



Novi News

Novi for 48 years

Thursday, February 21, 2002

novinews.com

50¢

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Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
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INSIDE

Little dog lost

10-week-old pit bull and terrier mix was taken Feb. 9 from outside of Pet Supplies Plus located at the corner of Meadowbrook Avenue and 10 Mile Road — Page 3A

Home fashions

When it comes to finding the latest and most fashionable women's apparel, just ask area resident Lynn Hughes. — Page 10A

MARKETPLACE



That's Italian

You don't need a passport to enjoy great Italian cuisine. A trip to downtown Northville's Little Italy can satisfy your urge for the perfect pasta. — Page 16A

SPORTS



Cats run wild!

The Novi High School basketball squad notched a determined victory over the South Lyon Lions 71-47 and are tuning up for the District Tournament — Page 1B

LAKES SPORTS

Streak ends

The Walled Lake Western basketball team saw its six game winning streak come to a screeching halt at the hands of the Northville Mustangs — Page 4B

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Another Main Street casualty?

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Vic Ventimiglia, owner of Vic's World Class Market, is blaming Novi officials along with project developer James Chen for losing about \$5.5 million and about 40 employees after closing doors earlier this month.

In addition to blaming the demise of his Novi market on Chen for not completing the project in the promised five years, he also accused city officials of delaying plans, scaring away potential tenants, allowing too many other shopping developments to be built in the area while Chen was having a hard time attracting new businesses and nitpicking.

Ventimiglia blames city, Chen on Vic's demise

In a recent article in a metro-Detroit newspaper, Ventimiglia was quoted as saying that the city nitpicked details such as signs and color schemes and sometimes look as long as two years to approve plans.

Ventimiglia did not return repeated phone calls made by Novi News staff.

Novi Council Member Laura Lorenzo, who has been involved with the Main Street project from the beginning, said she can't address general allegations, but would address specific instances where Ventimiglia thought the city was unfair.

"I liked his store. I shopped in his store and I will miss his store," she said.

Lorenzo does not believe the city is to blame for Main Street's problems.

"We've been trying to streamline our processes," Lorenzo said, but overall believes Main Street is a private development and the success or failure is not something the city has control over.

"As a private project it did have to go through all of the city's processes and we have to be consistent and we have to be fair," Lorenzo said. "We can't favor Main Street."

Lorenzo said it wouldn't be fair to other developers if rules or ordinances were bent for the downtown project.

"Any time he (Chen) came before us we tried to accommodate him within our parameters. We wish it was further along too."

The former 5-year planning commission member said at one time Mesquite Creek wanted outside awnings for the summer time and the city approved it.

"We've approved signs for parking," Lorenzo said. "We approved Main Street Village and Main Street Village Phase II which should have helped tremendously."

Continued on page 4

Officials question contract process

Should Novi officials change the way they award contracts? Our opinion can be found on page 12A.

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

After announcing Greystone Construction will no longer be involved in the construction of Fire Station No. 4 and accompanying training center, city council members are now questioning how the city awards its contracts.

In response to questioning how James Chen and Greystone Construction could receive the contract to build the \$1.9 million dollar project in light of his apparent Main Street problems, Novi Assistant City Manager for Development Services Clay Pearson explained it is Novi's construction bid policy to award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder.

Pearson said under current city policy, public contracts don't have auditors determine all the business relationships between a contractor's corporations and sub-corporations.

As far as the existing policy goes, Pearson said Greystone met the bidding requirements and were able to bond and provide the necessary financial guarantees for the city to recoup full costs of completing the project in the event of default.

The lowest bidder answer did not sit well with all city policy makers. "We need to set objective standards for professional consultants and contractors," said Craig DeRoche, city of Novi council member.

DeRoche asked the city to form a committee to evaluate its process and feels objective standards should be put in place.

"I definitely feel we need to look at the process," said Laura Lorenzo city of Novi council member. Lorenzo suggested looking closer

Continued on page 4



Six-year-old Anna Cratty cuts the rug with her dad Scott, currently on active duty in Sicily.

May I have this dance?

Navyman keeps Valentine date with daughter

Scott Cratty waited 133 days and traveled 18 hours by plane to be with his valentine.

His valentine is 6-year-old Anna Cratty and they had a very special date - Novi's annual Daddy-Daughter dance.

The Petty Officer 2nd class with the U.S. Navy Reserves was

called into action Oct. 2 as a result of events occurring on Sept. 11.

The 1987 Plymouth-Canton School District high-school graduate and current Canton resident was sent to Sicily as part of the Navy's police unit where he does his part protecting America against terrorism.

Since leaving, his thoughts have been on his wife, Michelle, 10-year-old son, Christopher; and daughter, Anna.

"I couldn't wait to come home," Cratty said. "You take for granted what you have here. It's tough knowing it's just me."

Continued on page 4

Story by Victoria Sadlocha - - - Photo by Tom Hibbeln

District mourns Piwko's passing

■ Past school superintendent remembered for contribution to local students

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Former Novi Community School District superintendent Bob Piwko died on Feb. 2 in Hilton Head, S.C., from complications resulting from a heart attack. He was 61 years old.

Piwko served the Novi district as its superintendent for 12 years, before leaving to take a superintendent's position for the state of Illinois.

"His greatest legacy that he left us was a very positive learning environment," said Novi Schools' Board of Education treasurer Julie Abrams. "He raised the level of academics in this district and was an expert on curriculum."

The former superintendent guided the district from its technological roots in the early 1980's to being a national leader on the matter in the years that followed.

"We went from computer technology in its infancy to being the envy of many districts in the nation because he promoted technology," Abrams said.

Piwko was at the helm of the district between 1980-1992, when upon his departure, current Novi Schools' superintendent Emmett Lippe was hired.

"We can thank Bob for being a visionary and promoting excellence," Abrams said. "Because of him, the district was in a position to entice, encourage and attract the top levels of potential candidates for superintendent from



Bob Piwko

Continued on page 4

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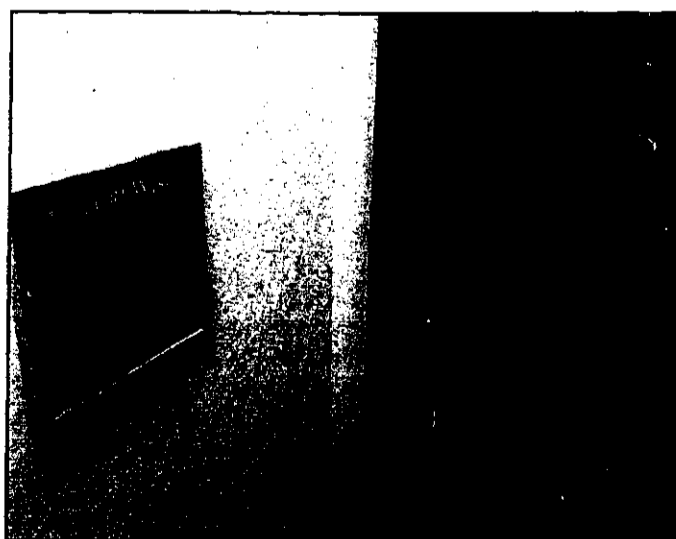


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The offices of Novi's Future Wise Trading Group, Inc., located in the Crystal Glen Building, are closed and dark.

Investors may not recoup funds from local firm, NFA official warns

By Lon Huhman
and Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITERS

The chance of recouping funds placed with a Novi futures firm does not look good for at least 60 clients who trusted a Northville resident with their hard earned cash.

"At this point when looking at the assets available compared to the deposits made, there would not be enough to pay all of the clients 100 percent of their deposits," said Dan Driscoll, executive vice president and chief compliance officer of the National Futures Association.

Driscoll stressed this is a preliminary opinion because the analysis is based on records provided by Todd James Snively president of FutureWise Trading Group and Commodity Consultants International in

the Crystal Glen Office Center. Snively, 40, provided records to the association which Driscoll points out may or may not be accurate. The records show Snively began taking orders in June.

Snively's trading groups were closed Feb. 6 by the association and now a complaint has been filed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Scott Williamson, an acting regional counsel for the division of enforcement in the central regional office of the CFTC in Chicago, said the complaint charges defendants with fraudulently operating an Internet-based trading platform which purportedly permitted investors to place orders for commodity futures contracts through CCI and FutureWise. In addition, it

Continued on page 4

Novi Briefs

MOTHER-SON DANCE: Novi residents' tickets go on sale now for the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department's St. Patty's Day Blast Mother-Son Dance. The annual event held in the Novi Civic Center 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 15 is a great opportunity for moms to share a bit of Irish love with their sons and show their team spirit by wearing red, white and green. Admission includes refreshments, souvenirs, a photo of each couple and music by D.J. Willie. Admission is \$7 for residents and \$8.40 for nonresidents. Nonresident tickets go on sale Tuesday, Feb. 26. Only those with pre-purchased tickets will be allowed entrance into the event.

