



Thomas, Brother Rice get past rival Detroit Catholic Central

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Seniors ready to move into long-awaited Lockwood of Lyon senior living facility

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Opal Marquis, 99, should be moving into her new home in Lyon Township next month, to the relief of both her and her daughter.

Debbie Marquis, a Salem Township resident, has been anxiously awaiting the opening of the Lockwood of Lyon senior living community so her independent-minded mom, who currently lives in a Westland senior community, can be only three miles away.

"Mom is 99—a good 99, but I need her closer," Debbie said. "I discovered they were building there in 2020. I called right away. I was very hopeful for (an opening in) 2021, then the fall of 2021 and then the spring of 2022."

Lockwood of Lyon, which features 130 apartment units in a single three-story building on 16.5 acres at 20905 Pontiac Trail, north of Eight Mile Road, was approved by the township board almost four years ago, in June 2019.

The approximately 158,000-square-foot independent senior living facility will consist of 70 one-bedroom apartments and 60 two-bedroom units, with amenities including a beauty shop, fitness center, theater, large central great hall, and activity rooms.

Occupancy was originally expected two years ago, but PIRHL development project manager Graham Welling said pandemic-related issues with obtaining materials and labor have delayed construction.

However, he has good news: Final unit inspections and final finishes with painting, carpentry and light fixture installations are being done now, with construction expected to wrap up by the end of this month.

"We will have the first move-ins in March or April, but most likely March," Welling said. "There are no other hold-ups, obviously inquiring minds want to know. We just had the delays everybody had."

Lockwood of Lyon already has more than half the units spoken for, with Welling noting there is a high demand for senior living and affordable housing everywhere.

See SENIORS, Page 6A



A crew works at the Sakura Novi site. A groundbreaking is planned for spring for the mixed-use development off Grand River Avenue. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Groundbreaking set for spring for Sakura Novi development

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — Development is expected to begin this spring on a Novi project half a decade in the making.

The Sakura Novi development, a mixed-use Asian-themed center planned between Grand River Avenue and 11 Mile and east of the Novi Town

Center shopping plaza, should break ground this spring. The project has changed plenty since it was first proposed in 2018.

One of the first restaurants to locate in the new Asian-themed development will bring a taste of Korean barbecue.

The Dancing Pine Korean Steakhouse will locate in the development's restaurant section. The restaurant plans to serve Asian-influenced dishes

such as steaks, hot pots, poke, sushi and baked goods. It will serve as the development's restaurant anchor tenant and will be owned by Seven York Inc., which owns other restaurants such as Kimchi Box, Dae Jang Keum, Tomo Sushi, The Seoul and more.

"The Sakura Novi project has a lot of energy and excitement. It was the

See SAKURA NOVI, Page 6A

Trial set for Morrow in White Lake murders

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PONTIAC — Steven Morrow is accused of committing an armed robbery just days before he allegedly robbed and killed two Highland Township residents last spring.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Ricardo Polanco argued during a Feb. 1 pre-trial hearing that the alleged earlier armed robbery

shows motive and intent in the murders of Cameron Duckworth, 20, and Drake Mancuso, 16, on May 20 and should be admissible in Morrow's trial later this month. He noted Morrow, of Highland Township, had allegedly obtained a gun from the same person for use in the earlier armed robbery and in the May 20 murders.

"We believe motive is always rele-



Morrow

vant, and also the intent of the defendant," Polanco told Oakland County Circuit Court Judge David Cohen.

Defense attorney Steven Lynch disagreed, citing that the jury might believe "he did it before, he must have done it again... My position is that this is an attempt to further cast Mr. Morrow in a negative light and steer away from the real issue at hand, felony murder and armed robbery in this case."

See MURDERS, Page 6A

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Farmington Hills native Sam LaLonde with a team of sled dogs. LaLonde works in Two Rivers, Alaska, as a musher. COURTESY OF SAM LALONDE



Cross Fox Photography
Brandon A. Griffis

LaLonde said her favorite part of mushing is spending time and building bonds with her team of dogs. COURTESY OF CROSS FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

Farmington Hills native trains her 'pack' for sled dog races across Alaska

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sam LaLonde is a dog person.

Her favorite part of being a musher isn't the competition — it's building a one-of-a-kind relationship with her team of Alaskan huskies.

"I just absolutely fell in love with the dogs and building such an incredible bond with them," she said. "You're working with them every single day, running with them, training with them and giving them all the love. It's become such an obsession for every single musher I know."

The 27-year-old Farmington Hills Harrison High School graduate moved to Alaska in 2019 to pursue mushing full-time after experiencing the sport as a student at Northern Michigan Univer-

"I just absolutely fell in love with the dogs and building such an incredible bond with them. You're working with them every single day, running with them, training with them and giving them all the love."

Sam LaLonde

sity in Marquette. She works at Ryno Kennel in Two Rivers, Alaska, as a musher and handler, training 31 dogs. LaLonde also owns two dogs, one of which she's training as a sled dog.

She hopes to race the famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in the next couple years and expects mushing will be a

lasting hobby for her.

"The dogs' love for it is so addicting," she said. "It transfers over to you. It's a wonderful life, as cheesy as that sounds."

LaLonde competed in the Yukon Quest race, that goes from Fairbanks to Central.

"I have a younger team of dogs, so we're just going to take it nice and easy," she said. "We just want them to have that race experience and have fun doing it."

Mushers are required to let their dogs rest for at least 10 hours at each checkpoint. Because she has a younger team, LaLonde expects to do some camping as well. At all times, she will have bags equipped with food, snacks and booties for the dogs.

"Once we get out on the trail, it's quiet and it's just us," she said. "You get

really intuitive with the dogs, so I'm constantly watching their tracks and gaits. I'm also just talking to them. We're just out there having fun ... You become in tune with them more than you would with your pet dog."

LaLonde said races can be as grueling as they are enjoyable. In Alaska, winter temperatures can drop to 60 degrees below zero. She said they won't train in that kind of weather, but there's little she can do when those harsh conditions happen during a race.

Gratefully, she's learned being in the harness and running seems natural for the dogs, even in the cold.

"It is a 'pack,' but we don't use that word often," she said. "We're all just a big family."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby_tankk.



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Focal Point celebrates 50 years of business in downtown Farmington

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not hard to see why Focal Point has stayed in business for so long.

Michele Jakacki and Marisa Miller, the two sisters who run the business, might be the two friendliest people you'll ever meet. It must not be hard to keep people smiling with their wisecracks and the familial feel their studio exudes.

"These two are so admired, not only by people in the community but by clients that come in," said Sarah Mitchell, a photographer who's been with the business since she was a student. "It's like they're celebrities."

"They're so gracious and kind to the community and treat their clients like family."

The studio has been at its current spot downtown since 1987 but first opened its doors in 1973. Focal Point also opened a studio in Plymouth in 1991.

Focal Point is celebrating its 50th year in business in 2023, a feat few small businesses achieve. The studio will honor its staff at a banquet and is offering 50% off family portrait sessions as well as \$50 off the order cost all year long.

The sisters love Farmington, and from the sound of it, Farmington loves them back.

A business centered on students

"Did you really graduate from FPS if you didn't have your senior pictures taken by Focal Point?" said Farmington Hills resident Eddie Bellamy.

Focal Point targets most of its marketing toward high school seniors, betting on the idea that they'll have a good experience and come back when they get married, have kids, celebrate anniversaries and, eventually, have their own high school senior.

One such customer is Farmington Mayor Sara Bowman. Bowman had her senior photo taken at Focal Point in 1991,



The three faces of Focal Point today, from left, Marisa Miller, Michele Jakacki and Sarah Mitchell. COURTESY OF FOCAL POINT

and she has returned again and again.

"I have had more portraits from Focal Point over the years than I can count," she said. "Starting with my senior picture in 1991, to my council portrait in 2015, to most of my son's South Farmington Baseball pictures to his graduation picture in 2020, and all way through to my parents' 50th wedding anniversary portrait taken last year. They are the best."

Jakacki, general manager of the studio, said photographing seniors is one of the most gratifying parts of the job.

"A lot of the high school senior girls are so insecure," she said. "They all feel self-conscious of how they look and they never feel like they're pretty enough. So, when a mom says to me that we made her daughter feel good about herself, that's a reward."

One resident said that's exactly the

effect Focal Point had on her daughter.

"The photographers had a way to bring her out of her shell, and to make her feel beautiful and confident," said Andrea Gligora Brooke. "Watching her get her pictures done was just making me cry as her mom, because they made her feel so good and you can see that in every picture."

