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Novi News

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Your hometown newspaper celebrating its 50th year serving Novi and the Lakes area

Thursday, August 25, 2005 www.novinews.com 50c
Volume 50 Number 13 Novi, Michigan

INSIDE



Sports previews

It's that time of year again and the excitement is popping in the air like bubble wrap under the heels of a 5-year-old kid. Catch our in-depth fall sports preview.

— Section B



Grand Opening

The new Rock Financial Showplace grand opening is this weekend, and we've put together a special edition commemorating the event.

— Section AA



Weinstein Jewelers burns

Officials are investigating the cause of a fire that destroyed Weinstein Jewelers of Novi yesterday morning.

— 6A

INDEX

Business	11A
Calendar	22A
Classifieds	1D
Community	7A
Education	16A
Faith	20A
Health	12A
Opinion	18A
People	21A
Public Safety	5A
Regional Marketplace	24A
Seniors	13A
School Bus Schedules	14A
Sports	18B

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Law enforcement personnel from all over Michigan salute as the casket of Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer leaves the chapel of Brightmoor Christian Church after his Friday morning funeral service.

City mourns chief's passing

Loved ones, law enforcement members honor their friend, hero

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The late Novi Chief of Police Doug Shaeffer's 4-year-old grandson had the most logical explanation last week for his grandfather's early death.

"He said that God must have needed a policeman, and that he picked the best one he could find," said Shaeffer's widow, Loretta, last Thursday afternoon.

Loved ones, friends and members of law enforcement agencies, including Detroit Police Department Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, came to honor their friend and comrade on Aug. 19.

The funeral service took place at 10 a.m. at Brightmoor Christian Church on Novi's northeast side.

Members of the Detroit Police Department Honor Guard were on hand.

They stood at attention as Novi police officers carried the flag-

draped casket to the hearse that took Shaeffer to his final resting place at Orchard Hills Cemetery on 12 Mile Road.

After members of the honor guard folded the flag and handed it to Novi Mayor Lou Csordas, he, in turn, presented the flag to Loretta.

At the end of the burial ceremony, members of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department performed a helicopter fly by, followed by a 21-gun salute by the Honor Guard and the playing of "Taps."

A luncheon provided by Moe's on Ten and Steve & Rocky's in

Memorial contributions

Those who would like to make a memorial contribution in Chief Shaeffer's name can mail their donation to the Providence Health Foundation, 22255 W. Greenfield Road, Suite 228, Southfield 48075.

Other tributes to Shaeffer were presented by his son, Matthew, Acting Police Chief David Molloly, City Manager Richard

as far away as Alabama came to pay their respects with a sea of blue uniforms gracing both the funeral and burial services.

Novi Police Department Chaplain Gary Elsner talked about his friend, Chief Shaeffer.

"His journey here was full of every aspect of life. He was loving, gentle, attentive, sensitive and yet, when necessary, he could be firm and decisive," Elsner said.

Law enforcement officers from

Fuel costs take a toll

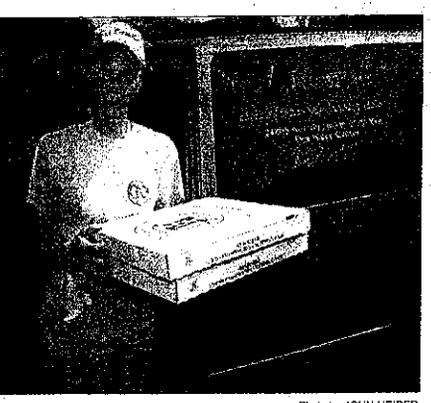
Residents, businesses feel helpless from climbing prices

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Conner finished pumping \$50 into his Ford F-150, and slammed the money down on the counter.

Conner stopped at the Speedway gas station at the corner of Novi and 10 Mile roads to fill up, and said he was so disgusted with the prices, that he was considering buying a different vehicle.

"I'm only 25, and I certainly don't have the bank account established to afford \$50 every other day," Conner said.



Usually not all smiles, especially recently when filling up her gas tank, Julia Williams delivers pizzas for the Novi Pizza Co. Williams, who drives a 2004 pickup truck that gets about 17 MPG, gets \$1 per delivery, and with recent high gas prices - it can be hard to come out ahead.

Local residents join those now complaining loudly about swollen gas prices being too high.

Businesses are also feeling the pinch and are compensating for the cost of fuel by raising fees.

Peter and Shawn Woolford, owners of the Novi Pizza Company, are considering cutting back on their delivery coverage area.

The family-run pizza store, like most pizza delivery companies, gives drivers a gas allowance for running deliveries.

"You can't discriminate where people live," Shawn said. "But we've discussed raising our delivery fees to compensate for the high gas prices."

The Woolfords said the price of gas is not hurting their business yet, but it could if gas prices continued to rise.

Triangle pushes revised concept for downtown

Mixed-use plan nixes DDA, hotel and parking garages

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City council members seemed to warm up Dave and Pierre Nonas' scaled down plan for Main Street Novi Monday night.

The Nonas, of Farmington Hills-based Triangle Development, appeared at city hall to offer up a scaled down version of their vision for the area located south of Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road.

Instead of a \$120-million project, the Nonas want to create a \$90 million mixed use development.

Gone are plans for a Downtown Development Authority that would fund two parking garages along Grand River Avenue. The revised plan also nixes a hotel planned for the area.

A park with possible ice skating and a band shell are still planned, however, with many improvements slated for Main Street.

Triangle presented the initial concept plan for council's consideration on June 6.

"The idea of the DDA was not enthusiastically embraced, and as a result, we have decided to scale down the project," Dave Nonas said.

The commercial part of the plan would now be serviced by surface parking, while the residential portion will have primarily covered and below-grade parking.

The new plan consists of the fol-

Since 1972, a part of every school board decision

Boyer is the official recorder of Novi Schools

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Carol "Skip" Boyer has seen much change in the Novi Community School District since 1972.

She's been a part of every decision the school board ever made since then, and has seen many members and superintendents come and go. Though she always sits along side the superintendent during board meetings, as do the

rest of the school board members, she has never been a member herself.

Boyer is currently the recording secretary for the district's board of education, which is a tremendous responsibility. She is basically in charge writing the official history of the district.

"It's a fun job because it keeps you informed on what's going on in the school district and those young kids," she said. "I fell into it and have been doing it for many years."

Boyer admires those who will take on the responsibility of a

school board member because she believes it's an important job and they're willing to spend much time and effort doing it. That's why she has been doing all she can to produce an ongoing document which chronicles the history of the district for so long.

She explained that the minutes are the official record of the school district and it was part of her job description to be a recorder when she first came to Novi.

"My job description calls for me to record the official action of the board, but if you go back to the minutes before all the technol-



Carol "Skip" Boyer

ogy came into the world, it's really a fascinating story of how it evolved," Boyer said. "The planning and the people that had the foresight to look at where the district was going and what was good for the kids of that era, whatever it might be, is really quite interesting."

Most recording secretaries use some sort of electrical device, from a personal digital assistant, or a lap top computer to take their notes. Not Boyer. She takes her notes in a style she describes as a "haphazard shorthand."

"It's not anything with any skill any more," she said. "I really don't know how you would do

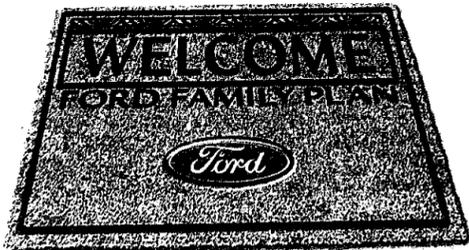
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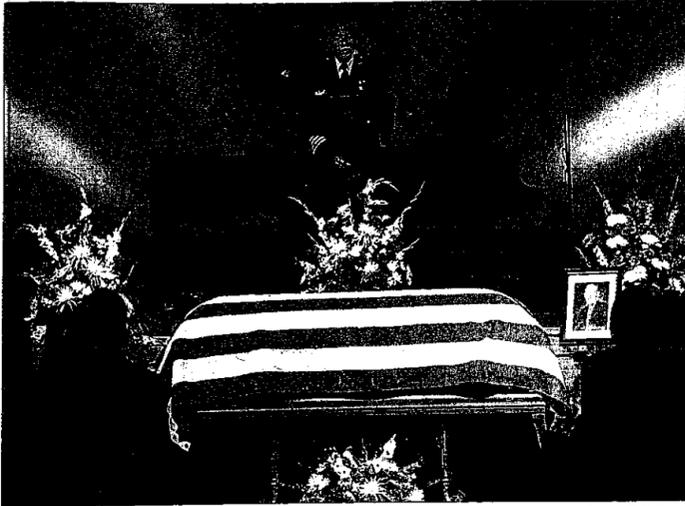
Current Ford Employee leases can Re-Lease a 2005 Ford Escape Limited

\$249 A month's lease with a \$2,499 customer cash rebate. Offer ends 9/6/05. Payment includes \$500 renewal cash and \$500 FMCC bonus cash.

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Loved ones, law enforcement members honor their friend, hero

continued from front page

Helwig and Mayor Lou Cordas. Shaeffer was born on Nov. 22, 1944, in Boone, Iowa, to William and Louise Shaeffer. He died Aug. 15, 2005, at the age of 60, after living in Novi for 14 years. Shaeffer is survived by another son, Mark. "Doug was a great father who made many sacrifices for his family. He was a very dedicated grandfather who always talked about his grandchildren," Elsner said. "God blessed that optimism. This experience of being so close to death changed his life, and he became like a teenager." Shaeffer had a wonderful sense of humor, which included practical jokes, according to Elsner. During his training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., he poured bubble bath in the fountain outside the entrance. Shaeffer's son, Matthew, remembered when he was about 4 years old and was sitting on the couch, he heard a rumbling under one of the cushions that sounded like an elephant. "I said, 'What is that sound?' and my father said, 'Did you see that pink elephant run underneath that couch?'" "My brother and him were laughing hysterically and even had the nerve to lift the couch up so I could see if that pink elephant was still under there," he said. "He noted that the two times when he felt he actually got to touch the hand of God was at the birth of his son and a month ago, when he climbed to the top of Mt. Taylor and saw the beauty of the mountains looking across the Continental Divide with his dad standing next to him. "There's no better feeling in life," he said.

"God blessed that optimism. This experience of being so close to death changed his life, and he became like a teenager." Shaeffer had a wonderful sense

In front of hundreds of family, friends and fellow law enforcement personnel Novi Deputy Police Chief Dave Molloy eulogizes his friend and mentor Chief Doug Shaeffer at Friday's funeral. Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Boyer is the official recorder of Novi Schools

CAROL "SKIP" BOYER

Occupation: Secretary to the Novi Community School District Superintendent, retired in 1982.

Age: 74

Family: Husband Chuck and four kids. Gary graduated Novi High School in 1969, Tom in 1971, Sue in 1972 and Patrick in 1973.

Hobbies: Takes care of five horses.

Advice: "It's a great job," she said of being secretary to the superintendent. "You have to be open minded and friendly. You have to like people."

School: Attended Fenton High School, Hope College and Michigan State University.

Years worked: 1972-1982.

Interests: Worked at the Michigan State Fair horse show for several years. Has enjoyed horses her whole life.

Grew up in Fenton.

continued from front page

this job if you didn't take some kind of notes."

Boyer does have a backup system, however, if she doesn't catch something or if she has a question. The district tapes every board meeting, which are available to her if she needs them.

"As you get to know board members and administrators, you learn the pattern of the words they use," she said. "It's really not that difficult because you learn people's tendencies. It makes it a little easier."

Boyer, who enjoys every aspect of life, is usually very interested in people's thoughts on the world, schools and the kids of today. The one thing she enjoys the most about her current position, is that she gets to keep up with current events within the district, even in retirement.

"There are so many 'good' kids out there that you don't hear a lot about unless you're involved in something like this," she said.

"Young people are so intelligent and so talented. You usually hear so much negative in the

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.



Salesman Mike Stout, Owner Tom Rosochacki

FLOORS TO GO

Tom Rosochacki started Plymouth Floor Covering in the Plymouth-Livonia area in 1976. The business became a staple of the community for the next 24 years-until he retired in 2000. But according to his son Don Rosochacki the businessman decided to come out of retirement and return with FLOORS TO GO. "This area has gone through many changes over the past 30 years, as has the flooring business with the introduction of the large box stores, but with the national buying power of Floors To Go, and my father's commitment of providing excellent workmanship and the customer service only found at a mom and pop run business, FLOORS TO GO has a great deal to offer it's customers" said Don.

Carpeting from all major mills, vinyl flooring, laminate and hardwood flooring are attractively displayed in a beautiful 5000 sq. ft. showroom. "My dad's dedicated installment crews are a reason for the businesses long history of success in this area". FLOORS TO GO is located at 33825 Plymouth Rd.

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In 2003, Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act—legislation that will take full effect in 2006. Many of you have expressed concern over how this act will affect your Medicare coverage.

The short answer is, it's up to you. The Medicare Modernization Act is not a mandate—it simply provides choices.

- It does not eliminate or reduce your Medicare benefits
- It is not a "privatization" of Medicare
- You have a choice of options, including your current coverage
- For the first time, prescription drug coverage is offered

In the coming months, you'll be hearing a lot about Medicare options from a number of sources, including private health care companies. Before making any decisions, we encourage you to get the facts through one of the following unbiased resources:

- 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY#: 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or www.medicare.gov—a federal government resource
- 1-800-803-7174, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET, Mon.-Fri., or www.mymmap.org—the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program
- Your local Area Agency on Aging

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 24A

Thursday, August 25, 2005

NFIB UPDATE

Supreme Court takes the fifth

June 23 was a typical hot, steamy summer day in Washington, D.C. The 84-degree temperature had made all those marble-mantled monuments to democracy and justice warm to the touch and sent thousands of tourists scurrying for shade. But on Capitol Hill, in the rarified air inside the U.S. Supreme Court, something happened that sent chills running down the spines of American property owners, especially those who own and operate small businesses.

By a 5-4 decision, the court re-interpreted the 214-year-old Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, giving local governments the right to seize private property for public use in the name of "economic development." Known as the "takings clause," the last few words of the amendment emphatically state that private property cannot be taken away when needed for the public good without fair compensation.

