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When it was announced United Farmington had won, "The parents and kids were screaming at the same time," Robin Womack said. "We were all so excited, surprised and shocked. Divine Child is the one that usually wins all these things. They're the ones the girls wanted to try to beat."

In each category, there are four elements, allowing the nine United Farmington girls to alternate and participate in a variety of the disciplines.

"It's an objectively-judged sport," Schnoes said. "You get a base mark for anything you do, and the base mark depends on the difficulty of the move."

"If everyone does the same move, the base mark is the same. If it looks good, they mark you up; if you make errors, there are certain deductions they have to take."

In individual state competition, Meacham was first and Lehto seventh in pre-preliminary level, Gladney first in novice, Miller first in pre-bronza dance, Ryan second in beginner, Womack fifth in juvenile and Kawashima fifth in intermediate.

"We have a great commitment by our skaters," Schnoes said. "My job as coach is to not let any one skater do everything. I try to spread it out and put the best team out there, giving everyone



Waiting to perform: United Farmington's high team gets ready to begin the jump portion of the state meet competition Saturday.

an equal opportunity." United Farmington, which finished second in the low-level state meet last year, loses only two skaters from this year's team - Cummings and Maxwell. Schnoes hopes the team has started a tradition that will continue

into the near future. "Next year we won't have any senior skaters," Schnoes said. "Whatever team we have set next year we'll keep for two years. Our goal next year is to make it to state in the high and low levels."

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hurry their shots or using lightweight leg pads and "moon boots" to deflect the ball to teammates.

"My quickness has something to do with it," Yuhasz said about her goaltending success. "Then I prepare myself for the shot. It's all about timing."

Different game
At Michigan State, the game will be played on turf rather than grass and will be much faster. "It's a different strategy for goaltenders at college," she said. "Instead of running out to get the angle, because they get their shots off so fast (in college), you just take a couple steps and lay your body down and spread it out. The defense covers the rest." Stephanie likely will learn those nuances of college field hockey goaltending from the sidelines, or the practice field. But she expects to progress into a starting role in her sophomore year.

Progress also could take place elsewhere. Kirk Yuhasz views his daughter's future at MSU as an awareness-builder, at Morey and southeast Michigan. Field hockey can be as viable an option for college-bound female athletes as higher-profile sports such as basketball.

Colleagues now tend to recruit in California and the East Coast for field hockey talent, he said. But, with every Stephanie Yuhasz that emerges, scouts might have to add Michigan to the mix. Even Stephanie herself sees the potential. "With my friends, I'm encouraging them to pursue sports in college and to go out for field hockey if you have the ability to be good at it. That and lacrosse, too." When Yuhasz talks to those friends, she might toss in a few pointers about one of the top reasons why she can keep so much on her athletic and academic field. It's called time management. "My family and friends come

first, then school and my sports and my social life comes after that," Stephanie said. "Because I've been playing sports for so long, I know what I have to do, and I won't do anything else until I get it done." With that kind of determination, no one will be surprised to see Yuhasz star for the MSU field hockey team while earning a pre-med degree.

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reach for a tall kid." Miller also made honorable mention All-State Division I.

Sean O'Malley, Sr. F, Redford CC: Senior forward Sean O'Malley made sure his first and only season with the Shamrocks was a memorable one.

Coming from Triple-A competition, he was named a co-captain despite not having played for CC prior to this season. He scored just two goals on the season, but contributed 17 assists and was so good defensively, he was named First Team All-State.

"We have three guys who are unbelievable leaders in Sean, John and Jeff," Johnson said. "They will never, ever quit."

Kevin Wilson, Sr. F, Salem: In his first, and only, season playing for Salem, Wilson who played in the Little Caesars AAA Midget level last year - finished second in the WLA and second among the Rocks in scoring, finishing behind the same guy in both: Mark Nagel.

Wilson's numbers cannot be diluted, however, nor can the difference he made on the team. He totaled a team-best 39 goals to go with 36 assists for 75 points, with a plus-29 rating. Wilson was selected to the conference's all-Lakes Division team, scoring nine power-play goals and five short-handed.

"He has the speed and ability to make long pin-point passes," said Feller. "His speed was deceptive. He was one of those players, once he got the puck he could go where he wanted to go. He lulled the defense to sleep."

Jeff Prough, Soph. F, Redford CC: CC's hockey team featured a mix of younger players and steady senior leadership.

Part of the former was sophomore sharpshooter Jeff Prough. Prough tied for the team lead in goals scored with 14, and delivered key tallies in playoff wins over Trenton and Port Huron Northern, two of CC's toughest competitors. He is a superior skater and is very quick with a hard and accurate wrist shot.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

SUBURBAN HOCKEY CLINICS
• Suburban Hockey will offer one-day, two-hour clinics at various locations in the Detroit area from April 1-5.
• Suburban Training Center will host the Shoot to Score, Quick N Fast and Learn to Check clinics on April 6.
• Players ages 6 and up can enroll in the Shoot to Score and Quick N Fast clinics; the Learn to Check clinic is for players ages 11-14, and the Defense clinic is for ages 8 and up.
• Players will be grouped according to age and ability.
• Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct its Learn to Check clinics at several locations prior to the spring hockey season, including Suburban Training

Center in Farmington Hills (March 26-27), Redford Arena (March 28) and Novi Ice Arena (April 2).
• The program is geared toward quiet players moving up to the pee wee level, as well as pee wee and bantam players who need instruction on the techniques of checking.
• Areas of emphasis in the two-hour instructional session include proper checking technique, how to receive a check, how to avoid a check, stick checking, back checking, angling and body positioning.
• For information on the clinics or hockey schools, call (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com for more information.

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