See FOCAL POINT, Page 5A



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A photo by Focal Point founder Jerzi Jakacki that won a Kodak Gallery Award. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOCAL POINT



Jakacki, center, poses with two Livonia Stevenson cheerleaders.

Focal Point

Continued from Page 4A

Always willing to try something new

When Jakacki's late husband, Jerzi, opened Focal Point in 1973, he wanted to create ways for fresh, young eyes to get behind the lens. The studio has always had an internship program for students as young as 16.

"We've always relied on our spark-plugs to come in and ignite us because we've been in the industry for so long," Miller, director of photography, said. "I think that's what's kept us open. We

bring the fresh ideas in, and we're not afraid to learn at our age."

True to that ethos, Focal Point was one of the first studios in the United States to adopt digital photography. Kodak chose them to help pioneer the format in the late 1990s because of their studio size and skill.

"Our peers said, 'Oh, that's a fad. I don't know why you guys are investing in digital. That's going to come and go,'" Miller said. "We took those arrows in our backs, and we pioneered it in the local area."

Being there for life's big moments

Miller guesses that Focal Point has photographed between 1,200 and 1,500 weddings. She said they've redone brides' hairdos and even loaned their own jewelry to people.

Jakacki remembers offering to reshoot a wedding ceremony after the lens used on the day of the wedding failed.

"The bride and groom were really upset at first," she said. "But when the actual day came, we had so much fun because there was no rush. It was just a party day of pictures. The bride and groom were so thrilled, and we ended up photographing everyone in the bridal party's weddings."

The studio has also been there to capture times when people felt a need to come together.

"When 9/11 happened, families got so close," Miller said. "Families found a need to grab their posse and get themselves photographed."

"A huge family came in, and their son worked in New York at the World Trade Center. That morning, his buddy had begged him to grab breakfast and go late to work. So he missed it. They flew him in, and the first thing they did was come here for a picture."

They say their studio is like a family, too. It's clear the sisters love their staff, and they have gratitude for the way Farmington has always been there for them.

"Farmington has been so gracious and loyal," Jakacki said. "It's just home."

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Saint John's Resort unveils \$40M facelift

Laura Colvin

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH TWP. - *It's absolutely gorgeous.*

Those were the words of Ethan Zink, who was attending a conference on mental health last month at Saint John's Resort. Formerly known as The Inn at Saint John's, the establishment has undergone a \$40 million rebranding transformation over the past year.

"They did a fantastic job opening up the space so you get really good natural light," said Zink, who was attending the event as director of clinical outreach at Charlie Health. "It's beautiful, and it's very conducive to walking around and engaging with other people. It's a wonderful place for an event. Ideal."

Located at 44045 Five Mile Road, the property first came to life as Saint John's Seminary in 1948, operating for 40 years before closing in 1988. The site was revitalized and opened as Saint John's Golf and Conference Center in 2000, followed by the Inn at Saint John's in 2006.

In 2021, the Archdiocese of Detroit sold the property. It is now owned by the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, which also owns and operates the Inn at Stonecliffe on Mackinac Island.

Fresh face, new space

The \$40 million makeover begins in the hotel lobby, which features everything from new furniture, chandeliers and carpets to stately new bell carts. New art, with many pieces imported from Barcelona, lines the walls of every corridor.

The hotel guestrooms were renovated in 2018. This year, each of the guestroom bathrooms received a makeover, as well, including new deep soaking tubs and double showers in the presidential and ambassador suites, and glass-and-marble showers in standard rooms.

The property's 48,000-square-foot conference center has also undergone a transformation, with the addition of new paint, wallpaper, furniture, chandeliers, carpet and other amenities to each of the four ballrooms. Each also



The Grand Ballroom is one of four ballrooms at Saint John's Resort in Plymouth Township. COURTESY OF SAINT JOHN'S RESORT

features natural light.

Fadi Sibani, director of sales and marketing at Saint John's Resort, said about 250 weddings are held each year at the venue. That number is expected to increase to 350 when the new Monarch Ballroom opens late this year, doubling the event space.

"There's nothing else like it in Michigan," Sibani said, noting the space will accommodate about 1,500 people and will feature a 17,000-square-foot ballroom, three skylights and a 200-foot movable glass wall, along with a similar-sized courtyard with fire pits, lounge seating, water fountains and gardens. "It will be absolutely stunning."

Currently, he added, weddings are typically booked a year in advance, with most coming through referrals or word of mouth.

"We have everything you need right here," he said. "Once you're on the property, you have the guest rooms, the res-

taurant, the chapel, the ballrooms, the bridal suite, it's all here."

During the week, the ballrooms and other spaces are used for meetings, conferences, galas and other events.

A new speakeasy wine bar called The Grotto is also under construction, and a two-story spa is in the early planning phase. A new 18-hole championship golf course with a 3,000-square-foot patio and an outside kitchen and bar is also under construction at the property.

Profits to charity

Sibani said he has a long history of working in hospitality but particularly enjoys the mission of Saint John's Resort under the ownership of the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. The foundation was created by the Pulte family to honor the legacy of Pulte Homes founder Bill Pulte.


"It's a beautiful place," he said. "The

team is incredible. The management is amazing. The ownership is absolutely amazing as well. It's a wonderful place to work."


"One hundred percent of profits (from the resort) go to charities," he added. "When the Archdiocese of Detroit decided to sell the property, the (Pulte family) knew it would be perfect opportunity to honor their father. They purchased it and began to make it into an incredible place where people want to have their events, people want to have their galas, their weddings, and in return use all that profit to donate to the charities they support."

According to its website, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation supports humanitarian initiatives of nearly 200 nonprofit organizations and educational institutions in the U.S. and globally.

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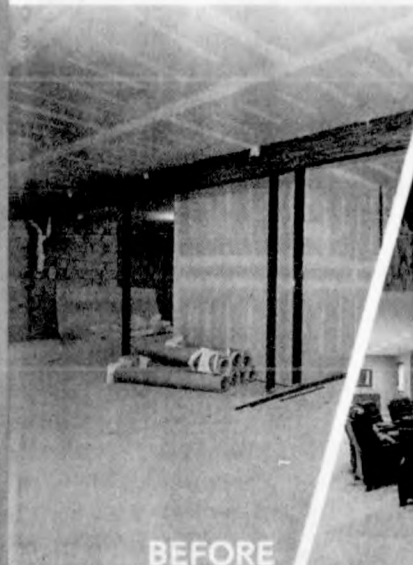

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SPORTS

Thomas, Brother Rice get past rival Catholic Central

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Keep your head up.

That's that message Xavier Thomas heard from a few teammates during a timeout break Friday night.

It was a slow start for the No. 2 Brother Rice boys basketball team. Some of that had to do with a handful of players still recovering from illnesses. The other part had to do with who the Warriors were playing.

That would be rival Detroit Catholic Central, which had a solid opening quarter, thanks to TJ Nadeau hitting a big 3-pointer, Uchenna Amene making two big shots and DJ Lee scoring as well. And that effort carried over into the next period with Lee and Nadeau putting the Shamrocks ahead by a basket.

Yes, believe it or not, Brother Rice seniors Curtis Williams (Louisville) and John Blackwell (Wisconsin) are human. In fact, the two combined for a whopping three points through the opening 10 minutes.

Brother Rice coach Rick Palmer quickly called timeout to rally the troops.

CC was the only team to beat Brother Rice twice a year ago, and one of those losses was on the same home floor that they were playing on.

The Warriors needed some kind of a spark — or a wake-up call — or else they were on the verge of being upset again.

And then Thomas heard it.

"The bench is what got me in the game," the senior said. "They told me to keep my head up and everything. They made sure my head was up. They said don't put your head down and kept encouraging me.

"They kept telling me to keep fighting and everything."

The Toledo signee, who is 1/3 of Palmer's "Big 3" set of seniors alongside Williams and Blackwell, went to work.

Thomas scored eight straight in the second quarter, all while battling in the post and drawing trips to the foul line.

His effort helped Brother Rice keep pace with the Shamrocks until the Warriors finally took the lead once and for all.

And then Williams and Blackwell



Brother Rice's Xavier Thomas scores down low during a Catholic League-Central boys basketball game Friday, Feb. 3, 2023. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Westfield Prep outlasts Country Day in potential state final matchup

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

No one was as upset as Shanya Reid.

The Redford Westfield Prep senior led an incredible comeback in the third quarter. She scored the final 12 of the 20 points her girls basketball team totaled in the period, which included her burying a 3-pointer with 38 seconds remaining to knot the score at 45 and give the Warriors some mojo entering the fourth.

