

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1992

PLYMOUTH
SPORTS
SCENE

Fly-in fishing provides thrill

Booming like a rock drummer's base, my heart kept the beat as a steady chorus of zzzzzzzzz's came blaring from my fishing reel.

"Nice fish," I thought. "Nice fish."
I'd been fighting him for close to 10 minutes now and after his third run to deep water, my opponent seemed to lose his will. I was able to work him close enough to the boat to identify it, but as soon as he saw the boat my reel began buZZZZing again. The six-pound-test monofilament was stripped from my open-face as the ferocious Northern Pike bolted back into deep water.

My partner, Brian Goemare, and I had patiently trolled this lake in northern Ontario for the better part of two hours without a hit. We'd been marking fish on our Hummingbird all afternoon, but this was the first one we'd actually encountered.

He was 30 yards behind the boat when he decided to feast upon my chartreuse and orange Rattle-Trap. After an exciting 15-minute fight — including four strong runs — a seven-pound, 31-inch Northern pike was finally in the net. Although nowhere near a record catch, the Northern — the biggest I've ever caught — was certainly a trophy in my eyes. It was a cold, windy afternoon, but the battle had left me dripping with sweat and excitement.

A trip to paradise

A feeling of exhilaration had swept over me the day before as the DH C-3 Beaver (four passenger sea plane) touched down on the surface of northern Ontario's Easey Lake.

"Yea!" I exclaimed "Welcome to paradise."
A nearby pair of loons seemed equally inspired as they erupted into a welcoming chorus while we unloaded our gear from the plane.

Spending a week in a rustic log cabin in the remote Canadian wilderness may not sound like paradise to some, but to this angler it was one step short of heaven.

I had dreamed of a fly-in fishing trip to Canada for many years. Last fall, three friends, Goemare and Neil O'Dwyer of Lake Orion and Larry Axsome of Auburn Hills and I, decided on a trip.

We drove 150 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie to the town of Hawk Junction where we hooked up with our hosts Mary Haight and Kelly Culhane, co-owners of Hawk Air Ltd. We flew another 30 miles into the wilderness before arriving at Easey Lake.

The fun began later that afternoon as Brian broke the ice and caught the first fish of the trip. Trolling an orange and brown Hot-N-Tot, Goemare landed a relentless 28-inch Northern over a weed bed in 15 feet of water.

We spent the first five days of our trip on Easey Lake, catching mostly pike as well as a few walleye and perch; then flew to another lake — Little Missinaibie — 30 miles to the east for a walleye bonanza on the final two days of our trip.

Feasting on fish

The excellent walleye and pike fishery in northern Ontario is certainly no secret to Michigan anglers. But when we got to the sea plane base and heard about a 10-pound walleye and a 23-pound Northern coming out of the area two days before we arrived, our excitement rose to another level.

Despite less-than-favorable weather conditions which included high winds, rain and cold temperatures (30s at night and 40s to 50s during the day), we managed to acclimate ourselves with Easey Lake and find some productive holes within the first couple days.

We caught our fill of three- to four-pound pike and feasted on fish each night. The bigger, trophy-sized pike we were searching for just didn't seem to be interested in our offerings of night crawler harnesses, jigs, minnows, flat fish, Dardevles, Rapalas, spinner baits and the likes.

Little Missinaibie turned out to be a walleye haven as we boated more than 100 fish in a day-and-a-half of fishing. Once our new found friend George Deacon (see accompanying story), an outfitter from Union Lake who works for Hawk Air, showed us where the fish were, crawler harnesses and jigs tipped with night crawlers or minnows turned into walleye magnets.

Color seemed to be insignificant. I started out using a chartreuse jig, but found equal success with brown, orange, green and white.

