

**ALL-AREA**  
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championship." To that end, Hay kept battling against Detroit Catholic Central in the first round of the playoffs at Compuware Arena, which was the combined ice squad's only defeat. "He nearly stole the game from them with his hard play," said Vellucci, adding that Hay did not want to come off the ice during the third period of that contest. "Keith is a great leader on and off the ice, and our players have a lot of respect for him," Vellucci said. "I will miss his leadership and especially his friendship." Hay made the all-state team as a Division 1 forward.

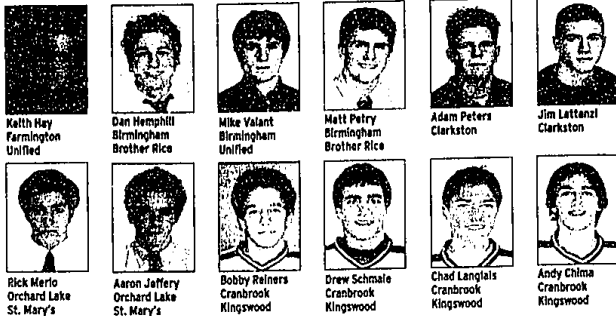
**Aaron Jeffery, O.L. St. Mary's:** The Eagles' senior co-captain registered 59 points and was named to the all-state Division 3 team, helping St. Mary's to an outstanding season. "He's just a kid that loves the game," said head coach Brian Kianow about the high-scoring center. "He has a lot of fun when he's out there and he works so hard in the practices and games. And you can see (the benefit of that) in his talent. He is a dominant player."

Jeffery recently was named to team Michigan, and will compete for the all-star team April 16-21 at the Chicago Showcase. College and junior teams also have their eyes on him. "He's just an extremely skilled player," Kianow added. "He's got the whole package."

**Rick Merlo, O.L. St. Mary's:** Another key to the Eagles' team success in 2002-03 was the play of senior co-captain and left-winger Merlo, also an all-state Division 3 selection. "He's an extremely good player, he's very talented offensively," Kianow said. "And he'll have a future in hockey. Junior-A teams are showing interest in him."

Merlo made the final 12 forwards considered for the Mr. Hockey award, and was named to the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Dream team. "It is possible Merlo will join Jeffery on team Michigan and play at next week's Chicago Showcase, which features all-star teams from around the country."

**Adam Peters, Clarkston:** The Wolves were led in scoring by Peters, who registered 20 goals and 23 assists for 43 points in just 30 games. "Adam is a strong forward who took the puck to the net," said Clarkston head coach Bryan Krygier. "Offensively, he had a knack for scoring goals for us this year."



**Keith Hay, Farmington Unified:** For his efforts, Peters was named to the all-state Division 1 team. **Matt Petry, Brother Rice:** The senior co-captain scored 14 points and 12 assists in 27 games for the Warriors, earning him selection to the all-state Division 2 team.

**Coach Harry Mills said Petry does it all for his team, providing great skating, shooting, defense and leadership. "He was our best player, our MVP. He'd definitely have an opportunity to play at the next level in hockey, but he decided to play baseball" after graduation.** **Drew Schmale, Cranbrook:** The Cranes senior co-captain led the team in scoring with 23 goals and 21 assists, contributing to an outstanding record.

"Drew was a great captain for us this year," said head coach Aaron Weidenbach. "When we needed a key goal, he got it. When we needed a physical presence on the ice, Drew provided it." Schmale also gave the Cranes solid effort on both offense and defense and was a strong leader. For his complete season, Schmale racked up several honors. Besides the O&E all-area first team, he was named to the all-state Division 3 team, earned placement on the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Dream team and made the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League all-area first team.

**DEFENSEMEN**

**Chad Langlais, Cranbrook:** The sophomore defenseman made his presence felt in many ways for the Cranes, finishing second in scoring with 16 goals and 19 assists. On defense, he played a smart, confident style, minimizing mistakes in his own end. "Chad is one of the most-talented players we've had at Cranbrook in the last 10 years," said Weidenbach. "He gives 100 percent every shift... He consistently got the puck out of our defensive zone and led a rush into the offensive zone. If he didn't score, he was the first man back." Like several of his teammates, Langlais made the all-state Division 3 and MHSCHA Dream team squads while also being selected to the MIHL first team.

**Jim Lattanzi, Clarkston:** Another key player for the Wolves was four-year varsity player Lattanzi, who proved his value at both ends of the ice. Coach Krygier described him as "a stay-at-home defenseman

**Coach of the Year makes fast impact on team**

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Mark Vellucci didn't take long to put a positive stamp on the Farmington Unified hockey team. He also didn't take long to earn high praise and respect from his high school coaching peers, who selected him the Observer & Eccentric 2003 Coach of the Year.