Except, two possessions into the final quarter, Reid picked up her fourth foul. Coach Doc Cornell had no choice but to bench her. She was going to be needed for crunch time — or potentially overtime.

That saw Reid leave the floor in a rage, as she even kicked a shoe that was left next to her team's bench. And then she found a seat on top of a basketball storage bin about 10 feet behind her team.

She had nothing but her own frustration to deal with back there.

Of course, she would be angry. No one could fault her for the way she responded in that moment. It was Westfield Prep vs. Detroit Country Day. Both of these teams are expected to go far in the playoffs. In fact, if both teams win out, they'll actually meet each other in the Division 2 state championship at the Breslin Center.

That's not out of the realm of possibility. The Yellowjackets have gone to back-to-back final fours. If it wasn't for facing Detroit Edison, last year's state champion, Westfield Prep probably would have made it to Michigan State as well.

So there Reid sat, for almost half of the fourth quarter, waiting to go back in.

And with 4:29 remaining, Cornell subbed her back onto the floor. And she made the most of the opportunity.

See MATCHUP, Page 2B

How deep is Hartland wrestling?

Backup Eagle wins KLAAs championship

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — It's a test of patience for a wrestler when he's stuck backing up a state runner-up his first two years and a two-time all-stater his third.

All the while, Hartland junior Jacob Pretzel prepared like everyone else in one of Michigan's premier programs, even with no guarantee his moment would come until maybe next season.

When Pretzel's opportunity finally came Saturday, he was ready to seize it.

In a testament to the depth of Hartland's team and Pretzel's perseverance, he went from junior varsity kid who was a backup on the varsity to conference champion in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association tournament at

Howell High School.

Pretzel won the 215-pound championship by pinning Brighton's Sean O'Keefe in 4 minutes, 28 seconds.

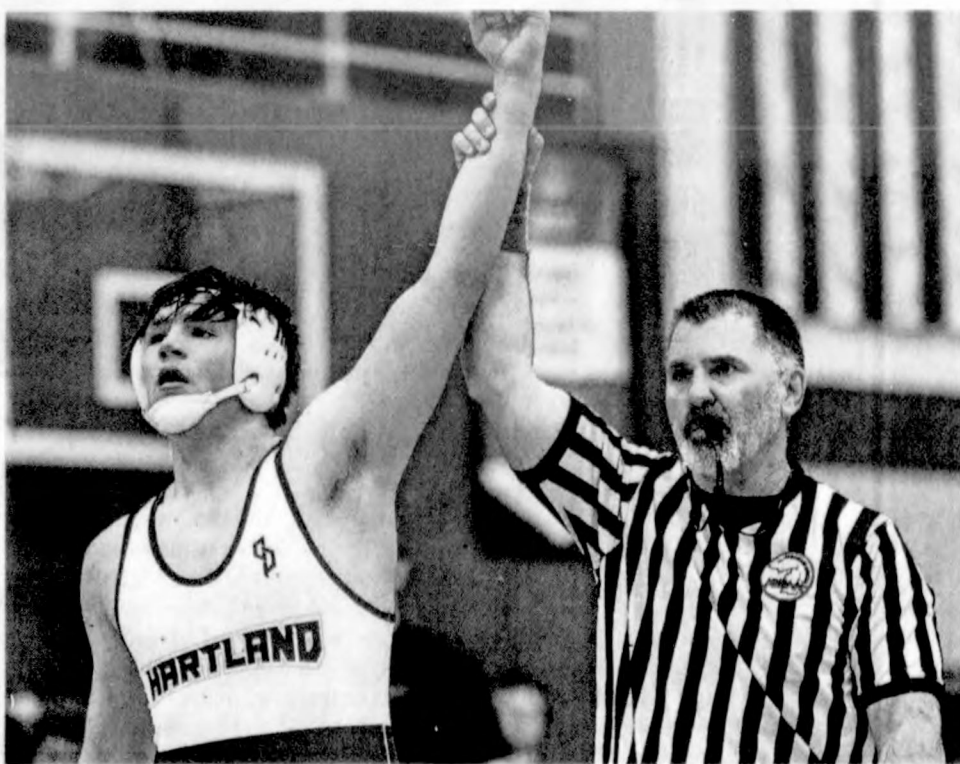
"It's definitely been a little tough waiting my turn, waiting for these opportunities," Pretzel said. "I'm grateful that they came. I hope they keep coming."

Pretzel is no ordinary backup wrestler. Despite wrestling primarily in JV and B matches, he is ranked 11th in Division 1 at 215 by MichiganGrappler.com.

It's just that the wrestlers he's backed up have been extraordinary. For his first two seasons, Pretzel was behind Avery Dickerson in the Hartland lineup. Dickerson was 77-3 those two seasons, finishing second in the state last year.

Then senior Chase Kern moved up to 215 this season after placing fourth and sixth in the last two state tournaments. With Kern unable to wrestle the past

See WRESTLING, Page 3B



Hartland's Jacob Pretzel won the 215-pound championship at the KLAAs wrestling tournament on Saturday at Howell. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



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Salinas sisters helping Roeper compete for league title

Brandon Folsom
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The Salinas sisters have different dominant hands.

Sofia is a lefty. Natalia? She's a righty.

So that's quite the dynamic attack when the Bloomfield Hills Roeper girls basketball team goes on a fastbreak.

Natalia dribbles the ball up the floor from the right side of the court. When she gets close to the basket, she often tosses a no-look pass to the left side where her sister is ready and waiting for the easy layup.

When Sofia secures a steal from the left side of the defense, she whips a pass up the floor so that Natalia can swoop in from the right and quickly cash in on a bang-bang play.

You could call it twin-tuition, but that wouldn't be accurate because they're actually quadruplets.

Yeah, that's right. They have two brothers, who also play for the varsity boys team.

Matthew's the oldest, followed by Natalia, Sam and, finally, Sofia. But don't fret. They were born 1 minute apart so their age difference isn't as dramatic as some of the stories you hear about twins and triplets.

And that's probably a good thing, too. The siblings are quite close to each other. That's made them competitive, whether it's playing 2-on-2 in soccer or basketball.

And that's definitely helped Natalia and Sophia find success on the hardwood, soccer pitch and volleyball court.

"We grew up playing basketball and soccer against our brothers," Sofia said



Bloomfield Hills Roeper
Sofia Salinas attacks the basket during a girls basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.
BRANDON FOLSOM/
HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

following Wednesday's 51-32 win over Southfield Farber Hebrew Day School. "So we didn't get the soft treatment from them. We have the mental toughness to take us through, that, too."

That mental toughness was needed a year ago, though.

Coach Andrea Collins thrust the sisters into big roles as only freshmen, especially Sofia, who Collins pegged as her best ballhandler.

Sofia lived up to the challenge, averaging 14.5 points, 2.2 assists and two steals, which was good enough to earn her first-team honors on the All-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference team. She actually played so well that she landed on Hometown Life's All-Area team, which was full of future Division I recruits.

Since then, Sofia hasn't stopped im-

proving. She's become a better passer. Instead of dominating the scoring, she's found ways to get her teammates high-percentage shots.

"It's been more of the same thing with her. She's just an all-around kid," said Collins, a fifth-year coach. "She does everything for us. She's the core of our team. She's our leader. She's our floor general. She just does it all and gets everybody better. This year, she's starting to see the floor better, which helps. As she is maturing and getting older, you can see how much better she is making her team every day, every game."

That shouldn't come as a surprise because Sofia played just as well on the soccer team last spring. She led the Roughriders to a league title, and it was actually the first time in 3 years the school had even fielded a team. Both

sisters earned first-team all-league honors and were honorable mentions on Hometown Life's Starting XI team.

"We kind of build off of each sport," Natalia added. "In soccer, Sofia and I have a chemistry on the field, and that translates into basketball as well. It's kind of a year-round thing, which is super fun. So I think it's really exciting knowing that we have 2 years left together. We can only go up from here. I'm just excited to see how it goes because it's super fun playing with all of the seniors. We can look up to them, but we can also form our own leadership. We're starting to be leaders for the freshman and stuff."

It wouldn't be surprising if Roeper (9-3, 3-2) won a league title in basketball before they graduate.

Right now, they're only two games back from first place in the MIAC-Red. If they win out, which would include upsetting undefeated Whitmore Lake on Friday, they have a chance to get it done this winter.

But it's more likely they'll help the Roughriders win the conference as upperclassmen.

As they get bigger and stronger, that'll only make them better teammates.

