

Ex-area star battles through pain to boost OU

BY BRAD EMORYS

John Gentile knows all too well what it's like to be stuck at a train crossing with no detours available.

Injuries limited the Oakland University soccer standout to only two games in 1993 because of a severe groin pull and 11 games in 1992 (torn quadriceps muscle in his right leg).

But the fifth-year medical red-shirt from Livonia Churchill came back strong this fall, helping propel the Pioneers to the NCAA Division II championship final which ended in a 3-0 overtime loss to host University of Tampa (Fla.).

Gentile was recently voted second-team All-America by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Teammate Matt Walton (Flint Northern) was named to the first team.

OU pair honored

It's the third time in 10 years that Oakland placed two on the All-America squad. In 1992, Walton and Derek Willford (Livonia Stevenson) each made the second team.

"It was a nice way to go out even though I would have loved to go out with a win," Gentile said of the OT finale. "But those were probably the first two games I really enjoyed, especially in the

semifinal (a 6-4 overtime win over Seattle Pacific)."

Gentile moved from center-midfield to the sweeper back position against highly-touted Tampa.

"They really came at us with a lot of great players and attacked us outside and wide," Gentile said. "I was able to smile at them and I had a good time. Tampa is a very talented team with a lot of foreign players."

This season, Gentile helped solidify the Pioneers' midfield.

He wound up with six goals and 10 assists, upping his career totals to 25 goals and 30 assists (80 total points).

Talented distributor

"John brings many things to the table," said OU coach Gary Parsons, whose team finished 18-2-2 overall. "His long distribution of the ball is better than anybody we have on the team. He has great vision and is able to put the ball behind the defense with one pass."

"He's also a good defender, as well, because he's able to make the tackles when you don't have the ball."

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Gentile is the team's quiet leader. "He's even tempered and doesn't say much, but he allows his game to do the talking," Parsons said. "This year, being a sen-

ior, we tried to get him to be a little more vocal."

The three-year captain carried the leadership torch along with five other seniors.

"We had some young guys on the team that needed direction, but it was just not me," he said. "The six seniors tried to be stay as positive as we could and lead by example."

Groin pull painful

Gentile tried to remain positive during his nearly two-year hiatus, but it was difficult.

"Not being able to play was incredibly the hardest thing I've ever had to do," he said. "I just tried to rehab, but actually I tried to stay away. I just couldn't be around the guys that much, even in practice."

The groin injury, suffered during the summer months of 1993, took its toll. Gentile was not completely healthy when he tried to come back that fall. He wound up aggravating the injury.

"The total process took nine months," Gentile said. "I weakened my hamstring, so I had it wrapped every game. It was not too bad this year."

"The only major problem coming back was my physical fitness. I was able to build the muscles through rehab, but I had to build back my cardiovascular system."

Confidence builder

Gentile knew he and his teammates had arrived when they defeated Gannon (Pa.) early in the season in a battle of nationally-ranked teams, 4-0.

"I think we knew at that point we realized the quality of team we could be," he said.

Gentile, however, has been a quality player for years.

He was an all-star at Churchill, played in the Olympic Development program and was a member of the gold-medal winning North squad at the 1991 U.S. Olympic Sports Festival.

The Churchill product is also talented in the classroom. He carries a 3.4 grade-point average and plans to graduate this April with a degree in mechanical engineering. (He was an Academic All-America two years ago.)

Gentile spent the past two summers working at Ford Motor Co., one summer at the Livonia Transmission Plant and the other in product design in Sterling Heights.

He will likely have to make a decision in the near future as to whether he would like to pursue a professional soccer career.

Professional soccer?

"Detroit may be getting an APSL (American Professional Soccer League) this spring, or if John can do it, wait until 1996 to play in the Major Soccer League," Parsons said. "He's probably more suited to the outdoor game."

"Either way, he'll have a good degree and a good education to fall back on. He's in a great situation."

That decision, according to Gentile, won't be easy. The Detroit Rockers, a pro indoor team, has also expressed interest.

"I'm up in the air right now," Gentile said. "I'd like to play professional, but I'd also like the steady income."

"I haven't played real indoor soccer for three or four years, but I think I'd enjoy it."

Parsons, meanwhile, knows he has a big hole to fill on next year's team.

THE TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD COME TO COLLEX COLLISION OVER THE HOLIDAYS

10. YOU WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE CROWDS IN THE MALLS
9. LESS EXPENSIVE THAN SHIPPING A FRUITCAKE
8. ONE SIZE FITS ALL
7. NO BATTERIES REQUIRED
6. THE ONLY THING YOUR KIDS WON'T BREAK WITHIN 15 MINUTES
5. ONCE WRAPPED ITS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHAT IT IS
4. GOES WITH ANY COLOR
3. LIFETIME WARRANTY
2. FREE LOANER CARS

AND THE #1 REASON TO GO TO COLLEX COLLISION OVER THE HOLIDAYS IS...
100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Now OPEN!
24400 Novi Road
(Collins, Auto Service Mall)
(810) 344-4320
Warren (810) 722-9877
Clinton Twp. (810) 954-3550
Bedford 12717 Morison (313) 255-9190
Sterling Heights (810) 264-8200



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 1994

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lichtman at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Bates, Grant, Lichtman, Oliverio, Sever, Smith and Vagnoni. Members Absent: Noon. Others Present: City Manager Ostlich, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Managers Brock and Cull, Directors Elwell, Potter and Riech, and Attorney Doucette.

