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NEIGHBOR

CAROL STREAM
GLENDALE HEIGHTS

SECTION 5

Area's 3,200 young athletes make organization a must

By Nancy Gerb
Daily Herald Correspondent

When Bill Gommel began coaching cross country at Madison Junior High School in Naperville in 1978, 17 students came out for the team. Last fall, there were 101.

Despite a nearly sixfold increase in participants, there are presently only two cross country coaches at Madison: Gommel and Clement Brown.

"Our number of athletes has steadily increased," Gommel said. "When I first started at Madison, we had three junior highs in Naperville, then we went to four, then five. In the meantime, District 204 (which also serves Naperville) began to build."

With Naperville presently at a population of 108,000, how do the schools handle this tremendous

DUPAGE AT PLAY

This is the second of a three-part series on the competitive nature of junior high school sports, and how that competition affects children, parents and schools.

Next Saturday: How to deal with the physical and psychological effects of sports.

growth? One answer for junior high sports is organization. The Naperville Area Conference of Athletics, Art and Academicism is an association of eight schools from districts 203 and 204 that promotes participation in extra-curricular activities. For junior high athletes and coaches, it provides standards, rules and qual-

ity competition for inter-scholastic sports.

"In the early days, we would travel to Addison, Downers Grove and Aurora to find suitable teams to play," Gommel said. "Now we have them in our own back yard."

"The level of athletes at this age is phenomenal. When the Naperville high schools are successful, we expect to see a queue like, 'We've got all to our junior high programs,'" he joked.

Gommel is a counselor at Madison, a District 203 school. School districts 203 and 204 serve greater Naperville, including parts of Lake and Aurora.

If the success of the Naperville high schools does indeed reflect the quality of the feeder programs

— which include St. Raphael and St. Peter and Paul schools — the NPSAA gets an A-plus for sports.

Football teams from Naperville North and from Naperville Central advanced far in the state playoffs last fall, and those schools — as well as area private schools Benet, St. Francis and Wheaton Academy — are successful in several sports with the help of former Naperville athletes.

"I don't think the community realizes how much we have grown," said Tony Scarpino, athletic director at Kennedy Junior High in Lisle, a District 203 school. In 1990, he had seven schools and 256 athletes participating in his track meet. This year he will have eight schools and 400 athletes.

"We have between 400 and 500 athletes here at Kennedy alone. Many participate in more than one

sport. They are double and triple athletes. Eight schools times 400 is 3,200 athletes. Those students need uniforms, coaches. But with budget concerns, we end up tightening our belts. I need another coach now for girls volleyball. We could teach more skills."

Scarpino says the only hand-raising the students are allowed to do is a magazine drive. He believes that the active support of Kennedy's Home and School Association has contributed to their success.

One of the ways the NPSAA has handled its increasing numbers of young athletes is to move the track competition to DuPage River Park from a smaller course. It allows the runners more space, better visibility and a wooded course.

See JUNIOR HIGH on Page 2



Madison Junior High School's Kristi Jonikas, left, wrestles with Cindy Johnson of Lincoln for the ball during Madison's victory in the eighth-grade A title game.

Travelers to study in Canterbury, Salzburg

Elgin Community College, in conjunction with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs, is sponsoring study abroad programs in Canterbury, England and Salzburg, Austria for the fall term.

Registration is open to anyone having earned 10 credit hours of college level work, a 2.75 GPA, and completion of one college level composition course by the time of travel. All courses give transferable college credit.

Salzburg, Austria is home to Salzburg College, a private college for English-speaking students. American and Japanese students attend classes together. Five courses may be chosen, with three required: Austrian civilization, German, and a music or art history course. Optional field trips include a week of travel in Germany, five days in Vienna and shorter trips to other historic and artistic sites.

The program runs from the last week in August to the third week in December. The basic program fee of \$7,116 covers education and related costs such as room and board with an Austrian family, airfare, institutional fees, orientation materials and a student I.D.

Christ Church College is located in Canterbury, one of England's oldest and most historic cities. American students attend classes along with British students, and there is emphasis on an active college life. Four courses are chosen, including British culture and society, and either British history or British literature.

Travel is an integral part of the program, with optional field trips to such sites as Stonehenge, Bath, Oxford and London.

Canterbury's program departs around Sept. 15 and returns on Dec. 15. The basic educational fee of \$3,496 includes: room and board with a local family, airfare, institutional costs, orientation materials and a student I.D.

Many types of financial aid may be used for a term abroad and, in addition, scholarships may be available. Check with the ECC Financial Aid Office for eligibility.