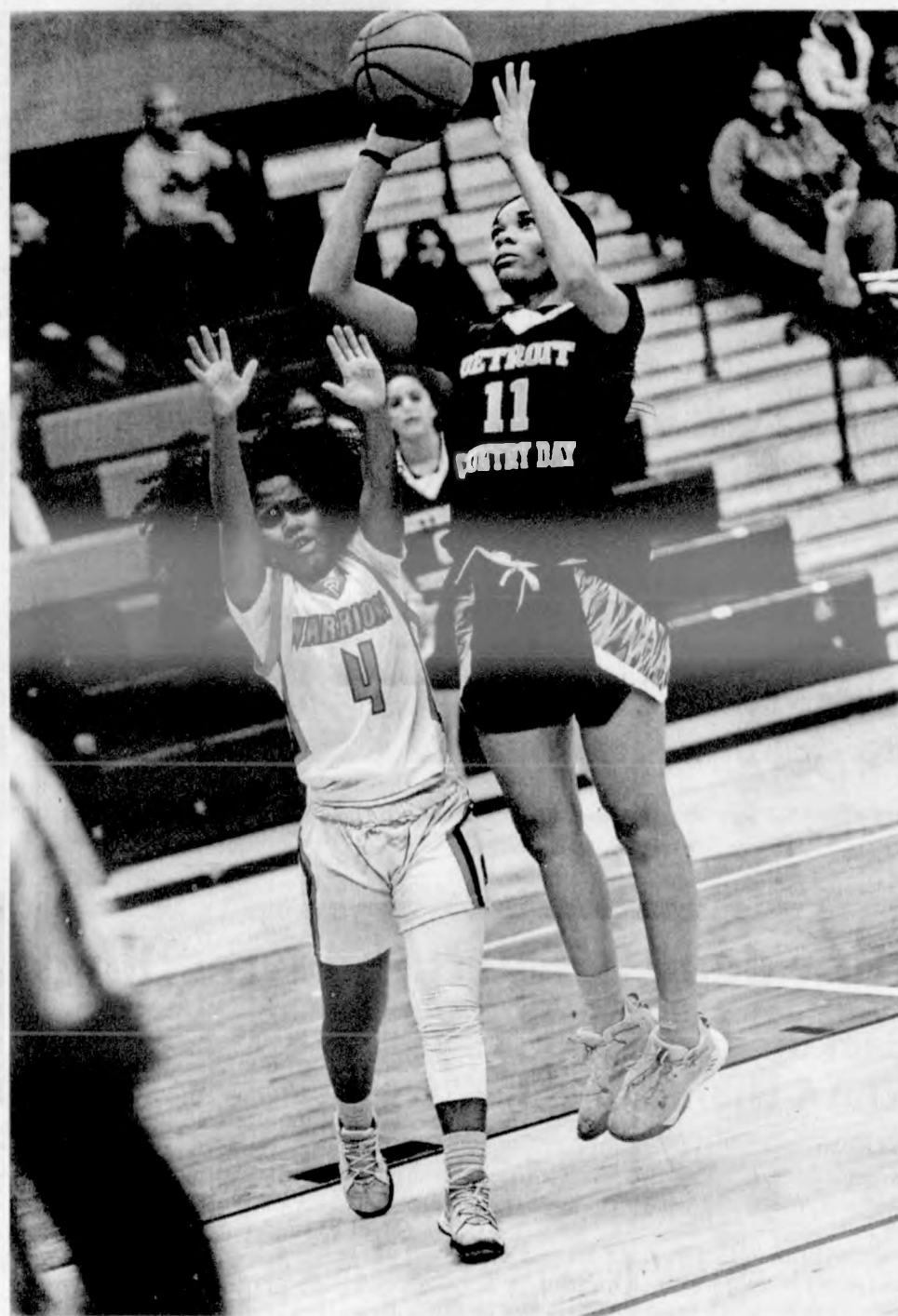
"They just know each other so well," Collins said. "Them being so young and knowing each other so well is just great. If one of them has a not-so-great game, the other one just picks up the slack. And then when they're on the same page, they just can't be stopped."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Redford Westfield Prep's Shamyia Reid celebrates a potential three-point play during a girls basketball game Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Detroit Country Day's Jaidyn Elam shoots in traffic.

Matchup

Continued from Page 1B

The future college star drew five separate trips to the foul line (going 9 of 10 down the stretch) and finished with a staggering 35 points as the Warriors held off Country Day for the 70-61 victory Thursday night.

"I was very upset about my foul," the senior said. "There was nothing going through my head other than just getting the win, for real. I just needed to stay focused because I know I messed up for my team with me being a leader and being the main point guard on the floor and having to sit out a huge amount of minutes on the clock. That messed us up. But I got back in and did good. You're going to make mess-ups, but I redeemed myself."

Reid certainly did.

Westfield Prep (11-6) needed that floor general out there in the waning moments.

Country Day, despite starters Ari-Yanna Wiggins, Jaidyn Elam and Emma Arico all fouling out in the fourth, kept it a two- or three-point game until the Yellowjackets were forced to foul Reid to preserve time and possessions.

Reid is definitely the heart and soul of this talented Warriors squad. They needed her to reset plays, organize the offense and get players into the right position to stall time.

In fact, there was one moment with 1:17 left when one of her teammates missed a shot and Reid grabbed the rebound. But, instead of cashing in on the wide-open put-back attempt, she quickly dribbled the ball back out to the 3-point line and set up the offense to kill more clock. And the effort worked, as Arico picked up her fifth and final foul while attempting to slow down Reid as she started driving to the rim again.

Heads-up plays such as those have everything to do with Reid's experience. She's one of only two 1,000-point career scorers at Westfield Prep (Asia Cochran, who graduated last year, was the other).

But, more importantly, she's used to playing in big-time matchups like this one. Cornell and the Warriors always schedule as tough as possible, so it wasn't a shocker to see Reid make critical plays with the game on the line.

"We play a lot of tough competition on the road, so we were prepared for teams like Country Day," Cornell said. "To be able to weather the storm against a team like that, in a tough game, and knock down free throws when we've been shooting 40% from the free-throw line as a team, I think that comes down to us being in those tough games on the road. That helped us in this situation right here."

In reality, both Westfield Prep and Country Day (8-5) are underrated.

Because both squads have a handful of losses (to much bigger schools, ones that'll likely go far in the D-1 postseason), they both were on the receiving votes list in the most recent Associated Press D-2 rankings. So they're not even ranked.

It's wild to see the Yellowjackets beat

a state runner-up in Plymouth Christian Academy and a pair of Oakland Activities Association-Red teams in Clarkston and Birmingham Groves and not even be considered a top-10 team. But that's been the case in the past. This year's squad returned every starter from a year ago (as last season's state quarterfinal team had no seniors). They're not unfamiliar with the lack of love in the rankings.

Expect both Westfield Prep and Country Day to prove the pollsters wrong in March. Thursday night was a state championship-caliber matchup, one we could very well see again down the road in East Lansing.

"It was a competitive game," first-year Country Day coach Amber Deane said. "It was fun, awesome. The atmosphere was incredible. To have that in February was great, so we're thankful for the opportunity."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

two weeks, Pretzel has slid seamlessly into a varsity spot on the second-ranked team in Division 1.

"The kids in our room, we're working extra hard," Pretzel said. "I believe we're the hardest working room in the state. We're definitely pushed to be prepared to go in these positions, so we can perform when we get in these unlikely positions."

Pretzel led 5-0 against O'Keefe when he survived a scare late in the second period. O'Keefe, ranked No. 12 in Division 1, nearly pinned Pretzel, cutting the score to 5-4 entering the third. Pretzel recovered to pin O'Keefe for the second time in 11 days.

"That doesn't happen too much to me," Pretzel said. "I'm usually able to keep control when I'm on top and in neutral positions. He got me there for a second. Luckily for me, I was able to recover."

Pretzel went 3-0, winning all his matches by pins, to improve his record to 20-2.

"To come basically from being on the bench to making a statement and doing what he did, it's something to be proud of," Hartland coach Kyle Summerfield said.

"That's how we do things at Hartland. We like to be two, three deep everywhere. The way I look at it, it's re-load, repeat. If one kid gets nicked up, we have two, three more ready to go. It's all moving forward; that's how we go."

