

## OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

### YMCA soccer sign-up

The Livonia Family YMCA will be conducting open registration for its spring 1999 soccer program. Teams are available for boys and girls aged 3 to 16.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4 and continues until leagues fill. Registration is first come, first served and there are no residency requirements.

New participants must have birth certificate to register.

Parent volunteers coach at all levels.

Registration fee is between \$55 and \$95 per child, depending on the age group.

For more information, call (734) 261-2101.

### Churchill, South tie

Livonia Churchill and Grass Pointe South played to a 2-2 tie Wednesday night in a non-league hockey game played at Detroit City Arena.

Chris Galatis scored unassisted and Justin Charnock had the other Churchill goal, assisted by Adam Krug and Dan Cook.

Sophomore Ryan McBroom kept South off the scoreboard after allowing two first-period goals.

The Chargers are 3-3-4 overall, South is 5-3-1 overall.

### 'Skate With Us'

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club is offering figure skating and hockey skills classes for children over 4 and any adults at the Computaro Sports Arena in Plymouth.

No previous skating experience is necessary. Lessons will begin on Jan. 14 and 15.

For more information, call director Carrie Brown at (734) 459-6586, ext. 1.

### Buddenborg aids OU

Garden City graduate Brad Buddenborg helped the Oakland University men's basketball team end 1998 on a winning note, scoring 12 points in the Golden Grizzlies' 81-80 win Tuesday over visiting Loyola (Chicago).

OU, which hadn't played in eight days, improved to 4-8 overall.

Buddenborg joined three others in double figures. Jason Rozycki came off the bench to score a game-high 21 points, 15 coming on 3-pointers.

### Meteors win indoors

The Under-11 Livonia Meteors boys indoor soccer team, joined by a pair of free agents, Lauren Trossell and Wendy Hoots, from the U-11 Livonia Meteors girls team, won the England Division at the Novi Soccer Zone.

Members of the Meteors, who were 7-0-1 overall, included Peter Barlovich, Nick Biskoloni, Alex Bokas, Shane Buddlong, Jason Clemens, Ben Czerniawski, Joshua Ferraro, Brian Gassen, Luke Knoche, Steve Minicilli, Ryan Muzzoli, Nick Reed, Sean White and Sherrick White.

Steve Barnes is the coach and Mimi Barlovich the manager.

### AAU girls basketball

The West Metro Cougars 13-under AAU girls basketball program is having tryouts 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 at Livonia Ladywood High School (Newburgh Road between Schoolcraft and Five Mile roads).

Call (313) 663-6340 (after 5 p.m.).

### AAU boys basketball

Basketball City, located at 15100 Northline Road in Southgate, has a pair of openings to work with the 11 and 12 boys AAU travel teams (experience preferred but not mandatory if knowledgeable in the game and can teach youth).

For more information, call (734) 285-1120 or (734) 283-2974 (after 5 p.m.).

Basketball City also has openings for the 11-12, 13- and 15-and-under teams.

Open tryouts will be 5:15-6:30 p.m. Thursdays and noon-1:30 p.m. Sundays, 7 through Jan. 21.

For more information, call Mike Cashin at (734) 283-2972.

To submit items for the Observer Sports Scene, write to: Observer Sports, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150; or send via fax to (734) 591-7279.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUCKENBACH

## Trenton rules Salem Invitational



**Bear hug:** Churchill's Mike Carter (right) won the 145-pound class. He pinned Henry Lumbard (left) Pioneer in the 1st round.

Trenton, with four individual wrestling champions and 174 1/2 team points, took home the championship trophy of the Plymouth Salem Invitational Wednesday.

The Trojans, who were third last year behind Holt and Salem, had a pair of repeat winners in Mark Straub (160) and Keith Scott (152).

Straub won last year at 152 and Scott at 130. Trenton's other winners were Jason Saineghi (140) and Mike Zack (189).

The tournament was dominated by non-Observersland teams as seventh-place Salem had the best finish of any area school.

Garden City tied with Mount Pleasant for 11th place, but area teams filled five of the last six places in the 22-team field.

Observersland had six wrestlers in the championship finals, producing a pair of winners.

Garden City's Brian Hinzman was a repeat champion at 171 pounds, winning on injury default over Justin Gessner of Monroe Jefferson.

Livonia Churchill's Mike Carter captured the 145-pound title with a 4-2 decision over Belleville's Derrick McCarter in the finals.

Salem heavyweight Charlie Hamblin was the runner-up again, losing in the championship round to

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the tournament's most valuable wrestler, Brett Faulkner of Novi.

Faulkner won all four of his bouts by pin and spent a total of nine minutes and eight seconds on the mats.

Nearly half of that total (5:50) was registered in the finals as Hamblin was 10 seconds short of going the distance.

Faulkner pinned Garden City's Brad Tinney (6:33), Jefferson's Jon Ferguson (1:10) and Belleville's Calab Hatfield (1:35).

The other area wrestlers in the finals were Livonia Stevenson's Joe Maresk (103), Churchill's Brandon LaPointe (152) and Westland John Glenn's Pete Langer (160).