SENIORS & ADULTS FEBRUARY FUN: The City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is offering opportunities for seniors and adults to have fun this month. Today the Travel Club meets in the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. In addition to learning

about fun excursions from tour company representatives, coffee, rolls, socializing and door prizes will be provided. Tuesday, Feb. 26 Satin Sounds will be performing 1 to 3 p.m. at the Novi Senior Center located in Meadowbrook Commons. The event is \$4 per person and includes music, refreshments and dancers.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: In recognition of Black History Month, Oakland County Sheriff Michael

Bouchard announced the creation of a www.oaklandsheriff.com. The Web site offers area residents the opportunity to learn more about Claude Wilson, the first black deputy hired by the Sheriff's office. Wilson was sworn into office Jan. 1, 1925 and faithfully carried out the responsibilities of his position before being killed in the line of duty in 1935.

NOVI POLICE DEPARTMENT: The Novi Police Department received authorization earlier this month to register for a grant to provide the department with funds for dispatch training.

THE NOVI THEATRES: Tickets are on sale now for The Novi Theatre's production of "The Sound of Music." All performances of the musical will be in the Novi Middle School theater. Dates for the entertaining productions are 7:30 p.m. March 8-9 and 10, 1 p.m. March 10 and 2 p.m. March 16. Tickets are available at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry counter in the Novi Civic Center. All reserved seats are \$15. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

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LET'S TALK *with GARY S. WEINSTEIN*
GEMOLOGIST

A PASSION FOR PURPLE

Those born during the month of February had best have a passion for purple because no other gemstone can match the rich, deep purple of a well-sorted amethyst. The birthstone for February. Until a large South American deposit of amethyst was discovered in 1760 in the mountains of Brazil, amethyst was considered the most precious gemstone. "Amethystos" means "not tipsy" in Greek, and the name was given to the gemstone in the belief that it could be worn to ward off drunkenness. Whatever its supposed medical properties, amethyst is a remarkably beautiful gemstone that is sure to garner attention. Its purple color, as at once both evocatively romantic and strikingly redemptive.

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Dog shelter volunteers seek stolen puppy

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Local dog shelter volunteers need area residents' help finding a stolen puppy.

"I really scare us because the charge is \$150," said Cheryl Schneider, Novi resident and Critter Connection volunteer. "If they are stealing a puppy then chances are they can't afford the care."

Schneider said the 10-week-old pit bull and terrier mix was taken Feb. 9 from outside of Pet Supplies Plus located at the corner of Meadowbrook Avenue and 10 Mile Road.

The cost of the dog covers shots this dog may now be without. "The black short hair mixed-

breed which may also have a little husky in her, was one of many dogs the shelter brings to its Pet Adoption Day every Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. in the Farmer Jack anchored strip mall.



The sibling of a puppy stolen from outside of a Novi pet supply store hoping someone will recognize the similar looking dog ending the group's search.

She hopes by spreading the word someone might know a friend or family member who brought the dog home that day.

None of the volunteers assisting with the adoption day saw anything mysterious. "They (potential adopters) tend to hold them in their coats because it is cold out," Schneider said. "You want them to hold them and see what they are like."

hard to monitor everyone picking puppies up from their pens. Adoption days also become very crowded at times.

The missing pup came to the no-kill shelter after she was found roaming the streets of Detroit.

Schneider has been with Critter Connection for more than one year and said the group has been holding pet adoptions outside of the Novi pet supply store for three to four years.

The nonprofit group is dedicated to finding homes for stray, abused and abandoned animals predominantly taking dogs left behind and placing them in foster homes until they are adopted. They never put dogs to sleep.

Schneider said a lot of the dogs received are strays from Detroit and she said they also receive a lot of "surrenders" which are dogs left homeless after their elderly owners enter nursing homes.

received are strays from Detroit and she said they also receive a lot of "surrenders" which are dogs left homeless after their elderly owners enter nursing homes.

"It's very upsetting," Schneider said. "You just worry. If it went to a good home and I knew it would be cared for."

Anyone with information about the missing puppy is asked to call Cheryl Schneider at (248) 349-0567 or Critter Connection at (248) 685-1893.

For more information about Critter Connection visit www.critterconnection.freewebspace.com.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@nl.homecomm.net.

Local teen to participate in state pageant

Julie Stevens, a junior at Novi High School, will represent the city of Novi at the 2002 Miss Junior American Michigan State Finals, scheduled for Feb. 23-24 at the Novi Hilton.

The Junior (ages 16-19) Pageant competition and show will take place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 23, and will include casual wear modeling and gown competition. Stevens is a sponsor for the event.

Linda's Hair and More, located on Meadowbrook Road in Novi.

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Unit 5038 - Tyler - Bed, wheel chair, walker, sports cards, table, file boxes.

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Obituaries

Joseph C. Marocco

Joseph C. Marocco of Novi died Jan. 24 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was 81.

Mr. Marocco was born May 17, 1920. He was the husband of Ann-Marie Marocco. He was the father of Anthony, Joseph and Michael; grandfather of Anthony, Jr., Michael, Jessica, Mario and Angela; great-grandfather of Nicholas, Michael, and Ashton; and brother of Francesca and Ella.

A memorial service for Mr. Marocco was held Jan. 26 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi. Interment will be at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Westland Community Foundation, 38110 Executive Drive, Ste. 100, Westland, MI 48185.

Gertrude Eigel

Funeral arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home.

Gertrude Eigel, longtime resident of Novi, died January 29, 2002. She was the beloved wife of Abe Eigel, loving mother of Samuel Eigel, Barbara/Neill Goldman, Faye Eigel and son-in-law David Karres, dear sister of Irving Mark and Katherine Mark, loving grandmother of Michael, Heidi and Shawn Goldman, Joshua and Nicholas Karres.

Services were held at Hebrew Memorial Chapel, Interment is in Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery.

Ms. Smith was born Jan. 21, 1951 in Wayne. A graduate of Plymouth High School, Ms. Smith held a beautician's license and worked as a waitress at Northville Downs for 22 years.

Ms. Smith is survived by her mother, Anne G. Smith of Plymouth; her siblings, Janice Smith of Plymouth, Lawrence H. Smith of Westland and Steve G. Smith of Canton; and many other relatives. Ms. Smith was preceded in death by her father, Lawrence H. Smith.

A memorial service for Ms. Smith was held Feb. 19 at Northrop-Sassanoo Funeral Home, Rev. Eldon Bury officiated the service. Interment will be at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Nancy Lynn Smith

Nancy Lynn Smith of Northville died Feb. 15 at her residence in Northville. She was 51.

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LIVONIA Tuesday, March 5 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Livonia Civic Center Library 3277 Five Mile Road (south side of Five Mile Road, East of Farmington Road)	NOVI Wednesday, March 6 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Novi Civic Center 15175 West Ten Mile Road (South of Ten Mile Road, West of Novi Road)	FARMINGTON HILLS Thursday, March 7 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Langston House 24766 Farmington Road (West side of Farmington Road, between Ten & Eleven Mile Roads)	TROY Thursday, March 7 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Troy MSJ Management Center Room 103 811 West Square Lake Road (South of West Square Lake Road, East of Crails Road)
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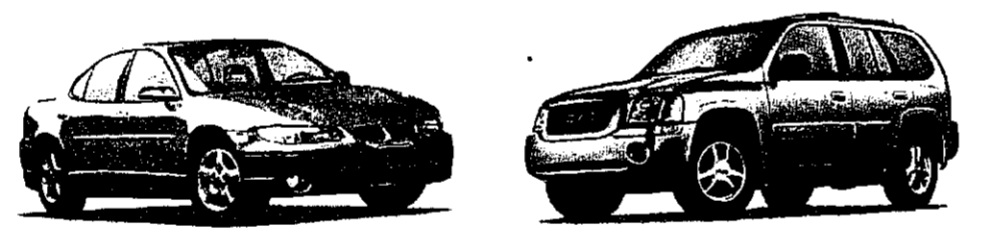
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Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Too Many Kittens To Feed?
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Library Lines

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Rd. just east of Tall. For more information, call 349-0720.

THE CHAPTER CLUB
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, March 2, from 11 a.m.-noon. We'll be discussing "Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key" by Jack Gantos, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Our March selection is "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver. The group meets Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting.

ALL ABOUT E-MAIL FOR SENIORS
E-mail is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family! Learn the basics of sending and receiving e-mail, and sign up for a free e-mail account on Wednesday, February 27, from 1-3 p.m. The class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Please register in advance for all Internet classes by calling the library.

INTERNET PRACTICE LAB FOR SENIORS
Practice makes perfect! Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, February 28, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills you wish, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions.



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North, Novi Town Center (248) 349-8090

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31459 Novi Ave. (South of Eight Mile Rd.)

Sterling Heights, Eastlake Commons (586) 247-8111 (On corner of 10th Rd. and Kings Rd.)

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Novi News/Lake Area Times 8A

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Third party candidates may find more access to ballot

State House lawmakers plan to give more access to the ballot to third party candidates.

By Mike Malott
HomeTown News-Service
malott@homecomm.net

Legislation designed to make it easier for third parties to get their candidates on the ballot is expected to win approval from state lawmakers.

That's right, Republicans and Democrats appear ready to vote for a law making it easier for third parties to get on the ballot despite the common belief those parties draw votes away from the major parties.