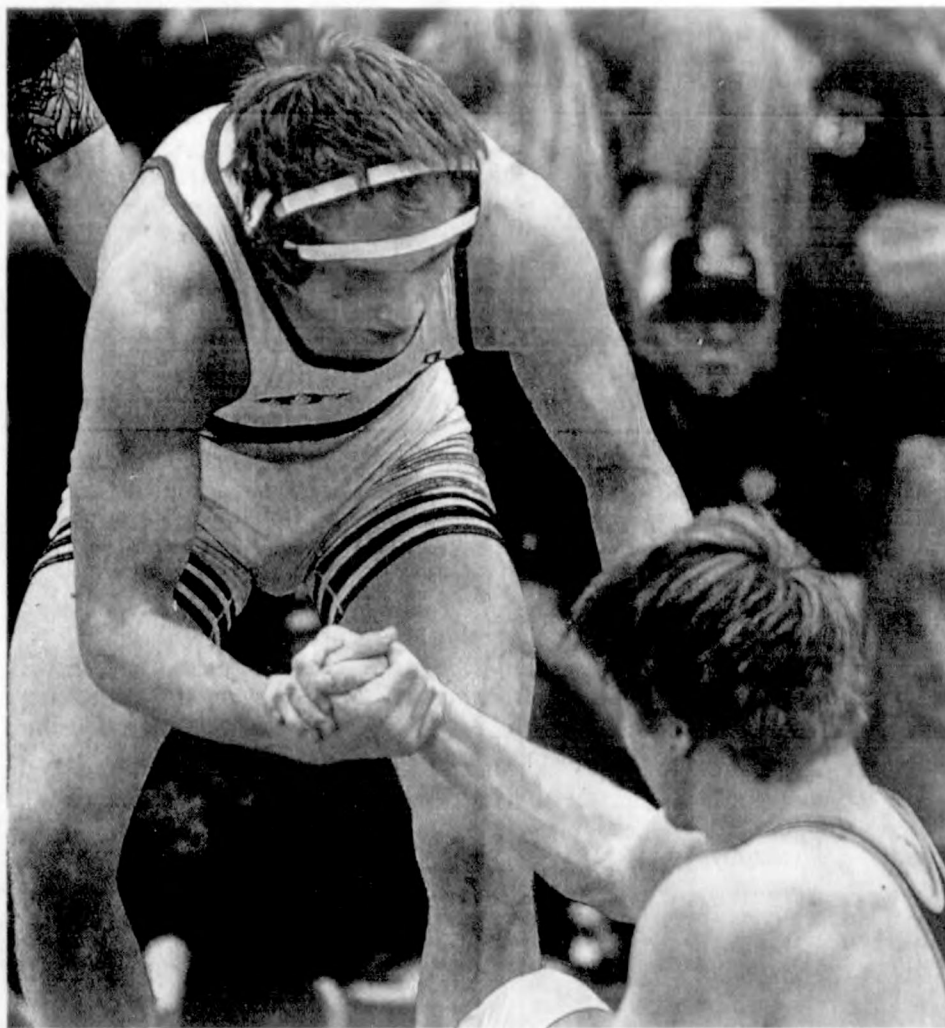
Pretzel was one of six KLAA champions for Hartland, which won the 16-team event by a 273-196 margin over 10th-ranked Westland John Glenn.

Two freshmen won titles for the Eagles — Bohdan Abbey at 113 and Dallas Korponic at 120. Korponic, ranked ninth at 120, trailed 3-2 until scoring two points for a near fall with 16 seconds left to win 4-3 over Brighton's Jackson Johnson, the No. 3-ranked wrestler at 126.

Also winning for Hartland were Gabe Cappellano at 150, Vinnie Abbey at 157 and Nick Rochowiak at 165.

Abbey, ranked No. 2 at 157, won 9-7 over third-ranked Zak Knapp of Brighton by getting a takedown with 40 seconds left from the bottom position.

Third-ranked Rochowiak pinned



Hartland's Nick Rochowiak helps up Belleville's Connor Williams, who was injured while getting pinned in the 165-pound final at the KLAA tournament.

TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

sixth-ranked Connor Williams of Belleville in 1:28.

"I'm very happy with the way the guys performed," Summerfield said. "As a whole, top to bottom, guys did what we worked on in the room every day and got better. There are areas we can continue to work on, but as a whole I'm proud of the group."

Brayden Bobo took second at 175. Placing third for the Eagles were Liam Wiitanen at 138, James Butzier at 165 and Vincent Cox at 285.

Brighton, which was third with 188 points, had runner-up finishes from Johnson, Easton Hardesty (126), Knapp and O'Keefe. Ethan Smith was third at 106 for the Bulldogs.

Howell put two wrestlers in the finals, with Drake Blazeovski (144) and Gavin Holbrook (190) taking second. The Highlanders were sixth as a team.

KLAA wrestling tournament

Team scoring

1. Hartland 273; 2. Westland John Glenn 196; 3. Brighton 188; 4. Belleville 164; 5. Livonia Franklin 150; 6. Howell 126; 7. Livonia Stevenson 115; 8. Dearborn Fordson 89.5; 9. Northville 79; 10. Plymouth 69; 11. Dearborn 65; 12. Salem 53.5; 13. Livonia Churchill 49; 14. Novi 39; 15. Canton 8; 16. Wayne Memorial 3.

Championship matches

106 — Logan O'Connors (John Glenn) d. NaKayla Dawson (John Glenn) forfeit; 113 — Bohdan Abbey (Hartland) d. Tyler Lenhardt (Franklin) medical forfeit; 120 — Dallas Korponic (Hartland) d. Jackson Johnson (Brighton) 4-3; 126 — Gino DiPonio (Franklin) d. Easton Hardesty (Brighton) 8-4; 132 — Zephaniah Catalina (Northville) d. Abdullah Yafai (Fordson) 15-1; 138 — Tyler Garrett (Franklin) d. Matt Irwin (John Glenn) 5-2; 144 — Kamden Hood (John Glenn) d. Drake Blazeovski (Howell) 5-1; 150 — Gabe Cappellano (Hartland) d. Mohamed Hossein (Dearborn) 11-5; 157 — Vinnie Abbey (Hartland) d. Zak Knapp (Brighton) 9-7; 165 — Nick Rochowiak (Hartland) d. Connor Williams (Belleville) 1-28; 175 — Bernard Harrison (Belleville) d. Brayden Bobo (Hartland) 11-3; 190 — Demond Harrison (Belleville) d. Gavin Holbrook (Howell) 1-29; 215 — Jacob Pretzel (Hartland) d. Sean O'Keefe (Brighton) 4-28; 285 — Owen Hawley (Franklin) d. Richard Wourman (Livonia Stevenson) 3-35.

Rivals

Continued from Page 1B

found their rhythm while players such as Warren Marshall, Chase Van Ameyde, Luke Salkowski, Jeremiah Caffey and David Williams each got in on the action.

Thomas finished with a team-best 17 points, eight rebounds and nine assists as Brother Rice (14-1, 5-1 CHSL-Central) eventually put away the Shamrocks, 67-52.

The Warriors are just a pair of wins next week from entering the Catholic League tournament as the top seed, and they have their power forward's effort in the second quarter to thank for keeping them atop the league standings.

"He was good tonight. He was forcing the issue a little bit but in a good way," Palmer said of Thomas. "I thought he was getting to his spots. He was on two feet."

"He was in control. He was aggressive but it was a good aggressive. When he plays like that, it makes him really hard to guard."

Not many can battle in the paint with Thomas, who is 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds.

He has the strength and size (have you seen how big his legs are?!) to score under the basket with defenders draped all over him. Plus, he can set up outside the paint and knock down open shots.

He's rated a two-star by 247Sports, and he's been an integral part of Brother Rice's campaign to win a state championship this winter.

And his team needs his presence inside if it wants to win the CHSL championship.

And the best part? He's an even better teammate than player.

"We stay as a team," Thomas said. "Every time, no matter what happens, no matter if we go down, we stay fighting until the end. If we're not all there one night, we've just got to pick up our teammates."

"It's just big brother, little brother, whether it's on the court or on the bench."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

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Redford Thurston football hires former Churchill standout as coach

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Redford Thurston athletic director Lawrence Reeves announced Friday morning that the high school has hired assistant Nick Davis as its new football coach.

Davis, a 2015 Livonia Churchill graduate, coached both the offensive and defensive lines under former interim coach Antwain White, who was not asked to return following the Eagles' 0-8 season this past fall.

Like White before him, Davis has plenty of Thurston ties. He currently

teaches physical education and health at the high school, plus his parents graduated from Thurston in the 1970s.

Davis has already been serving as the football team's strength and conditioning coach for some time.

"Nick is looking forward to bringing the football program back to the forefront while making a lasting impact on the program," Reeves wrote in a press release. "His mission and vision for the program are to create productive young men while helping to give them the tools to move forward with their academic and athletic career. His interest in coaching comes from the desire to be an example as a strong male role model for

his players and students, like he needed when he was their age. He hopes to have a positive and lasting impact on the South Redford community."