The deadline for application for each program is April 15, and materials may be obtained in the Counseling Center located in the Student Resource Center, SHC-143. For details, call Gofie Sanders, at (847) 697-1000, extension 7956.

On-line catalog training slated

Patrons of all ages are invited to learn how to search the Carol Stream Public Library's On-Line Public Access Catalog system by attending a half-hour training session at 7:30 p.m. April 25 or at 6:30 a.m. April 27 at the library, 616 Hiawatha Drive.

Basic information on searching techniques and strategies, as well as an explanation of all computer functions, will be presented.

Registration will be accepted at the information desk or by telephone. Space is limited.

For details, call 633-9753.

Give a listen Old Town School provides place for all kinds of music

By Dan Kenning
Daily Herald Staff Writer

At the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, the halls are alive with the sound of music. Take a walk through the school's vintage Victorian building at 909 W. Armitage Ave. in the city's gentrified DePaul neighborhood, and you're besieged by music in all its infinite varieties.

You'll hear students in a banjo class plinking away on the standard "Cripple Creek," advanced guitar finger-picking students working on Scottish ballads, a sixth-grader learning authentic Chicago blues harmonica, futures traders by day learning to play African percussion by night, toddlers in the "Wiggle Worms" class singing and doing circle dances, teens jamming Nirvana tunes downtown at the monthly Riff Cafe open stage and their dads strumming along to "A Hard Day's Night" in the Beatles Ensemble class.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg at the Old Town School, which for nearly 40 years through classes and concerts has been teaching Chicago-area music fans the joys of playing just below today's popular music and dance styles.

As you may have already gathered, the Old Town School's definition of "folk music" is quite expansive. And that seems to be just fine with the school's current record enrollment of 42,000 students a week. At the Old Town School, diversity is everything.

"What's happening in music and in society today is real interesting and it affects the school," said Executive Director Jim Hirsch, who since taking the helm in 1982 has

turned the institution from the brink of financial disaster to a thriving, self-supporting concern.

"Musically, I see more and more different segments," he said. "You have hip-hop and rap, grunge rock, singer-songwriters, etc. Popular music isn't monolithic anymore. It's made up of all these different segments, and it seems like the diversity just keeps getting greater and greater."

Into that feeds the sensibility that all these different segments evolved out of something. And we are that something they evolved out of.

Indeed, the Old Town School's reputation as one of the nation's foremost centers for roots music — be it bluegrass, Celtic, Latin, African or Cajon — is a well-earned one. Take a look at some of the school's well-known alumni: Steve Goodman, John Prine, Bonnie Koloc, Stephen Wade and Roger McGuinn, just to name a few. McGuinn has been quoted as saying the influential sound of his group the Byrds at the mid-'60s was a direct result of the skills he learned at the Old Town School in the late '50s, when it actually was located in Old Town.

Encompassed on Armitage Avenue since 1968 — though adult classes and concerts will move to larger quarters at the old Hill Library building at 454 N. Lincoln Ave. in 1997 — the school has long held none of the area's top musicians as instructors. The current teaching staff includes such familiar names as Celtic musician Larry Nugent, percussionist Leroy Marsh, pianist Dave Gordon and voice instructors Barbara Barrow and Jackie Allen.

The battalion of guitar instructors, including Larry Gysin, Jim DeWitt, Mark Dvorak, Chris Farwell, Rob Fuiles and David Olander, here at the school's Chicago pickers. Classes generally run for eight weekly sessions and cost \$66 to \$100 for adult tuition and \$74 to \$80 for children's classes. Registration for the April 23 through June 15 session opened March 23. Call the school at (312) 626-7700, ext. 5, for information about classes.

So who flecks to classes at the Old Town School? Just a business suit found around on a recent weekday afternoon revealed all types, ranging from gals in the business suit looking for a new guitar to the 12-year-old with green streaked hair there for his guitar class to the North Shore matron there to learn to lango.

"We have a tremendous range of ages here," said Hirsch, who himself started out as a guitar teacher at the school. "On a Saturday you'll see 6-month-olds, 6-year-olds, 16-year-olds, 36-year-olds and 66-year-olds. How many other places do you see that?"

While the classes may be the Old Town School's bread and butter, there's plenty more to do there. You can hang out at the tiny Pick Stop Cafe before a class or concert, delve in even greater detail into the music and manuscripts in the school's multimedia resource center and perform at the monthly "First Friday" showcases, which gives students a chance to put into practice what they learn in class, playing on stage in the school's comfortable 275-seat concert hall.