"It does sound counterintuitive, doesn't it," said Rep. Bruce

Patterson (R-Canton), chair of the state House Redistricting and Elections Committee. "But there is also a belief that if the system is seen as more legitimate, voters will view it less cynically and it will increase voter participation overall."

At issue is the standard third parties must meet to maintain ballot access. Current Michigan law says the party's principle candidate, the one highest up on the ballot, must get 1 percent of the number of votes cast for winner in the Secretary of State's race.

That produced an odd result in the 2000 elections. A dispute in the Reform Party kept that party's candidates for president off the ballot

in Michigan. Libertarians had a presidential candidate, Harry Browne, but he didn't fare very well. According to Libertarian spokesman Fred Collins, voters returned to the major parties because the Bush-Gore race was so close.

So Libertarians didn't meet the standard. The Reform Party, whose highest candidate was running for U.S. Senate, however, did. Yet the Libertarian candidate for Senate got 20,000 votes more.

Collins said that to get back on the ballot, his party had to circulate petitions at an expense of \$30,000 and innumerable volunteer hours.

Rep. Leon Drolet (R-Clinton Township) has sponsored House

Bill 5237 to change the standard. His bill would define a party's principle candidate as the one that gets the highest number of votes, regardless of which office he or she is running for.

Drolet contends the current standard "distorts the process" and "penalizes parties with the broadest number of candidates."

"I've been told that these third parties would like to run people higher up the ballot," Drolet explained, "but have decided not to run a candidate at the top of the ticket, but go for some lower office or some obscure seat in order to maintain ballot access."

Third parties should be forced into adopting a strategy of running

only for lower offices in order to stay the ballot, Drolet argued.

Patterson predicts the bill was win approval when it comes up again before his committee on Thursday, Feb. 21.

The change has won the support of the Libertarians, the Constitution Party and the Green Party of Michigan.

The Reform Party too supports the change, even though it kept its place on the ballot in the last election. Party officials have told lawmakers they agree the outcome of the last election was unfair.

The change would solve "one of the more onerous quandaries" for third parties in current election law, according to Green Party spokesman Marc Reichardt.

"We're planning on running gubernatorial and Secretary of State candidates next year. Under the current law, our Secretary of State candidate could win, our gubernatorial candidate could fall to reach the margin, and the Green Party would fall off the ballot with a Secretary of State in office," he said.

Drolet said the assumption has always been that if ballot access laws were made easier, third parties will lead up numerous candidates at the top of the ticket. That hasn't happened in the 34 states that have similar standards for ballot access, he said. The highest number of candidates at the top of the ticket in those states has been seven, he said.

Times captures SNA awards

The Milford Times, Oakland County's longest serving weekly newspaper, won three national awards for journalism excellence.

The Times fared well among Class A newspapers in the Suburban Newspaper Association's 2002 Editorial Contest, winning first place for best reporting on breaking news and best coverage of local education issues, and honorable mention for best in-depth reporting.

"We are very proud of the Milford Times winning national awards in journalism," said Grace Perry, Assistant Publisher for HomeTown News-Services, which publishes the Milford Times. "It shows that the staff of The Times is dedicated in publishing breaking news, business news and news on local issues, government and schools."

Perry said the awards reaffirm the Milford Times' reputation as the news leader in Huron Valley. "If you want to know what is happening in Huron Valley, then you have all you need to know in the Milford Times," Perry said.

Milford Times Editor Karl Kling was pleased with the awards. "We aim for breaking news, in-depth coverage, and school coverage," Kling said. "That's an indication of the wide range of news in which we cover in the community every week."

Kling credited his staff for the awards.

All three of our general assignment reporters contributed to the stories which were awarded by the SNA," Kling said. "I think that is a testament to the overall quality of the staff."

Kling added that readers can expect continued improvement from the Milford Times.

The Suburban Newspaper Association is the only non-profit, professional trade organization for suburban newspapers. The association boasts a membership 2,000 newspapers from across North America.

The awards come on the heels of a successful year for the newspaper. In 2001, the Milford Times garnered seven awards from the Michigan Press Association, including first place for general excellence.

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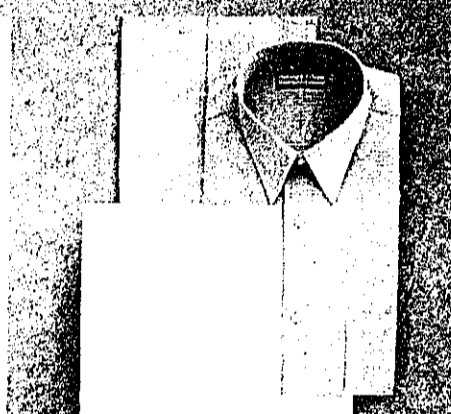
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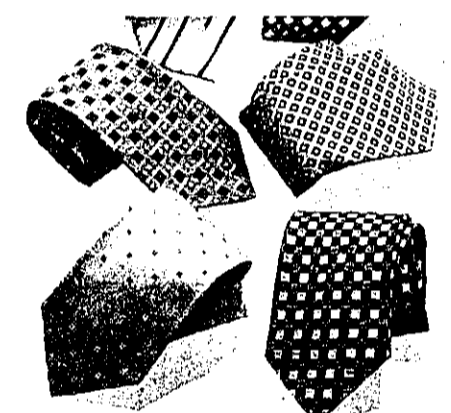
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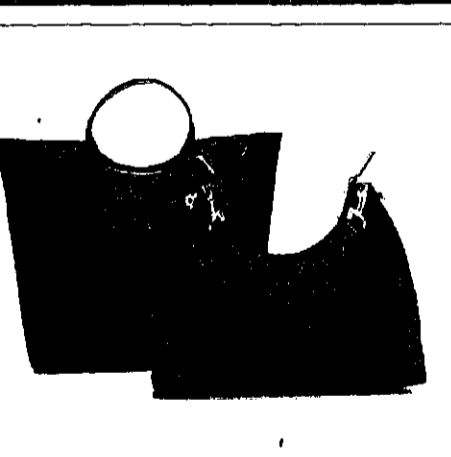
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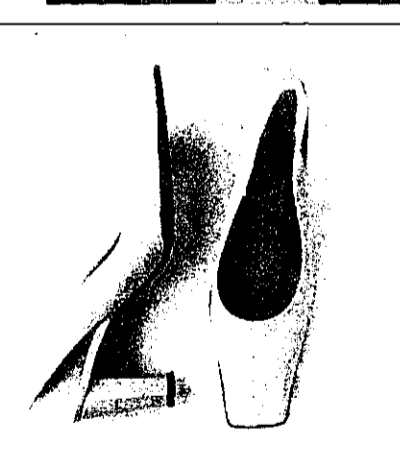
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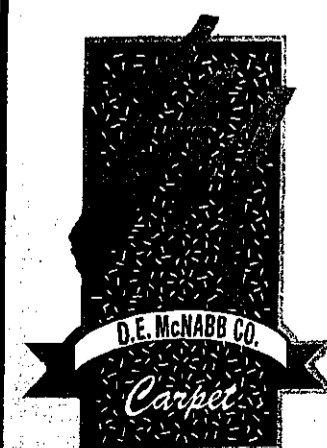
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Un squisito pietanza!

A delicious meal can always be found at Little Italy in Northville

By Annette Jaworski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You don't need a passport to enjoy great Italian cuisine. A trip to downtown Northville's Little Italy can satisfy your urge for the perfect pasta, veal, steak, and seafood.

They specialize in traditional and some contemporary interpretations of veal, steak, seafood and pasta creations. Many of the recipes used by owners Jeff Jepko and John Gallagher have originated in Italy and passed down for generations.

You'll find appetizers like Spiedini alla Maria with its layers of bread and mozzarella, or the Zuppa di Pesce, a tempting mixed seafood simmered in a bowl of tomato broth. Some like it hot, as in the Bucatini e Pollo all'Arrabbiata, a traditional dish prepared with 'angry' red tomato sauce with chicken, vodka, Parmigiano and spicy red pepper. It's tossed with long hollow pasta strings and topped with fresh basil.

Seafood lovers can enjoy Linguine Pescatora, with a variety of shrimp, scallops, clams, mussels and squid in a light red sauce.

Find all this in the unique setting of a historical Victorian home, a cozy restaurant that prides itself on impeccable service. Outside it's bright and colorful as sunny as Italy itself. Inside the ambiance reflects the warmth and elegance of Italy with its art lined walls.

"We just finished remodeling," Gallagher noted.

Little Italy is a rare and refreshing operation, where the owners remain hands on in the kitchen and out. John's brother, Robert Gallagher, is also part of the team that prides itself on perfection in the kitchen. When the restaurant is open, one or the other, sometimes both owners, are on hand giving the food the attention to detail it deserves.

At Little Italy, the focus of their cuisine is regional Italian. The owners travel extensively through the country for inspiration. Some of the special offerings include a chef's tasting menu with hot and cold appetizers, salad and pasta - a complete meal. Look also for regular wine maker dinners.

"We match a wine maker from a



Jeff Jepko and John Gallagher welcome customers to their Little Italy restaurant in Northville.

particular area with the appropriate entrée," said Gallagher.

And those who don't have the desire for a full meal can enjoy the same great menu a la carte at the Bacchus Bar. This is a new addition to the business six months ago.

