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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 23, 1999
 Periodical USPS 398-920
Volume 44
Number 11
Five Sections
50 Pages plus Supplements



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 THERE IS A VIRGINIA / 16A

Living FRANK TALK WITH
 JOLLY OLD ST. NICHOLAS / 1AA

ports WILDCATS CUT A NAME
 R THEMSELVES ON ICE / 1B

Applicants compete for Kriewall's job

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
 Staff Writer

Saturday marked the first in a series of rounds of interviews for the position of Novi city manager. With long-time City Manager Ed Kriewall stepping down from the post he has manned for more close to a quarter of a century on Feb. 11, 2000, 27 candidates are jockeying for position to become the new manager of Novi.

The interview process began Dec. 17 around noon with three candidates going through the question and answer process posed by the mayor and city council.

"We have qualified, intelligent candidates applying for the position," Mayor Richard Clark said Monday.

"We are not going to rush to judgment in order to fill Ed's position."

"We have an assistant manager who can fill in at Ed's position if at that time we felt the process wasn't completed to our satisfaction."

The three Michigan candidates who interviewed on Saturday were Marc Ott, city administrator of Rochester Hills; D. Wayne O'Neal, interim city manager of Howell; and Bill Richards Jr., Farmington's assistant city manager.

With the holiday season in full-swing and many of the qualified candidates coming from out-of-state, Novi Human Resources Specialist Tia Gronlund-Fox said it is important for all the candi-

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Connie Robbins, left and Kelly Savela, right, sculpt houses.

New housing appeals to those with a sweet tooth

By JENNIFER NORRIS
 Staff Writer

Sticky fingers and wide smiles were the result of a first grade annual holiday project at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Approximately 60 students participated in creating candy houses, a decorative and edible treat. Many of the first grade students said this was the first time they have ever made such a project.

"It's fun and you get messy a

lot," summed up Samantha Jewell, 6.

The houses were formed out of graham crackers that were pasted with cake frosting onto a milk carton. After the walls and roof were completed, candies including M&M's, candy canes, gumdrops, pretzels, licorice, Tic Tacs, and marshmallows were used for further decoration.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

At their Fawn Trail home are Alyssa, 9, Bill and Aggie Meyers, who spent weeks decorating.

Forget the halls Some rather deck the yards

Novi community members lit it up this year, as many local families showed their holiday spirit in a big way by decorating their yards with yards and yards of electric lights.

As in the past, the City of Novi sponsored the home decorating contest. This year, the winners were nominated by their homeowners associations.

On Tuesday Dec. 14, the homeowners each received a City of Novi holiday ornament which was presented by Mayor Richard Clark.

If you're interested in visiting a

winter wonderland, these are the places to drive past:

• **Barclay Estates:**

Dan and Toni Halling, 21939 Barclay Drive
 David Creedon and Linda O'Neill, 22237 Hazelton Court
 Jeff and Cindy Hagan, 22217 Hazelton Court
 Mark and Marie Thomas, 47170 Stratford Lane

• **Cedar Springs Estates 1 and 2**
 Lee Menerich, 25567 Buckminster
 Tony Ianni, 25714 Buckminster

Rick Mehl, 25971 Buckminster
 Ed Slawinski, 25658 Buckminster

• **Cedar Springs Estates 3 and 4**

Rick and Sue Gilbert, 25435 Sullivan Lane
 Keny and Mary Kolb, 25723 Sullivan Lane
 Jim and JoAnn Eagan, 25754 Sullivan Lane
 Roy Wilson, 44512 Copland Drive

• **Crosswinds West**
 Maryann Wender, 22357 Peachtree

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Oh, come all ye faithful

Local churches prepare for holiday services

For residents who wish to recall the true meaning of Christmas, following is a schedule of religious services around the holiday in Novi:

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

41415 Nine Mile, Novi
 (248) 349-0565
 Dec. 24: Candlelight service at 7 p.m.
 Dec. 25: Festival song service at 10 a.m.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
 (248) 349-9832
 Dec. 24: Children-oriented service, 6 p.m. Service of lessons, carols and candle-lighting, 9 p.m.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

24505 Meadowbrook, Novi
 (248) 349-8847
 Dec. 24: Masses at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and midnight
 Dec. 25: Masses at 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
 (There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas day.)

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

46325 Ten Mile Road, Novi

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City's ready for arrival of year 2000

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
 Staff Writer

The countdown to Y2K compliancy or the dreaded Y2K emergency is almost here.

And as we all wait to see what the "big event" may hold, service departments for the City of Novi are prepared with readiness plans they will follow on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

"Along with the police and fire departments, we are confident services will go uninterrupted with the Y2K issue," said Public Services Director Tony Nowicki.

"We have been making emergency stop signs for intersections and we will have extra people working during New Year's Eve."

While relying on utility companies such as Detroit Edison, Consumer Powers and Ameritech, City Manager Ed Kriewall said these companies feel there will be no problem with the transition into

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Snow on the roof, but on fire on stage

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
 Staff Writer

This was a Christmas show with moments of spontaneity, humor and pizzazz.

And whatever skill was being presented or song being performed, it was a good time for both the audience and the talented cast, many of whom were more than pushing 80. They were right there and beyond, kicking their heels up and singing their hearts out.

Directed by Linda Wickert, the Novi Theatres Senior Variety Series Dec. 17

presentation of Silver Belles & Beaus in Concert had the sold-out audience at the Novi Civic Center clapping their hands, singing

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Local tap dancers form a chorus line during last week's Senior Variety Series holiday show.

Community Calendar

Table with 4 columns: Day, Activity Name, Description, Time/Location. Includes Thursday, Dec. 23; Friday, Dec. 24; Saturday, Dec. 25; Sunday, Dec. 26; Monday, Dec. 27; Tuesday, Dec. 28; Wednesday, Dec. 29; Thursday, Dec. 30; Friday, Dec. 31.

Public Access

Table with 4 columns: Day, Activity Name, Description, Time/Location. Includes MONDAY, MONDAY, DEC. 27; TUESDAY, DEC. 28; WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29; THURSDAY, DEC. 30; FRIDAY, DEC. 31.

Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. Family Owned For Four Generations. 122 West Dunlap Street Northville, Michigan 48167. (248) 349-0611.

THE NOVA NEWS Published Each Thursday. 104 W. Main Street Northville, Michigan 48167. Periodical At Northville, Michigan.

LET'S TALK WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST. SKY BLUE LAPIS. The blue rock known as lapis lazuli is comprised of several different minerals, including lazurite, sodalite, haüyne, calcite, and pyrite.

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Bonfire Bistro & Brewery. New Year's Eve. Soup & Salad. Maine lobster bisque. Baby field greens with balsamic vinaigrette.

Bonfire Bistro & Brewery. (248) 735-4570. 7 Mile & Haggerty. BONTIRE logo.

ROCK-N-ROLL MUSEUM. MONDAY Kids eat free with adult menu purchase. Free magic 5:30 - 7:30.

Marriott focuses on service

By JENNIFER MORRIS Special Writer. Roomy accommodations, warm hospitality and moderate prices await travelers at Novi's newest hotel, the Courtyard by Marriott.



Relaxing in a large suite at the new Courtyard Hotel in Novi are from left: General Manager Maria Wyatt, Regional Director Tom Agar and Director of National Accounts Donna Richards.

This is the second Marriott hotel that has been opened in Novi in 1999, said general manager Maria Wyatt. "Our first focus in on guest service," she said.

Printers for guests' laptop computers are available in the lobby and fax and copy services are available at the front desk. Guest laundry is also accessible.

October 1999, provide reasonably priced accommodations and fully-equipped facilities. "We can offer lodging solutions in the Novi area for people to stay one or two nights and can accommodate longer visits at the extended stay hotel," said Richards.

Much has been spent already correcting the problem. A Senate Legislative Analysis estimated the state will spend a total of \$55.6 million correcting the problem in its computers.

legislation was that she does not want to see anyone going out of business because someone is trying to take advantage of Y2K," Rittenhouse said.

The bills would limit damages in lawsuits, resulting from computer date failure to actual damages — eliminating the possibility of punitive damages — but only if the

legislation was that she does not want to see anyone going out of business because someone is trying to take advantage of Y2K," Rittenhouse said.

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Ex-employee found with child porn on computer

BY ANDREW DIETERICH Staff Writer. A 38-year-old Monroe man was sentenced last week in a child pornography case called "disgusting and disturbing" by law officials.

Legislators aim to keep Y2k from becoming a lawsuit nuisance

By Mike Malott HomeTown News Service mmalott@homecomm.net. "If the world ends, this legislation is null and void," Amy Rittenhouse said of a set of bills aimed at protecting small businesses and local governments from frivolous Y2K-related lawsuits.

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IT'S BEEN A LONG MILLENNIUM... AND YOU DESERVE A GREAT MEAL BEFORE YOU START THE NEXT ONE. Steve & Rocky's. 43150 Grand River, Novi 248 374-0688.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church. Christmas Eve Services. Friday, December 24. 6 p.m. Nativity Pageant with Candlelighting.

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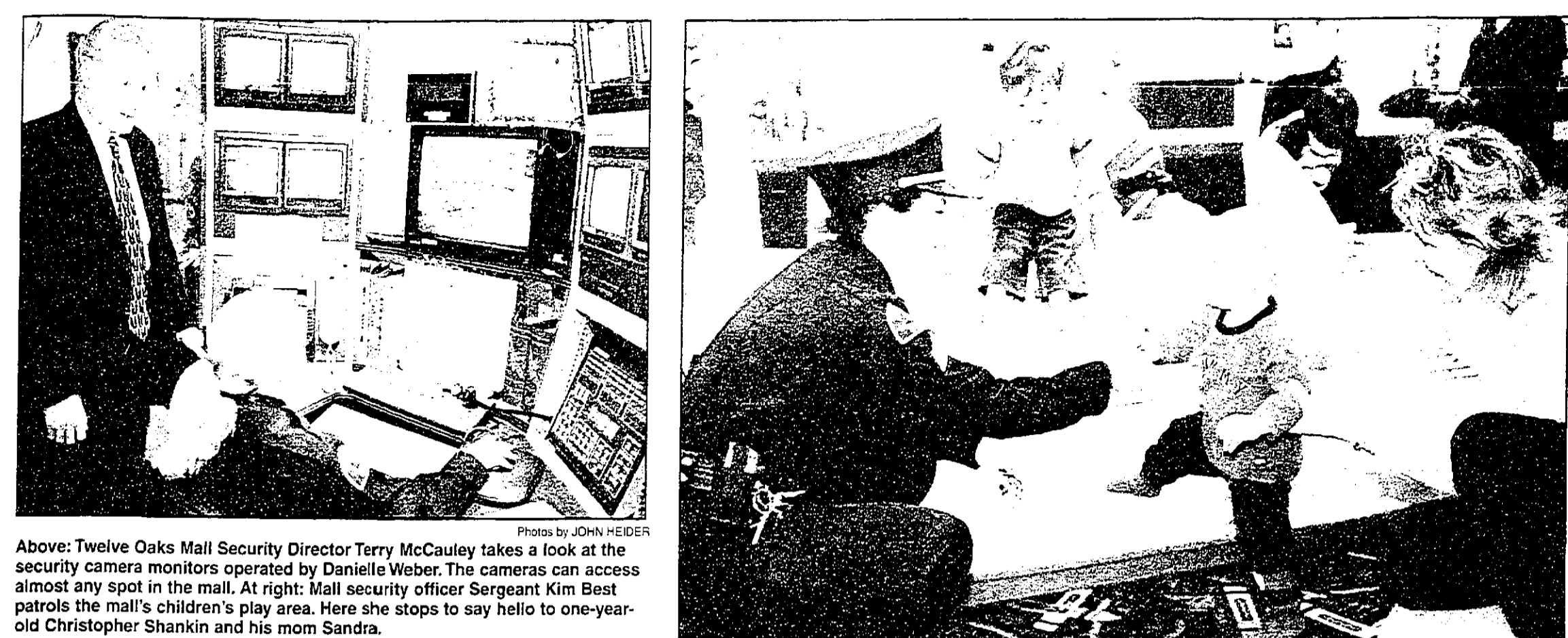
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For the safety of customers

Twelve Oaks Mall security officers keep an eye, and a camera on the shopping mecca

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN Staff Writer

The holiday shopping season has reached its peak and as consumers flock the malls searching for the best deal or the last-minute gift, security officers are working behind the scenes at providing the most secure shopping experience possible.