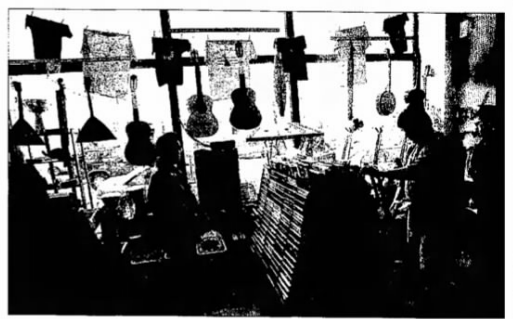


Jim Hirsch, executive director of the Old Town School of Folk Music, is housed in a historic building at 909 W. Armitage Ave. in Chicago.



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WEEKEND LEISURE



The school sells a few guitars and T-shirts to go along with the lessons.

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Instructor Steve Levitt, left, and student Peter Gaviakas make some beautiful music at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

Suburbanites make music, too

While the Old Town School of Folk Music may be thought of as a city entity, 40 percent of the enrollment consists of suburbanites.

In fact, way back in 1974 the school opened its first suburban satellite location in Skokie, which later moved to Evanston. Later a short-lived branch opened in Mount Prospect. Current satellite

locations can be found in Highland Park, Evanston, Oak Park, Hinsdale and Schaumburg.

In Schaumburg the classes are held at the Schaumburg Park District's Pat Shephard Center, 421 N. Springgroud Road, with the next sessions running from April 17 to June 5. Call (647) 490-7020.

— Dan Kenning

And speaking of concerts, from early performers like Pete Seeger, Odetta, Doc Watson, Mahalia Jackson and Bill Monroe to the present shows featured nearly every weekend, some of the world's top musicians and dance attractions can be found there as well.

The upcoming schedule of concerts includes: Robin & Linda Williams and Greg Brown March 30; Los Tres Reyes April 12; Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt April 15; Magical Strings April 14; (312) April 16; the All Star Guitar Night April 20; and Ella Jenkins April 28.

"The main reason why the school is so successful is because it's fun," Hirsch said. "It's just a next place to go to."

special jamming rooms will give folks a chance to get in on the action. Concerts run from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m. today and 1 p.m. Sunday. An added feature is a fiddle contest for open and junior divisions Sunday. Admission is \$12 for the afternoon or evening show today, \$15 for both shows today and \$5 Sunday. A weekend pass for all shows is \$25. Call 637-2503.

Smile, Spot

Take Spot and Kitty to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny during the West Suburban Humane Society's annual Pet Pictures. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at Pet Supplies Plus stores at 1557 W. Irving Park Road, Elmhurst Park, and 200 E. North Ave., Villa Park. Pictures cost \$5 each or two for \$8. For details, call 950-9629.

splitting sides

For more than 35 years, Second City's National Touring Company has been entertaining audiences all over the world with "The Best of Second City," a compilation of

Easter festivities

Decorated eggs will dot the landscape as Easter egg hunts take place across DuPage County.

A breakfast with the bunny takes place at 9 a.m. today at the Johnson Recreation Center, 172 S. Circle Ave., Bloomington. Children ages 2-6 can have their picture taken with Peter or Fatty Cottontail. The Bloomington Lions Club annual Easter egg hunt follows the breakfast at 11 a.m. in Circle Park. The cost is \$6 per child, \$5 per adult.

The Wood Dale Park District co-sponsors the children's Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. today in

Franzen Grove Park. This free event is for children ages 10 and younger. The egg hunt will not be rained out. Call 595-9023.

An Alden Valley Ridge Nursing Center and Glen Oaks Medical Center holds its second annual Easter Eggcravanza at 12:30 p.m. today at Alden Valley Ridge Nursing Center, 275 E. Army Trail Road, Bloomington. Call 882-9516.

The Downtown Business Association in Wheaton offers a variety of Easter activities today, including a free movie at 10:30 a.m. at Wheaton Theatre, 123 N. Hale St. Other activities include complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides from noon to 2 p.m.; Easter

egg roll in Memorial Park at 1 p.m.; Easter hat parade at 2:30 p.m.; Easter egg hunt in downtown stores from noon to 3 p.m.; and the Easter Bunny strolling downtown from noon to 3 p.m. Call 682-0633.

Pickin' and grinnin'

Naperville's Folk Era Productions and the Downstate Illinois Bluegrass Association sponsor the indoor bluegrass festival at the Easter Bunny strolling downtown from noon to 3 p.m. today and Sunday. The festival offers live acoustic music performed by 10 bands from around the country. A 6:30 concert and