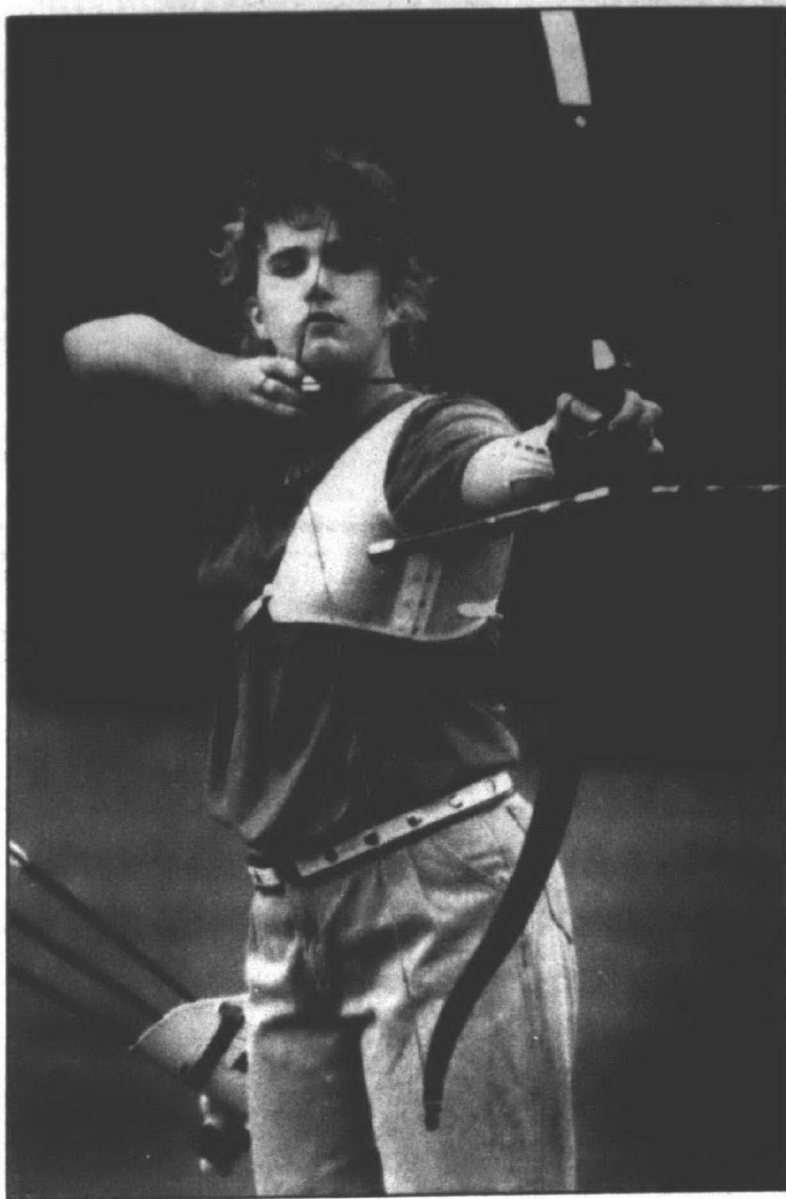
A complete package

It wasn't just the daily fill of walleye, pike, whitefish and perch that branded the trip outstanding. It was a combination of Canadian hospitality, great fishing and wildlife encounters that fulfilled my longtime dream.

From pre-trip lists of what gear to bring and maps of the lakes we were fishing to a midweek check, including ice delivery and tips on where and how to catch the fish, our hosts did all they could to ensure that we had fun and success.

See FISHING, 2C

O'Donnell aims for Olympic gold



GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aiming for gold: Eighteen-year-old Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington hopes to bring back a gold medal in women's archery from the Olympics.



Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington is setting her sights on the gold medal when she travels to Spain later this week for the start of the 1992 Olympic Games and competition in archery as a member of the three-woman United States team.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington has traveled thousands of miles to compete, practiced countless hours and devoted much of the last four years to one goal.

Her objective was to make the U.S. Olympic team in women's archery, and her efforts were so rewarded at the Olympic Trials in May. Now she has a new goal.

"I'd like to be in the gold medal match," the 18-year-old O'Donnell said. "I wouldn't be going if I didn't want to bring home the gold."

O'Donnell will leave Wednesday for the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. The Olympics begin July 25 and end Aug. 9, with the archery competition slated for July 31 through Aug. 4.

"I'm excited. It's been my goal the last four years and it's finally here," she said. "I'm happy about it, but there are a lot of other things I'd like to do. I'd like to medal at the games, and I'd like to go again in '96."

International competition is nothing new for O'Donnell, one of three women on the U.S. team who has been to Poland, Norway, Italy, Cuba, Japan and Finland for tournaments in the last three years.

The World Championships in Poland last year were good preparation for the Olympics, according to O'Donnell.

"I finished 17th, but that was my first major competition with people who are the best in the world," she said. "I had been shooting well enough to compete with them, but I never had. I didn't have enough confidence and got blown away by it all."

"I wish I would have done better, but I'm glad I had those kind of problems. I'll be able to deal with that kind of pressure, and I'll know what to expect

when I get over there."

Getting there took a lot of time and effort. O'Donnell, who has been competing seriously since 1987 with the Olympics as her aim, spent her junior year of high school at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. She returned to graduate from Farmington High School in 1991.

"It helped me a lot," she said. "I got to work with sports psychologists, get on a weight-training program and practice more. It made me more aware of what I was doing and more knowledgeable of my equipment and form."

Then came The Trials at Tempe, Ariz. O'Donnell was among 70 women vying for a spot on the Olympic team, but only a handful were in actual contention.

"It was only my second outdoor tournament of the year, but as long as I shot well I stood a good chance," she said.

After two days of qualifying, O'Donnell survived two days of elimination rounds and placed second. She will be joined on the team by Denise Parker (18) of Utah, a member of the '88 team, and Sherry Block (21) of Colorado.

"I was actually more relieved than anything because The Trials were over," O'Donnell said. "I didn't have to worry whether I was going or having everyone be disappointed that I didn't make it."