"It's a more casual and intimate atmosphere," John Gallagher notes.

Bacchus Bar specials include Monday night is Northville city residents' night. Show your Northville address and get 15 percent off your entire bill. Tuesday is local business owners and workers night - show your Northville business card and take 15 percent off your bill. Wednesday is Campaeano Night, with complimentary pizza and antipasta after 10 p.m. (bar service only). Thursday is ladies night, first Bellini drink free for all unescorted ladies. Friday is the Piemontese Wine night. All Barolo & Barbaresco is 15 percent off.

BEST ITALIAN FOOD FOUND HERE!

Little Italy was voted the Best Italian Food in the 2001 People's Choice Awards for Northville. Dinner hours are Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Bacchus bar features lunch as well, their hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. All fresco dining will be available as weather permits. Located at 227 Hutton in downtown Northville. Call (248) 348-0575.

Saturday all Italian beer is half price during lunch (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Sunday is restaurant/hospitality worker appreciation night. Show your restaurant/bar pay stub and take 15 percent off your bill from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. After work specials are every weekday from 5-7 p.m. with complimentary appetizer table and seven different wines at \$4.75 a glass.

They're also proud of their growing expertise and offerings of wine. In their 13 years in business the

wine list has grown to the current 300 plus offerings. And if you're not comfortable in making a selection, the knowledgeable staff or the owners themselves can suggest a wine that will perfectly complement dinner.

Future plans include the creation of a market type area, which will feature sauces and other products offered at the restaurant so the great flavors can be enjoyed at home.

"It's an extension of the concept of Little Italy," said Gallagher.

No time like the present for retirement savings

There's no time like the present to start or accelerate retirement savings, thanks to changes in tax-deferred retirement savings plans.

With last year's tax cut bill, more formally known as the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, you can now invest more in tax-favored retirement savings plans.

What's more, employers must accelerate vesting schedules on any matching contributions made to plans in 2002 and beyond. This ensures employees faster rights to 100 percent of employer contributions. This is especially good news for employees who anticipate job or career changes.

The contribution increases, the biggest ever, will affect the contribution limits on several retirement plans including 401(k) and 403(b) accounts, SIMPLE and SEP plans and IRAs, which have not seen an increase since they were set in 1981. Contribution limits are scheduled to rise in increments over the next four to six years and once they have been phased in, future increases will be indexed to inflation.

Individual Retirement Accounts and Roth IRAs

Contribution limits for both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs dramatically increase, with even high limits set for older workers. The general contribution limit will be \$3,000 for 2002 up from \$2,000. For workers aged 50 and older, the contribution limit will be \$3,500.

Employee plans

The employee contribution limits for employer-sponsored retirement plans also increase. The limit for 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans jumps to \$11,000 in 2002. This is up from \$10,500 in 2001 for 401(k) and 403(b) plans and \$8,500 for 457 plans. The limits for 401(k) and 403(b) plans will continue to go up in \$1,000 increments each year until maxing out at \$15,000 in 2006. Workers age 50 and older will generally be eligible to contribute \$1,000 more than the regular limit in 2002.

SIMPLE plans

The contribution limit for SIMPLE plans, offered by employers with fewer than 100 employees, increases to \$7,000-\$7,500 for workers over age 50 - from \$6,500 in 2001.

Self-employed retirement plans

The contribution limit for self-employed Keogh and Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plans will also increase. For defined-contribu-

Money Matters

tion plans, the contribution limit jumps to \$40,000 from \$35,000. For defined-benefit plans, the maximum annual pension benefit that a retiree can receive increases to \$160,000 from \$140,000.

Retirement savings credit

Lower and moderate income workers will be eligible for a new tax credit that provides a subsidy of 10 to 50 percent of the first \$2,000 a year contributed to a 401(k) plan, a 403(b) annuity, SIMPLE or SEP contributions, contributions to a traditional or Roth IRA, and to after-tax voluntary contributions to employee qualified plans. Joint filers receive the 30 percent credit if their adjusted gross income is as much as \$30,000. With an adjusted gross income of as much as \$50,000, they can still get a 10 percent credit. Singles can earn as much as \$15,000 for the 50 percent credit and \$25,000 for 10 percent.

To get the most out of the new changes, consider investing the maximum in your 401(k) or 403(b) plan, if you are eligible for one. Contributions in 401(k)s are made with pre-tax money, and often employers will match a portion of what you put in. If you aren't eligible for a 401(k), contribute to whatever retirement plan your employer makes available to you, a 403(b), SEP or SIMPLE. Like the 401(k), these plans allow pre-tax contributions, and your money grows tax deferred.

Starting this year, employers must either grant 100 percent vesting after no more than three years of adopting this phase-in schedule: 20 percent after two years, 40 percent after three years, 60 percent after four years, 80 percent after five years and 100 percent after six years.

The new vesting rules apply only to contributions starting this year.

To find out the optimum investment plan to meet your retirement agenda, contact a personal financial planner or talk with your employer's retirement plan coordinator.

Lori Z. Bahnmuller is vice president of Association Services for the Michigan Credit Union League, a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site www.mcul.org to learn more about smart money management.

Huron-Valley among best

According to 2001 fourth quarter Press Ganey patient satisfaction survey results, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (HVSH) ranks among the top in the nation. Inpatient scores were ranked in the 97th percentile.

"Our staff's attention to detail, hard-work and dedication to customer service has been recognized by our patients. We are rewarded with Press Ganey scores that place us among the best in the nation," Karen

In brief

Kauffman-Flack, manager of emergency services, said on behalf of the HVSH Emergency Leadership Team.

Press Ganey Associates, Inc. is a health satisfaction measurement and improvement firm. They serve more than 5,900 health care facilities and process approximately seven million surveys annually.

Local chamber stays connect to its vast area

By Annette Jaworski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Covering a vast area of seven communities is no easy task, says Janine Sturm, Executive Director of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. That's why it's so important to stay connected.

That's one of the main goals of the organization, which offers an array of ways to network and advertise local businesses.

"We're growing so fast. Each one of these townships and cities we represent has a different flavor and atmosphere," said Sturm.

For example, with its Ford Manufacturing plant, Wixom has a strong tendency toward the industrial and technology. Waterford has a strong commercial market and Commerce is actually the largest growing in the residential area.

Walled Lake is currently working on the Main St. Program to revitalize the downtown area. And Waterford is growing by leaps and bounds, she observed.

Sturm says the chamber's roles are as diverse as the communities they serve. They act as an information bureau, voice of the community, spokesperson and goodwill ambassador all rolled into one.

Throughout the year they provide a number of opportunities for members to get acquainted. One way they promote networking is through monthly "morning connections."

It's a perfect way for busy owners to get to know each other's businesses and communities. These are held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the morning at a different location each month. February's morning connection was

LAKES AREA CHAMBER

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce serves the cities of Walled Lake and Wixom, the townships of Commerce, Waterford and White Lake, and the villages of Union Lake and Wolverine Lake.

Located at 305 North Pontiac Trail, Suite B Walled Lake MI 48390 (248) 624-2826 Fax (248) 624-2892 Email: member@lakesareachamber.com Website: www.lakesareachamber.com

held at The Inn at Cass Lake in Waterford. On March 27, it will be held at the Scrapbook Page in Commerce Township.

"We've found they're very successful without taking a lot of time out of their (business owners) day," she added.

On March 3, they're out to have some fun at the Better Business Bowling Tournament, at Wonderland Lanes on Richardson Road. They hold yearly golf outings in spring and fall as well. The first golf outing is scheduled for June 3 at Mystic Creek in Milford. On July 18, they'll host their 10th Annual Barbecue at The Boathouse Grille and Tavern in Walled Lake. Future events planned include a mystery surprise package, which will be held in February 2003.

They're also currently taking reservations for another popular event, the employee appreciation luncheon. It's a good way to show an employee that they're especially valued, Sturm pointed out. The 10th annual

event will be held on April 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and she guarantees they'll be in and out in an hour-and-a-half. Each year they try schedule a different fun activity from fashion shows to makeovers.

"We try to change it a little bit, so it's different every year," she said.

Education plays an important role with the Lakes Chamber as well. Locally, there are several resources to tap. Sturm notes. This includes Oakland Community College, Walsh College, Lawrence Tech, the five high schools in their coverage area and Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest through their Partners in Education. Partnerships in Education works to improve education through the sharing of resources and involvement and understanding between schools and the business community.

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest will be hosting a luncheon and presentation by Visual Imaging and Business Management Marketing Technology on March 13. They'll demonstrate their new robot and offer tours of the campus as well as lunch.

In addition to aiding and promoting local businesses, the Lakes Area Chamber awards yearly scholarships to each of the five high schools in its coverage area: Walled Lake Western and Central, Lakeland High and Waterford Mott and Kettering.

At that time, they'll also present beautification awards for business. An existing building and a new building are chosen each year from each community. They'll also present awards for the outstanding chamber member and citizen or businessperson of the year at that time.

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Volleyball gets two more wins

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi volleyball team continued to show their fans and their opponents why they are one of the top teams in the Kensington Valley Conference with two more wins collected in two-game fashion.

