to coach. But we have a player now who can take Heather's spot. Carey has fit in fantastically. Heather was a finesse player, but Carey is powerful."

"Carey is one of the best and most physical post players in the state. I have never had someone with that kind of size (5-foot-10) who can play physical and bang inside. She should be the premiere post player in the league."

Mantyla is aware of Perkins' ability from coaching against her the past couple years.

"It's double-teamed her everytime we faced her and tried to make someone else beat us," Mantyla said. "When we didn't double-team her, she almost beat us."

The rest of the Hawks have had no problem finding Perkins under the basket in practice, according to Mantyla.

"The team loves her and has really

taken to her," Mantyla said. "She's been a great addition. She's a tireless worker who will get a scholarship to play (in college) next season. The only question is where."

Perkins was honored at two highly visible camps this summer. She made the sweet 16 team at the Metro Index Camp in Pennsylvania and was named to the all-star team at the Michigan All-State Camp in Traverso City.

### Four starters return

Perkins will have plenty of help on the court this season. Senior Amanda Ault, a 12-letter winner, will also play post. Ault (6 1/2 points and 6 1/2 rebounds) is very agile, passes and rebounds well and is the trailer on the secondary break. Mantyla calls Ault a "great complement to Carey."

Junior Kaitia Snow, an all-division winner, led the Hawks in assists last season in addition to averaging 11 1/2 points and 6 1/2 rebounds.

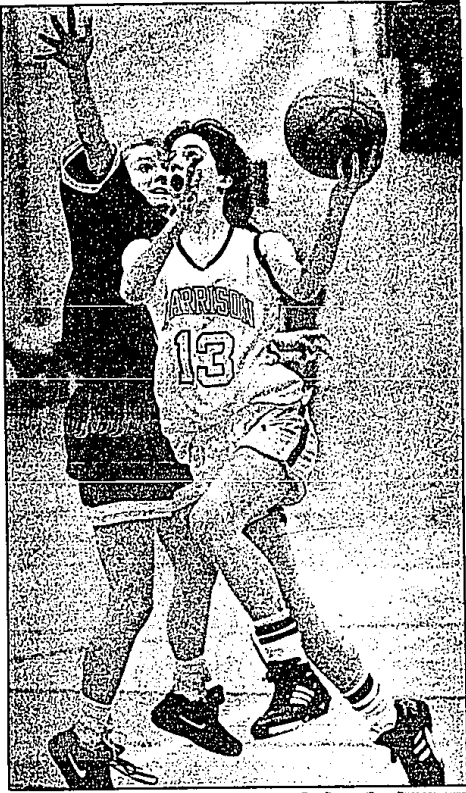
"She moved last season from the post to the perimeter," Mantyla said. "She's one of our big guns. She can score from many different ways. She can post the person covering her or score off the dribble."

Snow started slowly last year, as she was hobbled by a severe ankle sprain. This season, she is playing in practice with a cast protecting a broken bone in her left hand, but should be ready when the Hawks open their season Thursday hosting Brighton.

Also returning at wing is junior Erin Lacosse, the team's leading free throw shooter. Lacosse and several other Hawks spent the summer playing in tournaments, camps and leagues.

"Erin blossomed this summer," Mantyla said. "She has the skills. She is a very good shooter and can create her own shot. She's becoming more confident and that is her key. The more confident she gets, the

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DILL BRUNLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hawk veteran: Kelly Lacosse is one of the key returning players on the Harrison girls basketball team, which hopes to improve its 12-9 record.

## Company CEO takes hockey post at CC

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central has named Gordon St. John as its new hockey coach, CC athletic director Bob Gabelle said.

St. John replaces Jack Gumbleton, whose contract was not renewed after coaching the Shamrocks the last 15 years.

St. John, 56, was an assistant coach under Gumbleton for several years at CC (including 1991-92) and he also has been a head coach at Detroit Country Day and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.



St. John was born and raised in Hartford, Conn., won a state championship at Cranbrook in 1988. He started the Country Day program in 1961 and also has a wealth of experience as a

coach at the Junior and Midget levels.

"Gordie fits the profile of the kind of coach we're looking for," said Santello, who had about 20 applicants.