Twelve Oaks Mall Security Director Terry McCauley said his troops are focused on customer service and he hopes people stay aware of their own surroundings in this time of holiday hoopla and mayhem.

"As a tip to people who are planning on spending the day shopping — first of all, be aware of your surroundings," McCauley said.

"Also, have a plan and be able to adjust that plan."

McCauley said this year his staff has helped people with 700 car lockouts, hundreds of jump-starts and thousands of lost vehicles.

"Recognize where you are parking, and try not to park in dark areas," McCauley added.

Rewarding as it may be to reunite lost children with their parents, McCauley also said families should have specified meeting times and places while spending time at the mall.

"Women should also carry their purse securely over their head and shoulder while keeping the purse underneath the coat," McCauley said.

"You also want to keep your cash organized. You don't want to be showing a bunch of cash at clerks or counting too much money in front of other people."

While in the customer service industry, security is still the business at hand and working in conjunction with the Novi Police Department, the Oakland County Mounted Division, Sheriff's Department and Community Emergency Medical Services, security runs smoothly at Twelve Oaks Mall, he said.

"From the time of Thanksgiving to Dec. 26, there are patrol organizations providing extra eyes and ears in addition to our staff," McCauley explained.

"And our staff is professionally trained, in uniform and provide 24-hour patrol of both the interior and exterior of Twelve Oaks."

McCauley said his staff has different phases of training while becoming a part of the security team at Twelve Oaks Mall.

While training with a field training officer, security officers spend patrol, exterior patrol, interior patrol, dispatch training and report writing.

"There are specific things like defensive training, first aid and CPR we train for," he said.

"We also train our staff in issuing parking violations."

While a couple of jewelry store robberies have made headlines lately, McCauley said he's thrilled that Twelve Oaks hasn't seen any major criminal activity, adding that his crew is prepared for the many different challenges his business provides.

"We are always looking for people who are suspicious, such as people who come to Twelve Oaks with shopping bags from different stores not in this mall," he said.

With many of the anchor and tenant stores each having their own in-house security officer, McCauley said each store is responsible for their own security.

"There is really nothing to steal in the commons area — so we are dealing with shoplifters when the stores call upon us," he added.

"Each store has their own level of security and electronics."

The latest addition of Twelve Oaks' security technology is a new closed circuit television system contained in a control room in the security office.

Added just about a year old, the new video system offers different monitors and cameras that can scan both the interior and exterior views of the mall.

The extra cameras help record every-

"Now, by seeing us out there, it helps reinforce the guests' shopping experience."

Terry McCauley, Director of mall security

thing — and with capabilities of panning down, tilting around or zooming right onto a suspect or a patron who is unable to find their vehicle, the security team at Twelve Oaks Mall will be alert to every situation.

With more than 7 million visitors yearly to the mall, the extra technology goes a long way at providing the essential element the security officers are here for — customer service.

Whether they are in uniform with their flashlights, handcuffs, radios and defensive pepper spray or they are in plainclothes walking among patrons, McCauley said the security officers at Twelve Oaks are prepared for the worst, but prefer to help out in any way they can.

"This year we have run two emergency drills, so we can practice what we have in mind," McCauley said.

"A few years back, a shopper would come to the mall and see security officers, and would think to themselves this isn't a safe place."

"They would think bad things. Now, by seeing us out there, it helps reinforce the guests' shopping experience."

B.J. Hammerstein's e-mail address is bhammerstei@ttl.homecom.net.

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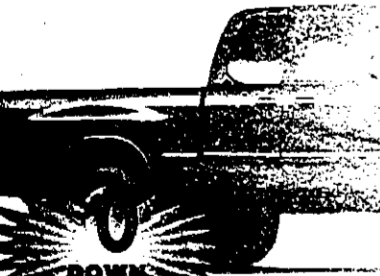
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Above, Willie Wiegel, A.K.A. Santa Claus, makes eye contact with a toddler brave enough to sit on his lap. At right, Wieg...er, Santa welcomes two youngsters to the giant green chair he calls home at Twelve Oaks Mall during the holiday season. The jolly man in the red suit will be listening to the wishes of children through Christmas Eve.

Story by

B.J. HAMMERSTEIN

Photos by

JOHN HEIDER



Interview With The SANTA

Meet the man that makes the season bright

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
Staff Writer

Relaxing with a cup of coffee about an hour before his shift, Willie Wiegel really enjoys his seasonal performance, a presentation many have already seen.

As the center point of a crew of 20 people, Wiegel's act can draw hour-long lines to anyone who still believes or wants to see jolly-old St. Nick.

Wiegel, 50, is currently in his third run of playing Santa Claus for Cherry Hill Photography and Twelve Oaks Mall.

And as Kris Kringle, Wiegel says playing the part is easier when you have natural attributes that really do make you Santa.

"I have got the same white hair and beard, spectacles that are 230-years-old and can wiggle my ears just as elves can," Wiegel said.

"Children can recognize me even when I am not wearing the red suit."

Underneath the famous red suit, Wiegel wears extra padding, lined with ice packs — as it gets quite warm in the suit the entire day, he said.

"I also wear the padding because Mrs. Claus has me on one of those low cholesterol diets," he said. "I am not as chubby as I should be."

A woodworker from just outside of Chicago, Wiegel sometimes played Santa at parties for fun, but now has ventured into professional "Santing" over the last couple of years.

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, Santa will be at the mall everyday until Christmas Eve from 10 a.m. to noon, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and one more time from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

"I have to leave on Christmas Eve to go back to the North Pole and get everything loaded up," Santa said.

"My advice for people who want to visit with me: try to do it early."

As the most visible character in the mall, Santa is always with an escort while entering and leaving the set.

But it is on the big chair, that Wiegel and Santa are at their best, interacting with the children.

"No, we don't have a time limit," Wiegel said. "The children can pretty much come up here and talk to Santa, show me their Christmas list and of course make a request."