Americans have long understood the concept of eminent domain. Without it, we would not have a national interstate highway system or effective electrical energy grids.

But in ruling against homeowners whose properties stood in the way of a New London, Connecticut, economic revitalization project, the high court has set a dangerous precedent that could set off a land-grab by local governments all across the country.

All local bureaucrats and politicians now need to do to snatch private property is declare that a parcel stands in the way of their idea of economic development.

Even properties not considered blighted could now be condemned to make way for public projects, such as sports arenas and shopping malls, based on a promise that they will create jobs and generate taxes.

It is baffling that Justice John Paul Stevens, who wrote the majority opinion, missed the irony in his own words when he stated: "Promoting economic development is a traditional and long-accepted function of government." True, but just the opposite will be accomplished when the shops and stores of job-creating, revenue-producing, tax-paying small businesses are seized and bulldozed by mega-developers who are often the only ones to benefit from so-called economic development projects.

But don't expect the nation's entrepreneurs to stand back and let the bulldozers come rolling through. Within hours of the court's misguided re-writing of the amendment, an effort was launched to help the justices more clearly understand the law of the land as handed down by the Founding Fathers. According to the Institute for Justice, at least 25 states are considering changes to eminent domain laws, and in Washington, D.C., Sen. John Cornyn of Texas has introduced the Protection of Homes, Small Businesses and Private Property Act of 2005 (S. 1313), designed to protect Americans from having their property confiscated under the guise of public use.

Sen. Cornyn's bill would apply to all exercises of eminent domain power by the federal government and all exercises by state and local governments using federal funds.

The Supreme Court has taken the Fifth Amendment. Property owners are looking to Congress and the states to take it back and return it to the American people.

Jack Faris is the president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals.

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ADVERTORIAL



Photos courtesy of Swanson Family Eyecare
 The staff at Swanson Family Eyecare in Novi includes from left: Jenni, optometric assistant; Crystal, optometric assistant/optician, Barry, certified optician; Dr. Craig Swanson, Michelle, optometric assistant/certified optician; and Sue Swanson, business manager.

Swanson Family Eyecare

Novi optometrist is the clear choice for vision needs

By Duane Ramsey
 SPECIAL WRITER

Swanson Family Eyecare in Novi is a comprehensive practice with an experienced staff that is dedicated to meeting the vision and eye health needs of the entire family. Dr. Craig Swanson, O.D., optometrist, opened his private practice in December, 2002 with that objective in mind.

"Our primary goal is to provide the entire family with the best possible eye care experience," said Dr. Swanson. "We offer a good value everyday and want to meet everyone's eye care and optical needs. Actually, we want to exceed their expectations."

Swanson Family Eyecare offers comprehensive dilated eye

examinations for people of all ages. The practice uses the latest technology, including computerized visual field testing and retinal photography, to detect, manage and treat ocular diseases and conditions.

"We are reaching out to families wanting to be their primary resource for everything to do with the health of their eyes," said Dr. Swanson. "We offer personalized care and service in a professional environment."

A thorough examination and evaluation of the eye and visual system is performed to detect any visual disorders or ocular diseases, such as cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. The practice also provides contact lens examinations and annual preventative eye exams for diabetics and patients on

high-risk medications. Dr. Swanson has several years of experience working in a local medical center, treating and managing patients with cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. He treats eye diseases and infections at his Novi facility.

When specialty care or treatment is required, he works with the area's leading ophthalmic surgeons and specialists. Dr. Swanson provides pre- and post-operative care for LASIK and cataract surgery, working with several different surgical practices in the Detroit area.

"We find the right fit for each patient and their individual surgical needs," Dr. Swanson said. In addition to optometric care, Swanson Family Eyecare provides complete optical services with a large selection of the latest fashion eyewear from the industry's leading designers and manufacturers. The practice offers the finest quality optical products including eyeglasses, computer glasses, contact lenses, sunglasses, and safety and sport glasses at a good value.

Barry Potter, the practice's optician, has more than 25 years of experience in the optical business and is certified by the American Board of Opticianry.

"We will work closely with you to ensure that your new glasses or contacts meet your vision needs," said Potter.

Swanson Family Eyecare offers advanced lens materials, such as extra thin and light weight lenses, and Varilux, the most advanced progressive (no-

line) bifocal. It provides lens treatments including Crizal anti-glare lenses, polarized lenses, UV protection, scratch resistance, Transitions photochromic lenses and the latest fashion tints.

The practice accepts many vision insurance plans. In addition, many medical insurance plans will cover emergency and/or medical eye services provided by Swanson Family Eyecare.

Dr. Swanson wants the practice to be a complete resource for its patients by helping to educate them about their total eye care and how their eyes are related to their overall health. They produce a series of free newsletters for patients that include information about optical issues, contact lenses, children, diabetes, safety and other relevant topics.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Dr. Swanson earned his Doctorate of Optometry from the University of Houston's College of Optometry. He completed his residency training in ocular diseases at the Cleveland Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Dr. Swanson's training is unique, as fewer than 10 percent of the nation's optometrists have completed a residency program.

Following his residency, Dr. Swanson returned to the Farmington Hills and Novi areas where he has practiced for more than 15 years. He has post graduate training in the co-management of LASIK and other refractive surgery patients.

Dr. Swanson served on the

SWANSON EYECARE

Swanson Family Eyecare

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 Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Thu.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; first and third Sat. 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Web: www.eyefinity.com/swanson

staff in the ophthalmology department of the DMC Health Care Center in Novi from 1992 to 2002. He is currently on the staff at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Detroit where he teaches optometric interns.

After working in the clinical environment for many years, Dr. Swanson decided he wanted to operate his own private practice. He opened Swanson Family Eyecare in Novi with his wife Sue, who has her MBA and serves as business manager for the practice.

The staff at Swanson Family Eyecare also includes three experienced optometric assistants, two of which are also opticians.

Dr. Swanson and his wife, Sue, are excited to announce the newest addition to the office. They adopted a 9-month old boy they named Charles Dmitri. The couple traveled to Russia twice to meet their son "Charlie" and bring him home with them.



Dr. Craig Swanson uses the latest technology, such as retinal photography for diagnosis and documentation at Swanson Family Eyecare.

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Rock financial SHOWPLACESM

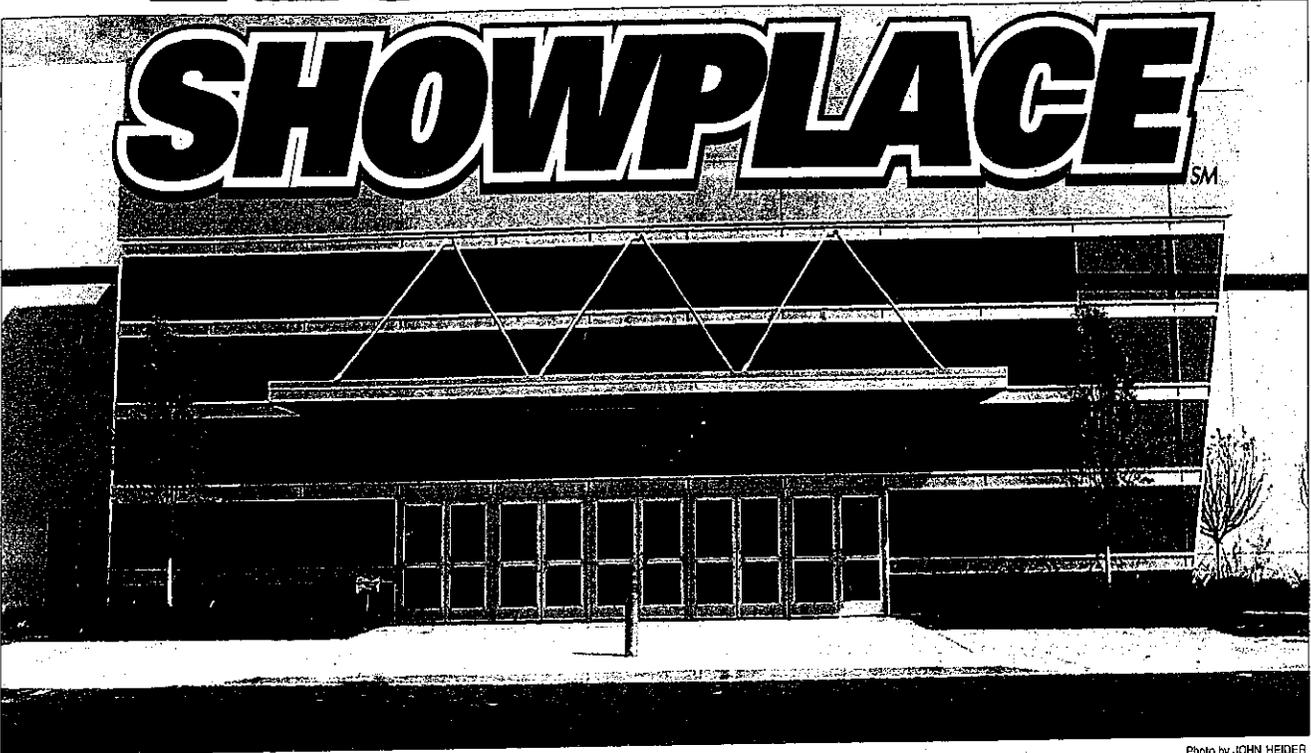


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's new convention and exhibition hall entrance from the south parking lot.

New center, name make debut

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

The Rock Financial Showplace, the new exposition and conference center in Novi, is making its debut with grand opening celebrations on Aug. 27 and 26.

The opening on Friday includes a ribbon-cutting and christening ceremony, a show of local businesses displaying their goods and services, and a gala dinner. The gala is a ticketed fund-raising event that will include entertainment for the evening.

The grand opening on Saturday with the theme, "Celebrate the Experience," is free and open to the public. It will include activities, food and beverages, an open-air concert and fireworks.

"Saturday is all about family and the community, and we hope everyone will help us celebrate," said Blair Bowman, managing partner of TBON, L.L.C., a limited liability company formed to develop and operate the new exposition and conference center.

All proceeds from the two-day events, hosted by Standard Federal Bank, which financed development of the new center, will benefit Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

"Rock Financial strongly believes in being a positive, contributing member of the community," said David Hall, senior vice president of Rock Financial, a Quicken Loans Company which entered into a naming rights partnership for the center.

"We are proud to be associated with the Rock Financial Showplace because it represents a world class, family-friendly center where folks can enjoy some of their favorite events," Hall said.

The \$18 million project provides 320,000-square-feet of exposition and banquet space on the 50-acre site. It includes 214,000 square feet of exposition space, a modest 10-percent increase over the space in the old expo center, but a more effective use of that space, according to Bowman.

The Diamond Center banquet and conference facility provides 40,000 square feet of banquet and meeting space. The large ballroom can seat from 1,500 to 2,000 for dinners prepared in the modern kitchen facilities onsite. Up to 13 meeting rooms are available for break-out or educational sessions.

The new exposition and conference center is projected to attract 1.5 million visitors and generate in excess of \$250 million of direct economic impact for the area in the first year of operation, according to analysis conducted by



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Blair Bowman, president of the Novi Expo Center and managing member of TBON L.L.C., introduces the media to the inside of Novi's conference and exposition center: the Rock Financial Showplace. The 320,000-square-foot center will be 35 percent larger than the Novi Expo Center.

Michigan Consultants. Bowman said the operation of the facility would require an additional 200 full-time jobs.

Bowman reported that they already have 26 users of the full facility and 70 major events scheduled for the center. They can hold multiple major conferences or conventions with other social events such as weddings and reunions in the facility at the same time, which they couldn't do in the old expo center.

"Demand for space is exceeding our wildest expectations," Bowman said.

The 2005 Festival of Trees charity event for Children's Hospital will be held at the Rock Financial Showplace from Nov. 21 through Dec. 4.

Other events are being planned around the 2006 Super Bowl in Detroit. Bowman said they hope to host the major charitable event conducted every year in conjunction with

the Super Bowl.

"The newly constructed, privately-owned facility may be unique in the entire country," Bowman said. "We finally have a facility that was designed for its intended use."

"However, it wasn't easy, and it didn't happen overnight as some seem to think," Bowman said upon completion of the huge project that was a culmination of cooperative effort during a nine-year process.

"We began looking into options in 1996 because we knew we had to do something," he said, due to the increasing demand for exposition business. The old expo center wasn't meeting the exposition needs or the demand for banquet and conference space.

They considered the possibilities of expanding and renovating the existing facility, finding another existing facility, or building a new facility.

"Once word got out, we were contacted by a lot of communities about relocating the expo center," Bowman said.

Novi City Council adopted a resolution stating its intent to keep the expo center in Novi. Bowman assured the city that they would "exhaust all possibilities in Novi before moving it. We had a mutual commitment to keep it in Novi."

The biggest challenge was to find a large enough site with expressway access for the new center, according to Bowman. When the land became available, they began the process to purchase the seven parcels on the site and proceed with plans for the new center.

Bowman said they worked closely with local and state governments to make the project work on that site. It involved improvements to Grand River Avenue and a new Beck Road interchange at I-96, which is not yet completed. "Achieving our final goal was accomplished through the cooperative effort to reach a mutually beneficial solution," Bowman said.

The original Novi Expo Center, located in a former manufacturing and carpet distribution facility off Novi Road at I-96, opened in 1992. Bowman was president of the Novi Expo Center, Inc. which operated the facility.

The expo center later became the permanent home for the Michigan Motorsports Hall of Fame. The company also provided office space on a rent-free basis for the Novi Area Chamber of Commerce and Veterans Alliance of Novi.

Bowman said they are currently conducting a feasibility study to determine what will be done with the former expo center site. A re-use plan will be developed for possible corporate, industrial or entirely new use of that facility, he said.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE

■ **Cunningham-Limp called on to finish contractor job**

When work stopped on the soon-to-open Rock Financial Showplace last winter, TBON, L.L.C. turned to Farmington Hills-based Cunningham Limp to finish the job.