The Wildcats, led by coach Julie Fisetle, notched a 15-6, 15-9 victory over the Lakeland Eagles before topping the South Lyon Lions 15-9, 16-14 in a tough make-up game Feb. 18.

"We played really well," Fisetle said of the South Lyon contest. "There were a lot of fans there and it was really, really loud."

Fisetle noted that the game was one of intense momentum, with the final change in tide going in Novi's favor towards the end of the contest.

"I was glad the momentum ended in our favor," she said. "I can't tell you what a third game would have been like."

The Wildcats got a helping hand from the steady play of Carmen Simkins, Angie Schmitt,

Crystal Corte and Brittany Barrett.

"We played well as a team and really came together," Fisetle said. "I am just happy that we are past them right now."

Simkins collected seven serving aces, five in the first game, while Schmitt collected seven kills and two aces while Corte notched five kills and two solo blocks as well as five aces.

Barrett, who is a defensive specialist with the team, played well in the back row.

Fisetle noted that there were plenty of fans present at the contest, including the Milford Redskins, who were no doubt there to get some valuable scouting time in.

"I am glad that the girls got to play in such a loud atmosphere now," Fisetle said. "It is going to be loud at Milford and when Howell is here (Thursday night)."

The Wildcats will return to action when they take on the Howell Highlanders for senior night tonight before taking a trip

Continued on 3

Icers stop Pirates

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats hockey team continued its winning ways with a Kensington Valley Conference victory over the Pinckney Pirates Feb. 14.

The 'Cats, who are coached by Dan Phelps, stayed at the top of their game against the ever-improving Pirates and came away with a 6-4 win.

"They are a team that is much improved," Phelps said. "I think we beat them 7-2 last time we played and this time we only beat them 6-4."

The game, which was held at the Novi hockey team's Senior Night, found the first four goals for the Wildcats being scored by seniors. Robby Overfield started the night off right for the 'Cats as he found the back of the net late in the first period with assists being credited

to Justin Collins and Bryan Ellis. Just a minute later, Adam Haberman collected a short-handed goal for the Wildcats on a pass from Garett Malott before Overfield added another score to put the Novi Icers up 3-0.

"We are not going to win every game by five goals and we are not going to score seven or eight goals a game," Phelps said. "We won 6-4 and that is kind of the bottom line. We didn't look at it that we should beat Pinckney by X-amount of goals. Pinckney is a much improved team."

The Wildcats continued with their goal-scoring as Robby Harrell put the puck past the Pirate goalie on a pass from Justin Collins before Pinckney added a score of their own late in the second to cut the Novi lead to 4-1.

"It is definitely something to say that KVC hockey is on the rise,"

Continued on 3

Last season game should be top-shelf

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Now this is going to be exciting. The Novi Wildcats hockey team is going to be taking a little trip to take on the Grosse Pointe North hockey squad. So what, you say. Why is that a big deal? I'll tell you why.

Now, I am not one of those sports writers who puts his faith in rankings. In fact, if I am not the one putting one, two or three in front of a team's name, I really don't put too much faith in them at all. But this game, according to the coaches who pick the top-ranked teams, is going to be a battle of number one versus number two. Unfortunately, Novi isn't number one -- but that can all change in the time it takes three periods of hockey to be played.

The Novi Wildcats will be no doubt looking to end their season with a win, and to take the top spot in the process. But to do that, they are going to have to get by one of the toughest teams in Michigan high school hockey -- Grosse Pointe North.

And who, exactly, is going to do this for the Novi Icers? I'll tell you who. Let's start off with a guy

named Adam Haberman. There are two things this guy likes to do on the ice. Check and score. Checking

Continued on 3

GAME OF THE WEEK



Novi Wildcats ICE HOCKEY vs Grosse Pointe North

Saturday, February 23
7:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe

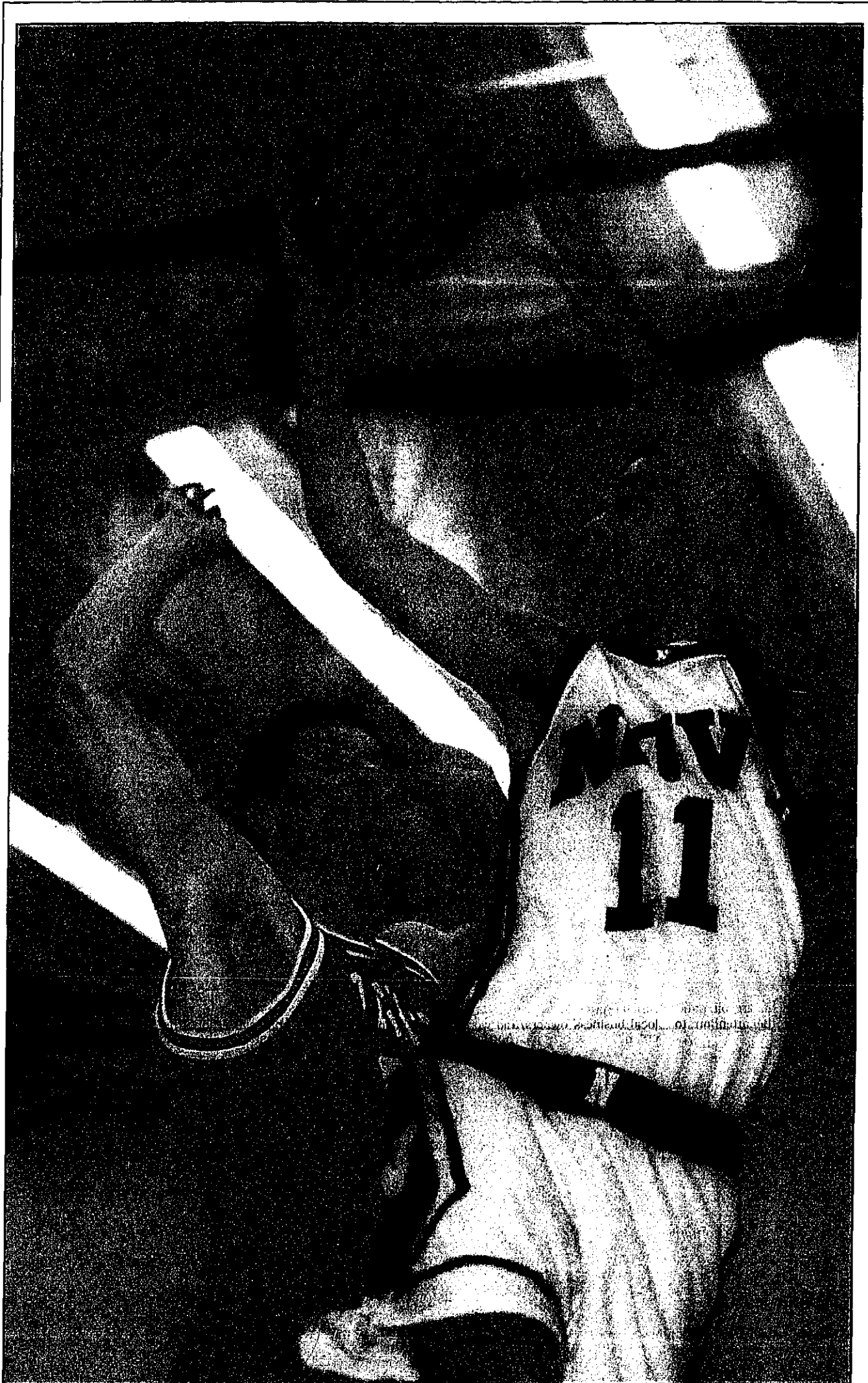


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Matt Emmenecker tries to score two around Brighton's tallest player in last week's home game Tuesday night.

Cagers smother Lions

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats basketball team may have fell out of the running for the Kensington Valley Conference title when they dropped into a cold streak this season, but that didn't stop them from gaining momentum built on wins just before the start of the District tournament.

The Wildcats, led by coach Pat Schluter, notched a determined victory over the South Lyon Lions 71-47 Feb. 16 after dropping the ball in an overtime period to their conference rivals, the Brighton Bulldogs, 53-49 two days prior.

"We played well enough on defense

but didn't shoot well (against Brighton)," Schluter said. "We really came back and took it out on South Lyon Friday."

The 'Cats did indeed take out their KVC frustrations on the Lions. One Wildcat in particular scored 29 points to lead the Novi cagers to an outstanding victory -- Shaun Dicken.

The Lions, who fell to 8-2 in the KVC, went into the basketball game with a huge home crowd to cheer them to victory -- but that victory never came. As the only KVC team to have brought the Lions down this season, the Wildcats came in looking to not only collect a win, but to show the KVC that though they are not on

the top of the conference standings, the Wildcats are still a force to be reckoned with.

The Novi cagers started the contest with a 17-10 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back as they increased their lead to 33-22 at the half. The point scoring never let up for the 'Cats either, as they put in 38 points through the second half compared to the Lions' 25.

"That win definitely gives us momentum," Schluter said. "We were fired up. We knew that we beat them the first time and we wanted to do it again. Their style helps us with how they play."

The Lions particular style of play,

which is very fast paced, fell perfectly into the Wildcat game plan.