This year the number one request on children's Christmas list — anything to do with Pokemon.

And with everyone requesting the Pokemon phenomena, Santa has the perfect pitch to make sure children will still be happy even if some of the



Willie Wiegel welcomes a girl to his chair and listens as she makes the case that she'd been good throughout the year.

gifts on the Christmas list don't get delivered this year.

"When I am talking to the children, I say that I don't know for sure how many gifts of each thing we have at the North Pole, so, would it be alright if Santa substitutes surprises for wishes we can't totally take care of?" Wiegel said.

The other thing Wiegel talks to the children about while he's Santa is how the children can help themselves and their parents.

"Sometimes the parents will come talk to me for a minute and then I will talk to the children about school."

"I want to make sure that no matter what they are working on their education. Also, I ask the kids to make sure they are helping around the house — picking up toys and helping their parents with chores."

But it's not just kids who have fun

with Santa at the mall.

Wiegel said last year he took pictures with an entire wedding party one day.

Also, Wiegel said he is thinking about putting together a book of Santa requests which he has been compiling over the years.

But now, Wiegel concentrates on the fun business of providing children with a fantasy-come-true as the big day approaches.

"When Christmas is over, I plan on going back to the North Pole, sit back and put my feet up," he said.

"I want everybody to have health and happiness this Christmas — because I can't come through with delivering everything."

B.J. Hammerstein can be reached via e-mail at bhammerstein@ht.homecomm.net.

Long-distance telephone call nets resident \$1 million

Northville man hits jackpot with special promotion

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
Copy Editor

In any other situation, making frequent long-distance telephone calls to Japan would empty a bank account. For Northville resident Kenji Inayoshi, it did just the opposite.

Inayoshi won \$1 million from 10-10-345, an AT&T call-around service. He was notified about his winning when he returned home from a trip to Japan. Inayoshi's parents, wife and daughter still live in the Far Eastern nation.

"My family and I call our relatives in Japan every week," Inayoshi said. "We started calling using 10-10-345 about seven months ago and cut our monthly bill by two-thirds. I knew about the sweepstakes but never thought I'd win. I'm very happy."

Inayoshi has lived in Northville for the last seven years. He is living in the community while he works for an automotive components company in Canton. He was selected the winner of the grand prize through a random drawing of persons who had utilized 10-10-345 for long-distance calls.

Inayoshi said he was aware that the company was offering the sweep-

"It was kind of a strange feeling to be told I was the winner. I didn't really know what to think when I heard about it"

Kenji Inayoshi
Northville resident

stakes but didn't think he'd win.

"It was kind of a strange feeling to be told I was the winner," he said. "I didn't really know what to think when I heard about it."

Inayoshi is the third person to be selected for a million-dollar prize. He joined Gina Hopkins of Cleveland and Dawn Harvey of Des Moines, Iowa. The promotion has been going on since May 1.

"We're very happy for Kenji and his family," said Chris Shimojima, vice-president and general manager of 10-10-345. "We're especially happy to see one of our loyal international callers win."

Chris C. Davis can be reached via e-mail at cdavis@ht.homecomm.net.

10-10-HUH?

It's hard to go through an evening of television without seeing an ad for one of those "10-10" numbers.

The website <http://10-10PhoneRates.com/> might be able to help you sort out all the nuances to the many call-around companies there are and provide information about the best calling rates for each person's individual calling habits.

The site examines elements such as time of day the calls are made, length of the call and frequency of calls being made.

The site is hoping to begin comparing conventional long-distance plans soon.



Brad Hobbs, 10-10-345 marketing director, stands with Northville resident Kenji Inayoshi, who won \$1 million during a promotion held by the long-distance call-around service.

Plan today for better career tomorrow

It's never too late to begin planning your career. Take stock of your individual situation...



Joyce Fortier Career

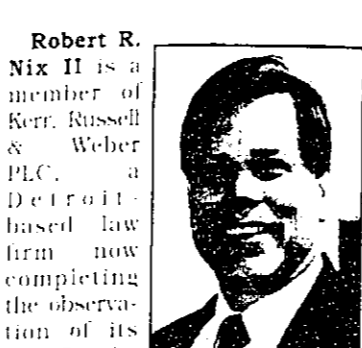
Find out your interests, skills and abilities. Keep your skills current and your resume updated.

Business

Lender Ltd. announces the opening of its new division. Approved Funding, located at 5821 N. Cannon Center Road...



Kevin Wixted



Robert Nix II

Robert R. Nix II is a member of Kerr, Russell & Weber P.C., a Detroit-based law firm...

Kevin Wixted and his family reside in Northville.

Northville Three Inc. recently introduced a prototype web solution to a select group of automotive suppliers.

Buying or Selling A Car? Let the Green Sheet Classified Give You Auto Assurance!

Pet Corner

Several animal related groups have adoption opportunities in the Novi and Northville areas.

Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society. Held Saturday of each month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Critter Connection. Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteer For Action. Sat. Saturdays and Sundays. PetSmart (734-777-8827, Northville)

Southeastern Michigan. Variety of times (248) 624-1160

In addition, the Pet-A-Pet group spends time bringing animals to nursing homes, hospice patients, and residents...

Old Village. Second Tuesday of each month 10 a.m.

Star Manor. First Thursday of each month 2 p.m.

Animal Welfare Society of

Rec Briefs

Oakland County Rec Briefs. Disturbed live Christmas trees will be accepted for recycling from Dec. 29 through Jan. 16...

Northville Parks and Recreation. Commemorative bricks are being sold for a walkway at the Northville Community Park...

Oakland County Parks can be reached at (248) 858-0906.

In Service

Marine Pfc. Derrick H. Robinson has reported for duty with Marine Corps Security Force Company, Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Silverdale, Wash.

"Give me one good reason to contribute to the Red Cross."

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

There are many reasons to contribute to the Red Cross. Then again, one reason is all it takes.

Help Can't Wait 1-800-HELP NOW

Best Deals of the Year! FREE Local Nights & Weekends Offer for 12 months. \$19.95/mo. Plans with rates as low as 10¢/minute.

