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His love of soccer is best depicted by a solemn figure hunched over sobbing on the field after a recent game.

A ball bounced off a player's head and into the net in overtime, which gave Finnerty his first victory as a professional coach. Tears flowed from pure elation.

Professional soccer — especially in the United States — is a mixed bag of triumphs and setbacks. Unlike other major pro sports, U.S. soccer players make meager salaries. Many supplement their income with jobs or coaching positions.

Finnerty, 31, owns Hello Cellular and Wireless in Plymouth and is Canton Soccer Club's director of coaching. He also runs the Detroit Rockers/Total Soccer Camps during the summer.

The achievement is far removed from his rather inauspicious debut before 17,000 baying fans in Milwaukee's Bradley Center. The rookie netminder, filling in for the No. 1 keeper, muffed his first shot on goal.

After starting at San Diego State where he earned the nickname "Goose Egg" for a constant string of shutouts, (When the fax of his biography came into the Rockers' office, the "Egg" was cut off. So hence the "Goose" moniker.) Finnerty became the team's starting goalkeeper and has been so ever since. He buck-stopped the team to an NPSL championship in 1991-92.

He became the team's focal point and marketing symbol. His likeness and trademark dive was splashed on billboards along area freeways.

However, his play along with the team's plummeted the following season.

"I started to walk away from my commitment, but also my faith," Finnerty said. "I got on

the phone with a friend of mine and I started complaining about my defense and my friend said, 'It sounds like you're having a pity party.'"

Finnerty, who was raised as a Catholic, returned to his spiritual grounding. With a dog-eared copy of the Bible, he recited Scripture that he relies on daily.

Finnerty answered questions and stayed an hour after to make sure every child's soccer ball or shirt had been signed. He impressed new Farmington YMCA director Jim Fuqua.

"I just thought he brought a personal perspective kids could relate to ... He was very sincere," Fuqua said.

Farmington police officer Dan Potter said Finnerty's talk was inspiring.

"I've watched him play. I've seen the fierce competitiveness in his eyes ... but he always keeps Christianity in the back of his mind in dealing with people," Potter said. "As a police officer, I could relate because it's easy to be a Christian when dealing with the sick or the elderly. Sometimes the hardest part as a police officer is when you're dealing with someone who has no idea of what Christianity is."

Finnerty and Rockers' trainer Karl Glass are involved in a team chapel program, which has been widespread in other professional sports but is just catching on in pro soccer. Glass also talked about the team's renewed spirituality.

"It's been a fun, nice walk with God," Finnerty said.



Professional: Brian "Goose" Finnerty speaks at an annual prayer breakfast.

Noise from page A1

ject. Their concern is the noise, primarily the sound of compressed air escaping from tires against concrete. Asphalt is porous, which absorbs more air and suppresses noise, a group spokesman said.

MDOT officials said they plan to do a sound study after the project is finished.

"Road noise is not a road building priority in the state of Michigan," said Larry Shoup, Meadowbrook resident and Farmington Hills spokesman. "That sums it up."

In the next room, MDOT representatives answered questions regarding the I-275 project as well as those planned for nearby I-96 and M-6. They kept smiling despite incurring at least one resident's rancor.

Joan Harber, who lives on Nine Mile Road and I-275, took photos of highway maps and then answered at a MDOT's spokeswoman.

"They let you people come out and you can't answer the questions ... I'm angry," Harber said to MDOT's Robin Pannecouk.

A Families Near I-275 spokesman urged residents to ask questions about the project, but not get angry with MDOT public relations officials, who have no input on the issue.

Meanwhile, elected officials said they're doing their part.

State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, didn't hold out hope for a sound wall for the elevated freeway, saying Federal Highway Administration is on MDOT's side.

Raczowski offered a possible remedy: Seek a state Beautification Grant to build a gravel berm, which would be topped with pine trees to deflect freeway noise. Such a berm could include a bike path, the state rep. said.

Farmington Hills City Council passed a resolution in support of noise abatement. Hills Public Service Director Tom Binsell also testified on residents' behalf in Lansing.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi suggested phoning state Transportation Commission members, "preferably at dinner time."

"And then hold up the phone so they can hear the noise," he added.

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This past season, the group performed "Broadway Burned," which was revue of musical theater, as well as "Tuna Christmas," the "Fantasticks" and the group's debut, "Don't Dress for Dinner."

The Players holds open auditions. "Anyone can audition. All things being equal, we give preference to our membership," Tupper said.

For next season — the new shows are not yet disclosed — Tupper said the Players will

need plenty of on-stage people.

For the upcoming Festival of the Arts, the Players will not only have their show under way, but will likely set up a booth with members in costumes, with membership applications ready to go.

"We are always looking for new members," Tupper said.

For more information, call the Players Box Office, 553-2955.

Project from page A1

plans in February, city council members asked them to refine those with a new set of criteria.

Of those who originally submitted proposals, one developer dropped out while another is undecided about bidding again. Original request for proposals required a \$10,000 deposit.

At least two developers say they're eager to take another crack at it.

"I feel it's clear," said Roger Sheer of Hills-based Sheer Development Corp. "They're looking to expand the golf course and maintain the natural area along Halsted."

At least one developer wonders whether city officials are realistic about costs involved in developing the 110 acres, part of which is a former landfill.

The city hasn't factored in expenses with capping garbage dump, one developer said. Despite concerns, Lake Forest Partners 2 Inc. plans to resubmit a proposal.

"I don't think it's a small job," said Louis Johnson of the Ann Arbor-based company. "There might be a cart-horse problem here."

He also cites city council's preference that a bridge be built across Halsted linking the golf

course, which Johnson termed "a dead weight" cost.

In order to offset those expenses, Johnson said developers will have to recoup money through more housing units.

Council members say they'd only consider rental units or apartments on the Eleven Pines property, which is the 92-acre tract west of Halsted that the city paid \$4.5 million to buy. Homes built on the east side of Halsted must be owner-occupied.

City officials encouraged developers to consider senior housing, but one builder has found the area is already saturated.

"There's only so much of a good thing," Sheer said. "From what I understand, there's a lot of senior housing already on the table."

City officials said they would also listen to a lease arrangement proposals regarding the golf course, which is a popular trend in municipal circles. Under such agreements, a city has a say in operations but leases ownership and management to a private firm.

"Cities have learned you don't need to own something in order to have an attractive fee schedule," Sheer said.



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