

# Rah-rah!

## More than 500 cheerleaders raise the roof at annual rally



With help: Lindsay Theisen, a member of Falcon Varsity team, does the splits with the help of Emily Moiseoff, Kendal Fabian, Beth Leffingwell.

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The rafters vibrated from the thunderous voices of 550 cheerleaders Saturday as the Farmington Rockets played host to the Western Suburban Junior Football League's ninth annual cheerleading rally in the Farmington High School gym.

Dressed in red slacks and red sweaters, Karen Newman, voice of the Detroit Red Wings, belted out the Star Spangled Banner to open the festivities at 11 a.m. Cheerleading and pom-pom squads from Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison high schools performed routines during breaks in the competition.

Three levels of cheerleaders competed: freshmen teams made up of girls ages 8 to 10; junior varsity squads, featuring 10-to-12 year olds; and varsity squads, comprised of 12-to-14 year olds.

The Rockets freshman squad took fourth place in the daytime competition. The Rockets junior varsity squad and varsity squad each took home a silver medal, second-place finish among the 13 competing teams.

"The Rockets are like the farm teams to the Farmington and Clareville high school cheerleading squads," said Michele Maly, Rockets co-director and coach. "We are very happy with the turnout here today. We expect 1,500 fans will be here throughout the course of the day. Mayors Aldo Vagnozzi and Mary Bush were here."

Maly was particularly pleased with the appearance of singer Karen Newman.

"Her appearance here was a fluke, a wonderful thing. I wrote her a letter that tugged at the heart strings, talking about the 8 to 14-year-old girls

performing here today. Her assistant called and said as long as we kept her appearance a surprise and provided security, she would be glad to do it," Maly said.

Debbie Rowe-Marcus, the Rockets other co-director and coach, said, "It turned out so well. It was just incredible. Today was kind of like preparing for a wedding, but with no bride."

Other teams competing included the Belleville Cougars, Ann Arbor Eagles, Garden City Chargers, Canton Lions, Ann Arbor Wildcats, Northville-Novii Colts, Ypsilanti Colts, Dearborn Heights Redskins, Westland Comets, Plymouth-Canton Steelers, Lincoln Railsplitters and Westland Meteors.

Mid American Pom Pon judges officiated. Each squad performed a routine before the judges panel and stands packed with wildly-cheering fans. Colorful streamers and signs dotted the stands with each group garnering a corner of support from parents, family and friends.

Freshman winners were the Northville/Novii Colts, first place; Plymouth Canton Steelers, second place; and Canton Lions, third place.

For the junior varsity competition, first place was won by the Plymouth Canton Steelers; second place went to the Farmington Rockets and third place to the Northville/Novii Colts.

In the varsity competition, first place went to the Plymouth Canton Steelers; second place to the Farmington Rockets and third place to the Dearborn Heights Redskins.

"Each squad takes home a white ribbon with bronze medals going to the third place finishers, silver medals to second place and gold medals for first place," Maly explained.

Next Sunday, the Rockets cheerleaders will perform for the final game of the football season. A Nov. 13 banquet is planned for Rockets football players and cheerleaders alike at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia.

The Rockets freshman squad includes Danielle Betley, Lauren Claridge, Christina Gerometta, Desere Gittulli and Monica Hayworth. Also, Samantha Herron, Elizabeth Katsarelis, Liana Maffezoli, Erin Maly, Angel Marinos (team mascot) and Jennifer Marinos.

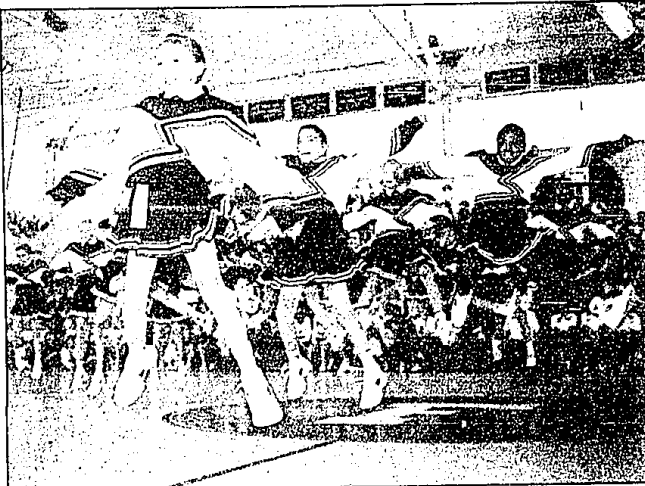
Also, Ann Masson, Chelsea Moore (mascot), Laura Proven, Brittnay Webster and Stephanie Wegener.

Coaches are Michele Maly and Tammy Marinos.

Teen coaches are Christina Kjolhede and Kristen Davis.

The Rockets JV squad includes Maryann Bratches, Megan Dewar, Jessi Donahue, Jessie Drew, Katie Green (mascot), Sara Hodges, Julianne Kjolhede and Sarah Laashbrook.

Also, Alyssa Marcus, Alaina Maddox, Joriann Mancotti, Ashley Nelson, Jessica Nerowski, Christine Oalmowicz, Alyse Quinn, Ashley Riddell, Shelly Robertson, Janay Scott, Shannon Twigg and Lindsay White. Coaches are Denise Bratch-



Perform: The Junior Varsity Farmington Rockets cheerleading team performs during the rally at Farmington High School. The Rockets captured second place.



Anticipation: Lindsay Theisen, White of the Junior Varsity Rockets bights her nails before the competition.



Rallying: Alaina Maddox is member of the Junior Varsity Farmington Rockets, which is like a farm team to the high school cheerleading team.



Rally: The freshmen Farmington Rockets perform during the rally, which drew more than 500 cheerleaders from around the area.

## Parker from page A1

into the judicial system, if not a serious look into the consequences involved in drinking and driving cases.

She wields her gavel with a mixture of compassion and authority.

"I don't know if you can sentence everyone the same way," Parker said. "The most wonderful thing about this position is the power to make a difference in the community and in someone's life."

"You hope to make an impression the first time around so you don't have to see the person before the court again."

In drunken driving cases, Parker has used jail and education in sentencing. She had one case involving a father on his first drunken driving offense who had a serious alcohol problem.

She sentenced him to a jail

term, most of which was suspended provided the man successfully completed a zero tolerance program.

He was tested regularly. Any sign of alcohol use resulted in him being returned to jail.

He quit drinking. Parker later received a thank you letter from the man's daughter, saying it was the first time she had seen her father sober.

"That's why there is not an automatic sentence for any one person," Parker said.

Such individual attention is difficult as the district court docket increases.

Parker is pleased both cities are looking for ways to rectify the crowded conditions at the courthouse on 10 Mile. She serves with Judge Fred Harris as the court's two justices.

In January, district judges started hearing civil cases for

claims up to \$25,000. The previous limit was \$10,000.

As a result, the 47th District court had as many civil cases filed by June as it did for all of 1997.

Next year, thefts for \$1,000 and under will be reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors. Instead of being heard at the circuit court level, district judges will now decide those misdemeanor cases.

"That will mean a lot more trials in this court and we anticipate having more people using our probation services," Parker said. "We're a busy place and we're always changing."

Much like her campaign six years ago, though, Parker is relishing the challenge.

"Even though we're busy, I try to recognize that every case before me is the most important case for those people involved."

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