- Page 2

■ **New venue will honor all Novi veterans**

During all the hoopla celebrating the future of the Rock Financial Showplace there will be a quiet nod to the past. Blair Bowman and others will unveil a monument to Robert J. Pohlman and Duane E. Bell, as well as all other Novi veterans during the grand opening of the new exhibition center at 6 p.m. Aug. 27. Pohlman and Bell were part of what former NBC Anchor Tom Brokaw dubbed "the

greatest generation."

- Page 2

■ **What's on the menu? Epoch filling plates at new center**

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- Page 2

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theme of the event, which runs from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., is "Celebrate the Experience," and is being billed as a day that's all about community and family. (A floor plan and activities schedule are also included.)

- Page 3

■ **Rock Financial Showplace list of promoters**

- Page 4

■ **Show of Show list of exhibitors**

- Page 5

■ **Rock excited about phenomenal partnership**

David Hall said a visit to the new Rock Financial Showplace is like walking through eight football fields. Rock Financial was established in 1985 by

Dan Gilbert and is the largest mortgage company in Michigan with more than 3,000 employees.

- Page 6

■ **Grand opening list of event sponsors**

- Page 6

■ **Grand opening to benefit Providence Park Hospital**

John Lewandowski is one person really looking forward to this weekend's Rock Financial Showplace grand opening. The director of the Capital Campaign for Providence Park Hospital is excited that the local hospital has been named the beneficiary of the festivities.

- Page 7



Rock Financial Showplace owner Blair Bowman, right, chats with an electrician while the ballroom center they're in is prepped for its first customers and guests.

Center will honor all Novi veterans

By Phil Foley
SPECIAL WRITER

During all the hoopla celebrating the future of the Rock Financial Showplace there will be a quiet nod to the past. Blair Bowman and Duane E. Bell, as well as all other Novi veterans during the grand opening of the new exhibition center at 6 p.m. Aug. 27. Pohlman and Bell were part of what former NBC Anchor Tom Brokaw dubbed, "the greatest generation."

Bowman, president of TBON, LLC, the owner of the Rock Financial Showplace, first met Pohlman and Bell in the early 1990s when he was opening the Novi Expo Center. "They were two of the founders of the Veterans Alliance of Novi," a group meant to draw together all the veterans organizations in Novi, said Bowman.

"They were incredible guys," said Bowman. "I was very fortunate to meet them. They served veterans very well."

After flying 27 missions as a gunner aboard a B-25 Mitchell Medium Bomber while with the Marine Corps in the Philippines during World War II, Pohlman came home to Novi to raise nine children with his wife, Carolyn.

He also found time to serve on many city committees and belong to several veterans' organizations, including the American Legion's Post 19 in Novi.

In just over two years of military service, Pohlman collected the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with three stars, the Navy Unit Commendation with two stars, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars and a Victory Medal WWII.

Bell began Medical Corps training in Idaho in the closing months of World War II. He served a year at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., before ending his tour as a Hospital Man Second Class aboard the USS Springfield.



Robert J. Pohlman



Duane E. Bell

Coming home to Novi, Bell continued his service as Novi Township treasurer for several years, as well as organizing and leading many Memorial Day parades in the community. Bell served his community as a Novi volunteer firefighter for 19 years, including a time as the city's fire chief.

Bell and his wife, Laree, raised four children. During that time he was involved with Boy Scout Troop 54.

From 1951 until his death two years ago, Bell was active in numerous veterans' organizations, including the AMVETS and American Legion.

Pohlman passed away in 1997, said Bowman.

Before Novi lost the pair, Bowman said he learned a lot from them. When he opened the Novi Expo Center, Bowman provided space for Pohlman and Bell to hold veterans meetings. He said Novi veterans' groups will still have a place to meet in the new Rock Financial Showplace.

To honor the men and all other Novi veterans, Bowman formed a committee to create a memorial at the Rock Financial Showplace. The committee includes Bowman, Novi Mayor Lou Scordas, former Novi Mayor Matthew Quinn, Carolyn Pohlman, Kathy Bond, Alan Bond, Barbara Bowman, Jim Peterson, Tony Lolly, Ray Garcia, Michael Harris and Martin Robackowski.

Last spring the committee dedicated a set of flagpoles in front of the Rock Financial Showplace. Aug. 27 the group will unveil a simple black granite stone from Dixie Cut Marble displaying photographs of Pohlman and Bell.

Robackowski, who has been handling the committee's day-to-day work for Bowman, said the group is working to win Novi architect Lee Marola to create a permanent monument on the site of the temporary stone.

He said the group hasn't settled on a final design, but it will be a place of quiet reflection on the sacrifices of Novi veterans.

tractor involved early in the process. "You win or lose with the planning."

Cunningham-Limp is a privately held design-build firm offering a wide array of services. "We are not just a general contractor," said Kegley.

"They've been great," said Bowman. "It's been a complicated project, no question." Bowman added that Cunningham-Limp's staff "treated the trades very fairly."

White work on the Rock Financial Showplace was supposed to be completed in eight to 10 months, the dispute with Clayco delayed the building's opening.

Rock Financial Showplace, near the corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road, will replace the Novi Expo Center at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue. The expo center began life in the 1960s as a warehouse and office space and just before being converted into an exhibition center was home to a Mohawk distillery.

The new Rock Financial Showplace will be the second largest exhibition hall in Metro Detroit and the largest privately held facility of its type in the state. The new building has 204,000 square feet of exhibition space with ceilings ranging from 13-foot, six-inches to 17 feet, served by 14 loading docks and four grade-level overhead doors.

Unlike its predecessor, the Rock Financial Showplace will feature a 20,000-square-foot ballroom attached to a 6,000-square-foot kitchen. The new facility will also feature wired and wireless technology that connects all parts of the building to each other. Bowman said the new building is not only much larger than the one it replaces, but it's also much more functional.

He said Cunningham-Limp's staff helped improve that functionality. "It's been an interesting project, to say the least."

Kegley said he's looking forward to the building's Aug. 27 grand opening. "I'm going to have a wonderful story to tell my grandchildren," he said.

Phil Foley is a Metro Detroit freelance writer. He can be reached at pfoley@earthlink.net.

Cunningham-Limp called on to finish contractor job

By Phil Foley
SPECIAL WRITER

When work stopped on the soon-to-open Rock Financial Showplace last winter, TBON, LLC turned to Farmington Hills-based Cunningham-Limp to finish the job.

"The project had ground down to a halt, and the deadlines were not changing," said Don Kegley Jr., the company's president.

Kegley's firm had been something of a bridesmaid for the 320,000-square-foot, \$18 million project. The firm came in second against St. Louis, Mo.-based Clayco in the bidding for the original project last year.

Blair Bowman, president of TBON, LLC, said his company selected Clayco, in part, because of its experience with tilt-up construction, a building method that is much more common in the south.

In tilt-up construction, a foundation slab for the building is poured, and then textured concrete panels are cast on site and tilted up into position. It's a method of construction so new to Metro Detroit that Novi's facade ordinance did not contemplate it, and Bowman had to fight for a variance to use the method.

Work on the project began last May, but as the weather cooled so did the relationship between Clayco and TBON, and by the end of January the two had parted ways.

When Cunningham-Limp took over the project, it found a building that was only 30 percent enclosed. However, Kegley said that wasn't as bad as it sounds. The walls were up, but none of the windows had been installed. Kegley said that made for a very cold construction site.

Kegley said the biggest problems facing his firm going into the project was making a list of what had been done and not done and getting organized with the subcontractors on the site. "The learning curve was pretty considerable," he said.

However, Cunningham-Limp had the advantage of having been involved in the bidding process. According to Kegley, it's important for a building owner to get a con-

What's on the menu? Epoch filling plates at new venue

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Paul Hess is excited to be part of the team at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Epoch Restaurant Group is the premier catering service for the new meeting place and event venue in Novi.

Hess, director of operations for Epoch Restaurant Group, said he is really excited what his company will be able to do at the event center.

"Whether it's a bride planning a wedding or an event planner planning a big meeting, our services at Epoch are broad enough to accommodate everyone," Hess said.

"Depending on the event, we'll do anything from a backyard barbecue to a formal gala and everything in between."

Born out of the hotel industry, Epoch Restaurant Group was formed in 1982. Epoch is one of Michigan's most respected restaurant and food service companies, and it owns and operates some of the area's foremost restaurant establishments.

Epoch's first restaurant was a formal dining atmosphere at the former Chez Raphael in Novi. Now the restaurant is known as Too Chez Restaurant.

Epoch had catered past events for the Novi Expo Center,

but Hess said he believes the Rock Financial Showplace will be the new venue of choice.

"We're glad to be part of that," Hess said. "We're going to offer a great alternative to Cobo Hall in Detroit to people who want to stay in the suburbs and specifically do business in Oakland County. Epoch is headquartered in Novi, and Hess said it's great to be close to home."

"Oakland County needed a premier meeting and event venue, and this is a great fit for us," he said.

Epoch has several five-star restaurants, and the company is also the exclusive caterer for the Max Fisher Music Center and the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit along with over 40 other venues throughout the metro Detroit area.

"Our chefs and planners are all very creative," Hess said.



Paul Hess

Wright Museum in Detroit along with over 40 other venues throughout the metro Detroit area.

"Our chefs and planners are all very creative," Hess said.

"They are always presenting new ideas to the clients."

Hess said Epoch's goal, and the goal for the Rock Financial Showplace, is to offer a new experience to everyone who dines in their banquet center and eats their food.

"The event itself becomes part of the conversation at the meeting," he said. "We have the ability to turn a normal business meeting into something very enjoyable and festive."

Hess said Epoch's president and owner, Toni Wisnes-Sabina, has made the company what it is today, and he hopes the transition into the Rock Financial Showplace will only make it better.

Epoch offers a number of options for their guests to choose from and has a deliciously organized menu. From Hickory Char Crusted Strip Steak to Asiago and Mushroom Chicken Breast, diners are bound to leave the Rock Financial Showplace full.

"We definitely believe the Rock Financial Showplace will be the venue of choice for all out-of-town meeting planners and locals," Hess said. "And we're going to make their experience that much better."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at tmishler@ht.homecomm.net.



John Bowen

A GRAND OPENING!

Preview day promises to be fun for the whole family

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Mark your calendars for Saturday!

The grand opening for the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi is almost upon us and judging by the list of performers and activities, it should be a lot of fun.

The theme of the event, which runs from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., is "Celebrate the Experience," and is being billed as a day that's all about community and family.

"Saturday is the grand opening of our new facility," said John Bowen, executive director general counsel of Rock Financial Showplace. "It's free to the public with no parking fees and no admittance fee. We're going to have a few carnival rides indoors, a (Detroit) Pistons display, an interactive display and Rock & Roll K-9's, among many other activities."

An outdoor concert will take place at 6 p.m., with fireworks immediately following. The first 2,000 people will receive hot dogs, chips and beverage.

A complete list of activities include: a Show of Shows, Radio Disney D-Tour and Pop Squad talent search, Detroit Pistons interactive games, Home Depot how-to seminars, carnival rides and moonwalks, interactive arcade games, a classic car show, ceramics, health screenings, demonstrations and competitions from FIRST Robotics, FIRST Lego and Vex.

Special appearances at the event will include: Miss Firecracker and the AM 910 Radio Disney Road Crew, the Detroit Pistons Automation Dance Team, Rock & Roll K-9's, as well as various mascots, clowns and balloon artists and other guests that are yet to be announced.

Scheduled entertainment include Notorious and New Wave Nation, a 1980s cover band.

This Friday, Rock Financial Showplace will host an invitation-only event, designed to showcase the facility. The event begins at 5 p.m., and starting at 7 p.m., a grand opening gala will take place, with proceeds benefiting Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

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SATURDAY'S ACTIVITIES

Activities Sponsored by Rock Financial

- AM 910 Radio Disney D-Tour
- Pop Squad Talent Search
- Detroit Pistons Interactive Games
- Automation Dance Team
- Kids Craft Area
- Face Painting

More Family Activities

- Quilt Unveiling (10 a.m.)
- Carnival Rides (10 - 6 p.m.)
- FIRST Robotics, FIRST Lego and VEX Competitions (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- Rock & Roll K-9s (four shows will call back with times)
- Pepsi Inflatables Games
- Home Depot "How-To" Seminars - (Home Safety, Faux Painting, Kids Workshop for ages 4-12)
- National Guard Humvee
- Themed Boats
- Moonwalk
- Rainbow Recreation Playscapes
- Clowns