Religion

Cornerstone Community Church celebrated her first anniversary at a dinner meeting at the Novi Civic Center...



Members of Cornerstone Community meet at the AMC Livonia 20 Theater on Sunday morning.

Raymond Maurer serves as the pastor and his wife Katrina leads the music team.

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville offers many monthly programs.

Single Place Activities for the month at First Presbyterian Church of Northville includes cross country skiing.

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Novi is collecting non-perishable foods and household supplies for the needy this holiday season.

Engagements

Ken and Sandy Troisien of Northville announce the engagement of their son, Andrew, to Trang Duong...



Trosien-Duong

Bentham-Mawr

The groom-elect attended Northville public schools, Catholic Central High School, and is a 1994 graduate of the University of Michigan dental school.

George Bentham of Maple Glen, Pa., and Marlene Bentham of Wixom announce the engagement of their son, Scott Michael...

DivorceCare divorce recovery group meets at Forest Park Baptist Church in Farmington Hills every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Too Many Kittens To Feed? Place an ad in the Classifieds to find them a new home

Community Events

The Novi Ice Arena will be accepting registration for the winter session of Learn to Skate classes through Dec. 30.

The Whistle Stop Players will hold auditions for "The Adventures of Beatrix Potter and Her Friends" Jan. 9 or 10.

The Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan has opened a new Resource Room at its Southfield office.

A New Year's Eve party and dance is scheduled at the DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel on Dec. 31.

On Campus

Students can register now for winter semester classes at Walsh College in Novi.

New classes await Schoolcraft Continuing Education students. Check the winter schedule for subject matter.

Walsh College Library will donate books to assist fellow educators and students at Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research in Almaty.

He's not the only one who knows if you've been bad or good.



Our Primary Care Physicians can help you improve your health.

If you're like most people, you may make a few New Year's resolutions. Maybe you want to quit smoking, lower your cholesterol, lose weight or simply improve your health.

Botsford Primary Care Physicians. For information on Botsford Physicians in your neighborhood, call our physician referral service, toll-free at (877) 442-7900.

Hunting memories:
Columnist Jerry Posey recalls some fond memories while deer hunting with friends—2B

Comeback falls short:
The Novi Wildcats basketball squad rally from a 16 point deficit falls short against South Lyon but—2B

To your health:
There are dozens of informative seminars available for people interested in living healthy lives—4B

B
THURSDAY
December 23,
1999

New attitude breeds success for hockey team

Wildcats post strong start heading into holiday tourney

By ROBERT JACKSON
Editor

Dan Phelps has got to be a pretty happy hockey coach these days.

That's because the 2nd year coach has seen a tremendous change in his squad from last year's inaugural season. For starters the Wildcats, fresh off a 10-0 thumping of Dearborn Heights Crestwood last week, are 4-1-5 overall (1-0-3 in the KVC), a far cry from last year's 0-9 start.

"At about this time last year I was living a nightmare," Phelps said. "We were a brand new program, just starting out, and the kids didn't really know each other."

"This year has been a lot different."

The difference, Phelps explained, is attitude.

"We have the attitude that we're not better than any team until we beat them," Phelps said. "We approach each game the same. We go out and work hard, play a tough defensive game, and we try to take advantage of the opportunities we get."

"The guys play well together." Players like Novi Center Brad Zarem and teammates Brian

HOLIDAY HOCKEY

The Novi/Northville Winter Tournament takes place Dec. 28-29 at the Novi Ice Arena and features the hockey teams from Northville, Novi, Waterford Mott, and West Bloomfield high schools:

Dec. 28
Northville vs. Waterford Mott, 6 p.m.
Novi vs. W. Bloomfield, 8 p.m.

Dec. 29
Consolation game at 6 p.m.
Championship game at 8 p.m.

Jaussi, Kyle Major and Beau Brandau form a strong nucleus for Phelps' fast skating club. Zarem poses a threat everytime he touches the puck, posting four multiple goal games so far this season.

Phelps has also been impressed by the way his team has hung

Continued on 2

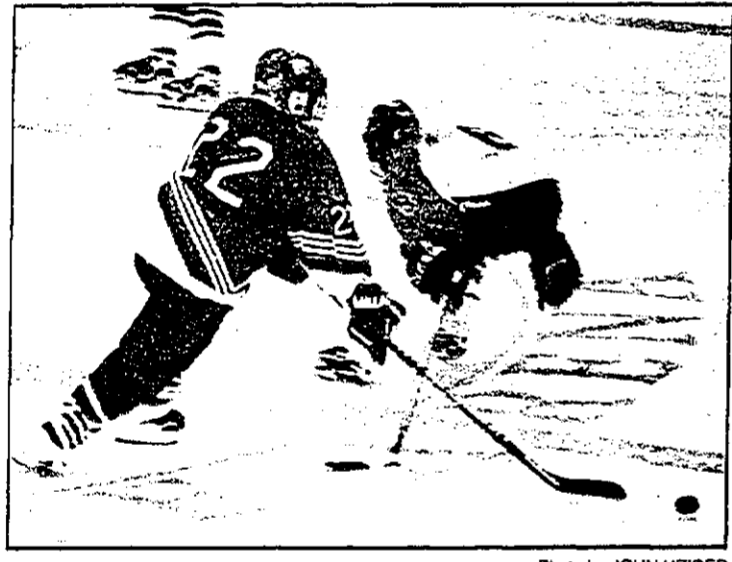


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi forward Ryan Layton heads up ice with the puck in a recent game against Northville. The Wildcats will take their 4-1-5 record into Howell before taking part in the Novi/Northville Winter Hockey Tournament, Dec. 28-29.

Wildcat swimmers defeat South Lyon in KVC swim meet

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
Copy Editor

Going into last Thursday's meet against South Lyon, Novi swim coach Bill McCord wasn't too certain of what to expect from his young team.

By the end of the meet, at least some of the answers had been found.

The Wildcats doubled up on the Lions 127-59. McCord said the final score came as more than a bit of a surprise.

"We graduated a lot of kids last year," McCord said. "I thought South Lyon would be a lot tougher than they ended up being."

Except for the final 400 freestyle relay, Novi took first place in each of the meet's relays and in most of the individual events, as well.