Davis was a 3-year starter at Churchill where he earned 2014 All-Kensington Lakes Activities Association honors as a senior lineman for his 76 pancake blocks, all while helping the Chargers to an 8-3 record and district final appearance in the playoffs.

Following graduation, he went on to play at Wayne State University.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.



Redford Thurston announced on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, that it has hired assistant Nick Davis to become its varsity football coach. REDFORD THURSTON ATHLETICS/ COURTESY PHOTO

Cross country helping Redford Union junior shine on the basketball court

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not uncommon for football players to go out for the basketball team and try their best to help their teammates push for league and district championships.

That's certainly the case for Redford Union right now.

Jeremiah Alston-Jackson, who will play football at Central Michigan University next fall, is in the starting lineup on the hardwood for the Panthers, who are in a battle for first place with Romulus in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference. Heck, even lineman Jamire Hall (Wayne State University) is battling in the post for Union.

But have you ever seen a cross-country runner who could dunk?

That would be Amare Slaughter-Taylor,

arguably one of the best players in the league.

Coach Randall Taylor has a rule: If you're not playing football or another sport during the fall, you must join the cross-country team.

And, no, not even the coach's son is exempt from that rule.

"A requirement for any of our returning boys basketball players who are not participating in another fall sport is to participate in cross country," Coach Taylor said following the Panthers' 62-36 win over Garden City on Tuesday night. "This year we had a majority of our JV team out and a portion of our varsity out there, trying to keep them in shape and give them an opportunity to participate in another sport. We're big believers that if you play multiple sports that it'll make you just a better overall student-athlete. I know (football coach Ian Iler) and I agree that it's good to get

our kids to play multiple sports. Plus, it helps the school, too, so that's always good as well."

Running races over joining the football team was an easy decision for Slaughter-Taylor.

While playing for the reigning WWAC champions on the gridiron would've been fun, practices and games would've been too time-consuming for the 6-foot-3, 175-pound shooting guard.

Cross-country practices are shorter and less involved. Actual meets last fewer than 20 minutes, as proven by the times he recorded. He ran a personal best in the 5 kilometers in 19 minutes, 17 seconds, good enough for 21st place, during the 53rd annual New Boston Huron Invitational last September. He was consistently the third- or fourth-best finisher for the Panthers all fall. He even



Redford Union's Amare Slaughter-Taylor scores down low during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference boys basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 31. TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See SHINE, Page 6B

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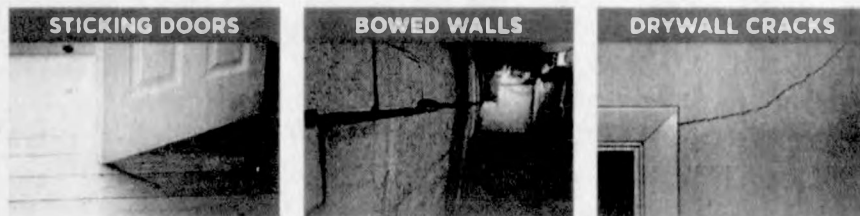
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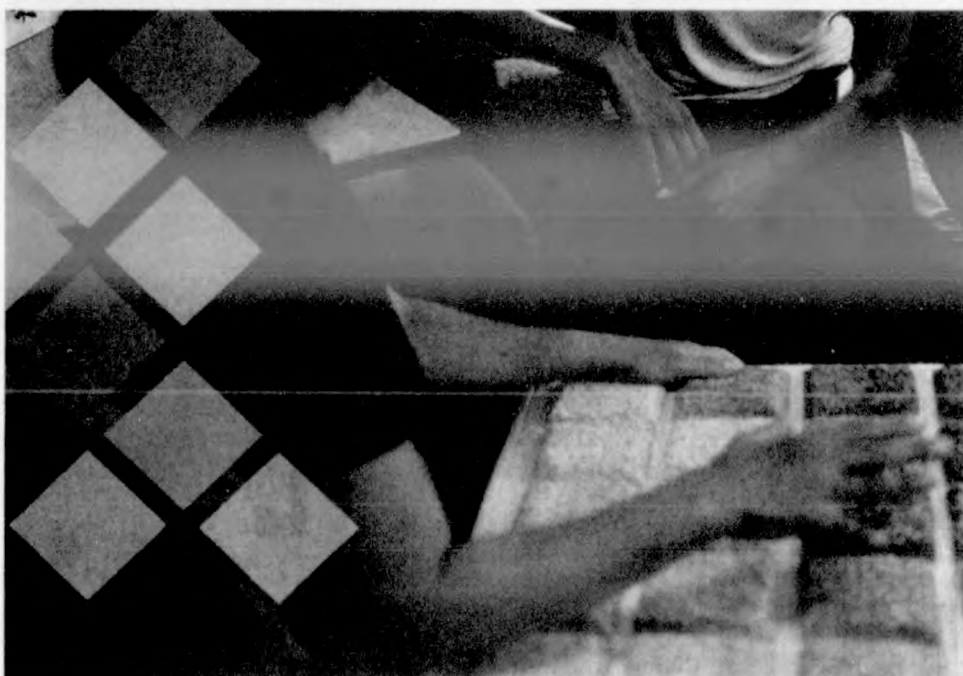
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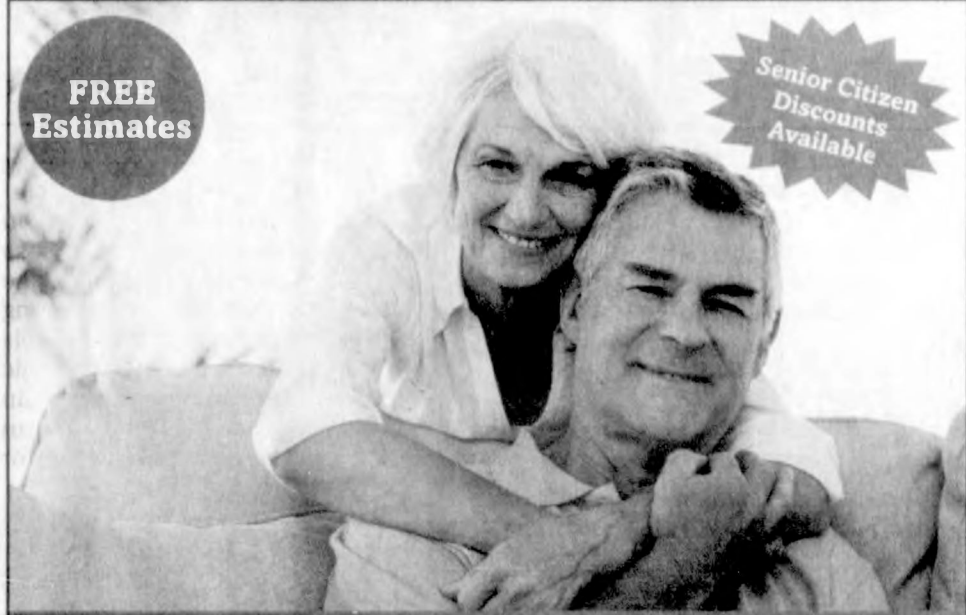
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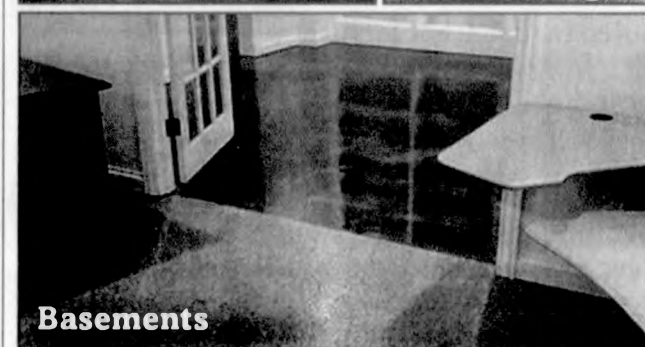