Mascots

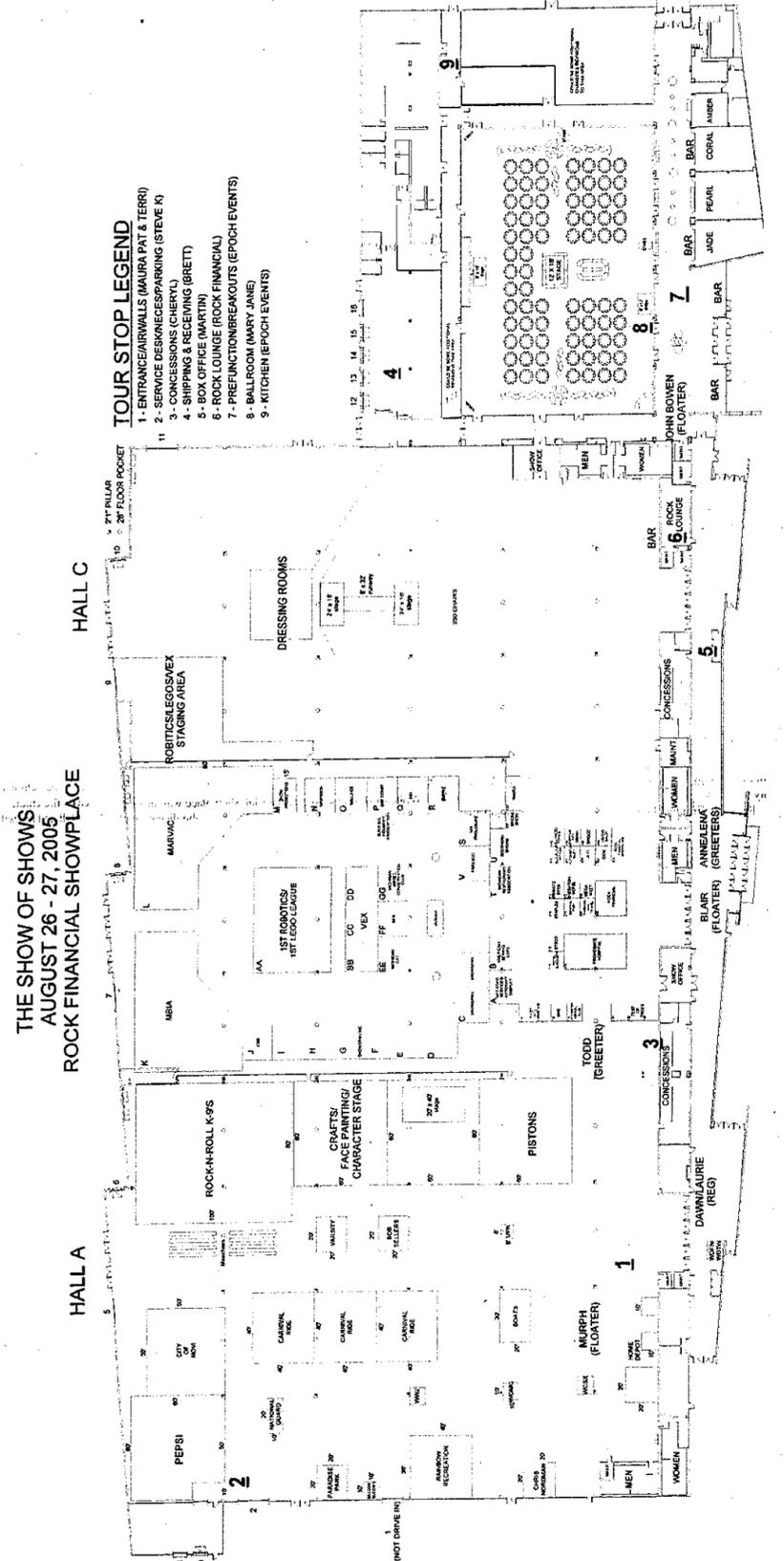
- Novi Fire Engine
- Novi Police Car
- Emergency Medical Services

Showspan Activities

- Fishing Lures to first 500 with fishing license or bring children who fish
- Free four-person fishing charter for winner of tournament fishing challenge simulator by Michigan Charter Fishing Association and Showspan

Veteran's Memorial

- 6 p.m. Dedication - outside in between main expo and banquet center entrances
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Outdoor Concert Notorious (Motown Review)
- 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. New Wave Nation (80s music)
- 9:45 p.m. Fireworks display



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Blair Bowman shakes hands with David Hall after Bowman's Novi Expo Center company announced that they'll be naming their new conference center "Rock Financial Showplace." Hall is senior vice president of Rock Financial.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Rock Financial excited about 'phenomenal partnership'

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

David Hall said a visit to the new Rock Financial Showplace is like walking through eight football fields.

And, the big news is that a few Disney-inspired characters will welcome guests at this weekend's grand opening.

Rock Financial was established in 1985 by Dan Gilbert and is the largest mortgage company in Michigan with more than 3,000 employees.

"We close more home loans than anybody else by far," said David Hall.

Offices are located in Livonia, Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills and Troy.

"We're having some strong activity both on the purchase and the refinance side. The market remains very good for consumers — both homeowners and prospective homeowners. We've been able to help a lot of them, and we certainly appreciate them entrusting in us their biggest financial transaction — which, typically, for most people is their mortgage," Hall said.

"It's been great to help so many folks. We're really fortunate to be having some really nice times right now."

Although mortgage interest rates have increased a little over the last year or so, they are still historically low.

"When you look at any kind of historical chart or trend or data, you'll find that right now you've got an opportunity with where rates are versus almost any other time in history," Hall said.

Partnering with another business for promotional purposes is not a new venture for Rock Financial. The firm is affiliated with the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Detroit Pistons, with the company name exhibiting quite a presence at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

"When we did the Pistons deal, it started out very small, and we built that up over the years. Now, it's a pretty big part of what we do. We like to try to be opportunistic with our business," Hall said.

Hall said joining the Rock Financial name with Novi's new \$18-million-dollar exhibition and conference center seemed like a natural choice.

"We saw this as an opportunity. We know that this is going to be a phenomenal venue and a great place for our clients and our employees as well as millions of consumers," Hall added.

Hall estimated the showplace will attract about a million and a half visitors a year from the U.S. and Canada. Almost 100

events will be scheduled each year, leading to an economic impact of about \$250 million on the area.

"This is just a phenomenal partnership for us and the showplace," Hall said. "I think we can do a lot of great things with it."

Blair Bowman and the staff of the Rock Financial Showplace are working with the Michigan Department of Transportation staff to create signs off of I-96 highlighting the new showplace. Rock Financial's new marquis off of I-96 went up last week.

"I've told all my friends and family that it's good luck to say, 'Rock Financial Showplace,' when they drive by the exit," Hall joked.

Hall said Rock Financial wants to be more than just a marketer, however. The company also wants to integrate itself into the Novi community.

"We're always excited when we can put a deal or a partnership together that's multi-layered or tiered," Hall said. "We like to take on big challenges."

John Bowen of Rock Financial Showplace noted that more companies today are seeking out naming rights opportunities.

He describes the naming rights agreement with Rock Financial as a partnership to brand the facility with a high-quality partner looking for name recognition.

"It gives a partner like them the opportunity to get their name mentioned in association with a facility but also do some direct marketing to the people who attend the events there," Bowen said.

For example, Rock Financial plans to have a lounge at the grand opening this weekend for their guests and customers to stop in and take a break from the "Show of Shows" floor for a while.

Bowen sees Rock Financial's purchase of naming rights as a win-win proposition for both organizations.

"We didn't have a sports team behind us, but we think we provided them with a good value," Bowen said.

Rock Financial will also help promote upcoming events at the showplace, according to Bowen.

"We hope their presence will drive attendance at our events," he said.

Bowen noted that although Rock Financial has purchased naming rights for the facility, other sponsorship opportunities still exist for local companies.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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Rob Casalou

Grand opening to benefit Providence Park Hospital

Expanded facility opens in 2008

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Lewandowski is one person really looking forward to this weekend's Rock Financial Showplace grand opening. The director of the Capital Campaign for Providence Park Hospital in Novi is excited that it has been named the beneficiary of the festivities.

Lewandowski said early this year, Rob Casalou, president of Providence Hospital, was invited to give a presentation to members of Rock Financial Gala Committee on plans for the new Novi hospital.

"They obviously liked what they heard and very generously decided to have us be the charity beneficiary for the weekend's festivities," Lewandowski said.

Providence Park Hospital is actually already a hospital, with six private, inpatient beds currently part of the Novi facility. The Capital Campaign for Providence Park Hospital is the fund-raising arm for the hospital expansion.

Providence Park Hospital — the new full-service facility slated to be completed in July 2008 — represents a \$224 million investment in the Novi community.

A groundbreaking ceremony will take place Oct. 19, according to Lou Martin of Providence Hospital. The ring road on the hospital campus is already being constructed.

The 200-bed expanded facility will feature a larger emergency department; imaging; inpatient and outpatient pediatric service; pediatric unit and pediatric short stay unit; Neuroscience Institute; Musculoskeletal Center of Excellence; and Women's Services area.

Another privately-funded portion of the project, totaling about \$100 million, will include a fitness/wellness center, hotel services and medical office building.

At last count, nearly 600 guests had reserved a ticket for Friday's night's gala with the number expected to increase to about 750 people by Friday.

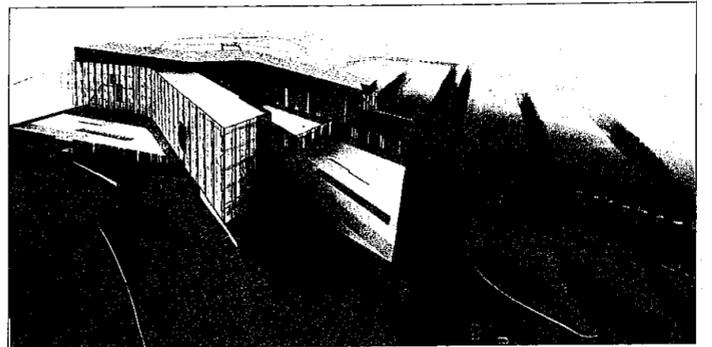
Guests can also make a donation at the Providence Park Hospital's booth on Friday and Saturday.

Donations to the Capital Campaign for Providence Park Hospital may be tax deductible, Lewandowski said.

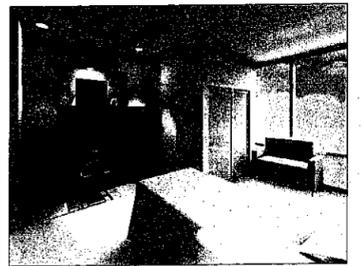
"We're going to be delighted with whatever is raised," he said. "I have a feeling it could be pretty significant, because they're getting some nice sponsorships."

The 2008 Society is a new giving club that Providence Park Hospital has organized to encourage and recognize support for the campaign.

"Any contributor who donates a total of \$2,008 to the



Artist renderings give a hint at what Providence's new hospital (top) and acuity adaptable rooms (below) will look like when the new facility is finished in 2008.



campaign is eligible for membership," Lewandowski said.

A Wall of Honor and reception for Society members will also take place at the time of the hospital's grand opening in 2008.

"Providence Park Hospital appreciates that Rock Financial Showplace has selected our new hospital as the beneficiary of the grand opening activities," Lewandowski said.

"We look forward to opening our hospital in three years and continuing to develop a strong relationship with the Showplace staff and management. We also look forward to

meeting the health care needs of the thousands of visitors and area residents who will attend events at this great facility," he said.

Those who would like to contribute to the Campaign for Providence Park Hospital can do so by calling Lewandowski, campaign director, at (248) 465-4502.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.



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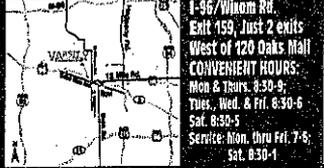
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NOVI Fall Sports

Thursday, August 25, 2005

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B1 Novi News

NOVI



JOHN FAVORITE
FOOTBALL

A.W. STANEK
SOCCER

DIANA TICU
TENNIS

JULIE SCHRAMM
SWIMMING

STEVE FANNON
CROSS COUNTRY

RACHELE FOLINO
BASKETBALL

It's that time of year again and the excitement is popping in the air like bubble wrap under the heels of a five-year-old kid. The Novi Wildcats varsity sports teams are once again packed full of talented athletes who will be on the lookout to help their teams win in any fashion they can.

Novi has always been blessed with some big games in the world of high school sports and this year isn't any different.



Sam Eggleston

Playoff bound again?

The Novi football team will be anchored with a very solid offense featuring the likes of the Carnegie brothers — David and Brandon. Both athletes have college football potential.

John Favorite will be the defensive and offensive monster this year and from Brown's plugging on letting everyone know they should avoid him when he's prowling in the linebacker position.

Steve Fannon will be the ace of the starting quarterback for the Wildcats. His role will have a tendency to bring the offense to life.

Division I college — though she can't sign officially until November. She'll be a tough player to stop this year, but the KVC teams are going to try.

Nicole Stephen has tons of potential and an equal amount of ability. If she can find the groove, Stephen will be a formidable player this year.

Taylor Graybiel may be exactly what the doctor ordered this year as she brings size and talent to the inside. If the Wildcats can find a guard — Stephanie Crawford looks like the leading candidate — then she could find herself getting the ball plenty if she earns some playing time.

Run!

The Novi Wildcats cross-country teams, both the boys and girls, will be using pack times to try and beat opponents in the KVC this year.

Neither team is going to have an easy go on it, but that doesn't mean they aren't going to win. Steve Fannon and Mike Wheat will help the boys out, while Meghan Banhart and Andrea Kramer could prove essential to the girls.

Soccer, anyone?

The soccer team has more talent than any other sports team in the area. They're a true contender.

The '05 is a returning All-Star defender and will be responsible for basically drilling anyone who gets in front of the goal.

Steve Fannon and Mike Wheat will be looking to be the goalkeepers. The Wildcats will have a lot of talent.

The girls' soccer team will also be a contender. They have a lot of talent and will be looking to be a contender.

What a serve!

The tennis team is just stacked with talent. Jim Hanson, the team's coach, had a heck of a time picking his lineup for the singles. Why? His top three girls could easily play one singles.

Avano Nakamura earned the title of first singles player while a hard-working Carly Lyall will play second singles this year. Diana Ticu, the first single player from last year, will play third singles and will most likely dominate in that flight.

Go jump in the pool!

Bill McCord is back after two years away from the swimming and diving team in Novi. He just couldn't stay away.

Add who can blame him? The Wildcats are looking as good as they have in the past four years and have potential enough to send several representatives to the state finals.

Two such athletes are Julie Schramm and diver Amy Glubzinski. They're going to be tough to beat this year.