"He knows the school, the tradition and will work out real well. After the many meetings we had, he's already starting to go to work. He touched all the bases he needed to teach."

St. John, who is chief executive officer of Boquest & Co. General Insurance in Detroit, doesn't look forward to much free time.

"It'll be hockey and business for me the next nine months and nothing else," he said. "I've always thought really highly of the school, they play by the rules, encourage development of the kids and put hockey in perspective with the rest of life."

St. John played hockey and graduated from Coby College in Maine and also learned discipline as a member

of the Marine Corps. As CEO of a large corporation, organization also is a priority, he said.

Shortly after being offered the CC job, St. John said he wrote letters and sent an off-ice training program to all prospective CC players.

"I defined what I thought were reasonable goals," he said. "I'm highly disciplined and believe in developing our strengths. I'm death on dumb hockey. At the high school level, the lack of skills and not good thinking causes more losses than anything in the game."

CC reached the Class A final last year before losing to Alpena. The Shamrocks lose players most years to Junior or Midget hockey teams but St. John said he already has gotten a commitment from star forward Jon Heady to return for his senior year.

He also is waiting to hear about for-

ward Frank Novock's plans and whether goalkeeper Mike Brusseau will return after skipping last year to play Midget hockey.

"Change is difficult for some people," St. John said. "I just try to make it as positive and exciting as you can and hope you'll attract some players."

St. John said he has gotten to know a lot of college coaches over the years, including several on the East Coast, and while at Cranbrook he started a tradition of writing college coaches and encouraging them to come watch his players. He plans on doing the same at CC.

"Not everybody is able to play Division I, some will play Division III," he said. "It's real important to place a kid in a situation where he's capable of performing. That's a function of a coach and it's critical in helping a kid."

## Sports funding subject of cable program

BY MARTY BUDNER  
STAFF WRITER

If you're at all concerned about the state of high school financing — specifically regarding sports — stay tuned.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) is staging a town-hall type teleconference titled "Future Funding for School Athletics." The teleconference was set up to address questions regarding the growing financial problems facing state high school athletic programs.

The teleconference, which will be carried unscripted on PASS by a number of cable stations throughout the state, airs from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24.

It is clearly a program that everyone — not just sports fans — should be aware of, according to Norm Quinn, director of health, education and athletics in Bloomfield Hills.

"Anyone who's interested in the financing and funding of public schools and the whole tax issue should be attuned to this program," said Quinn. "From my role as an administrator in athletics, this is a very significant issue right now."

people so that they can make more intelligent decisions, it's important," he said.

The teleconference will originate from the studios of TGI Cablevision in East Lansing and will be divided into two segments.

The program's first two hours will involve a panel discussion in front of a small studio audience. The panel members include Jack Roberts, executive director, MHSAA; Anne Johnson, consultant, education, and athletics, Lansing Public Schools; Melvin Atkins, director of athletics, Grand Rapids Public Schools; John Fundukian, athletic director, Novi Community Schools; and Robert VederLaan, chairman, Governmental Consultants Inc., Lansing.

Warren Esposito, sports director, WOOD-TV, Grand Rapids, will be the moderator.

The second hour is a question-and-answer format where selected audience members will ask questions, and MHSAA member school administrators who have pre-registered for the conference will call in on a toll-free telephone number.

The audience will consist of various school administrators, coaches, booster club representatives, and student/athletes. Quinn, along with Jim Feld-

kamp, director of athletics for Troy Public Schools, and Jerry Murphy, assistant football coach and boys tennis coach at Rochester High School, will be audience members from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area.

"I just think this is an excellent idea. The objective is to attempt to communicate the various implications of future funding to the public," said Quinn. "This is important. The implications of this are broader than just athletics."

"I think the users know the value of high school sports, but the general populace doesn't know what the value really is. It's been proven that people involved in high school sports generally experience a high degree of success later in life."

"I don't feel that we've done a great job of selling our product (prep athletics) to the public," he said. "It's unfortunate that we have to do it under a crisis situation, but better late than never."

The following cable companies, from the O&E coverage area are scheduled to carry the program: TGI Cablevision (Channel 63), Auburn Hills; Booth Communications (Channel 3), Beverly Hills;

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