

In the making

A man for all seasons

BY RICHARD PEARL
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John Damian Boychuck could be a Renaissance Man in the making.

The son of John and Cindy Boychuck resembles the dictionary definition of such a person: "(Highly cultivated ... skilled and well-versed in many, or, ideally, all of the arts and sciences."

While that may be a bit heavy for someone who's only 18 and just entering his senior year at Farmington High School, consider this: Boychuck already is strongly into the arts, the sciences, writing, world and American history, government and politics; is well-traveled for his age and also is an athlete.

He's even done some fencing, as befits the image of a renaissance man.

The fencing, however, came in a drama class John took in July in Kalamazoo, where he attended the Michigan State Board of Education's Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences.

He was nominated to the SIAS by FHS art teacher Gail Pipenberg for his skills in both drawing and photography, which have earned him awards since grade school, including some from Detroit's prestigious Center for Creative Studies.

Boychuck last week finished painting the FHS side of the Blue and Brown Jug, modeled after the Little Brown Jug of Michigan-Minnesota college football fame.

The Blue and Brown Jug was presented for the first time last Friday to FHS, which won the annual Farmington vs. North Farmington football game.

Boychuck has more than an artist's interest in the gridiron rivalry. It seems he's also a Falcons linebacker and offensive lineman, for which he's earned two varsity letters.

He's also probably one of the

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few gridders anywhere to win letters in that sport after recovering from severe injuries to both knees while playing soccer.

Now a six-foot-tall 185-pounder, Boychuck worked hard in rehabilitation, strengthening himself by lifting weights. He bench-presses 300 pounds.

In addition, he's photo editor of, and a writer for, the FHS student newspaper, the Blue & White, and carries a 3.5 grade-point average, earned mostly in advanced placement classes.

He scored 34 out of a possible 36 on the science portion of the ACT pre-college test.

While he hasn't decided between medicine or business — he will apply to both the University of Michigan and Michigan State — Boychuck has found a new interest: politics.

A lover of history — he's gotten an A in every history class — he was one of eight FHS boys chosen by teachers to attend American Legion Boys State in Lansing this summer.

Boychuck, who has visited Europe twice — the first time as a member of the AP history class — admits he "wasn't really interested in government" before Boys State.

But afterward, "I wished I had been."

Boys State teaches how poli-



Choices: John Boychuck is a lover of history and the arts, and has attended the Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences. He isn't sure whether to major in medicine or business when he goes to college next year.

tics functions in government by letting students set up their own state government.

Besides getting to sit at the desk of State Rep. Andrew Raczowski (R-Farmington) on the state House floor, Boychuck served on the Ways and Means

Committee and wrestled with such issues as unemployment, pollution and how to divvy up a \$17 billion budget.

"I didn't realize what it took to do government," he said. But he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and is eager to cast his first

real ballot this fall.

He also learned that politicians can be playful.

Out of the money they saved, the "state reps" did the math and figured they had enough to buy Girls State.

They didn't, however. "But the

boys really got a kick out of it," he said.

Spoken like a true politician. John didn't volunteer anything about his participation, if any, in that bit of tomfoolery.

Fans line up to see true Tiger legend

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Legendary Detroit Tigers announcer Ernie Harwell said the intimacy of Tiger Stadium is the thing he'll miss most about the ballpark, which was built the same year the Titanic sank — 1912.

Harwell was at Harmony House in Farmington Hills Friday afternoon signing copies of his video, *Michigan & Trumbull: The History of Tiger Stadium*, which he narrated. The video also contains a compact disc featuring Harwell singing "Michi-

■ 'I'll miss the proximity of the fans in the stadium to the players. I'll miss the intimacy of the double deck surrounding the field.'

*Ernie Harwell
—Tigers' announcer*

gan & Trumbull."

The closing and eventual demolition of the 87-year-old stadium is not something that is taken lightly by fans, especially Hank.

"There's a lot of history there," he said. "But I realize it's like anything historic — it has to go."

But he hasn't always taken closings well. When Olympia Stadium, the former home of the Detroit Red Wings closed, it spelled the end of attending Red Wings games for Hank. He hasn't seen a game since.

Meeting Harwell also wasn't something Hank took lightly.

"I was a little nervous and excited," he said. "When I got here I had more than a few tears in my eye."

Krista Driscoll of Grosse Pointe Woods was doing some shopping for family — and wanted to meet Harwell.

So what's the appeal of Harwell?

"His voice," Driscoll said. "It brings back your youth."

Retired Grosse Pointe music teacher May Krager wrote the music for Harwell's "Michigan & Trumbull" lyrics. Krager is also Driscoll's mother.

"I happened to have a piano in my office that day," she said, referring to the day Harwell called her.

Sandy Bean, from Harmony House's headquarters, said the video is jumping from the shelves.

"It's been selling very well," Bean said. "It was the number one seller on our first day of sales." The video and compact disc set hit stores two weeks ago.



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