The Olympic format in archery has been changed to make the sport more appealing to a television audience. In the past, the eight remaining archers competed simultaneously for the top three scores and medals.

In 1992, qualifying will be done the first two days, with archers competing in a FITA (shooting 36 arrows from each of four distances). The field will be

See O'DONNELL, 2C

Victory keeps Hines Park atop league

Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury clung to its slim hold atop the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League standings Wednesday with a 2-1 win over Little Caesars at Ford Field.

The winners improved to 16-9, one point ahead of second place Walter's Appliance (15-8-1).

"We have three big games coming up with Walter's and that should tell us the story," Hines Park coach David Carroll said. "The league is real competitive this year. I think you could throw a blanket over all of us and watch to see who will come out on top."

Scott Rodgers (Plymouth Salem/Kent State University) tossed a two-hitter through six innings against Caesars.

Rodgers walked the first batter in the seventh before giving way to Jeff Paluk, who retired the side and earned the save.

Rodgers struggled with his control throughout the game, walking eight.

"I credit our catcher Scott Niemiec (Salem/University of Michigan) with settling Rodgers down when he needed it," Carroll said. "Niemiec really took control of the game. That's why he's such a fine catcher. When Scotty would walk someone, Niemiec would settle him down."

Vince Sacco knocked home Jason Riggs (ex-Plymouth Canton) for the first Hines Park run. He then stole third base and later scored on a wild pitch.

Livonia Franklin product Dave

Roman (Henry Ford Community College), went the distance and suffered the loss for Caesars.

Walter's wins easily

Louie McKaig (Madonna University) tossed a three-hitter Wednesday to lead Walter's Appliance to a 7-1 win over Ann Arbor Wendy's at Ford Field.

McKaig worked all seven innings and fanned six, while walking just two.

Mike Grahl took the loss for Wendy's after allowing seven runs in five innings.

Walter's tallied four runs in the second inning thanks to a two-run double from Craig Overaitis (Franklin/Henry Ford CC). Jason Gabel (Livonia Church-

ill/Central Michigan) added an RBI single.

Gabel, on a torrid hitting pace of late, also contributed a two-run double in the fourth inning.

Raindrops fall on Delwal

Delwal added another rainout to its list Wednesday, having to cancel a game with the Tecumseh Green Giants at Farmington High.

"The field conditions were just too poor," Delwal coach Bob Peterson said. "We have a lot of games to make up. That might work in our favor because we have less losses than anybody else in the league."



HILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shot stopper: Dan Schemanske stops the puck for the Canadians, who defeated the Lakers 9-8 with a late goal.

Osborn's 7 goals pace league-leading Wolves

The Wolves gained sole possession of first place in the Metro Summer Hockey League with Wednesday's 14-7 win over the Spartans.

Tim Osborn scored seven goals for the Wolves, who improved to 6-0 for the season with 12 points, one ahead of the second-place Kings (5-0-1, 11 points). The game was typical of most Metro Summer Hockey League matchups — a lot of goals were scored.

"It's typical of summer hockey," said commissioner A.J. Baker, who also coaches the Kings. "The defense wants to score goals, leaving it up to goalkeepers to make the plays. The goalies love getting a chance to see all the rubber."

Joe Burton (Garden City) scored four goals to support Osborn, who is "dynamite," according to Baker. "He scores at will."

Scott Locke (Livonia and Redford Catholic Central) and Eric Evans each scored two goals for the Spartans.

In another game played Wednesday, the Canadians beat the Lakers 9-8 on a goal with 29 seconds left by Bobby Hayes (Westland). Hayes, who scored three goals for the Canadians, scored on a scramble in front of the net after a pass from center Joe Bonnett (Canton).

Bonnett added two goals and two assists for the Canadians, who are 4-2-1

(nine points) and tied for third with the Falcons (4-3-1). The Canadians split the goalie duties between Dan Schemanske (Livonia) and Darin Burton (Garden City).

Brett Graham had three goals for the Lakers, who are 1-5-1 overall. Cory Al-man had four assists.

The Wildcats on Thursday earned their first point of the season with a 5-5 tie against the Bulldogs. The Wildcats are 0-7-1 overall and the Bulldogs are 1-5-1.

The Bulldogs avoided a loss by scoring two goals near the end of the third period. Rob Woelker and Brian Lindstrom were the goal scorers. Lindstrom finished with two goals on the night.

The Wildcats were led by Mike Kneiding's one goal and one assist.

Rich Nagy was the Bulldogs netminder and Keith Albertie played goal for the Wildcats.

The Broncos moved to 4-3 overall (eight points) with Thursday's 9-5 win over the Spartans. Mario Muzzuca had a hat trick and three assists for the Broncos. Chris Tamer scored one goal and two assists.

Paul Pachkevitch had two goals for the Spartans, who are 2-4 with four points.