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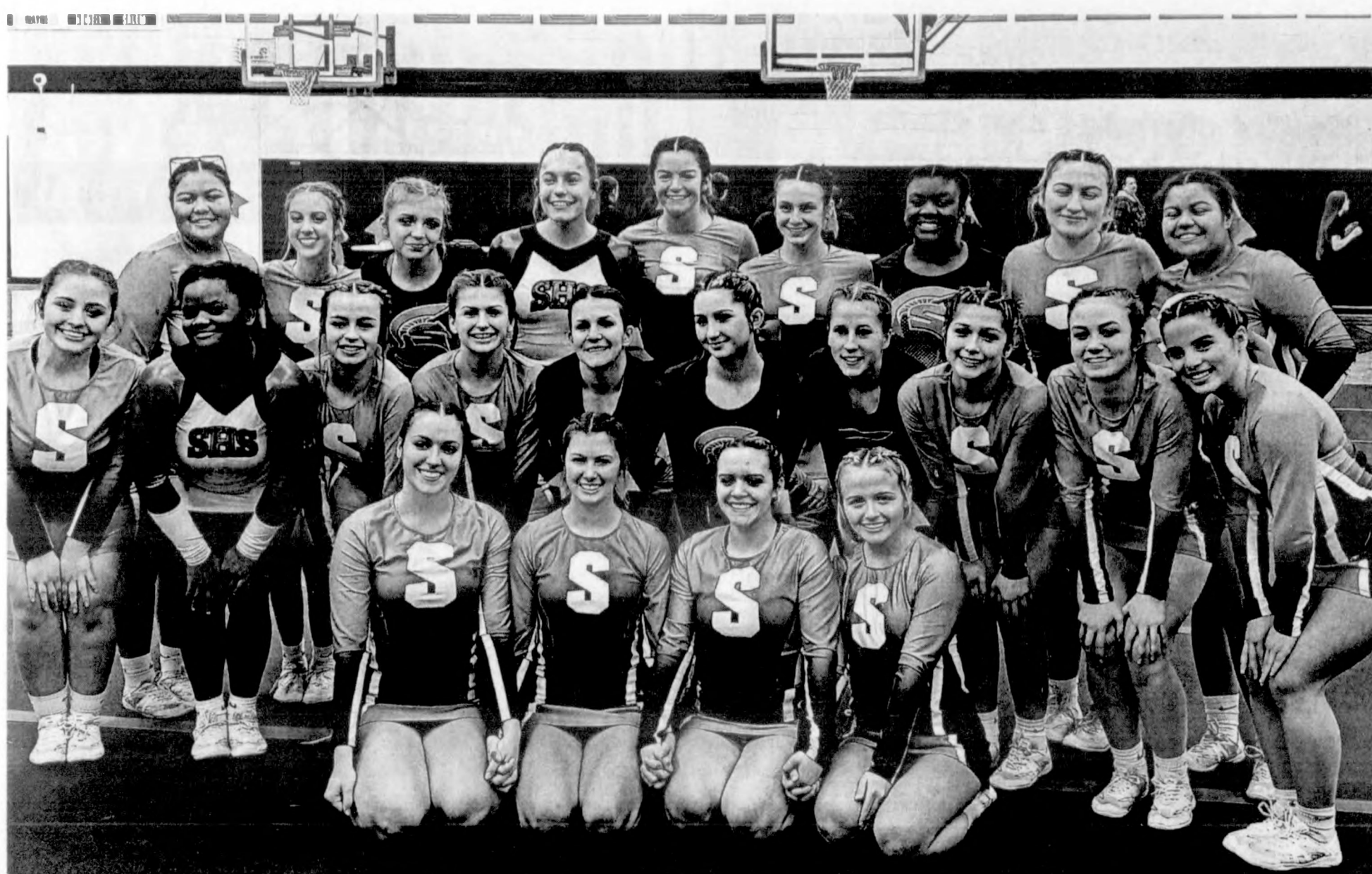


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The Livonia Stevenson cheer team secured the KLAA championship during a home meet Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. LIVONIA STEVENSON ATHLETICS/COURTESY PHOTO

Stevenson competitive cheer team wins KLAA championship

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson competitive cheer team secured the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship Monday night.

On their home mat, the Spartans had

a final score of 733.84 to win the final league meet, edging Plymouth (716.06) and Westland John Glenn (706.84) for first place.

Because Stevenson also won the Jan. 18 meet at Dearborn with a score of 710.12, that means it finished with the best combined score from the two meets to claim the outright KLAA cham-

pionship. Its two-meet total of 1,443.96 bested Plymouth (1,419.58) and John Glenn (1,402.38) in a close league race.

The MHSAA competitive cheer district meets are slated for Feb. 17-18, while the regionals will be held Feb. 25. Qualifying teams will compete in the state championship March 2-3 at Central Michigan University.

Here are the final KLAA standings:

1. Livonia Stevenson, 1,443.96
2. Plymouth, 1,419.58
3. Westland John Glenn, 1,402.38
4. Wayne Memorial, 1,145.16
5. Livonia Churchill, 1,090.96
6. Dearborn, 1,011.34

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Obituaries

Gregory J. Bousquet

NORTHVILLE - Age 63, of Northville, Michigan passed away on January 29, 2023. He was born October 5, 1959 in Lafayette, Indiana; son of William and Suzanne (Zikmund) Bousquet. Greg was united in marriage to Tamara Johns on November 20, 2005; they were dedicated in their love for over 17 years.

Greg was a graduate of William Henry Harrison High School, class of 1977. Pursuing his passion for anything involving engines and high speed, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management Degree from Purdue University in 1981. Upon graduation, Greg moved to Ann Arbor for his first job as an engineer with Johnson Controls. In Ann Arbor, he obtained his Master of Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 1986. While working for Lear Seating, Greg was transferred to Germany, where he was promoted to Managing Director of Lear Automotive. Returning to Michigan after 3 years, Greg worked with Standard Products Corporation, Donnelly Corporation, Venture Industries and Comprehensive Logistics as a General Sales Manager and Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Being versatile in his career made him a remarkable employee. In 2010, he launched Integrated Supply Chain Management, LLC in partnership with Barry Griesinger, a long time friend and colleague. He retired in 2020.

While his devotion to work was evident, Greg had an even deeper love for boating and golfing. He was always up for an adventure, including one massive journey sailing from Michigan to Florida and the Bahamas, and constantly roaming the coves and bays of Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. Feeling confined by the COVID restrictions, he decided to purchase an RV in 2021, traveling to South Carolina for 4 months, where he, Tamara and Compass (his beloved dog), quickly decided that RV life wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

Greg was always the consummate host. Known not only for his keen intellect, but for his quick wit and generosity, he would have great conversations with virtually anyone he met.

He is survived by his wife Tamara; his daughter Melanie; his step-son Connor Graham; his mother Suzanne Bousquet; and his brother Mark (Tami Medley) Bousquet. He is also survived by his former wife and mother of his child, Lianne Bousquet. He was preceded in death by his father, William.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, February 25th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the 5IVE Steakhouse located at the Inn at Saint John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI. Please RSVP to Tamara Bousquet via email at tjbousquet@comcast.net by February 17th.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Natalie's Second Chance No Kill Dog Shelter, 10 S 16th Street, Lafayette, IN 47905.



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Shine

Continued from Page 4B

had a 48th-place finish during the Division 2 regional, which is impressive considering he was a rookie runner facing some of the best competitors in the state at Waterford Mott.

So Slaughter-Taylor would put in his work with his fellow runners and use the rest of his time to get in the gym and work on his craft. And he's a gym rat, too. Both before and after school, he's in the gym. He wants to play in college, and there's no doubt he'll get there. He already holds an offer from Schoolcraft College and he's also been recruited by Division II schools Northwood University and WSU. More offers will come the closer he gets to senior year.

"It was fun to get my conditioning in," Slaughter-Taylor said. "If it weren't so long, I'd probably play football, yeah, but I wanted to run cross country to get more reps in the gym in. Football practice is just too long."

But that's not to say the junior, who aspires to be named the WWAC Player of the Year, didn't take traversing tough terrains with his feet seriously.

By just looking at his physique, you can tell he takes everything seriously, whether that's wind sprints, lifting in the weight room or dribbling or shooting drills in the gymnasium.

Coach Taylor credited a past conversation with Pierre Brooks, the father of current Michigan State basketball player Pierre Brooks II, with inspiring Slaughter-Taylor to take his training to the next level.

"He talked to him about the importance of being in shape, staying in shape and taking care of your body," said Coach Taylor, who's in his 13th season coaching the Panthers. "So Amare took that to heart and ran with it like, 'Alright, if I want to do this at a higher level, I've got to get into better shape. He's always been in the gym before school and trying to get in there after school. He's always working. He's always been about basketball, basketball, basketball. But the biggest thing now is he wants to be in



Redford Union's Amare Slaughter-Taylor dunks during a Western Wayne Athletic Conference boys basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023.

TOM BEAUDOIN, SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

shape."

And that's been paying off as the Panthers continue their race for another league championship.

Slaughter-Taylor played sparingly against Garden City, a team currently enduring a 12-game losing streak, but he led Union with 15 points and five rebounds. But sitting him vs. the Cougars was an easy call. He's been recovering from a recent cold, plus his energy will be needed for the tougher games left on the Panthers' schedule.

