HOAD FROM PAGE DI

"You work so hard all your life to be a part of something like this I was (part of it) in high school, and now I am in college. I just feel so lucky." Grand Valley was ranked No. in Division II all year after narrowly losing the 2001 championahin game, 17-14 to North Dakota. Hoad said the feeling of that loss stayed with the players throughout the offseason workouts, and during the regular season, when the opponents.
"The win was a little sweeter because of what happened last year," Hoad said.
"We were a much more hungy team, a more focused team

gry team, a more focused team right from the start of the sea-

Should has experienced the highs and lows of being an athlete, both as a team and an individual over the past year. Although he's in his fourth acdemic year at GVSU, he is a junitor-ligible player because he took a medical redshift season in 2001. He tore the lateral meniscus ligament in his left knee and had to sit out that season.

knee and had to sit out that season.
In this 2002 season, the
Lakers blasted through all
opposition, averaging around
50 points per game during the
season. In the national semifi-nals, GVSU routed Northern
Colorado 44-7 in a game that
saw Hoad record three tackles

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE DI
score 2-1 Farmington heading
into the third period.

It was all Farmington from
there, as Mark Roth, Ian
Schornby and Mike Singer each
scored goals.

"It was kind of a dreadful,
laid-back game. Royal Oak is a
team we know we should be up
on, and the guys were kind of
frustrated for a while."

The Flyers will participate in
this weekend's High School
Hockey Showcass at Trenton,
which is made up of the top
programs in the state,
Farmington will take on
Traverse City Central and
CEC WINS UGIY

CC WINS UGLY

Any win over a league oppo-nent is supposed to be a good win, but you'd have a tough time selling Catholic Central co-coach Todd Johnson on that after his team's 2-0 win over Port Huron Northern on

port Huron Northern on Saturday.

"We didn't play very disciplined," said Johnson. We must have taken eight bad penalties. They were well-coached and played physical, and we weren't prepared to sacrifice and took bad penalties. If (goalie) Jimmy Blanchard wasn't the best player on the ice, we would have lost and deserved to lose the game.

Blanchard stopped 20 shots nroute to the shutout win, while Northern's Andrew Smith stopped 20 as well.

Brandon Naurato opened the scoring in the first period on a penalty shot, courtesy of a Huskes defenseman putting his hand on the puck in the crease. Pat Coldern scored in the second period on a one-stimes with Billi Burms and

his hand on the puck in the crease. Pat Coldern scored in the second period on a one-timer, with Billy Burns and Kevin Horal getting the assista. "We did things in warm-spe that we'd never done before, and it went downhill from there," said Johnson, as his team improved to 2-2 overall and 2-0 in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League. "I was very disappointed in our play Saturday." Northern fell to 1-1-1 in the MiHL and 4-1-1 overall.

COACHES WANTED

■ St. Agatha is looking for a varsity softball coach for the spring. For more information, please call abiletic director Trish Rich at (3/13) 532-2285 or send a resume to her at 25707 Pembroke, Redford, M1, 48240 or by fax at (3/13) 532-2277.
■ Farmington Harrison High School is searching for a boys tennis cosch.
If interested in the position, call FPS athletic director Ron Holland at (249) 489-3352 or fax a letter of interest and/or resume to (248) 474-3802.

took pictures of me on the podium and with the (championship) trophy, 'Hoad said. 'Saturday night, we went back to the hotel and had a team dinner in the banquet room. There were thousands of Grand Valley fans there waiting for us. After the dinner, they let everyone in and it was basically one big party.' Asked if he got any sleep Saturday night, he chuckled 'No,' as any happy college student would. "It was just a riot,' he added. "We all went out with the coaches after dinner. I don't and a sack.

The championship game was a different story. Grand Valley raced out to a quick lead, only to see Valdostal State score 11 points in less than a minute, eventually tying the game 24-24. But an Anes touchdown pass and an interception sealed the dramatic victory. That's when the celebration started. Among the nearly 8,000 Grand Valley fans who made the 15-hour trip to Alabama were Hoads parents, who joined in the huge on-field celebration.

ebration.
"My parents came down,

think we got in until 4 a.m., and the bus to the airport left at 7:45, so no, 1 don't think many guys got any sleep at all. Now relaxing on Christmas break, Hoad has had a chance to relax, get some sleep of course, and reflect on a football career that's seen nothing but winning.

winning.
While at Harrison, he recorded 171 tackles in three seasons while leading the team to two state titles. The team went 26-0 in 1997 and 1998, which matches nicely with Grand Valley's 27-1 mark over the past two seasons.

Everyone knows about the Harrison tradition, and having that experience in high school definitely helps this time of year, 'Hoad said.' Playing on a team this talented, you know you can trust your teammates to play to their maximum ability, so there isn't a lot of individual pressure.' With all his winning experience in high school and college. Hoad will likely be looked at as a leader for the 2003 Lakers. He says he's prepared for it, but understands that the team will have a significant leadership void because of the terrific sen-

ior class this year.
"We'll miss our 20 seniors we had," Hoad said. "But the

had," Hoad said. But the younger players got to see what it was like playing on a winning team, and we just want that to carry over into next year.

"We went through the whole season being ranked No. I and we know what it was like to have people gunning for us. But I can't wait to get started at defending our title next year."

year."
But before title defenses, weightlifting programs and knowing coverages, Mike Hoad plans to get some sleep first.





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