Novi set the tempo for the meet with a winning time of 1:53.36 in the 200 medley relay, comprised of Jordan Moblo, Juwan Yoo, Andrew Sawmiller and Adam Bayer.

The 200 freestyle relay team followed suit with its own victory. Mike Reynolds, Mike Lee, Andy Capanyola and Phil Suchyta finished with a time of 1:41.20.

"We had a large lead going into the 400 relay, so I switched our

"We had a large lead going into the 400 relay, so I switched our varsity and JV relay teams around, not wanting to run up the score."

Bill McCord
Novi Swim coach

varsity and JV relay teams around, not wanting to run up the score," McCord said.

Suchyta also took first place in the 200 freestyle (1:59.76) and the 500 freestyle (5:30.68).

McCord said he was pleased with the individual performances of Sawmiller, a sophomore, who won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:01.52.

"He dropped two seconds from his personal best time in that event," McCord said. "Andrew worked really hard to get that time down."

Adam Byer's victories in the 50-yard freestyle (25.18 seconds) and the 100-freestyle (55.39 sec-

Continued on 2

Making a point

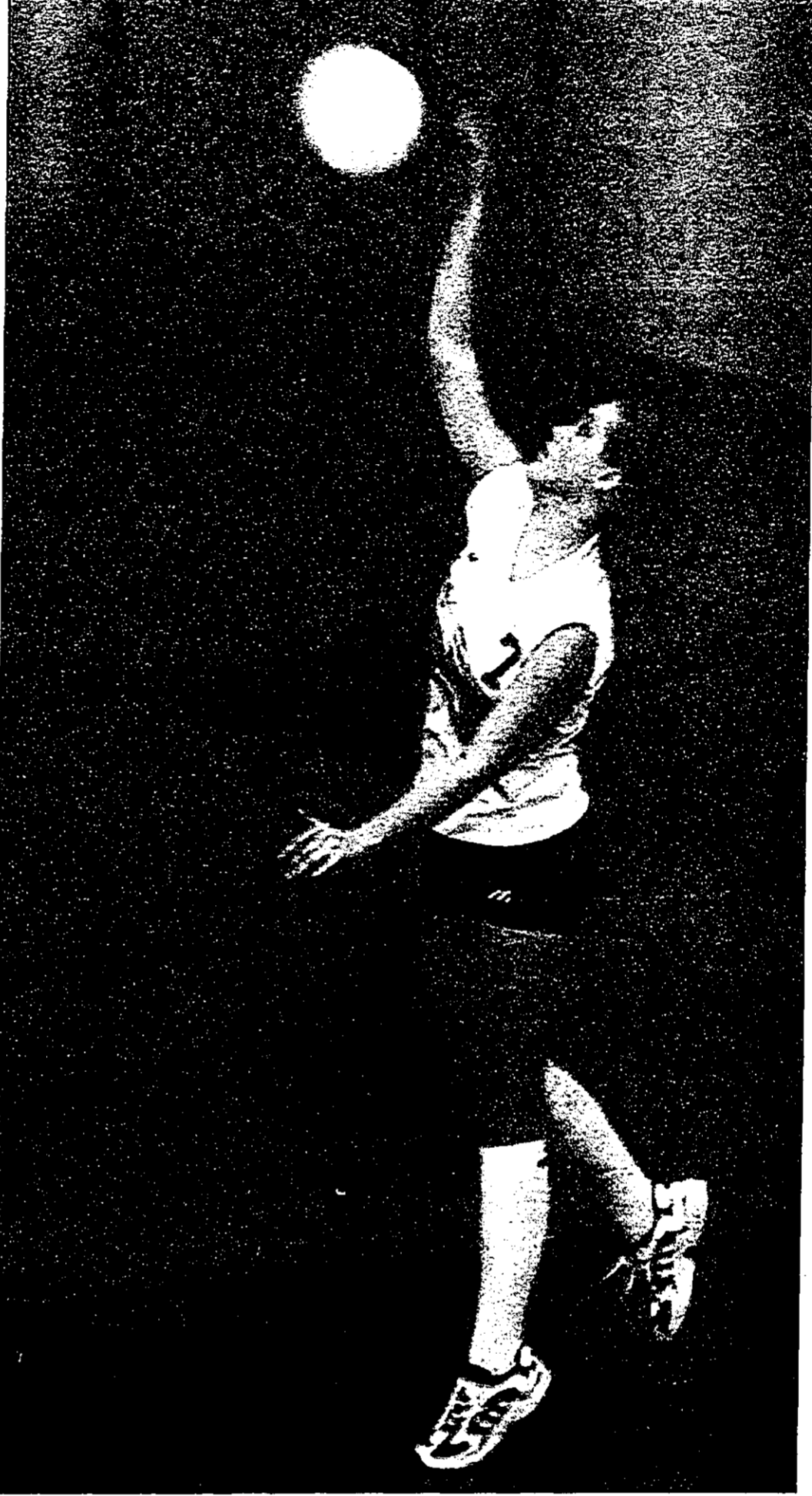


Photo by LOUIS POULOS

Wildcats tune-up for KVC season

By JASON SCHMITT
Sports Editor

The Novi volleyball team bounced back from a loss to Northville to top another non-conference opponent, Farmington Hills Harrison, last week on the road.

It took the Wildcats three games to do it, however, as the team suffered "lapse" in the second game of the match. Novi beat the Hawks 15-3 in the opening game, but then fell asleep during a 3-15 loss in game number two.

"I think we just forgot about that second game," Novi coach Julie Fisetta said. "But even during their string of eight-straight points, they weren't overly excited about it."

So Novi took back the momentum in the third game and rolled to a 15-9 win, their fifth of the season.

"It's non-conference, but to us, it's a win," Fisetta said.

Kristen McGlennen led the team with eight kills, five blocks and three aces. Angie Herbst had three kills and three blocks for Novi (5-2).

N'VILLE TOPS NOVI

Battling a very tall and athletic Northville team, Novi had no choice but to try their luck in blocking. And the team had no such luck.

The Mustangs beat Novi in straight games, 15-13, 15-11.

"We just couldn't block anything," Fisetta said. "If you can't put up a block, you're dead. Our outside hitters had a hard time getting set up."

