

## DANGER

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the sport of rugby. And the reaction from people has been wonderful.

"Everybody says it's awesome, that women can play a sport that men play," Scamion said. "We surprised them."

That 24-year-old Ruth Vinson of Southfield made the team in the first place was surprising to her.

"I knew nothing about the sport," said Vinson, a 5-6, 140-pound cornerback. "The lady running the tryouts kept saying 'You have to have the heart of a lion to succeed.' I thought that, I can manage that."

The Southfield High School alum also managed to tackle a daunting schedule.

A football grind of three practices a week and one game on the weekend only added to Vinson's work load as a student at Madonna University in Livonia, where she recently graduated. Meanwhile, any bumps and bruises should heal in time for her first session

teaching eighth-grade science in the Pontiac district.

"A lot of these girls will continue to play the sport, but I want to start grad school," Vinson said. "I've put a lot of time into this, and things have been put on hold."

Vinson never played high school sports. But 21-year-old Nicole Randolph of Lathrup Village brought quite a track record, literally, to the Danger. She was a prep star in track and field at Southfield-Lathrup, where she graduated in 1999.

"I thought I'd jump in and try it out," Randolph said. "I didn't take it real seriously. But the coaches were interested in my speed and they put me in on punt returns and it just went from there."

## LAST LAUGH

A championship trophy could also help the women have the last laugh with co-workers, friends and family.

"I didn't tell my parents until after the first game, because I knew what their reaction would be," Martin said. "But they got

over it. My sister thought I was crazy, though."

Vidojevski - a part-time DJ for a metro Detroit radio station - said she didn't have the same problem with her folks, especially after they saw one of the team's home games at Pontiac's Winster Stadium. "My dad said 'Cool, wow, I had no idea it was going to be that rough.' I guess he really liked it."

The idea of playing tackle football resulted in some double-takes for Randolph.

"People said 'Are you serious? Do you guys wear cups?'" said Randolph, laughing. "Well, the answer is no."

One person who is serious about the future of the Danger and women's pro football is assistant coach and former Detroit Lion player Maurice Harvey.

"I'm excited about it and I'll do what I can to promote women's football," Harvey said. "I never dreamed women would be playing football, but these women can play."

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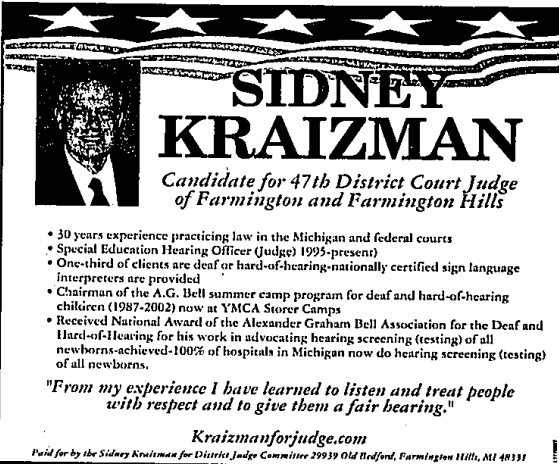
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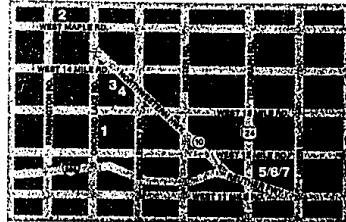
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