Well-rounded

Academically recognized athletes defy age-old stereotype

The scannic tamtibochemecommet tamtibochemecommet tamtibochemecommet tamtibochemecommet to the college athletes often includes the image of a student matering study hall or basket weaving while getting ready for the next big game.

But there are 50 Farmington High School students who will line up to dispel that image. All are being recognized at an assembly this April for excellence in seademics and athleties.

During Scholar Athletes Week, the school is honoring students who attained a minimum 3.5 grade-point average during the first semester while carning a varsity letter during that same period, said teacher Bernio Call.

"Most teachers feel having a balance between academies and athleties is important," Call said. "And these kids exemplify that."

Asked about the student athlete stereotype, Farmington High School principal John Barrett quickly retorted, "Just the opposite is true. Usually, our athletes are some of our finest students in academies and citizenship."

Concurring was senior Beth Jager, one of the student athletes who will be recognized during the second week of April.

"It (the recognition) proves that we're not the stereotypical duming jocka," said Beth, who carned letters in girls' baskethall and track. "... I feel that we're very well-rounded individuals."

Well-balanced

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Senior Patrick Faloon, whose teams include soccer and lacrosse, said being honored for excellence in academics and sports "means a lot to me, it's really hard to balance the two."
Patrick added that other students might look at them as positive role models, that they'll be inspired themselves to set goals and go after them.
What's the message (of the recognition) to other students?" pondered junior Grant Weber, a football and bosketball player. "That students can achieve a bolance between athletics and academics. They can do whatever they put their minds to."
According to Grant, excelling on several fronts requires good time management and motivation. Another plus are parents who have helped him keep his priorities straight since childhood.
"My parents taught me that," Grant said. "Athletics (are) something to fall back on, samething to enjoy."
Likewise, junior Kristin DiCostanza (swimming team) points to the impor-

Who they are:

Following are Farmington High School Scholar Athletes (all must carry a minimum 3.5 grade-point average and attain one varsity letter).

Brad Barenie, sophomore, Brett Brown, sophomore, Heather Bruce, senier, Tina Cavicchioli, Juniur, Becky Chapter, sonior, Lauren D'Agostino, freshman, Molissa D'Arcy, junior, Becky Depotter, junior, Kristin DiCastanza, junior, Stephanie Dow, sonior; Patrick Falcon, senior; Jeff Frederick, junior; Justin Gerwatowski, junior; Justin Gerss, junior; Kelly Horafeld, senior, Kristin Horton, senior; Eliza Hutchinson, freshman; Eliza Hutchinson, freshman;

Beth Jager, senior; Jamie Jekacki, senior; Dan Kimmel, senior; Katie Kowalski, senior; Dan Komen, Jenior; Katie Kowalski, senior; Sarah Lebies, senior; Beth Leffingwell, sophomore; Ben Lukas, junior; Tom Mahon, junior; Brynn Meki, senior; Kim Maraona, senior; Kelly Martia, senior; Kristel Mathie, senior; Carrie May, senior; Sarah Miller, junior; Martha Morris, senior; Meghan O'Renr, junior; Media Paquetto, junior; Jenny Reave, junior; Julie Synder, senior; Jenny Tosolan, junior; Grant Weber, junior.

tance of goal-setting and establishing - and maintaining - priorities.

They like to succeed

They like to succeed

"If I have a lot of homework, I have to cut down on practices," Kristin said. Academics is tops. But it's nice to know I can still do both, and excel at both."
Soveral student athletes said the establishment of Student Managed Academic Resource Time has paid dividends simply because they have been able to get key homework done during the twice-weekly morning sessions, leaving more time after school for games and practices.
"SMART time helps take the pressure off doing homework," noted Grant.
Sonior Heather Bruce, who participates in swimming, diving and the pomon squad, agreed that student athletes need to remember that neademic performance should be the top priority.
But it doesn't hurt to have a driving passion to succeed, something all 50 kids have in common. "I like to excel at overything I do," Heather said.
Meanwhile, Call is not surprised that the students are able to put so much on their plates, and not let anything fall off the odge.

"It's the old saying. If you want something done, ask a busy person," "Call

you want something done, ask a busy person, " Call

said. "And these kids are very busy. You have to be pretty sharp to be able to handle AP classes and handle more than one sport, particularly today, when coaches expect so much.

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"They have to be great time managers as well as energy managers. These aren't the kids staying up until 2 or 3 in the morning watching TV."

Editor's note: The Farmington Observer intends to shine the spotlight on top student athlets at Harrison and North high schools in stories later during the school year.



Recognized: Heather Bruce, Grant Weber, Jamie Jakacki, Farmington High: School principal John Barrett, Dustin Gress, Patrick Faloon, Beth Jager and Kristin Dicostanza.

City completes 5-year parks plan

BY TM SMITH tamith@oe.bomecomm.net

Now the fun really starts. Following a public hearing, Farmington's city council Mondon ing the approved the proposed Community Recreation Master Plan for 1989-2003. According to Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, the revised plan delves more into parks and playscapes than past five-year blueprints. Approval of the master plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"The plan, before, looked at a lot of essentials, improvements to parking lots, things like that, said Lauhoff, following the meeting. "(But) the ability to use grant money for playscapes and other recreational structures is nice. ... Now we can look at the stuff people will notice."

For example, this year's development of the "Kids World" PlayScape at Shiawassee Park is one of the capital improvements contained in the master plan officially revised every five years in order for the city to be eligible for recreational grants.

Other projects on the drawing board include several at Drake Park, including a pavilion, bike path and playscape — albeit of smaller scale than Shiawassee Park's.

"We're looking at Drake Park much more in-depth through grant applications," explained Lauhoff, "We'll be addressing the sports and leisure (pavilion) area, baseball field lighting...

Most of the planned projects would be funded by MDNR grants.

grants.

The plan was generated with "considerable public input," from the community visioning process, a joint process between Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies and the Recreation Advisory Committee. It

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Frank Lauhoff

Farmington city manager

was started in 1984 and was subsequently renewed in 1989 and 1994.

The MDNR also requires census and demographic data, geographic mapping and location of facilities, and description of planning processes used in developing the master plan.

Following are some of the proposed capital improvements in the five-year plan:

Shiawassee Park: 1999, replace bridge, \$55,000; 2001, add two pavilions, \$40,000; 2001, resurface parking lot, \$25,000; 2002, new bleachers, benches and picnic tables, \$20,000; 2002, basketball court, \$20,000; 2002, basketball court, \$20,000; 2002, basketball court, \$20,000; 2003, volleyball court, \$10,000; 2003, ployground equipment, \$20,000.

Brake Parks 2000, pavilion, \$25,000; 2002, reworked parking let, \$40,000; 2002, new bleachers and benches, \$10,000; 2002, removed the parks and benches, \$10,000; 2002, removed the parks and benches, \$10,000; 2002, pavilion, \$30,000; 2003, new bleachers and benches, \$10,000; 2002, new properties of the parks and benches, \$10,000; 2002, new properties of the parks and benches, \$10,000; 2002, new place parking between \$1000; 2002, new place parks; \$1000; 2003, pavilion, \$35,000.

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