"I think this was our best overall game from beginning to end," Schluter said. "From rebounding to shooting, we played real well. If we shoot well, we are a tough team to beat."

Another factor in the Wildcat win was the top-notch defensive pressure provided by Chase Chandler. Chandler had the job of shutting down stellar shooter Jamie Gasperella and did just that, holding the guard to only three points.

Leading the 'Cats in scoring was Dicken with 29 points while Jamie Schram added another 17. Senior

Continued on 2

First season is a good one for Novi Wildcat bowling teams

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

In its first year of existence, the Novi Boy's bowling team placed very well in their district competition and is on their way to the regional competition this Saturday. A team of eight young men coached by former head football coach, John Osborne, took fourth place in their district, which was well enough to qualify the team for regional competition, which will take place

Saturday at Taylor Lanes in Taylor at 9:00am.

All nine teams that were in Novi's league competed in the competition. Only four teams will be going on to the next level. Although Novi was eighth in the league going into the event, the team bowled very well to pass even the second and third placed teams in their league.

"We bowled very well on the right day," Osborne said.

The team traditionally has had trouble during the Baker scoring

rounds and averaged around 140 points. Baker scoring is a system in which the first the bowler bowls the first frame, then the second bowler the second and so on until five bowlers have gone through and the rotation repeats. At the district competition the team averaged 190 in the Baker scoring rounds, a 50-point increase.

"We got on a roll," Osborne said.

The team had some tough times throughout the season, but

they appeared to put everything together at districts.

"They always thought they were better than they were bowling," Osborne said.

In the competitions, the team would sometimes fail to pick up spares and other things. The team finished near the bottom of their league in the regular season standings, but always felt they had more talent than they were showing.

"We are a first year program so we lacked experience," Osborne

said. The team traditionally was led in scoring by Eric Aytes and Luke Burton.

The team could dress seven players for each match and those players were Aytes, Burton, Brandon Cigna, Jeff Courter, James Fasal, Kelsey and Matt Lewis. Brian Fry was also a member of the team.

Two individuals also qualified to participate in the next level of individual competition. Aytes and Kelsey both were within the

top 16 bowlers in their district competition. Both bowlers did exceptionally well. Aytes took fifth at the competition and averaged 212.5 for four games. Kelsey took sixteenth and averaged 191.25. Cigna also came close to making the cut with his average 189.75 points over four games but was one place below the cut.

The team practiced three days a week for one and a half to two

Continue on 3

Sports Shorts

Duffy Daugherty Coach of the Year Clinics

The Nike Duffy Daugherty Coach of the Year Football Clinic will be at the Staring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant on March 1-2, 2002. The cost for the clinic is \$60 before February 22 and \$70 after February 22.

Speakers include: Tony Anese (Muskegon High School), Mel Skillman (Merrill High School), Tab Kelly (Novi High School), Herb Hergen (Livonia Lutheran High School), Dick Cronwell (Toledo St. Francis), Bob Sutter (Farmington Hills Harrison), Scott Merchant (University of Detroit Jesuit), Woody Thomas (Livonia Central High School), Harry Lumley (Windsor Herman High School), Joe Tiller (Burdue University), Ralph Frieder (University of Maryland), Brad Lawson (Michigan University), John Dignon (Eastern Michigan University), John Milligan (Central Michigan University), Steve Morrison (Brooks Bay High School), Mike Lubich (Woodbridge High School), Dave Lawson (Eastern Michigan University), Jim Herman (University of Michigan), and Gary Barrett (University of Colorado).

Anyone interested in attending the clinic can contact Dan Lessner, Clinic Director, at (734) 771-6072 for more information.

Winter Recipients of Scholar-Athlete Award Announced

Gymnasts look good

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Northville/Novi gymnasts won the Wild Strangs, continuing their winning streak by adding their sixth straight dual win to their record of 6-2.

The Wild Strangs, who are coached by Lindsay Schultz, collected a 146.5-141.5 victory over a conference rival Salem squad.

"We did a really good job," Schultz said. "We have been working very hard on our routines, adding difficulty and that has helped bring up the scores."

As if the Wild Strangs were inured of higher point totals, Lindsey Carlson, one of the team's top scorers, collected a total of 36.8 points, second on the team to junior Jennifer Sturgis, who collected a total of 37.75 in the meet.

Carlson took a 9.20 in the vault as well as on the bars while taking a 9.40 on the beam and a 9.0 with her floor routine.

"She is definitely putting everything together right now," Schultz said, and added that there is even some room for higher points. "Her floor routine wasn't as good as usual. She added a chore move that she got a little mixed up on. She did really good, but she added more difficulty to her routine and could even do a little better."

Sturgis came out and collected a 9.35 with the vault, a 9.15 on the bars, a 9.7 on the beam and 9.55 with the floor exercise to lead the Wild Strangs in point scoring.

"I think the addition of Jennifer has obviously been a big help," Schultz said when asked of the team's 0-2 start this season. "That and we started off against two very tough teams, Hartland and Farmington are two tough programs to start your season against."

The Wild Strangs collected additional points from Andrea Ludbetter, the team's other senior, as she notched an 8.30 with the vault, an 8.30 on the bars and an 8.90 on the floor exercise.

Sophomore Sara Wichowski, who has been up and coming this season, took a 9.00 in the vault portion of the competition, a 9.35 on the bars, a 9.3 on the beam and a 9.10 with her floor routine.

"She has really taken the initiative this season," Schultz said. "She is really wanting to get some new skills and difficulty to add to her routine."

John Meli also added a 9.10 on the beam to the Mustangs final scoring.

The victory over Salem was the team's last regular season meet and they are now looking to the league meet, which is scheduled for today at 4:15 p.m. at Farmington High School.

"I think the league meet is going to be tough," Schultz said. "It could come down to Brighton, Farmington, Hartland, and possibly one of the other teams. It is hard to say because this is a very tough league. It will all come down to whoever hits that day."

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Cagers beat Lions, fall to Brighton

Continued from 1

Brian Swift had nine rebounds in the winning effort.

The Wildcats (10-6, 5-5 KVC) will return to action when they visit the Millford Redskins tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in hopes of reavenging an earlier season loss to the KVC squad.

"We have four games left before Districts," Schluter said. "I have been happy with the defense the past couple of weeks. Especially against South Lyon, they did a great job."

Brighton 53, Novi 49, 0T

The Novi Wildcats just couldn't get things to fall their way against the Brighton Bulldogs Feb. 12, especially their three-point shooting.

"We just shot bad," Schluter said. "We played a great game defensively and we had the opportunities to win. We missed some threes that we had wide open looks for."

The Wildcats looked to have the Bulldogs on the ropes when Brighton center Chris Grimm drew his third foul in the first quarter, but the Cats just couldn't capitalize — but Grimm did. Not only did the Bulldog commit only one more foul throughout the remainder of the contest, he went on to score 21 points, grab 17 rebounds and block 10 shots to record his first triple-double of the season.

"We had the momentum after Grimm got his three fouls in the first quarter," Schluter said. "We missed some easy shots and Grimm blocked a lot of shots. If we would have shot a little better, we would have probably won that game."

Dicken had 19 points in the losing effort.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Novi tankers continue strong swims

By Sam Eggleston

The Novi Wildcats boys swim team continued to look strong with a big win over the Walled Lake Western Warriors Feb. 13 before they went on to swim the MISCA meet.

The Wildcats took home a 137-49 win over the Walled Lake Western Warriors Feb. 13 before sending Ian Robertson and the team to the MISCA meet Feb. 16.

In the MISCA meet, Robertson made a name for himself in the 100 fly. Not only did he qualify for the state meet with his time of 54.09 seconds, he also broke the Novi High School record in the process. Joining Robertson in the 200 medley relay, Jordan Mobio, Juhwan Yoo and Jack Tyler finished the race in 1:43.11, just two-hundredths of a second.

The Wildcats also improved in all of their relays at the MISCA meet, finishing with their season best times with all of their relay teams.

The Wildcats were not only successful in the MISCA meet, they also made short work of the WLV Warriors.

The Wildcats notched fast place finishes in the 200 Medley relay (1:43.35), the 200 free (Roberson, 1:55.10), the 200 IM (Tyler, 2:10.60), the 100 fly (Tyler, 55.93),

the 100 free (Matt Shafer, 56.87), the 500 free (Mobio, 5:18.10), the 100 backstroke (Shafer, 1:04.55), the 100 breaststroke (Taewun Yoo, 1:09.47) and the 400 free relay (3:47.46).

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Strikers having ball

Continued from 1

Novi girls bowling team also had a good season although they did not qualify for the regional competition. The girls finished in seventh place out of nine teams at the event. The girls had a regular season standing that was higher than that.

"I think they were disappointed at the district competition," Osborne said.

Jerry Harris, the owner of Novi Bowl, coached the girl's team. Harris also funded both bowling teams this year. Harris supplied the lanes and practice time for the team this year. He also funded Northville High School's teams.

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Novi varsity volleyball 2002 co-captains and seniors pose for a quick photo before a home game against Highland. From left: Carmen Simkins, Brittany Barrett, and Jaime Jo Sabol.

No districts for Novi

By Brian Doyle

For the first time in recent history, the Novi Wildcat wrestling team failed to make it out of their district.

