



J.T. Katikos Livonia Stevenson Kevin Savitskie Plymouth Salem Nick Houdek Plymouth Canton Ben White Livonia Stevenson Jamie Miller Livonia Stevenson T.J. Djokic Livonia Stevenson John Kaczmarek Plymouth Canton Matt Stafford Catholic Central Jon Nettles Livonia Franklin

All-Observer boys soccer *from page D4*

defense was great and he was the catalyst. He has great one-on-one skills and offensively dribbles with speed. He was a fantastic leader." Stafford was also one of the leading offensive players on CC, such as he could be on a team with just eight goals all year. But Stafford had one of the eight and added on assists on a team that faced the 2000 Division 1 co-champs Brother Rice and DeLaSalle

twice and 2001 champion University of Detroit-Jesuit three times. Jon Nettles, defender, Liv. Franklin: The senior proved to be the Cal Ripken of Franklin soccer, starting and playing in 79 straight games. "He never missed a game because of a card and he was never injured," Franklin coach Dave Hebestreit said. "He's the best kid I've coached in the last two years. He's got some of the best distribution skills out of the back and has a great touch. He's not super fast, but he's smart."

Leach also earned all-area honors in basketball and as a hurdler in track earlier this year. He made the all-WLAA soccer team this year, too. "He's one of the best all-around athletes I've coached," North Farmington's Ron Matyszek said. "He was the heart of our team and a very unselfish player. He could've played offense or midfield but chose to play defense, because that's where he knew the team needed him most. In that respect, he was the consummate team player. His first touch on the ball was good. He had very few misplayed balls. He was just a real solid player back there."

passion." Juncaj said. "He really loves the game, and he makes everybody around him better because of the way he plays." "He was the most experienced player on our team. He was involved in the midfield a lot and on set plays; he scored some very important goals for us in the state tournament. Nick was probably our most valuable player."

There was a great deal of pressure on the three-year starter, what with an entirely rebuilt Rocks' defense playing in front of him, when this season started, and he handled it as capably as a hard shot on goal. "He was that," answered Salem coach Ed McCarthy when asked if Palazzolo was the backbone of the team. "Early on, he was the only player keeping us in games, giving us a

chance to win." With Palazzolo in net, the Rocks did a lot of winning. In his three seasons on varsity, he collected 47 wins, and 35 of those were shutouts. This season, Palazzolo — a second-team all-state selection and the team's most valuable player — allowed 1.05 goals per match, and he was selected as the all-Western Lakes Activities Association goalkeeper.

ALL-AREA

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER FIRST TEAM

Forwards
J.T. Katikos, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Kevin Savitskie, senior, Ply. Salem
Nick Houdek, senior, Ply. Canton
Matt Knapinski, junior, Farmington
Midfielders
Ben White, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Jamie Miller, senior, Liv. Stevenson
T.J. Djokic, senior, Liv. Stevenson
John Kaczmarek, senior, Ply. Canton
Defenders
Matt Stafford, senior, Redford CC
Jon Nettles, senior, Liv. Franklin
Mike Leach, senior, N. Farmington
Nick Ramirez, senior, Farmington
Goalkeeper
Tavio Palazzolo, senior, Ply. Salem

SECOND TEAM

Forwards
Justin Combs, senior, Lash, Westland
Nick Djokic, junior, Liv. Stevenson
Matt Gallagher, senior, Ply. Christian
Midfielders
Matt Okopy, junior, Farmington
Matt Rodriguez, senior, Red. Thurston
Shane Smith, senior, Ply. Salem
Jamie Miller, senior, Canton City
Jeff Shumer, senior, N. Farmington
Joe Russo, junior, Farmington
Defenders
Brian Emtick, junior, Liv. Churchill
David Novara, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Brent Kwiatkowski, senior, Canton
Brian Stephens, senior, Redford Union
Jeff Wilson, senior, Liv. Stevenson
Goalkeepers
Dan Jette, senior, Liv. Churchill
Ryan Kost, senior, Redford CC

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Lars Richters, Livonia Stevenson MS
Luke Juncaj, Farmington High School

HONORABLE MENTION

Stevenson: Paul Johnson, Joe Lubinski, Charlie Knott, Patrick Koldirichak; Charselle Lawrence; Topele, Adam Wysocki, Cory Muniga; Franklin: Chris Austin, Chad Reed, Jake Horgan, Phil Calicci; John Glenn; Rick Ruppel; Jeff Ballast; Wayne; Greg Demejan; John Lewis, Adam Wroblewski; Katherine Westland; John DeVries; Brandon Noble; Huron Valley Lutheran: Steve Anderson; Clarenceville: Joe Park, Dana Sklar; Farmington: Nate Meyer, Kacey Lopez, Andrew Martin, Eric Goughan, Matt Cave, Chris McDonnell; N. Farmington: Steve Denton, Mike Buchwald, Alex Lubyanskiy, Sermat Aizer, Greg Pekarosky; Harrison: Majeed Tani, Emory Erikson, Alford Galaj, Nihad Bander, Brett Laird, Eric White; Redford Union: Aldo Macchiagone, Tony Congdon; Thurston: Mike Supinski, Jim Grenay; Redford CC: Matt Esper, John Show; Garden City: Sam Kocals, David Ribosz; Canton: Aaron Schmitt, Greg Musser, Zak Juntula, Evan Baker, Jason Lenahan, Nick Rolfe; Salem: Brian Poppeny, Jared Lamson, Jamie Zdzonowski; Jeff Bennett, Kevin Peurasaari, Steve Shull; Plymouth Christian: Chad Bonuta, Dan Carty, Mark Ericson.

Nettles is a two-time third-team Division 1 All-Observer. He also is Franklin's two-time MVP and is a two-time all-WLAA selection. He was also Franklin's captain the past two seasons.

He is making a visit to Butler and is also being recruited by Oakland University and Michigan State.

Mike Leach, defender, N. Farmington: Leach was a four-year starter for the Raiders, who chose him as their MVP the last two seasons.

His competitiveness and tenacity served him well as the North Farmington sweeper. He employed good technique and intelligence to shut down opposing forwards and lead his team with 114 defensive saves.

Nick Ramirez, defender, Farmington: Nick Ramirez, defender, Farmington: A four-year starter, Ramirez played stopper and was instrumental in the Falcons posting 10 shutouts and holding opponents to one goal in nine other games this year.

The all-WLAA defender also handled free kicks, throw-ins and penalty kicks. Ramirez, who scored the winning goal in a 3-2, regional win over Grape Pointe North, had eight goals and 13 assists.

But his greatest asset to the team might have been his role as Farmington's emotional leader, the rock who rallied the Falcons.

"Nick plays the game with a lot of

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Tavio Palazzolo Plymouth Salem Lars Richters Liv. Stevenson-coach Luke Juncaj Farmington-coach

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