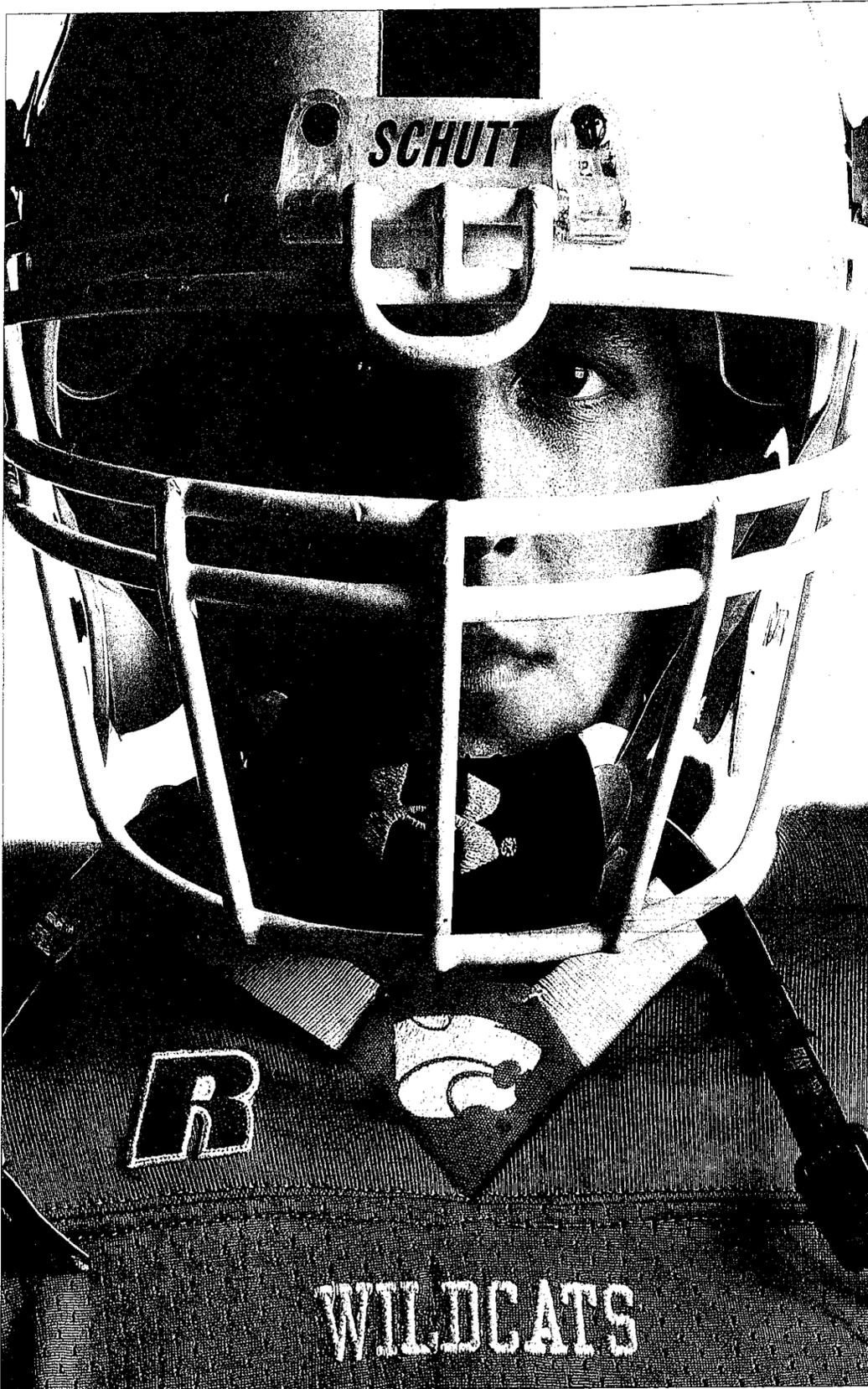
And the best for last!

Which team in the land stands the best chance at a state title?

Most likely the golf team.

Novi still has a lot of youth but so do other teams. The coach, Brad Huss, just can't resist smiling. He's been the state champion just a few years back. He's a great coach and his team will be a contender.

Novi News can be reached at (248) 222-7700. The Novi News website is www.novnews.com.



John Favorite is just one of the players looking to make Novi successful again this year.

Wildcats want another KVC title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Could this be year number six for Tab Kellepourey and the Novi Wildcats football team?

After making the trek to the state finals for the past five-straight seasons, Kellepourey is looking to lead his team against a tough Kensington Valley Conference in hopes of defending their back-to-back league titles and extending their season.

"At the end of the year, after game nine, if we're in a position to make the playoffs then we deserve to be there," Kellepourey said. "We end up with whatever we deserve. For the past five years, we've deserved to be in the playoffs."

This year, of course, the Wildcats don't quite have the names of years past. Instead, they'll be looking to players like senior quarterback Steve Hart and senior offensive and defensive starter

John Favorite to lead the way. The Carnegie brothers, Brandon and David, are expected to have strong years. Brandon Cooke, Tom Spisich and Dan Sprys are also expected to turn out strong performances this year.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Wildcats are replacing practically their entire line-up, including five linemen. The defensive side of the ball has a few familiar faces, such as linebacker John Brown, but will also change according to the strengths the team possesses.

Though there are plenty of starting spots secured by strong players like Eric Zhao and Ryan Fugurski, the Wildcats still have plenty of shuffling they have to do.

"There are other guys that are still being worked into positions," Kellepourey said. "We'll always be looking at kids on a week-to-week basis and evaluate them on a daily basis."

Novi will be looking to secure a victory in their opening game Saturday, taking on powerful

Chelsea in the opening game at Eastern Michigan University at 7:30 p.m. The game is a part of the four-contest Big Day Prep Showdown.

"We want to go into the opening game and get it taken care of with a victory," Kellepourey said. "From that point on, the league will be our next point of contention. We believe we have to be in a position to win that league."

But it won't be easy. South Lyon, Milford and Brighton all will be looking to take the top spot this season.

"This year there are some very good teams out there," Kellepourey said. "We have always believed that we have to out hit, outrun and out condition our opponents from week to week, win or loss."

"That's what we have to do again this year if we want to win the KVC again."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

"We have always believed that we have to out hit, outrun and out condition our opponents from week to week, win or loss. That's what we have to do again this year if we want to win the KVC again."

Tab Kellepourey
Novi Football Coach



Novi's Rachele Folino will look to be the top player on the team this year, but KVC defenses will be aiming to shut her shooting down in every game.

Novi cagers need leadership, guard this year

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Bill Kelp, winning in girls basketball this season will require more than just a few good jump shots. He needs leadership, strong guards and unselfishness on his squad.

"I think we're in pretty good shape," he said of the above. "I think right now we just have to come together as a team and have our seniors be leaders. Hopefully we can do that while outworking other teams and winning as many games as we can."

The Wildcats have plenty of notable presence on the court this year. Rachele Folino has committed to a Division I college and is expected to sign this November while fellow senior captain Nicole Stephen has the ability to play at the collegiate level if she desired. Hope Morris and Jessie Gasiorok, both seniors, are the other team captains while Lisa Harden and Katelyn Tuck are the team's other seniors.

The junior class screams talent as well with Stephanie Crawford fighting for the starting point guard position and Kristine Chalkos, Amanda Diacono and Taylor Grybicki all expecting playing time. The sophomore class includes potential point guard Jamie Fratto as well as Amanda Harden and Paige Jaer while freshman Chantel Hill could possibly vie for the point guard position.

The biggest gap from last year's team - which won the first-ever district game for Kelp - is the loss of point guard Jessica Haggerty to graduation. With her went leadership and ball handling ability.

"I think Stephanie Crawford can definitely be that leader on the court," Kelp said. "The final third of last year she could have easily been a starter but a broken wrist this summer slowed her down quite a bit. We need her to get back where she was."

The Kensington Valley Conference won't be a cake-walk for the Wildcats as they go in the hunt for a title. Brighton, Howell and Pincakey look to be the strongest teams in the KVC while Milford, Lakeland and Hartland shouldn't be discounted.

Of course, Novi expects to be counted as one of the upper-tier teams as well.

"I think if we can come together we can compete," Kelp said. "I think we've shown that the last two years. We have a chance to be up in that mix, but it depends on the girls."

Novi is more athletic and quicker than they were last year and will be looking for their guards to be able to score as well as find the post players. Though Folino will be expected to lead on the scoreboard, Kelp said the other teams in the KVC aren't going to stand back and just let her shoot.

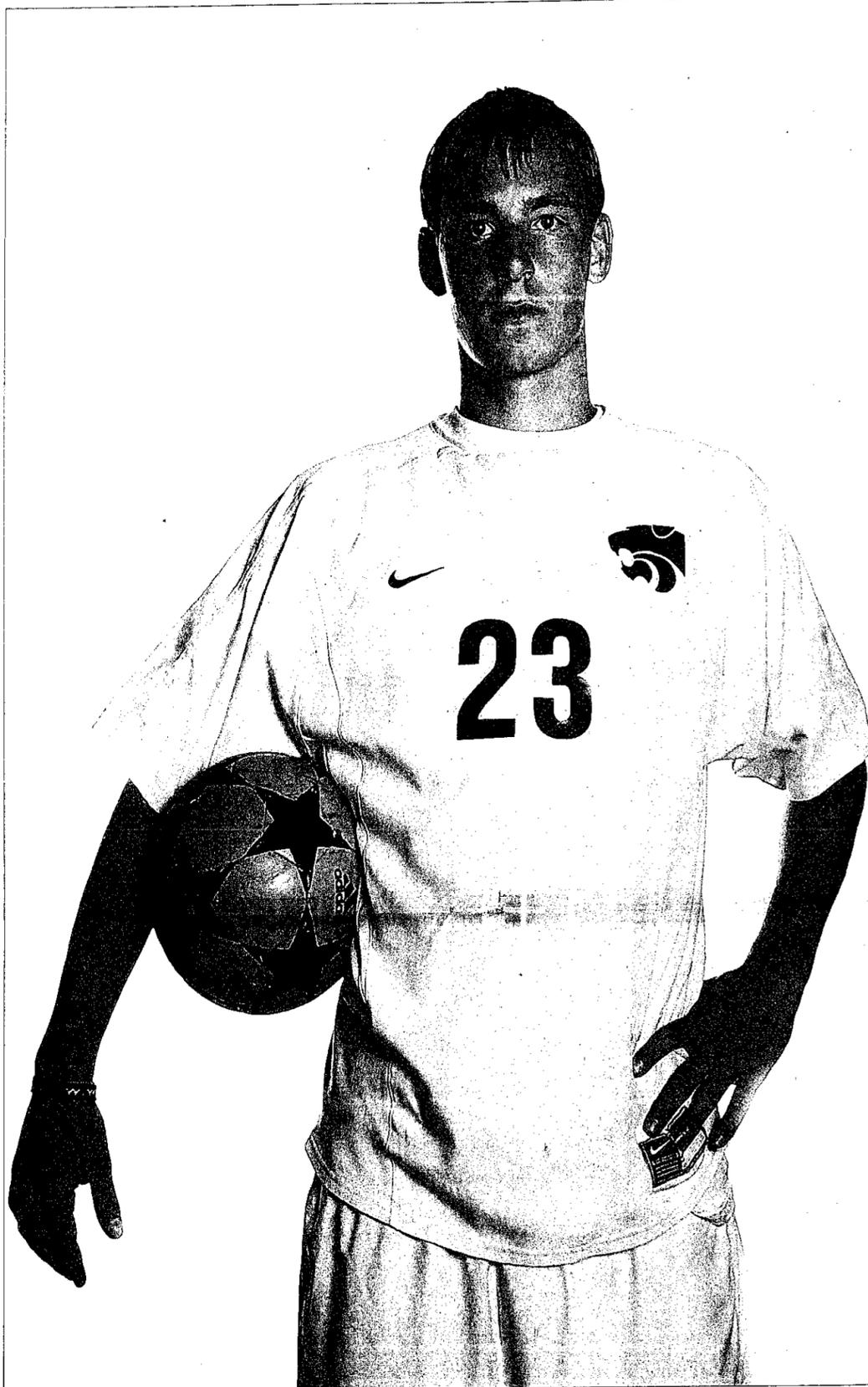
"I think everyone in the KVC plays good defense," he said. "They know she's a good player and they're going to try and take her out of the game as much as possible. We're going to need our other players to step up and beat them."

And what about stopping the other team from scoring? "We pride ourselves on our defense," Kelp said. "It's been successful so far and we want to definitely keep that going."

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"I think everyone in the KVC plays good defense. They know she's (Folino) a good player and they're going to try and take her out of the game as much as possible. We're going to need our other players to step up and beat them."

Bill Kelp
Novi Basketball Coach



A.W. Stanek (pictured) along with All-State returning player Trey Love will be expected to help lead the Novi Wildcats in the hunt for a KVC title this year.

Novi soccer team has high expectations this year

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Brian O'Leary isn't pulling any punches with his boys soccer team — he expects a lot out of them this year.

The squad, which was 13-3-5 last year overall and 10-1-3 in the Kensington Valley Conference, graduated seven players last year with only three being starters.

That means this year's team not only has plenty of experience, but heavy goals to try and reach.

"This year we have high expectations because we have so many returning starters and many seniors," O'Leary said.

The most notable on the team is Trey Love, a third-team All-State selection his junior year who is known for his ability to cover just about any player on the field.

"Trey will mark the other team's best forward and is the best I have ever coached at shutting down star forwards," O'Leary said. "Last season games against Northville and Livonia Stevenson, he held first-team All-State forwards without a shot on goal."

Another big name on the defensive end of the ball will be Matt Crawford, a four-year varsity player. Senior sweeper David Deighton looks to have earned a starting spot as well with plenty of substitute defenders coming aboard in senior Shane Bultong and juniors Robert Parkins, hunter Robertson, Corlan White, Joel Bowser and Jamie Blaszcak.

The strong midfield will be led by senior captain and four-year starter A.W. Stanek.

"He's the complete package," said O'Leary. "Strong on the ball, good dribbler and passer, good in the air and he can play both a finesse game and a physical game."

Other starters in the midfield will be Hiroki Yamada, Todd Janer and Dan Beal. Substitutes include juniors Adam Ballantyne and Steve Kim. Vying for backup spots are senior Dan Matheny and juniors Patrick Halfey, Robby Park and Tony Berry.

But, like with every team, it's the scorers who will most likely get the glory this year. Seniors Marc Checcebelli and Matt Simpson will look to lead

Novi with goals this year.

"Marc has been on varsity for four years and last year he was plagued by an ankle injury," said O'Leary. "Matt was the leading scorer on last year's team."

Looking for backup roles are senior Brad Close, junior Ryan Carter and sophomore Matt Messerant. Filling the biggest shoes left voided by graduation is junior Sean Simney in goal.

"Sean is a very rangy goalie with good athleticism that did a great job for an underleaved JV team last year that only allowed nine goals," O'Leary said. "He should do a great job replacing A.J. Glabinski."

The Wildcats head into the season with two goals — winning the KVC and to win districts.

