

Well-rounded

Academically recognized athletes defy age-old stereotype

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 Baranis, sophomore; Brett Brown, sophomore; Heather Bruce, senior; Tina Cavicholi, junior; Becky Culver, senior; Lauren D'Agostino, freshman; Melissa D'Arcy, junior; Becky Depotter, junior; Kristin DiCostanza, junior; Stephanie Dow, senior; Patrick Faloan, senior; Jeff Frederick, junior; Justin Gerwatoski, junior; Dustin Gress, junior; Kelly Horanfeld, senior; Kristin Horton, senior; Eliza Hutchinson, freshman;

Beth Jager, senior; Jamie Jakacki, senior; Dan Kimmel, senior; Katie Kowalski, senior; Joe Kromer, junior; Sarah Lebies, senior; Beth Leffingwell, sophomore; Ben Lukas, junior; Tom Mahon, junior; Brynn Meki, senior; Kim Marano, senior; Kelly Martin, senior; Kristel Mathis, senior; Carrie May, senior; Sarah Miller, junior; Martha Morris, senior; Meghan O'Rear, junior; Heidi Paquette, junior; Jenny Reove, junior; Julie Synder, senior; Andrea Thrubis, senior; Jenny Tsoian, junior; Grant Weber, junior.



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

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

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."

Several 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. Senior Heather Bruce, who participates in swimming, diving and the pom-pom squad, agreed that student athletes need to remember that academic 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 everything I do," Heather said.

Meanwhile, Call is not surprised that the students are able to put so much on their plate, and not let anything fall off the edge.

"It's the old saying: 'If 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."

"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 athletes at Harrison and North high schools in stories later during the school year.

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City completes 5-year parks plan

BY TIM SMITH
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Now the fun really starts. Following a public hearing, Farmington's city council Monday night approved the proposed Community Recreation Master Plan for 1999-2003. 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.

"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.

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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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, \$65,000; 2001, add two pavilions, \$40,000; 2001, resurface parking lot, \$25,000; 2001, path lighting, \$75,000; 2002, new bleachers, benches and picnic tables, \$20,000; 2002, basketball court, \$20,000; 2003, volleyball court, \$10,000; 2003, playground equipment, \$20,000.

■ Drake Park: 2000, pavilion, \$25,000; 2000, renovate tennis courts, \$25,000; 2000, resurface parking lot, \$40,000; 2002, new bleachers and benches, \$10,000; 2002, renovate facilities building, \$30,000; 2002, playscape, \$75,000; 2003, lights baseball field, \$100,000; 2003, new bikeway path, \$75,000.

■ Orchard Street Park: 2001, pavilion, \$35,000.