Also winning titles were Adrian's Dan Duncan (103), Monroe's Ryan Nowitzke (112), Novi's Dan Jilg (119), Brighton's Lief Olson (125), Mount Pleasant's Jason Borrelli (130), Brighton's Pete Bordenkircher (135) and Jefferson's Kurt Kleinen (215).

See statistics, C2.

## MSU veteran stars in GLI

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
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### COLLEGE HOCKEY

As much as Jeff Kozakowski prides himself on playing defense for the Michigan State University hockey team, it's no wonder he went parts of three seasons without scoring a goal.

Kozakowski broke out of his slump in a big way, and at a very opportune time, scoring two goals in the Great Lakes Invitational at the University of Michigan.

The Spartans won their second-straight GLI title with a 3-1 win over the University of Michigan in last Sunday's championship game after beating Northern Michigan University, 5-3, in Saturday's semifinal.

Kozakowski, a senior defenseman and a Garden City High graduate, scored six goals as a freshman and three as a sophomore but none as a junior.

His goal at 6:05 of the second period against NMU tied the score 2-2 and broke a personal 81-game streak without goals. He also scored the first goal in the win over U-M.

His unexpected offense, combined with his usual steady defense, earned him GLI all-tournament honors.

"I'll tell you what, he keeps scoring like that and I'll have to put him in front of the net (on offense)," MSU coach Ron Mason said. "But he does an excellent job defensively. He blocks

shots. I don't think I'll take him away from the blue line."

Kozakowski's goals couldn't have been more different.

The one against Northern came when he picked up a loose puck in the slot after an MSU rush and blasted a 25-foot slap shot past the NMU netminder.

"It came to the slot, my eyes got big, I put my head down and buried it," said Kozakowski, nicknamed "Kozy."

On the goal against U-M, Kozakowski found an open space, rushed the net and scored from close range after receiving a pass from teammate Rustyn Dolny with 18:41 left in the first period.

Maybe it was just his turn.

Last year, MSU defenseman Mike Weaver won GLI Most Valuable Player honors, scoring two goals, including the game-winner, along with two assists in the championship game.

Kozakowski, who plays the point on power plays, also has three assists for the Spartans, who are 13-3-2 overall and 7-2-2 in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

"Anyone can score these goals, like last year when Weaver was MVP," said Kozakowski, before joking about his role. "There's too much skating

involved (playing offense). I think I'll stick to playing defense."

Kozakowski also was on the ice when U-M's Mark Kosick missed a wide-open net after MSU goalie Mike Greal went behind his net to chase down an errant puck.

Kozakowski provided just enough interference for Kosick's shot to go wide.

Greal was starting in place of Livonia Churchill graduate Joe Blackburn, who was playing for the U.S. National Junior Team at the World Junior Championships.

"They dumped it in, the puck came off the boards funny and fortunately they didn't score," Kozakowski said.

Kozakowski is not only a leader because he's a senior but because he's the second oldest on the team, turning 24 last Halloween.

He played three years of junior hockey after graduating from high school in 1992, including an all-star season with the Dubuque (Iowa) Fighting Saints of the United States Hockey League in 1994-95.

Kozakowski, who leads all active Spartans with 141 career games played, has a 2.8 grade point average and anticipates graduating in the summer with a communications degree. He'd like to pursue a career with one of the many professional hockey leagues before stepping into the work



**Kozy surroundings:** MSU defenseman and Garden City native Jeff Kozakowski scored a pair of goals in the GLI Tourney, won by the Spartans.

world. "I can't believe there's only a half a year left now," Kozakowski said. "I've met a lot of great friends I'll have forever."

## Lady Crusaders capture Taylor Tourney crown

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Things were looking up Wednesday night for the Madonna University women's basketball team in Upland, Ind.

The Lady Crusaders lifted their overall record to 11-4 by beating host Taylor University in an invitational tournament final, 79-74.

Chris Dietrich led the winners with 25 points, nine rebounds and four assists, while tournament MVP Katie Cushman added 24 points, four assists and three steals.

Both were named to the all-tournament team along with teammate Lori Enfield, who finished with 14 points.

Kathy Pangonis also grabbed nine rebounds. Tara Shellberger and Carrie Fields led Taylor,

which led 41-40 at halftime, with 19 and 18 points, respectively. Melissa Simms added 12.

Shellberger, Jen Peak (Taylor), Kacy Davidson (Albion College) and Dana Cummings (Ohio Dominican) also made the all-tourney team.

On Tuesday, Madonna jumped out to a 14-2 during the opening four minutes of the game and were never tested the rest of the way in an 84-62 triumph over Ohio Dominican.

The Lady Crusaders shot 37 of 53 from the floor (69.8 percent), missing just eight of 38 two-point

attempts. Pangonis, nine of 10 from the floor, finished with a game-high 22 points. Cushman contributed 15 points and 10 assists.

Carissa Girlick added 13 points and seven rebounds, while Dietrich chipped in with 12 points, six rebounds and three assists.

Julie Mueller paced Dominican with 17 points. Taylor defeated Albion in the other first-round game, 86-65.

In the consolation final, Albion downed Dominican, 74-70.

The Lady Crusaders open their Wolverine-Hoosier Conference schedule Wednesday, Jan. 6 at home against Aquinas. (Game time is 7 p.m.).