

No coach

C'ville cancels gymnastics

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER
mchestney@ec.homecomm.net

The ax did fall this year on the girls gymnastics team at Clarenceville High. But it didn't fall because the district canceled the program, as Clarenceville parents feared would happen last year.

The high school sports program died, at least for the 1998-99 school year, because the district couldn't find a certified gymnast coach who wanted to teach it.

"We advertised for a coach in newspapers and at gymnastic clubs for about three weeks," said Superintendent Tom Tattan. "Not one person applied."

The district went looking for a certified coach in late October after the Clarenceville Board of Education, responding to the pleas of parents of several girl gymnasts, agreed to continue the program.

Its future was in jeopardy, partly because of the lack of participants and partly because of the lack of a feeder program at

Clarenceville Middle School.

The trustees also agreed to explore the possibility of launching a middle school feeder program. And they also agreed to hire a coach to replace Chuck Thompson, the former coach who retired.

Barbara Bennett, one of the parents urging the sport be continued, said Thursday that it's tough to hire a coach in October, when school meets are just getting under way.

She said she will press the district to advertise once again the \$3,887-a-year job in late spring.

Her daughter, Gabriel, an advanced gymnast who practices in a private gym during the summer, is one of the teens who came before the board in October asking the trustees to both continue the sport and hire a certified coach.

The huge split in skill level between team members - a high number of beginners and two girls with advanced skills, including Gabriel - made it essential the district hire a certified coach, thus making the job

search that much tougher, Tattan said.

Two former Clarenceville graduates, gymnasts Kelly Krolczyk and Holly Fockler, who had been coaching the girls, are not certified and thus were not able to apply for the job.

"No one is happy when we eliminate a program," Tattan said. "But we need to make sure it's a safe, quality activity. We need a coach who can teach both groups (of girls)."

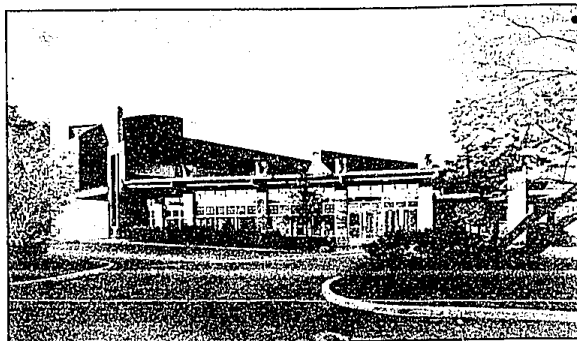
The big loss for the girls, Bennett said, is that as members of a private gym, they can't complete with teams in the high school athletic association.

The sport was slated to be canceled earlier in the year because of the low number of girls who had signed up this year - 15 - and also because of injuries suffered by gymnasts last year.

Last year, the district's concerns over the program led to talks with Farmington schools to combine both districts' programs.

"We tried, but Farmington said no," Tattan said.

A winner



A winner: PDA Architects of Farmington Hills took home an award from the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for its design of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Family Life Center and Narthex Addition in Bloomfield Hills.

Architectural firm wins

PDA Architects of Farmington Hills won its first design award from the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The firm was recognized for its design of the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Fam-

ily Life Center & Narthex Addition in Bloomfield Hills.

The jury noted how its thoughtful clever details enriched the building.

The firm was honored at annual awards ceremonies in November at the Detroit Insti-

tute of Art.

The Calsonic North American Headquarters in Farmington Hills, designed by Studio B Architects in Birmingham, also made it into the winners circle.

Math competition adds up for Farmington students

Thirty Farmington Public Schools students from Farmington, Harrison and North high schools recently took the second part of the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

The competition is sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

Students qualified for Part II by placing among the top 7 percent of 14,000 participants in an examination given Oct. 14 at more than 360 schools across Michigan.

The qualifiers took the Part II exam Wednesday, Dec. 9. The

100 students with the highest combined scores will be invited to a banquet March 6 in their honor at Michigan State University.