COUNCIL PROCLAIMED:

- December 12-13, 1994, as Richard W. Frankel Week in appreciation for his years of devoted service.
- December 13-17, 1994, as Hawks Week in recognition of the Harrison High School football team's outstanding athletic achievements.

COUNCIL RECEIVED REPORT ON:

- Audited financial report by Plante and Moran for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1994.
- Year 2000 Advisory Committee's annual report.
- City Attorney's monthly report for December.

COUNCIL:

- Recognized the newly formed Farmington Hills Hockey Association.
- Cancelled Council meeting for December 19, 1994.

APPROVED:

- Licor License Policy and Guidelines.
- Various appointments to the Ice Arena Advisory Committee.
- Application for State Equity Grant for restoration of historic stable at Heritage Park.
- Resolution for construction and maintenance of drainage facilities for ice arena in Wayne County right-of-way.
- Bond resolution to issue \$4,000,000 City of Farmington Hills General Obligation Bonds, Series 1994, for ice arena.
- Waiver of sidewalk requirement for TFW, Inc.
- City Council minutes for November 14, and 21, 1994.

AWARDED BID FOR:

- Computers, printers, software, and accessories for citywide use to Axzon, Inc., in the amount of \$31,991; Extra Computer in the amount of \$4,375; Egghead Software in the amount of \$14,533.

LAWRENCE LICHTMAN, Mayor
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Published December 15, 1994

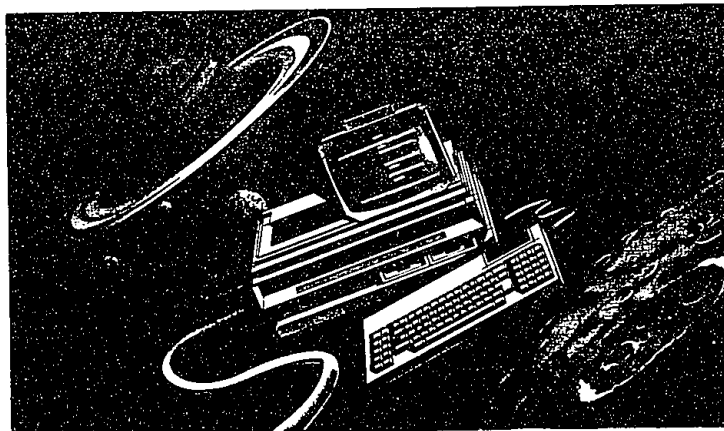
PUBLIC NOTICE CANCELLATION OF MEETING FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL

THIS IS PUBLIC NOTICE that the City Council meeting regularly scheduled for December 19, 1994, has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held January 9, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

Published December 13 and 15, 1994

BOLDLY GO WHERE YOU'VE NEVER GONE BEFORE



Fasten your seat belts and follow Emory

Daniels onto our Information Superhighway. Don't miss Emory's "O&E OnLine" column every Thursday in our business section. You'll enjoy his easy-to-understand instructions for solving the mysteries of the Internet.

As he said in his first column,



"For those aboard the Internet, who are moving at a snail's pace, with stops, blown tires, wrong turns, and too many bleeps, take comfort. Few of us are in the high speed lane. So let's travel together." Start your engines!

THE Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

Questions by email will reach Emory at emory@online.com Voice Mail: 953-2047 / 1910 FAX: 591-7270

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, bearing the title of the work and the name of the bidder, will be received by the City of Farmington Hills located at 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan until ten o'clock (10:00) a.m. local time, on Thursday, December 29, 1994, and will be opened and publicly read aloud immediately thereafter, for furnishing the materials and performing the labor for the execution and construction of:

Founders Park Ice Arena

- Bid Package No. 04 - Concrete Flat Work
- Bid Package No. 07 - Masonry and Precast
- Bid Package No. 08 - General Trades
- Bid Package No. 09 - Rolling Doors and Overhead Doors
- Bid Package No. 10 - Aluminum Storefront and Glazing
- Bid Package No. 11 - Drywall and Acoustical
- Bid Package No. 12 - Caulking
- Bid Package No. 13 - Floor Treatments
- Bid Package No. 14 - Painting
- Bid Package No. 15 - Elevator
- Bid Package No. 16 - Fire Protection
- Bid Package No. 17 - Plumbing
- Bid Package No. 18 - HVAC
- Bid Package No. 19 - Electrical
- Bid Package No. 20 - Bleacher Seating

In accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by SIEGAL/TUOMALA ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS, INC., 8121 Northwestern Highway, Suite 261, Farmington Hills. Copies of the Plans, Specifications, Instructions to Bidders, and Proposal Forms may be secured after 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 7, 1994 from the office of Rudolph/Libbe Inc., Construction Manager, 7666 Market Street, Canton, Michigan, Attn: Tom Schneider, 313/455-0600 or from the office of the Architect. Contractors may obtain one (1) set of Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00.

A bid bond, in an acceptable form, equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid must accompany each proposal.

The City of Farmington Hills and Rudolph/Libbe reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bids received, and to accept the lowest and/or best bid which is the project's own best interest.

Published December 1, 8, 15, and 22, 1994