Last Thursday, the Wildcats held their own in a tough district and made it to the district finals where they lost to Howell. The following Saturday, four Novi wrestlers made it out of individual districts and into the regional competition which will take place this Saturday.

"I was pretty disappointed because every year we usually make it to Battle Creek," said Novi junior Josh Churella, who took third place at 103 and 171 respectively.

Churella is currently undefeated for the year and has high hopes of reaching and placing well at the state competition.

"I feel pretty confident, but I know there's tough competition," he said.

Hearn also believes he may have what it takes to make the state competition.

"I'm hoping I'll make it out of regionals and to get in the top eight in the state," he said.

Both wrestlers know they must work hard to perform at that high level.

"I have to stay on my game plan and work as hard as I can in the room," Churella said.

Slovan and Muldoon will also face stiff competition in the next week.

"I'm sure the competition will be good," Slovan said. "I have to come through and do what I know I can."

All four wrestlers have performed well at the district competition and are looking forward to the individual regional competition on Saturday.

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Earlier this year by one point, but fell 32-22 this time.

Even though the team had two of their injured wrestlers back for the team competition, it wasn't enough.

"When they got back, they weren't back at top form because they had to take time off," Churella said.

Coming off his injury, Ong won his match, but Kortlandt lost against Howell and wasn't able to participate in the individual competition two days later.

Hearn, Churella, Muldoon and Slovan all qualified for regionals this Saturday. Churella took first at 125 and Muldoon took first at 130. Hearn and Slovan earned third place at 103 and 171 respectively.

Churella is currently undefeated for the year and has high hopes of reaching and placing well at the state competition.

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All four wrestlers have performed well at the district competition and are looking forward to the individual regional competition on Saturday.

By Brian Doyle
An intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Hockey tournament

2002 Ice Hockey Tournament Bracket:

Northville Mustangs vs. Lakeland Eagles; Feb. 25 at 4:25.
Ypsilanti Lincoln vs. Novi Wildcats; Feb. 25 at 8:15 p.m.

The winners of Northville vs. Lakeland will play the winner of the Ypsilanti vs. Novi game in the semi-finals on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Franklin Patriots vs. South Lyon Lions; Feb. 25 at 6:25 p.m. Saline vs. Kettering; Feb. 25 at 6:20 p.m.

The winner of Franklin vs. South Lyon will play the winner of the Saline vs. Kettering game in the semi-finals on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The winners of the two semi-final games will play March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Novi Ice Arena, located just off of Novi Road near the Novi Sports Club.

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Spikers win two

Continued from 1

In a game that found all of the Wildcats getting a chance to play, the Novi Wildcats showed the Lakeland Eagles the importance of having a deep bench to work with.

"Everyone played," Fisette said. "We played really well together and everyone who played did a good job."

The thing that Fisette had to do to keep her girls focused was to convince them that they have to see an exciting mix of strategy, intensity, emotion and heart all rolled into one heart throbbing thrill of a high school shootout.

I am going to send this squad to Grosse Pointe with a big shout of confidence that Coach Dan Phelps and the boys are going to come back the number one team in Division II hockey. Novi 4, Grosse Pointe North 2.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Which team will be number one?

Continued from 1

Haberaman hits an opponent's, my teeth rattle. He doesn't kid around, that's for sure.

Secondly, we have Robbie Harrel and Robby Overfield. These guys share more than first names. Both have the ability to score nearly on command and both have a wide area awareness that gives them uncanny passing ability.

Continuing on, we have Dan Morrison and Trent Sisson. Which one of these guys are going to be in between the posts? Who cares, both have the ability to stonewall you at

the season, if not the toughest. I guess these Novi kids take it seriously when they hear "save the best for last."

I know that this isn't a trip over to South Lyon or even over to Brighton, but for those diehards looking to see some top-notch Novi hockey, taking the trip is probably going to be well worth it. Both of these teams bring plenty of weapons to the ice and both teams are well respected throughout the state thanks to the hard work and dedication of their fans, coaches and players. I have no doubt in my mind that those who attend this particular hockey game are going to

Hockey team skates by KVC rival Pinckney

Continued from 1

Philips said. "We have some fantastic coaches in our conference now that have been there for a year or two. They are developing styles not just with their teams, but with their hockey programs."

The Cats scored again in the third period, this time off the stick of Brian Jausis. At the five minute 55 second mark in the third, the Cats felt a sting of a slight breakdown and found two players in the penalty box. The Pirates not only

notched a goal at that mark, but again with 3:27 remaining in the game to pull the score to 5-3.

"We had some breakdowns," Phelps admitted. "I think we shot something like 47 compared to their 15 or 17 shots on goal. They have an outstanding goaltender and he came up big for them again. We'll take the win and where ever we had breakdowns we had breakdowns, we'll just continue on from there."

The Cats scored their final goal with 2:30 left in the contest as Jausis notched his second of the game as assists from the Collins brothers, Jordan and Justin.

The win gave the Novi kids a 17-3-2 overall record for the season.

The Wildcats will resume action when they visit the number one team in Division II hockey, Grosse Pointe North Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Cats are currently ranked second in Division II.

"We haven't had a whole lot of common opponents," Phelps said of the two teams' comparison. "They played Brother Rice and 1

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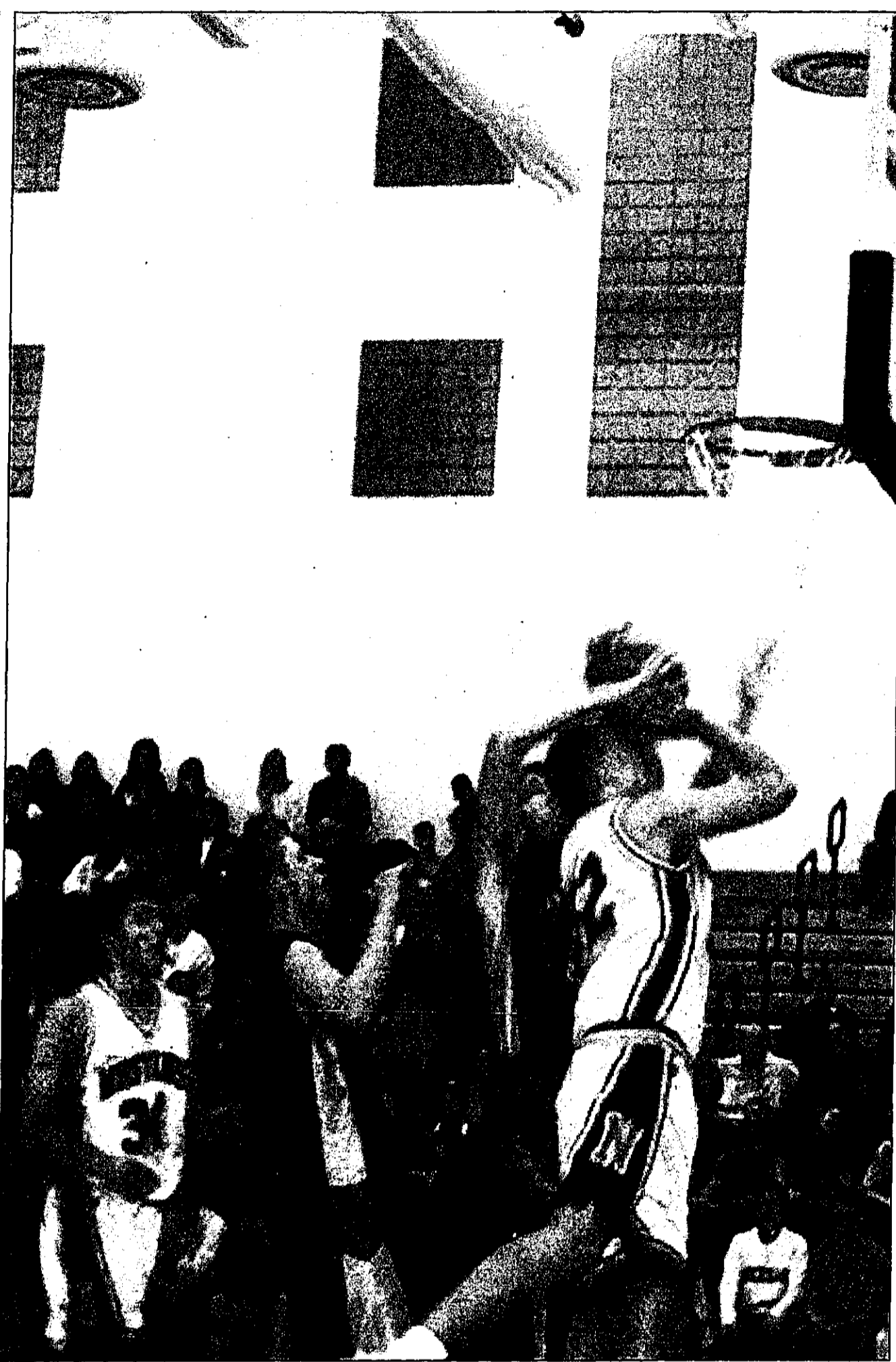


Photo by BRIAN DOYLE

The Walled Lake Western Warriors just couldn't come up with the win against the Northville Mustangs.