There was no denying that Vellucci deserved the honor. His first year as head coach of the team proved to be hugely successful, as the Flyers posted a phenomenal 24-1 record. On top of that, there was winning chemistry between players and Vellucci - brother of Plymouth Whalers coach-GM Mike Vellucci. "I'll never have another group of boys that will be as

talented or well-behaved as these boys were," said Vellucci, who graduated from Farmington High School in 1990. "The best part of coaching this group is that I'll have 25 friends for the rest of my life."

Vellucci, who was an assistant coach for the team in the 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons, noted that Farmington Unified's program made strides each of the past three years. Two years ago, the team went 8-16-1 and followed that up with a 16-8-3 mark.

This season, the only Flyers' loss was to Redford-Detroit Catholic Central in the first round of the playoffs, at jam-packed Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

The Novi resident, who is married to Jennifer, is studying to be a high school teacher at Oakland Community College. Other hockey coaching experience includes three years at the PeeWee AA, Bantam A and AA levels. "I'll never have another group of boys that will be as

(who) consistently moved the puck up for us. It is a true, solid defenseman."

Lattanzi, named to the all-state Division 1 team, also chipped in offensively, with four goals and 12 assists.

**Bobby Reiners, Cranbrook:** Yet another sophomore defenseman who made his mark for Cranbrook Kingswood was Reiners, who registered three goals and 16 assists while also doing the job in front of his own goal.

"Bobby is a very steady, dependable defenseman," Weidenbach said. "He does a great job of clearing away opponents in front of the net."

Reiners provided a physical presence that should be even more evident in the next two seasons. "He is a stay-at-home defenseman, which complemented the play of his partner (Chad Langlais)," Weidenbach added. "The youngster was named to the all-state Division 3 team for

his efforts. **Mike Valant, Birmingham Unified:** The four-year varsity player and captain was invaluable on the ice, with seven goals, seven assists and two game-winning goals. But, said head coach Steve McIntyre, what reiterated the player's value is what happened when he missed a game.

Birmingham started the season with a 9-0-2 roll, and didn't lose a game until the contest Valant missed. "He was just a great all-around team player and he's a kid that's going to be missed," McIntyre said. "He was a joy to coach and he provided great leadership to the other players."

Valant was named the team's MVP and best defensive player, and other honors included being named all-state honorable mention and being selected to the Oakland Activities Association All-League squad.

PLEASE SEE ALL-AREA, D3

**2ND TEAM ALL-AREA HOCKEY 2003**

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL
Matt Fritz	Forward	Cranbrook Kingswood
Mike Hand	Forward	Farmington Unified
Chase Langlais	Forward	Cranbrook Kingswood
Doug Pickets	Defense	Birmingham Brother Rice
Matt Plathovic	Defense	Rochester Union
Aaron Allor	Goal	Farmington Unified

**3RD TEAM ALL-AREA HOCKEY 2003**

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL
Trevor Johns	Forward	Clarkston
Kyle Vandembosche	Forward	Troy Unified
Brandon Ward	Forward	West Bloomfield
Eric Roman	Defense	Orchard Lk. St. Mary's
Jeff Tosolan	Defense	Farmington Unified
Sean Garvey	Goal	Birmingham Unified

**WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS**  
**WHALERS vs. LONDON KNIGHTS**

**GAME 5**  
**FRIDAY, APR. 11**  
**@ 7:30 p.m.**

Game 7: Monday, April 14 @ 7:30 p.m. (if necessary)

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**M-14 & BECK RD. IN PLYMOUTH**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**  
**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**OAKLAND COUNTY**  
**3155 ELEVEN MILE ROAD**  
**FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48338**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Kendallwood Subdivision Road Improvement Special Assessment Roll No. C-312 in the amount of \$861,892.05 for the construction of Road Improvements in said city to be located as follows:

STATE	FROM	TO
Quail Hollow	Peppermill	Bayberry
Green Willow	Peppermill	Peppermill
Bayberry	12 Mile Road	Farmington Road
Hawberry	Peppermill	Bayberry
Thorny Brae	Peppermill	Peppermill
Peppermill	12 Mile Road	Northern border of Subdivision
West Tulipwood	Hawberry	Western border of Subdivision
New Castle	Thorny Brae	Bayberry
East Tulipwood	Thorny Brae	Farmington Road
Thorny Brae Court	Quail Hollow Court	

has been filed in the office of the City Clerk for public examination, along with the costs of said project which are proposed as follows:

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:	\$861,892.05
PERCENT OF COST ASSESSED TO DISTRICT:	\$0.77%
TOTAL COST TO DISTRICT:	\$666,115.36
AVERAGE COST PER BASE UNIT TO BE ASSESSED:	\$ 2,369.53

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the City Council will meet in the City Hall Council Chamber, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 14th of April, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., to review said Special Assessment Roll and to hear any comment at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or part in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any part having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, CMC/A&E  
City Clerk  
City of Farmington Hills

PHONE: 248/473-9666  
Mailed: March 27, 2003  
Publish: April 3 and 10, 2003

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