Union (11-4) has won two of the past four WWAC championships. The other two? Those were won by Romulus.

That's why it's not a shocker to see, essentially, a two-way tie atop the league standings right now. Union is 9-1 with its lone blemish coming to rival Redford Thurston, 44-41, on Jan. 10. Romulus (10-3) is 8-1 with its lone loss coming to the Panthers during a 72-69 overtime thriller last week.

Should both teams take care of business the rest of the way, their meeting on Feb. 17 will determine who the outright league champion is. But there's no doubt about it: Coach Taylor will need his best players to perform well when they face the Eagles.

Regardless if they played football or ran cross country last fall.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Paul Moggach celebrates with students after leading Brighton to the fifth state hockey championship of his 25-year head coaching career in 2018.

DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Paul Moggach compiled a 466-172-47 record in 25 seasons as Brighton's hockey coach. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brighton's Paul Moggach receives national hockey coaching award

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paul Moggach planned to be just another hockey dad when his young son began playing at the old Hartland rink.

"I wasn't convinced I wanted to coach," he said. "I was there to fill a need, and it grew from that."

The career for that reluctant young coach blossomed into something special.

He coached Brighton to five state Division 1 championships, 10 regional titles and a 466-172-47 record in 25 seasons as head coach.

Moggach was recognized long ago by his peers with his induction into the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012, but now he joins an even more exclusive club.

Moggach has become one of only three coaches in Michigan to win the John Mariucci Award, which has been presented by the American Hockey

Coaches Association since 1988.

There are co-recipients for the first time, with Moggach sharing the honor with another Michigan coach, Gordon St. John. St. John won state championships at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood and Detroit Catholic Central.

In 2020, Andy Weidenbach of Cranbrook-Kingswood was the first Michigan coach to win the Mariucci Award, named after the long-time coach at the University of Minnesota.

The Mariucci Award is given to "a secondary school association coach who best exemplifies the spirit, dedication and enthusiasm of the Godfather of U.S. Hockey."

"Very humbling," Moggach said. "I was surprised when I got the email and they told me who had won this before; it hasn't been Michigan coaches. I always try to just do my job quietly and surround myself with good coaches. There were five of us who were in that circle and just did the best we could. It's really humbling to get a national award like

that from the American Hockey Coaches Association."

Moggach crossed paths numerous times with St. John and Weidenbach.

"The coaching fraternity is pretty small," he said. "Those of us who spend more time in it get to know each other. Andy, especially, and I had a lot of talks over the years and we competed against each other. I have the utmost respect for both of those gentlemen."

Moggach's first seven seasons at Brighton were as an assistant coach under Rick Bourbonnais. He became the head coach in 1995-96 and continued through 2019-20. After going 7-16 and 6-15-2 the first two seasons, the Bulldogs didn't have a losing record over the final 23, winning at least 20 games 12 times.

No coach in Livingston County has won more Michigan High School Athletic Association state championships than Moggach.

"When I got into it at the beginning, Brighton couldn't get games with good teams and our league, the KVC, couldn't," he said. "Obviously, the

growth of high school hockey is evident to everybody. I was fortunate to be part of that growth.

"The Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association has done a great job. The coverage we get now is so different than way back in the day. So, it's grown incrementally, because of all the people who take good care of it. On our behalf, we took good care of it for our league and our town and did our best to be good stewards of the game."

Moggach is still close to the Brighton hockey program, coaching games for its fall league team along with Bourbonnais and attending as many games as possible.

"I enjoy following high school hockey, college hockey, a little bit of the NHL, but mostly the Brighton Bulldogs," he said. "I spent my time there and have a love for that team and our community. It just doesn't go away when you retire."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @BillKhan.

WATCH: John Glenn wrestling surprises coach with milestone banner

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Dec. 14, the Westland John Glenn wrestling team beat Dearborn Edsel Ford in a dual.

Winning a local match isn't out of the ordinary. But this particular match went down as 23rd-year coach Bill Polk's 500th career win.

His wrestlers celebrated that milestone with him by surprising him before a recent practice.

Polk was chatting on the phone as he walked inside John Glenn's wrestling room when his grapplers and athletic director Jason Malloy met him with a round of applause, cheers and a banner commemorating his 500 career wins.

Polk, who has coached the Rockets since the 2000-01 season, has been involved with wrestling his entire life.

In high school, he was a 1993 individual state qualifier at Dearborn, and then he went on to become a three-time NCAA tournament qualifier at Olivet College.



Westland John Glenn wrestling coach Bill Polk recently won his 500th match.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN ATHLETICS/
COURTESY PHOTO

After college, he was an assistant at John Glenn for two seasons before becoming the head coach.

Ever since, he's coached five John Glenn teams to the elite eight, which includes the Rockets making the final four in 2019. Under his leadership, they've won 17 division titles, 10 conference titles, 17 district championships and five regional championships.

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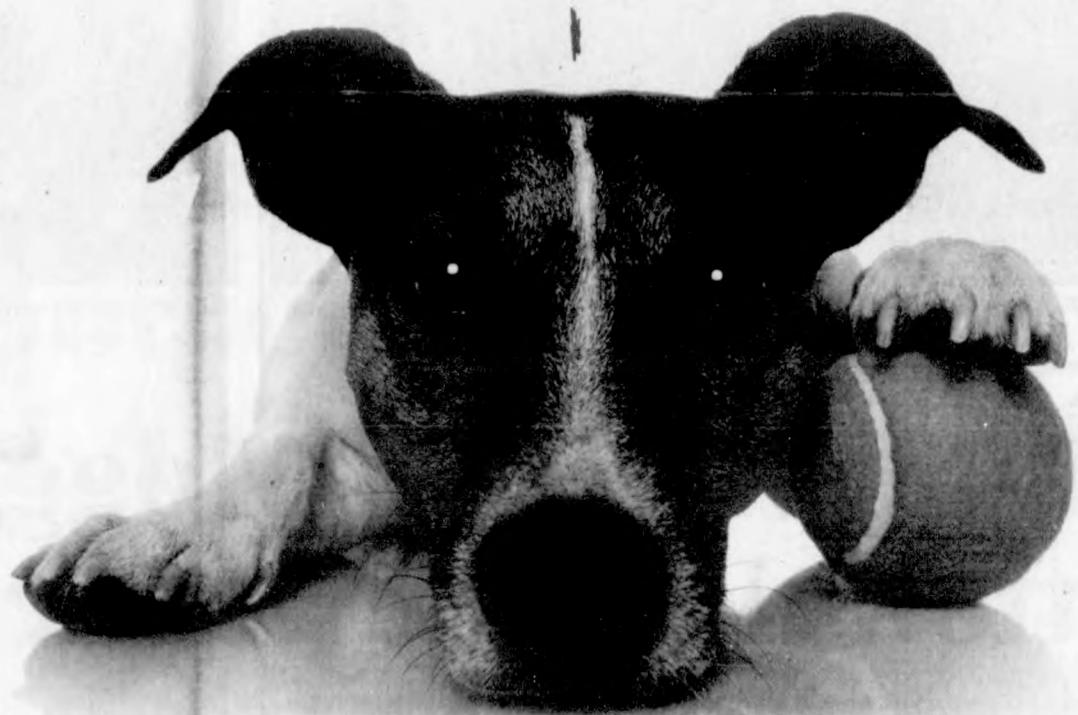
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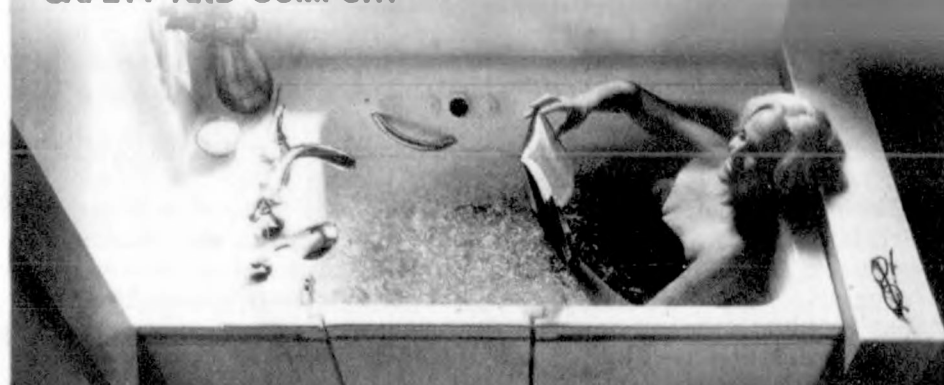
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