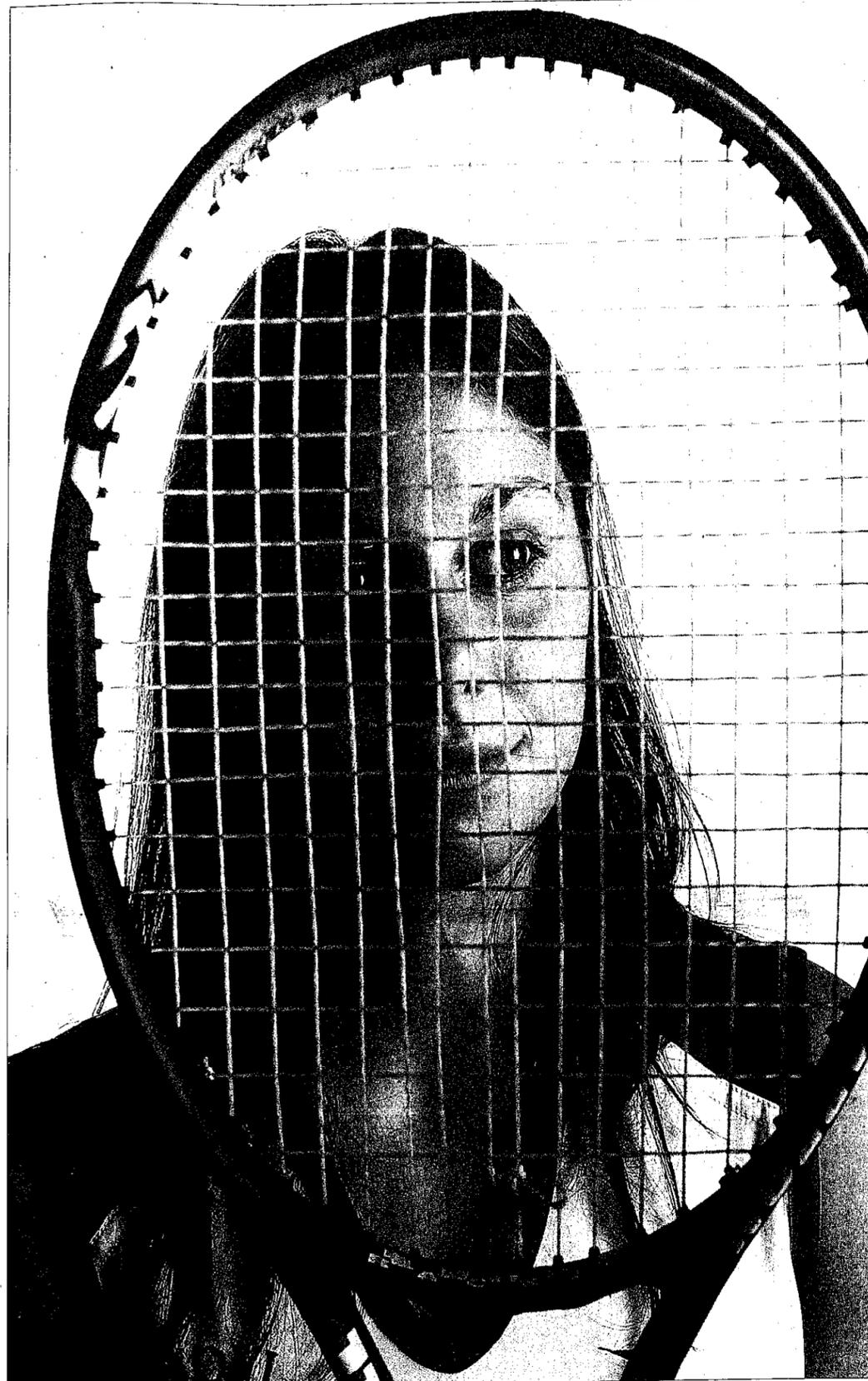
"(Winning the KVC) will be a difficult task with many teams in the league looking very good," O'Leary said.

Brighton, Lakeland, Hartland and Howell look to battle for the top spot along with Novi, who finished second in the conference last year.

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"Trey (Love) will mark the other team's best forward and is the best I have ever coached at shutting down star forwards. Last season games against Northville and Livonia Stevenson, he held first-team All-State forwards without a shot on goal."

Brian O'Leary
Novi Soccer Coach



Diana Ticu may be playing third singles this year, but coach Jim Hanson said she, Carly Lyall and Ayano Nakamura are some of most talented he's ever coached.

'Cats tennis full of depth, talented players

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

What's in a conference title? Hard work, dedication and determination — plus plenty of talent.

Jim Hanson knows what it takes to win a Kensington Valley Conference title. He and the Novi Wildcats girls tennis team have won eight straight, with five being outright championships and the other three being co-championships.

"It's always been Novi and Brighton," said Hanson. "This year probably won't be any different."

"There are some up-and-coming teams in the conference, but it's most likely going to come down to our two teams again."

And the Wildcats are hoping they have the lineup to get it done.

At first singles will be the energetic Ayano Nakamura, a senior who has worked through the summer to improve her game. At two singles is Carly Lyall, a junior with speed and agility.

The Wildcats will also have seniors Ruchira Srinivasakrishnan, Sarah Jones, Annie Sen, Margaret Chang and Jennifer Wang seeing some playing time as well.

"You can put those three in a hat and pull them out," Hanson said of his line-up. "They're that good. All three of them are very talented players."

At four singles will be freshman Jenn Felcher.

This year, Hanson said, his single flights are as strong as they have been for him throughout his career.

The doubles teams are talented as well. Amanda Brandemihl, a senior, and Allison Yec, a junior, will play one doubles while sophomore Jackie Wang and senior Siwei Wang will play two doubles.

At third doubles will be Samantha Caldwell, who was a four-single KVC champion last year, and Bindu Manyam. Both are seniors.

The fourth doubles flight will be seniors Cassie Gordon and Melinda Hur.

Playing in fifth doubles and fighting for fourth doubles time will be juniors Jessica Thimm, Brittany Wornack, Lauren Fontanive and Libby Schulte.

"This is my largest team ever. Our seniors have been in the program for three or four years each and they deserve to be in the lineup. At most schools in the conference they'd be starting."

The Wildcats will aim to win their conference yet again while keeping their eye on a tough regional that put three teams in the state finals last year — not including Novi.

"It's the toughest regional in the state from top to bottom," said Hanson.

"Our goal is to win the KVC and then win the regional. If we don't we want to finish in the top two at the regional and if we don't do that we want to score 18 points."

"We want to make a return trip to the state finals this year. That's our ultimate goal."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

Jim Hanson
Novi Tennis Coach



Fall/Winter Leagues

September 2005-March 2006

Team Registrations

- 18 & Over B - Tuesdays
- 18 & Over C - Fridays
- 18 & Over D - Sundays
- 30 & Over B - Wednesdays
- 30 & Over C - Thursdays

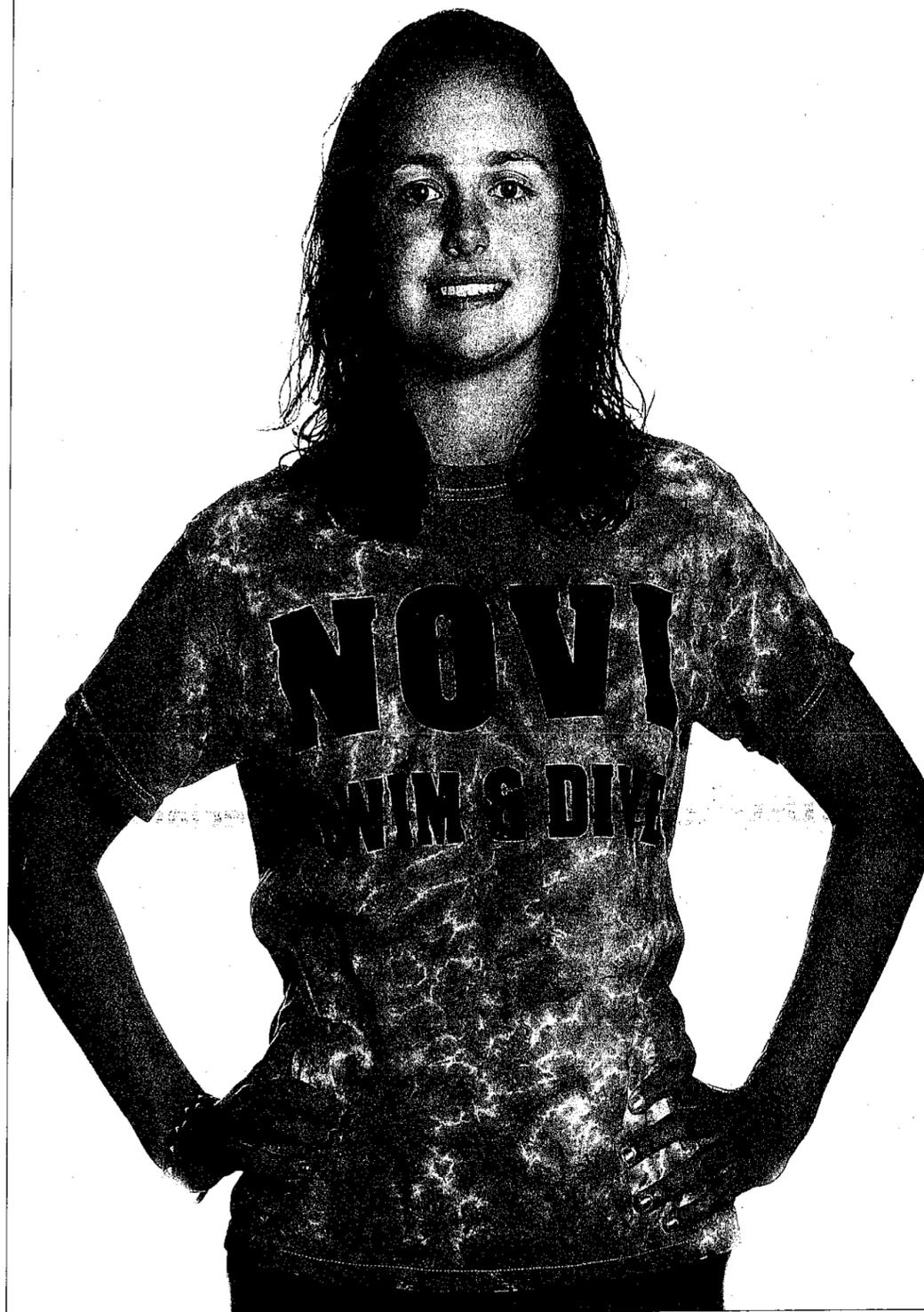
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Novi Wildcats swimmer Julie Schramm is expected to be one of the top tankers on the swimming and diving team this year.

Tankers aim high for conference, state finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

With 55 athletes on the swimming and diving roster and a goal to send a representative to the state finals, Novi coach Bill McCord is going to have a busy year back.

McCord, who was the swim coach for several years before leaving on a two-year hiatus and then returning this year, said the Wildcats have big goals.

"Our team goals include sending representatives to the state meet, contending for top places at the KVC meet and significant improvement for all of our athletes," he said.

The Wildcats will have their hands full during their quest to reach their goals. Standing in the way of their KVC goals alone will be defending league champion Brighton as well as tough Howell and Pinckney teams. Though the league meet is just a year old, there's already plenty of hype surrounding the championship. Swimmers have already set school records and made state cuts at

the highly competitive showdown and the Wildcats are eager to get in on that kind of action.

Their state goals, however, may be a lot closer than the lofty dream sounds.

"We have two returning athletes who just missed state cuts last year, diver Amy Glubzinski and backstroke Julie Schramm," McCord said. "Freshman Kerry Abel comes into our program having achieved times below state cuts as an age-group swimmer at the Livonia Bentley Bulldogs. We also expect to field state cut caliber relays."

The Wildcats will use their strengths in their quality freestyle swimmers and their strong underclassmen core to help them this year while looking to overcome the challenge of having to build a strong team in a short time due to no true year-round swim program in the area.

The Novi tankers will have a strong corps of divers to add to their swimming team thanks to the return of veteran coach Larry Teahan, who will be looking to add depth to that portion of the squad.

"We'll have to work hard and work smart," McCord said.

The Wildcats haven't had much time to showcase their talents, but McCord said he's satisfied with what he's witnessed.

"I'm very happy with what I've seen so far," he said. "Good attendance, good focus and quality work."

Novi's squad has just a few faces McCord recognizes from a few years ago. The Wildcats are as enthusiastic as they were back then.

Though the team has lofty goals this year and a tough conference to try and achieve them in, McCord said he's expecting some very good things from his team.

Of course, many of the tankers are expecting very good things from themselves as well.

With an old face back as coach, a pool they have adjusted to and a team eager to showcase their talents in the Kensington Valley Conference, there's no doubt that this is a year of possibility for the Novi Wildcats.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

"Our team goals include sending representatives to the state meet, contending for top places at the KVC meet and significant improvement for all of our athletes."

Bill McCord
Novi Swimming and Diving Coach



Steve Fannon is a second-year captain for the Novi Wildcats boys cross country team and will be trying to earn a place for himself in the pack.

Harriers will use pack in KVC title hunt

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When Novi cross country coach Robert Smith had two back-to-back strong seasons, he was told by a peer that he still had something to prove.

Two seasons of great running meant a coach had a good team. It took four solid years to have a program.

"Well, we're working on year eight," Smith said. "I think we're recognized in that group now."

As they should be. The Novi Wildcats have been a strong competitor as long as any current member of the Kensington Valley Conference varsity teams have been running in high school.

Novi, however, took one of the biggest hits in the conference due to graduation along with Milford and Pinckney.

"Everybody took a graduation toll," said Smith. "Especially the top three."

The Wildcats are far from weak though. After scoring 24 points in their scrimmage against

Northville Monday, the team showed they are to once again be considered serious competition.

"They'll just be using a slightly different strategy—the pack."

"That's going to be our strong suit, I hope," Smith said. "It's always good to have a front runner, but it's fine with me if our pack is in front."

The Wildcats don't have much of a gap between their top runner and their fifth runner at this point in the season.

Leading the Novi harriers will be the five captains: Steve Fannon, Alex Prasad, Scott Wagner, Mike Wheat and Ricky Manza. Seniors on the team include Fannon, Peter Andrews and Bobby Watts.