College scholarships ranging from \$450 to \$2,400 will be presented to the top 50 finishers.

Junior students in the competition were: Nitsan Ben-Gal, North; Teresa Elsey, Harrison; Daniel Freeman, North; David Harris, North; Michael Levy, North; Erik Oswald, Harrison; Amanda Patton, Farmington; Hemant Srinivas, Farmington; Jeffrey Swinger, North; Benjamin York, Farmington.

Senior students in the competition were: Kate Braunstein, North; Kelly Brickner, North; Jane Gazman, North; Kevin Geary, Harrison; Kush Gulati, North; Daniel Hong, North; Nick Jordan, North; Loren Klein, Farmington; Jarret Kuo, North; Tim Muir, North; Molly Noturiani, North; Oz Pearlman, North; David Pesci, Harrison; Will Read, Farmington; Ariel Schwayder, Harrison; Yifan Tan, Farmington; Randi Taub, North; Rachel Williams, North; Wayne Yang, North; John Zwineck, North.

WIC hosts annual Dogs-Diamonds

Women in Communications of Detroit invites communication and business professionals to nominate companies or organizations for helping or hindering the advancement of women.

It's the 15th annual Dogs and Diamonds Awards that WIC of Detroit presents every February.

The Diamond Award recognizes the efforts of an individual, company or organization that offers a workplace culture for women to thrive, or whose activities enhance the status of work-

ing women.

The Dog Award is given to an individual, company or organization whose policies, practices, advertising, or other activities have hindered the progress of working women.

Nominations must be in writing and include: nominee's name, address and telephone number; nominee's employer (if applicable); the award for which the nomination is made; reason for the nomination; and supporting materials, such as pho-

tographs, news releases, articles, letters of support, etc.

Nominations must be received no later than Jan. 5, 1999. Send nominations to Dogs & Diamonds, Women in Communications of Detroit, P.O. Box 1288, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1288.

Founded in 1989, The Association for Women in Communications has more than 7,000 professional members.

For more information about the group, call Kim Boyd at (313) 535-4202.

There are many new exciting programs this winter at the Birmingham Family YMCA!

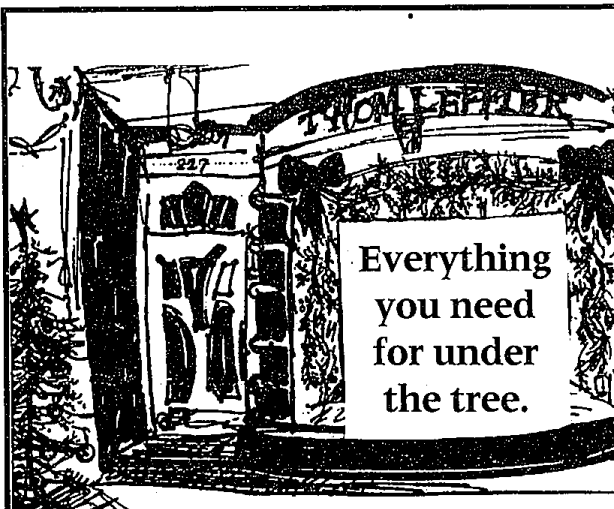
Power yoga, Kickfit kickboxing, Swing dancing, Jive and Dive for teens, Y Personal Fitness program, plus... our always popular preschool programs for tots, ages 18 mos and up.

Registration for the Winter I and Winter II sessions will begin on Monday, December 7, 1998, for all Fitness and General members. Program members may register beginning Monday, December 14, 1998. For your convenience, you may register for both the Winter I and Winter II sessions at the same time! Take advantage of our mail-in, fax and voice mail registrations. We accept MC, Visa and Discover.

Come see what is new at the Birmingham YMCA!



The Birmingham Family YMCA
400 East Lincoln
Birmingham
248-644-9036



Thom Leffler

GREAT DESIGNS
FOR BODY AND HOME

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE BUILDING
227 SOUTH OLD WOODWARD
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009
248-642-0548