Fisetta said that if the two teams were to meet again, her team would have a much better chance.

Mickie Rzepka had a team-high five kills and McGlennen had three kills and three aces.

One line outline goes in this space right here.

Brighton picked to win KVC volleyball

One of the sports which is once again on the rise in the Kensington Valley Conference. In both popularity and competitiveness is volleyball. While some teams have maintained a high level of play for quite a few years now, some others had dropped off in the past. But the last couple of years the level of play is once again rising to a top notch level. This year that rise should once again continue with all teams showing signs of being competitive.

The rise in the teams success is directly proportionate to the increase level of play in the individuals. This year the league once again hosts some of the top talent in the area. In an effort to rank those players, the Home-Town Sports Editors take a stab at ranking the top ten players in the KVC this season.

Our Picks

HomeTown Newspapers' sports editors Scott Kelley (Brighton Argus and Livingston County Press), Steve Bell (South Lyon Herald and Millard Times) and Jason Schmitt (Novi News and Northville Record) take a stab at who'll finish at the top (and bottom) of the KVC in 1999-2000.

1998-99 Final Standings	2000 Prediction	2000 Prediction	2000 Prediction
Brighton 1st - tie	Brighton	Brighton	Brighton
South Lyon 1st - tie	South Lyon	Howell	Millford
Howell 3rd	Howell	Millford	South Lyon
Novi 4th	Millford	Novi	Howell
???	Novi	Hartland	Novi
???	Hartland	South Lyon	Lakeland
???	Lakeland	Lakeland	Hartland

- 1. Brittany Henson, junior, middle/outside hitter, Brighton** - This Bulldog should be ready for a break out season. Last year Henson played on one of the better Brighton teams to play on the Bulldog court. She played with one of the most talented senior class to ever play in Brighton. Despite the dominance of those players, Henson still shined as a consistent player and when given the opportunity, showed the talent to be a top notch player.
- 2. Ashley Howard, senior, setter/outside hitter, Howell** - The returning starter looks to be as strong as ever this season. While she may have missed the first tournament of the season because of taking ACT's, Howard is not behind by any means. She is a player who brings a good court sense to the Highlanders

- 3. Kristin McGlennen, senior, outside hitter, Novi** - If there's one thing about McGlennen, it's that she has no problem seeing over the net. At 6-foot-1, the senior middle hitter is remembered by all KVC coaches as "that big girl on Novi." She's improved her game consistently over the three years she's spent on varsity and has one of the best serves in the league. She's a strong hitter and is one of the most athletic 6-footers around.
- 4. Julie Stowers, junior, middle/outside hitter, Brighton** - The Bulldogs top two players are as valuable to their team as any duo in the Kensington Valley Con-

- 5. Martha Digsby, senior setter, Lakeland** - She has been a fixture of the Lakeland program, as she's now in her fourth season. Digsby is very athletic, and will hurt you a number of ways. She can control a game's tempo, setting up her teammates, but can also get the kill.
- 6. Ericka May, sophomore, middle hitter,**

Continued on 2

Deer hunting trip brings back good memories

Good memories do not necessarily have to come from the era often referred to as "the good old days." Some of my good memories took place during a period of time when things were not all that good. The United States was involved in the worst part of the Vietnam War, jobs were not too easy to find and wages were at that point where many people had enough to get by, but not enough to really enjoy the getting by part.

At that time taking a vacation did not mean taking the family on a two-week trip to Disneyland. In our household, it usually meant the wife took the kids to her mother's house while dad slipped away to spend the week somewhere in the woods with the guys at some temporarily set-up deer camp.

"Temporary set up" means it was just the basics needed by five or six guys and usually consisted of only a couple of tents and a bunk pole. The bunkers were made of a small shelter of some kind that was used as an outdoor bathroom but ours was usually nothing more than a hole in the ground with a short pole mounted between two trees, about two feet off the ground and surrounded by a few shrubs and bushes.

None of the fellows in our group owned any land that was suitable for hunting deer so we usually had to travel northward, usually to the Rosemont area, where we would set up our camp on state-owned land



Jerry Posey

where the deer were more plentiful and there was no charge for the camping site.

In those days we all contributed something. One fellow owned the sleeping tent, another brought the cook-stove, someone else had a small wood-burning stove and we all had our own sleeping bag or a pile of blankets. We could always find a couple of Coleman lanterns and a two-burner cook stove.

During the years that I remember best, we had one fellow who went along for the trip but did not really

go to hunt. I always felt that he just wanted to get away from the crowd for awhile and was willing to do all of the cooking for the rest of us if we would take him along.

He also did the dishes and kept the campsite in order while the rest of us spent our prime time in the woods waiting for that big buck to wander within range. Since most of us did not like to cook or do dishes, we would often do a lot of sweet talking to get this fellow to join us.

The deer hunting license at that time cost only five dollars each and we would split up the food and other expenses such as gas used to get to the hunting area. The total cost per person would sometimes be less than 20 or 30 dollars, and that would be for the entire week.

After returning from the woods at the end of a day's hunt, we would often find a big kettle of chili simmering on the wood stove and the cook making up a batch of fresh sliced ham sandwiches to be eaten before we sat down to the nightly poker game.

(Did I mention that one of the fellows always brought along a folding poker table? Probably not — I usually forgot to mention that part to my wife, too.)

If the season was a good one and the deer had chosen our area to winter up in, we would sometimes all get a buck to bring back to town, since at that time,

shooting a doe was not permitted in Michigan. Some years, even the cooks brought back a deer, although he didn't really do hunting. Other years, only one or two of us would score and the deer would be split up among the whole group.

Some of the best memories were of the later years when several of us regulars had sons who were old enough to join us on our annual trips to the north. I can still remember each year the youngsters got their first deer. From that time on they were the pros, giving the younger ones all kinds of advice and tips on how to become a deer hunter.

Bathing was not a required practice in the week-long campout, and by the time the week of hunting all day and sleeping in most of your clothes to keep warm at night was over, some of our hunters smelled worse than the animals we were hunting.

Most of us held secret desires for the last couple of days to pass more quickly so we could get back to the wife and the rest of the family, and to a warm bath and soft bed.