The junior class features Mike Beard, Evan Danielsen, Kenny MacDonough, Manza, Prasad, Matt Morrison, Pat Shvader, Wagner and Wheat. Running for the sophomores will be Jim Brunner, Alfredo Cateriano, Aaron Croad, Henry He, Bryan Ornes, Michael Place, Aditya Sahi and Ruixiao Zuo.

The freshmen class is well represented with

Lukas Barnes, Andrew Burkhardt, Thomas Butler, Jacob Carlless, Erick Delacruz, Justin Farooq, Yusuke Haga, Jeremy Hefje, Chris Kelley, Bradley Lonfay, Ryan Potocky, Zach Rothermel and Thomas Szczyciel.

"We have 34 kids, which is exactly identical to last year's numbers," Smith said.

Pack times are more than just a racing strategy for the Wildcats this year. Smith said they have added benefit too.

"I see more of a mental benefit than I do a racing strategy," he said. "I like to see pack running for the physiological rewards. There's always comfort in a pack mentality."

And with comfort comes success. Novi, as always, is eyeing the KVC title.

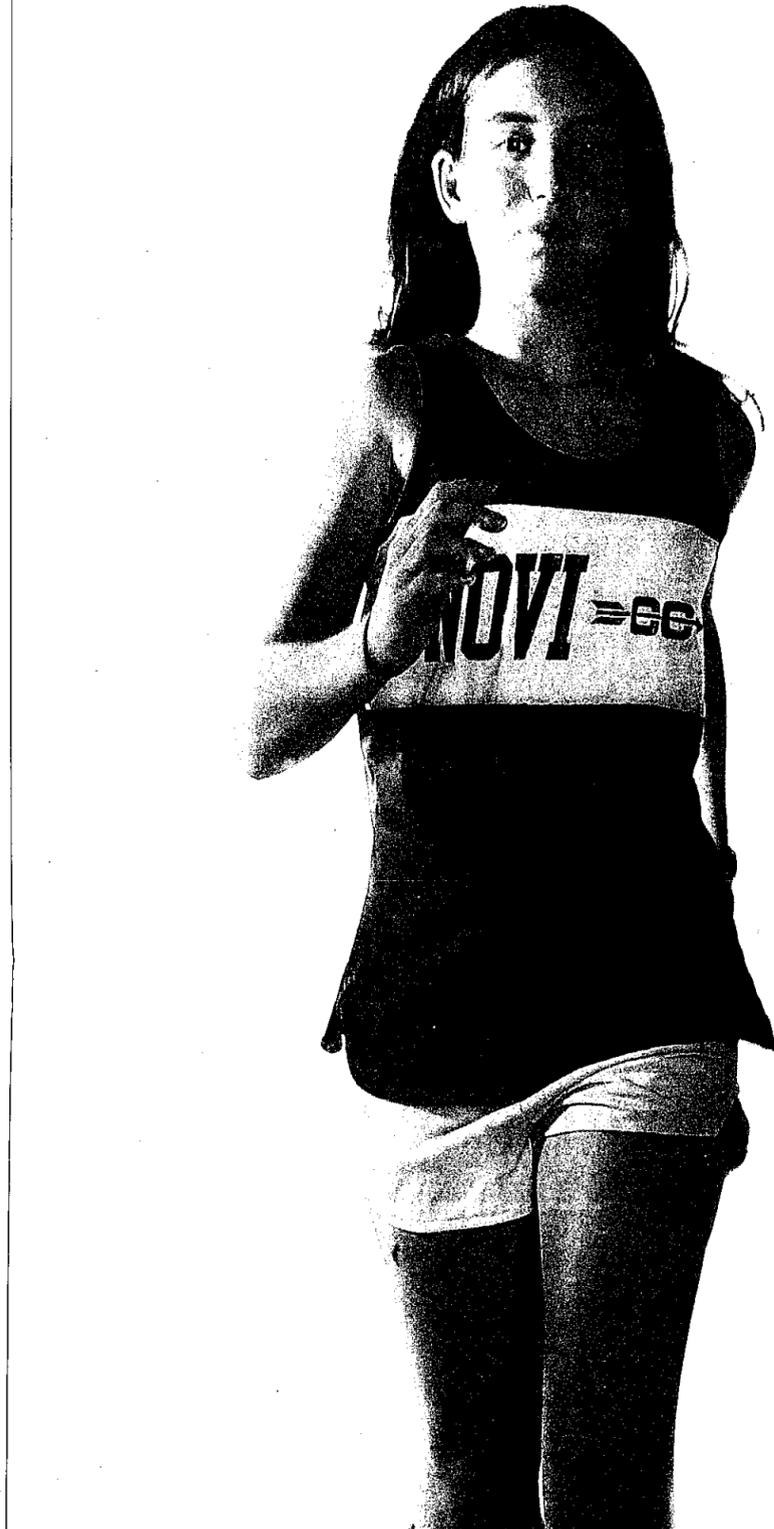
"We're not going to concede to anybody," Smith said. "We're not going to let anyone just have a meet. They're going to have to earn it if they want to beat us."

Robert Smith
Novi Boys Cross Country Coach

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"I see more of a mental benefit than I do a racing strategy I like to see pack running for the physiological rewards. There's always comfort in a pack mentality."

Robert Smith
Novi Boys Cross Country Coach



Novi harrier Meghann Bannatz will try to stay ahead of the competition while leading the pack.

Novi to make use of scrappy demeanor

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's not easy being part of the Kensington Valley Conference cross country ranks, especially when Brighton and Milford are still hanging around.

Marsha Reid, a first-year girls cross country coach who also coaches track and field at Novi, knows it's not going to be easy in any dual meet her team runs. That doesn't mean the Wildcats aren't going to try.

"The KVC is going to be the same as usual," Reid said. "You've got to expect Brighton and Milford without a doubt. Pinckney is coming along too."

The Wildcats will focus on keeping a close pack time to help make up for the fact that they don't boast any so-called superstars to lead them. Instead, they are going to work on their transition from one coach in the veteran and recently retired Norm Norgren to Reid.

Norgren had a very established program with Novi always being a very scrappy group," Reid said. "I plan on trying to continue being that type of

group while making progress as the season goes on."

Last year the Wildcats made the trek to the state finals as a team after a surprise performance in the regional meet. Reid said she'd like to see her group make the trek again.

"I'd like to have this group get back to the regional and attempt to qualify for the state again," she said. "I'd like to build that type of consistency through hard work."

As a first-year coach in the harrier circles, Reid made a point of learning just how competitive the Kensington Valley Conference actually is. She did a little research and found out that it's as tough as people have always said it was.

"It's interesting because if you go and compare us to teams in Macomb County or other areas, we'd place a lot higher," she said. "It's basically that way in any county once you get away from the KVC."

The Wildcats have plenty of numbers to choose from this year. Meghann Bannatz will be expected to be a leader with the squad's times while leading up a strong pack.

Other runners include: Alina Brudner, Andrea Kramer, Becky Hoen, Camille Press, Colleen Wagner, Connie Jeng, Dana Grabowski, Denise Rowe, Emily Barton, Emily Grybowski, Erica Howard, Erica Teevens, Erin Haynes, Kasey Denoyer, Katie Harris, Katy Wagner, Kayla Auletto, Kelli Brown, Kerrie Burt, Kristin Lonsway, Lainey Sekutowski, Lauren Perlin, Leah Rice, Lillian Xiao, Lindsay Teevens, Meghan Sutika, Melanie Burchard, Michelle Fernandez, Nashit Islam, Niki Woodruff, Rachel Burris, Rachel Murray, Rose Xie, Sarah Barton, Shannon Sparrow, Shannon Wagner, Stefanie D'Cruz, Laura Sheeran and Katie and Kelly Flannagan.

This year, much like in seasons past, the girls cross country team won't be boasting any captains. Instead, all the seniors will be asked to be leaders.

"We've got a great group of seniors," Reid said. "It's great that we have all of them to be leaders on this team."

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Marsha Reid
Novi Girls Cross Country Coach

"It's interesting because if you go and compare us to teams in Macomb County or other areas, we'd place a lot higher. It's basically that way in any county once you get away from the KVC."

Marsha Reid
Novi Girls Cross Country Coach

Shamrocks want to get back on winning track

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Last year was a fluke, plain and simple. The Catholic Central Shamrocks were on a streak, to say the least, with over 20 years of making the playoffs. Then, last year, that streak ended.

So what's the plan this year? Start a new streak, of course.

"I've been very happy with how hard everyone has been working," said veteran coach Tom Mach. "We've been lifting weights since the winter and running. There has been a lot of enthusiasm and that carried over to our camps and our twice-a-day workouts."

And hopefully that enthusiasm will carry over to the first game, which is tomorrow.

The Shamrocks are scheduled to take on Toledo Central Catholic, an up-and-coming team from Ohio.

"They're good," Mach admitted. "We have some game film on them and watched them scrimmage."

The Shamrocks don't plan on being denied. This is the year they hope to get their program back on track, especially since they have a home field for the first time in school history.

Mach said he expects it's going to be a special event for his squad and the school.

"I think it's going to be a sold out game," he said. "We've had so much support from our alumni and everyone is going to want to come to our first game on our own field."

Catholic Central is hoping to showcase the same kind of game play that has made them so formidable in the past. They'll run a smash-mouth style of offense, passing when they need to but utilizing a heavy running game.

On the defensive end of the ball, the Shamrocks will stick to their 5-2, applying a hard pressure of five down linemen with a nose tackle.

"Not a lot of teams do that anymore," said Mach about his five lineman front. "It allows us to pressure without blitzing players. We don't just go forward either, we go left and right and make them move with us."

The Shamrocks will not only play their first-

over home game, but it's the first ever game Catholic Central will have ever hosted with the lights on.

"It's our first home game under the Friday night lights," Mach said. "The team is very excited."

And with over 80 kids on the team, there's plenty of excitement to go around — just not much room.

Mach said having that many kids on the team is a blessing and a curse. He's not complaining though. The Shamrocks have plenty of depth, talent and desire to make this season successful.

"We'd like to do well in the central division and then compete for the Catholic League championship," Mach said. "If we can do that then we will most likely make the playoffs."

"Once we're there, we'll try and go as far as we can and if we're lucky enough to make it to the end we're going to try for a state championship."

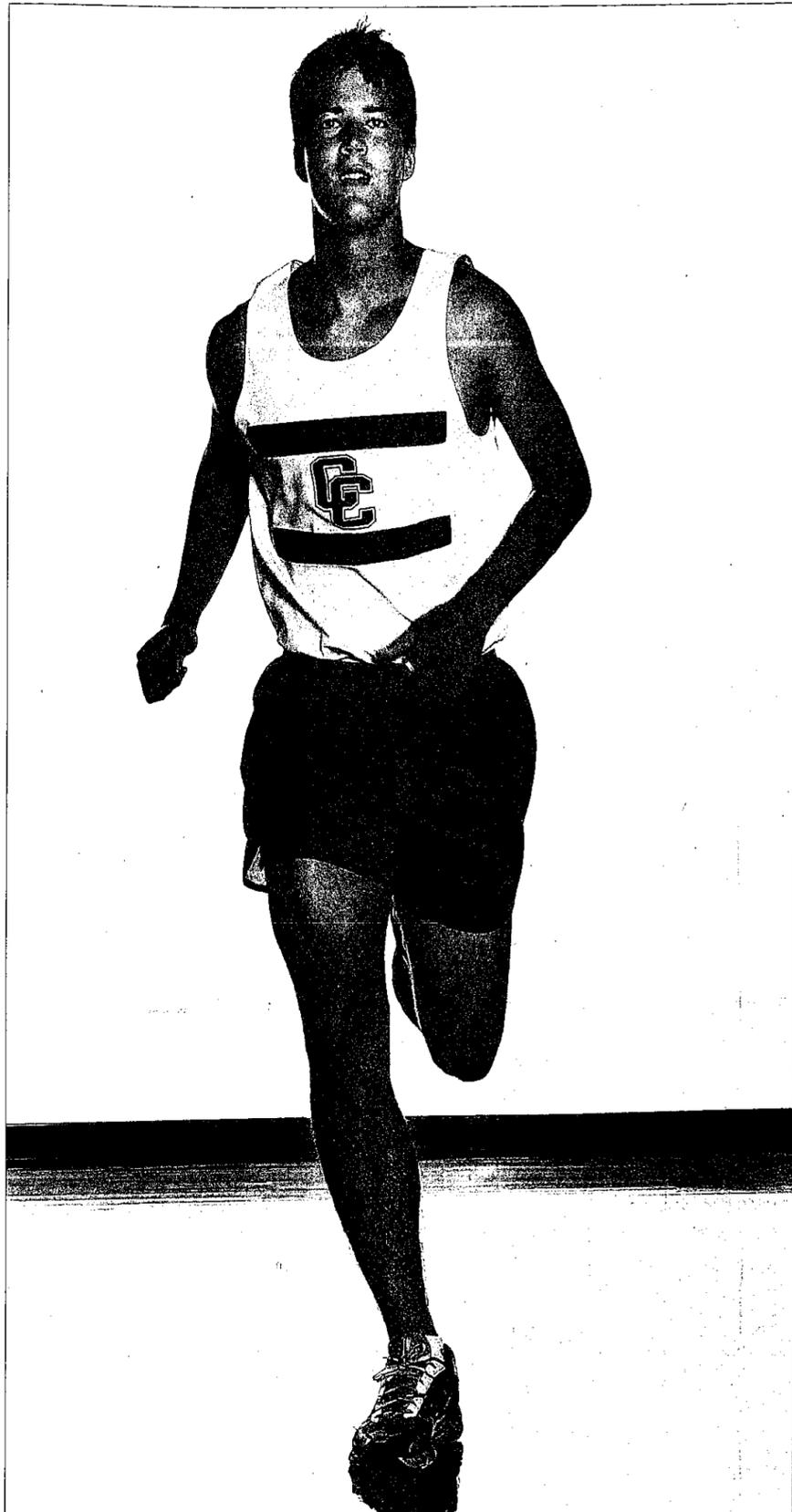
"I've been very happy with how hard everyone has been working. We've been lifting weights since the winter and running. There has been a lot of enthusiasm and that carried over to our camps and our twice-a-day workouts."