Win streak comes to halt Mustangs snap Western's six-game winning streak with loss at Northville

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

In a game of streaks, The Northville Mustangs managed to pull away from the Walled Lake Western Warriors to grab a tough win, 66-48, over their conference rival.

After falling behind by 17 early, Northville rallied back to beat Walled Lake Western last Friday, in a game that was closer than the score showed.

"It was one of the most bizarre basketball games I've ever been a part of," said Walled Lake Western head coach Rex Stanczak.

After Northville took a 10-8 lead early in the first quarter, Walled Lake Western took off on a 13-2 run to lead 21-12 by the end of the first quarter.

Northville continued to fall behind as Walled Lake Western built their lead up to 29-12 with six minutes left in the first half.

"For the first eight to ten minutes we looked invincible," Stanczak said.

Everything was going right for Walled Lake Western. Senior Bryan Verdun scored most of his 20 points in this quarter. Northville was also having problems of their own.

"It was one of the most bizarre basketball games I've ever been a part of."

Rex Stanczak
Western basketball coach

"We were taking too quick of shots," Northville head coach Darrel Schumacher said.

However, from that point on Northville stepped up their play. Northville scored 14 points in the six minutes leading to the end of the half compared to Walled Lake Western's two. Northville senior Tim Ferng hit two three's in a row.

"The coaches told us to keep our heads in it," said Northville player Dave Oljace, who scored ten for the Mustangs. Walled Lake Western still had the lead going into half-time 31-26.

The third quarter kept on going as a continuation of Northville's run at the end of the half. Walled Lake Western was unable to score and Northville notched 17 points in that quarter to take a 41-31 lead.

"We stepped up and they hit a cold streak," Schumacher said. Walled Lake Western, usually a very strong shooting team, had some very serious problems.

"My kids have never been that cold," Stanczak said. The Warriors couldn't seem to score and didn't end up getting on the board in the second half until early in the fourth quarter.

"We can't win if we don't hit a shot," Walled Lake Western senior Chris Eagle said.

The Warriors pulled back within eight, but that was as close as the game would get as the Mustangs pulled away down the stretch.

Through the course of the game, adversity seemed to be piling up on the Warriors. They were behind and couldn't get the best shots.

"We didn't get the calls, some of our kids felt we should have gotten," Stanczak said. "We were settling for jumpshots."

Northville's game plan after they fell behind early was to get the game back in pieces and not try to take it all back at one time. They also wanted to keep the ball out of Verdun's hands.

"We were trying to keep 44 (Verdun) from catching the ball," Schumacher said. Verdun still managed to have a

solid game and lead all scorers in points.

"Verdun had a pretty good game," Stanczak said.

Northville's leading scorer was Thomas Knapp with 19 points followed closely by Adam Konst who scored 17, including two 3-pointers. Oljace and Ferng each had ten points to add to the total. Ferng was coming off an injured jaw and Oljace made strong contributions on the defensive end.

"OJ got tough all of a sudden," Schumacher said, referring to a charge Oljace took.

For Walled Lake Western, Steve Sobieck put up 12 points while John Sanders and David Zeitlin put up six apiece. Eagle and Adam Muehl added two points each for the Warriors.

Rounding out the Northville scorers were Roger Garfield with nine and Tom Borda with six.

"Borda did a nice job on the boards," Schumacher said.

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Central cagers get fourth win

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Can you say win number four? The Walled Lake Central Vikings sure can.

The Vikings, led by coach Bob Shoemaker, carved out their fourth victory of the season when they toppled the North Farmington Raiders 78-64 in a Western Lakes Activities Association contest Feb. 15.

"We played a great game," Shoemaker said. "They pressed us the whole game and we handled it from beginning to the end."

The Vikings, who climbed to 4-13 on the year, took a 19-16 lead at the end of the first quarter and never really looked back. The closest the Raiders came to overcoming the deficit was in the third quarter, when they cut the Vikings' lead to two points — but that didn't last long. Senior Maxx Morris, who has been having a stellar final high school season, came down the court early in the third and drained a three-pointer before outstanding sophomore shooter Brandon Cassise nailed a three of his own to put the Central cagers up for good.

"They cut the lead to two and we put it right back up to 10," Shoemaker said. "We were able to maintain the lead for the rest of the game."

Not only did the victory upset the Raiders, but it upset the division as well. For the first time that Shoemaker could remember, the WLLA Lakes Division is in a five-way tie for first place. Plymouth Salem, Livonia Stevenson, Westland John Glenn, North Farmington and Walled Lake Central all finished with 3-2 records in the division.

"If North Farmington would have won, they would have won it outright," Shoemaker said. "Instead, there is a five-way tie. I think that is the first time ever."

The Vikings managed to notch

the victory without the assistance of their two top senior players — Morris and Erik Wilcox, who fouled out in the third quarter. Instead, the Vikings turned to Mark Morowski, a sophomore, who came off of the bench in the fourth quarter and scored seven points to help seal the victory.

"He did an outstanding job," Shoemaker said.

The Raiders knew if they were going to stand a chance against the resurgent Vikings, they were going to have to shut down Cassise.

"They put a lot of emphasis on stopping him," Shoemaker said. "He has so many ways to score that stopping him completely is not really an option."

In some ways, holding the sophomore guard under 20 points may be considered a success in shutting him top-notch scoring ability down. Cassise managed to score 17 points with all of the pressure and was joined by Jeff Matheny, who also collected 17 in the winning effort. Cassise had five assists in the game while Matheny collected 11 rebounds.

Morris, who fouled out in the third, collected 16 points and 10 rebounds for yet another double-double while sophomore Lemme Plummer added eight points for the Vikings.

"Anyone who is watching us now that had been following us through, would say we are not the same basketball team," Shoemaker said. "Really, we aren't. Morris is twice the player as when he started, and so is Wilcox. The other, younger players are really coming through for us."

The Raiders (9-8, 6-5 WLLA) followed the scoring lead of Marcus McComb, who scored 21 points in the losing effort, while Mike Leach added 14 points and Andy Zak contributed 11.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Novi News and the Lake Area Times. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Gymnasts notch victory and loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake gymnastics team felt the sting of a loss and the exhilaration of victory as they continued their brutal pace towards the tournaments at the end of the season.

The Walled Lake team, led by coach Jennifer Hart, fell to the Northville/Novi Wild 'Stangs 146.55-132.2 Feb. 6 before topping Fraser 137-120.7 Feb. 11. The girls also notched a fifth-place finish in the tough Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational Feb. 9.

"We are working on polishing up the routines and staying consistent on all events," Hart said in a prepared statement.

In the Northville match, the Walled Lake gymnasts (6-5) found Amy Gursky taking second in the vault with an 8.8 while Lindsay Brown notched a third-place finish in the bars with a 9.0 to round out the Walled Lake top-three scoring.

The Wild 'Stangs took the win after sweeping both the beam and the floor routine and taking first and third in the vault and first and second in the beam exercise.

Against Fraser, the Walled Lake girls collected a win as they swept the top-three positions of each event.

The vault found Sarah Chrzanowski notching a first with an 8.6 while Amy Gursky took sec-

ond with an 8.5 and Lindsay Brown took third with an 8.45.

The bars found Brown taking a first-place finish with a total of 9.25 points while Gursky was second with an 8.6 and Stefanie Schmalz notched a third-place with an 8.35.

The beam found Gursky and Schmalz tied for first with an 8.6 while Chrzanowski took third with an 8.35.

The Walled Lake gymnasts rounded out the meet with Schmalz taking first with an impressive 9.1 in the floor routine while Brown collected an 8.8 and Gursky took third with an 8.65.

The Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational found Brown placing in the top-10 with her routines in the floor event and on the uneven bars as the entire team took fifth-place and brought home a trophy.

"It is the end of the season and it is important to keep the team spirit up for successful competitions," Hart said.

The gymnasts will return to action when they compete in the Conference tournament Saturday. Time and place was unavailable when the Novi News went to print.

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WLW wrestling results

Livonia Stevenson 37, Walled Lake Western 30 (Championship Match) Feb. 14, at Walled Lake Western

103 pounds: Dan McAuliffe (LS) decisioned Dave Murphy, 4-2 (OT); 112: Charlie Rabaut (LS) pin. Andrew Rudzki, 0:34; 119: Ryan Beech (WLW) pin. Corey McKay, 0:36; 125: Jared Seaman (WLW) dec. Dan Leith, 10-3; 130 Jason Fischer (LS) won by major dec. Chris Yezbick, 12-2; 135: Jared

McClellan (LS) pin. Richard Lawson, 4:36; 140: Justin Nazarov (WLW) pin. Sean O'Halloran, 1:35; 145: Jeff Goodman (WLW) pin. Aram Markosian, 0:32; 152: Matt Radley (LS) dec. Jeff Koenig, 6-3; 160: Jesse Baskin (LS) pin. Brodak, 0:34; 171: Dario Mainella (LS) dec. Pete Busciglio, 6-2; 189: Strye (WLW) dec. Kevin Domingo, 9-3; 215: Lance Shunla (WLW) won by void; 275: Mike Robinson (LS) pin. Brandon Burtis, 2:43.