The times were not the best, but they were surely not the worst. If the memories are good, then the times were good — at least they look good now, as I sit here and remember only the best parts.

'Cats down Lions Brighton picked to win conference

Continued from 1
ous) were two other standout efforts in McCord's mind.

Through the meet seemed to be an easy victory for Novi, it wasn't without incident. Diver Derek Zonia gave his teammates and spectators a big-time scare when he smacked his back onto the diving board while attempting a back-and-a-half.

Fortunately, Zonia wasn't seriously hurt and managed to get out of the pool under his own power, but was unable to complete competition.

"His knee buckled on the take-off, so he didn't really have a take-off," McCord said. "It might have been better if he just bailed or went into the water, but he tried going through with it, anyway."

McCord said Zonia's back was still from the accident. Zonia's absence left the diving responsibilities up to Steve Alberty. "It's real easy to get rattled when you see something like that

happen to a teammate, but Steve kept his cool and did well for us," McCord said.

Alberty finished the diving competition with a composite score of 224.75. His effort won him the internal Athlete of the Week honors from the rest of the Wildcats.

Novi will be off until Jan. 4 when they face the combined Walled Lake Western-Central team. The 'Cats will stay busy with a dual meet against Western Lakes Conference powerhouse Plymouth Salem on Jan. 6, and then participate in the West Bloomfield Relays on Jan. 8.

"We're a lot more vulnerable in terms of depth than we've been in past years, but I think we'll be okay," McCord said.

Because of the shutdown of the school over the Christmas holiday, the team will have a three-day absence from practice. McCord said he hoped the team would put additional effort into practices before and after the shutdown.

Novi basketball team loses to South Lyon Wildcats rally within two but come up short 57-47

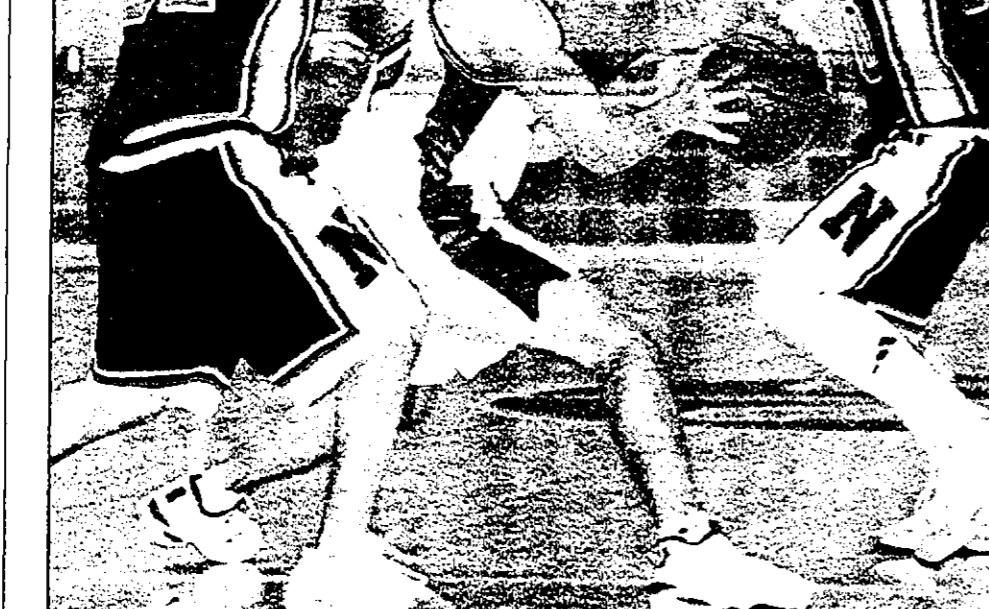


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Northville's Tim Ferng and Travis Bliss put pressure on Wildcat guard Jeff Perrera.

After trailing by as many as 16 points early in the second half, Novi cut South Lyon's lead to two in the fourth quarter but could get no closer as the Lions claimed a 57-47 conference win on the Wildcats' home floor Friday night.

"We let Novi back in it in the fourth," South Lyon coach Daren Clayton said. "But we called a timeout, settled down, got a quick bucket and pulled away."

South Lyon led 31-21 at halftime. It could've been worse for Novi, but for the inspired play of center Dan Nawrot.

"He kept them in the game," Clayton said. "Nawrot scored 16 of their 21 points, and they were all layups."

Nawrot ended up with a game-high 26 points. The problem was getting the ball to him. Novi committed 20 turnovers, many of them due to the Lions' fullcourt pressure defense. Dealing with South Lyon's press is never easy, but the task was made more complicated for Novi with starting point guard Brandon Davis out of the lineup with an ankle injury.

"Our pressure was extremely effective," Clayton said. "We pressed them the whole game, and they had a hard time dealing with it."

It was not a happy night for Novi's star, 6'6" senior Chad Nadolni. He was suppressed by South Lyon's Randy Duncan. Nadolni scored five points, but none when Duncan was guarding him. Duncan, meanwhile, had 19 points and seven rebounds.

Hockey team's attitude breeds success on ice

Continued from 1

tough against the elite KVC teams like Milford, Hartland and Brighton. All three games resulted in ties.

"We keep hearing people say that we are one of the elite teams in the KVC, but that's just talk," Phelps said. "We've got to prove how good we are on the ice. That's where it counts."

The Wildcats did just that against an outmanned Dearborn Crestwood team, which is also in its second season.

"They're a team that has only won a game so far this season and they are struggling right now," Phelps said. "They're not really a bad team, I think it's a matter of our team progressing a little more from our first season." That's one of those games you

really don't like to coach," he added. "But games like that do give you the opportunity to give some added ice time to players that don't normally play that much, which helps the team later in the season."

The Mustangs won't have an opportunity to enjoy their latest win too long, however. Novi takes on KVC rival Howell on Wednesday (after the Novi News deadline), and are preparing for the upcoming Novi/Northville Winter Hockey Tournament, scheduled for Dec. 28-29.

"The games are going to get tougher as the season progresses and our kids need to understand that we need to take our game to the next level if we are to be successful," Phelps said. "They need to continue bringing their game up a notch."

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