Tom Mach
Catholic Central Football Coach

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Catholic Central fall sports schedule

Football				Golf			
Varsity				Varsity			
8/26	Toledo Central Catholic	Home	7 p.m.	8-22	East Lansing Classic	Forest Akers	7 a.m.
9/3	Landon Catholic Central	Home	7 p.m.	8-23	Brighton	Oak Pointe	8:30 a.m.
9/9	Notre Dame Prep	Away	7:45 p.m.	8-26	Pinckney Invitational	Rush Lake	8 a.m.
9/18	Brother Rice — BOYS' BOWL	Ford Field	1 p.m.	8-29	Brother Rice	Away	4 p.m.
9/24	University of Detroit Jesuit	Keyworth Stadium	7 p.m.	9-1	DeLaSalle	Cattails	4 p.m.
10/1	Orchard Lake St. Mary's	Home	7 p.m.	9-8	U of D Jesuit	Cattails	4 p.m.
10/7	Saginaw	Home	7 p.m.	9-12	Divine Child	Away	4 p.m.
10/14	DeLaSalle	Away	7 p.m.	9-19	Brother Rice	Cattails	4 p.m.
10-22	Prep Bowl	Ford Field	TBA	9-22	DeLaSalle	Away	4 p.m.
				9-26	University of Detroit Jesuit	Away	4 p.m.
				9-29	Divine Child	Cattails	4 p.m.
				10-4	CHSL Championship		
				10-6-8	MHSAA Regionals		
				10-14-15	MHSAA Championship		
Junior Varsity				JV			
8-27	Toledo Central Catholic	Away	1 p.m.	8-22	Brother Rice	Brae Burn	4 p.m.
9-1	Grand Ledge	Home	8 p.m.	8-25	Divine Child	Brae Burn	4 p.m.
9-8	OPEN			8-29	University of Detroit Jesuit	Away	4 p.m.
9-19	Brother Rice	Away	4 p.m.	9-1	Orchard Lake St. Mary's	Brae Burn	4 p.m.
9-26	University of Detroit Jesuit	Home	7 p.m.	9-8	DeLaSalle	Away	4 p.m.
10-3	Orchard Lake St. Mary's	Away	4 p.m.	9-12	Brother Rice	Away	4 p.m.
10-8	Saginaw	Away	1 p.m.	9-15	Divine Child	Away	4 p.m.
10-17	DeLaSalle	Home	7 p.m.	9-19	University of Detroit Jesuit	Brae Burn	4 p.m.
				9-26	Notre Dame Prep	Away	4 p.m.
Freshmen				Soccer			
8-25	OPEN						
9-1	Toledo Central Catholic	Home	5:30 p.m.				
9-8	OPEN						
9-17	Brother Rice	Away	10 a.m.				
9-24	University of Detroit Jesuit	Home	10 a.m.				
10-1	Orchard Lake St. Mary's	Away	10 a.m.				
10-6	Carlton Airport	Away	4:30 p.m.				
10-15	DeLaSalle	Home	10 a.m.				
10-20	Belleville	Home	7 p.m.				
Cross Country							
9-2	Time Trial-Kensington		2 p.m.				
9-10	West Bloomfield Invitational-Kensington		10:30 a.m.				
9-17	Holly HS Invitational-Springfield Oaks		12:50 p.m.				
9-19	DeLaSalle-Cass Benton Park		4:15 p.m.				
9-24	Catholic Central Invitational-Cass Benton Park		11:30 a.m.				
9-26	Orchard Lake St. Mary's-TBA		4:15 p.m.				
10-1	Haslett HS Invitational-Haslett High School		11 a.m.				
10-3	Brother Rice-Cass Benton Park		4:15 p.m.				
10-4	John Glenn 9-10th Grade Invitational-John Glenn HS		TBA				
10-8	JV Oakland County Championship-TBA		TBA				
10-10	University of Detroit Jesuit-Cass Benton Park		4:15 p.m.				
10-15	Sturgis HS Invitational-Sturgis High School		TBA				
10-15	JV AA Gabriel Richard Invitational-Hudson-Mills		TBA				
10-17	Brother Rice 9-10th Grade Invitational-Marsbank		4:30 p.m.				
10-22	CHSL Championship-Stony Creek		TBA				
10-25	Operation Friendship-TBA		TBA				
10-25	Centerline 9-10th Grade Invitational-Centerline HS		4 p.m.				
10-28	Redford Union Open Championship-Cass Benton		4 p.m.				
10-29	MHSAA Regional-TBA		TBA				
11-1	Whitelake Lakeland 9-10th Grade Inv-Lakeland HS		4 p.m.				
11-5	MHSAA Final-MIS - Jackson		TBA				



Michael Nienhaus is hoping to be a key member of the cross country team that take Catholic Central back to the state finals this year.

Harriers want to be state finals bound again

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Catholic Central boys cross country team isn't going to let one little bad year bother them. The squad, coached by Tony Magni, didn't make the state finals last year after a string of over two decades of making the track.

"I think they don't want to let that happen again," said Magni. "We finished fourth in the regional last year and missed going. I told them the only way to not have that feeling again is to be ready to go in the fall."

And the boys are definitely ready to go. The Shamrocks will be led by some powerful runners who are hoping to utilize an impressive pack time to earn victories.

Seniors on the team — who are all captains for Magni — that will be competing for the top spots on the team are David Champine, A.J. Huber, Jason Morad, Michael Nienhaus and Russel Zarras.

Juniors who have the ability to race near the

top of the team are Adam Gasior, Ryan Draheim and Garrett Lucas while sophomores Zachary Oleski and Mike Aja have the ability to find themselves helping the Shamrocks to victory this year.

Even freshman Alex Toloff — the cousin of Novi's Chris Toloff who helped the Wildcats to make the state finals last year — will be vying for face time with the very talented squad.

"We don't have one of those superstar runners on the team this year," said Magni. "I think we can bunch up really good though, which will make us a better team."

The Shamrocks will be trying to keep their pack close together while drafting behind a lead runner. They'll have plenty of practice this year, running in the very competitive Catholic League.

Goals for this season are not only to compete in the Catholic League for the title, but to have a strong showing and make the state finals once again.

"If we can do that, our goal is to finish in the

top 10 in the state," Magni noted.

The off-season workouts by the seniors and some other members of the team have helped considerably. Of course, the regional is full of teams with strong runners who work through the off-season.

"We're in a very tough regional," said Magni. "Churchill, Novi, Salem and Northville are all very tough teams. Two of the top 10 teams last year were from our regional alone."

The Shamrocks aren't going to be deterred though. They are going to try and earn titles every step of the way.

Brother Rice and U of D will be the teams to beat in the league. Catholic Central won it three years ago, Brother Rice took it two years ago and U of D was last year's champ.

"It's always us three for the past 15 or 20 years," Magni said. "It's our turn to win again this year."

"We're in a very tough regional. Churchill, Novi, Salem and Northville are all very tough teams. Two of the top 10 teams last year were from our regional alone."

Tony Magni
Catholic Central Cross Country Coach

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Brian Walsh will be aiming to be a solid wall in goal this season as the Shamrocks get in the hunt for another district title and a berth into the Catholic League championships.

'Rocks return plenty of experience

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The good thing about playing in one of the toughest leagues in the state is the fact that it makes you that much better for the postseason.

Just ask Catholic Central coach Joe Nora. "Playing in our conference definitely helps us learn a lot," he said. "When you play teams like De LaSalle twice a year, it really helps when the district comes."

The Shamrocks showed that last year, winning their district. From that team they only graduated seven seniors — all contributing members.

This year, Catholic Central has two senior captains and three other seniors who will be expected to help lead the 'Rocks.

Captains are goalie Brian Walsh and midfielder Skyler Dum. Seniors include midfielder Pat McChesney, forward Chris Pruitt and defender Matt Duprie.

Juniors rostered this year are midfielders Andy

Leonard, Brian Hale and Dan Smith as well as defenders Kellen Miglio, Scott Schriener, Steve Nemes, Pat Nemes and John Farmer. Junior forward Bret Driscoll and goalie Dan Rozek will fight for playing time this year as well.

The Shamrock's sophomores are defender Brad Smith, midfielders Matt Bessexen and Andy Parsons and forward Nick Peltan while forward Joey Krizanek and midfielder Nick Kirsbock are the team's freshmen representatives.

The goals for this year's team range from small to big. The largest goal handed out by the squad is to chase after a state title, while the smaller goals include becoming a close-knit team as soon as possible and progressing throughout the season.

Nora said he'd like to see his team make it to the Catholic League playoffs and then as far as they can into the district tournament and beyond.

Of course, they have some stiff competition in the league to keep them busy until then. "They're all tough," Nora said. "De LaSalle is

tough every year and Brother Rice always puts together a real good team. U of D won the state title three or four years ago and Divine Child was just great last year.

"There aren't any easy games for us. We just beat up on each other all season."

Leadership is going to be key this season and Nora said he's happy with what he's seen from both his captain and the other three seniors.

"Our five seniors have really done a good job of setting the tone so far in practice," he said. "Everyone has followed."

"The great thing about this team is they all really love soccer. It's not just so they can be out there to play, but because they really love the sport. They're out there competing for starting spots and just trying to get better. They're really soccer junkies."

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Joe Nora
Catholic Central Soccer Coach

"The great thing about this team is they all really love soccer. It's not just so they can be out there to play, but because they really love the sport. They're out there competing for starting spots and just trying to get better. They're really soccer junkies."



Catholic Central's Dave Dwyer will help the Shamrocks in their goal to be a top-10 team in the state this year.

Golfers aim for top 10 in state

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Bill Hayes doesn't claim to have the best team in the state, but he sure doesn't mind saying he's got one of the best players.

Adam Hogue, a senior for the Catholic Central Shamrocks, is widely considered one of the top players in the state this season and he's hoping to prove it. Of course, along the way, it doesn't hurt helping his team to a top-10 finish in the state either.

Hayes said he expects his team could be in every match they play.

"I think we're going to be pretty competitive," he said. "I think we have the potential to be top 10 anyway."

But the goal is just a little higher than that. Hayes said top five would be ideal, but he's not about to make any predictions.

The Shamrocks may be blessed with one of the

best players, but even without him for the first two matches of the season the team was doing well.

The players who are competing for the top spots on the team include seniors Hogue, Brian King, Adam Dubois, Dave Dwyer, Ron Bonatz and Colin Fitzgerald along with sophomore Mike Murray.

The Shamrocks will be looking to play well during the regular season before setting their sights on the post-season. They have high hopes for the Catholic League, which is expected to be tough once again this year.

"It's always been very competitive amongst the schools," Hayes noted. "From what I hear, DeLaSalle and Brother Rice are going to be pretty tough."

The Catholic League has some of the toughest teams in the state, qualifying four in Division I competition for the state finals last year.

"That's pretty good," Hayes laughed. "Though Hogue wasn't playing in the early weeks of the season — a eligibility question that has since

been cleared up — the 'Rocks have had a strong start."

Hayes said it's good for the other players to take to the links without Hogue to lead the way.

"It gives our team a chance to look and see that they're pretty good even without Adam," he said. "I felt bad for Adam because he wasn't able to play, but he's ready to go now."

Aid ready to go are the rest of the Shamrocks as well. Led by a potentially top-three player in the state, the Catholic Central squad will use their experience and depth to earn some victories.

Hayes said his squad, which plays at South Lyon's Cat Tails Golf Course for home-course advantage, will need to work on self-esteem.

"They need to believe in themselves and how far they can go," he said. "They're still green in some areas."

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"It gives our team a chance to look and see that they're pretty good even without Adam (Hogue). I felt bad for Adam because he wasn't able to play, but he's ready to go now."

Bill Hayes
CC Golf Coach

NOVI Fall Sports

Thursday, August 25, 2005

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B1 Novi News

CATHOLIC CENTRAL 'ROCKS!



This is whole new ground for the Novi News, but we're looking forward to it.

Back in the day the sports department here used to cover four high schools with Novi, Northville, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Western.

The coverage narrowed about two and a half years ago to just Novi and Northville. Then, Catholic Central came to town.

There has always been talk about the school in the sports circles. They recruit; they don't recruit. Blah, blah, blah.

In the end, they're a private school that gets some really good athletes. But it's more than that. It's a private school that works hard.

Shams or Rocks?

Definitely the latter.

The CC football team went on for over 20 years of learning winning seasons. That means they've had quite the legacy.



Sam Eggleston

Anyone who follows the sport knows of their ability and anyone who plays it would rather not meet up with the Shamrocks in the postseason — it usually means their season is coming to a very quick end.

The Shamrocks didn't make a playoff appearance last year, going 4-5 after some disappointing losses. This year's team has one thing to say: It was a fluke.

Watch for the Shamrocks to once again be a powerhouse this year. The kids have been working hard, lifting weights and running in the off season. They're fired up to have their own home field and a school to play at.

This could be one heck of a year for the Shamrocks.

Running for Keeps

The Catholic Central boys' sports team is kind of in the same boat as the girls' team. Last year was the final year for the boys' team to make the state finals.

The girls' team missed out on the regional last year and this year wants to make it even better through hard work and determination.

Some of the girls' team will still play for the state this year, but they're looking forward to the state finals.

Swinging for top 10

The CC golf team has some serious talent. Even minus their top player — Adam Hogue — the squad managed to fare very, very well in two tournaments.

Bill Hayes, the team's coach, couldn't be happier. That means now that Hogue is back, his squad is going to be that much better.

A top 10 finish would be nice for the Shamrocks, but they're capable of doing even better when the state finals roll around. Of course, they've got a long season still ahead of them and they'll be wanting to win quite a few of those matches as well.

Soccer studs

The Shamrocks graduated seven contributing seniors last year but have plenty of talent that has stepped up to fill those shoes.

The defending district champions will have to work through one of the toughest leagues around as they fight to finish high in the Catholic League championship and then on to the playoffs once again.

This team is anchored by a strong goalie in Brian Walsh and are hoping to let everyone know that Catholic Central is a team to be reckoned with again this year.

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