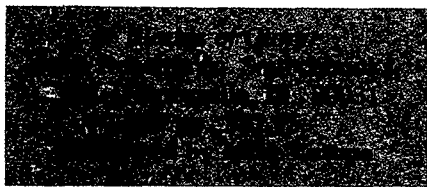


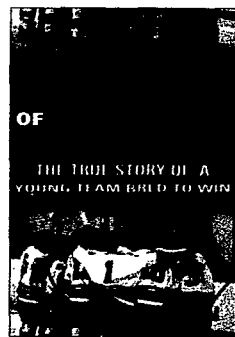
# Book probes youth hockey program



So you want to be a star? Read about this high-school hockey program and you may re-evaluate.

Author John Rosengren spent the entire 2000-01 season with the Jefferson High School team near Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., gaining unlimited access to the Jaguars. *Blades of Glory* shows how a single defeat can overshadow numerous victories — wins that are treated as small, expected steps toward a state title.

The author, a Minnesota native, examines hockey mania in a region



where arenas fill up for games involving 5-year-olds. He also details the violence, substance abuse, divorce and suicide that mark the high-schoolers' lives. Compared to the movie "Fargo," this depiction of Minnesota lifestyles is less humorous and more subtly disturbing.

Rosengren follows a soon-to-retire coach and his team's one last big run for a title. The coach extols his program's proud tradition in demanding a commitment to excellence, spew-



ing profanities as he goads his players to perfection. Buying into this intensity are the parents, whose expectations for success are enormously high. Many parents are divorced, leading one to wonder if hockey also helps fill a personal void.

Through Rosengren's lens, success is seen as both a blessing and a curse. Team members come off not as invincible jocks strutting down the hallway, but as startlingly fragile adolescents petrified of failing on the ice and then having to show up at school. The opening chapter is titled "King S—t", based on a player's perception of the Jaguars' rep-

utation should they lose a single game.

Rosengren forces any family with child athletes to reflect on their value systems. Few parents in the book are quoted as saying they feel all the sacrifices were worth it. Rather, they seemingly fall victim to a syndrome where winning breeds an intense desire for more wins, much like an alcoholic who needs one more drink or a compulsive gambler in pursuit of a jackpot. Some have a vague knowledge that they're in too deep, but can't seem to change.

For all these intimate glimpses, we learn little about the principal characters' daily lives outside of hockey. Perhaps this is Rosengren's way of asking the million-dollar question: Do such lives even exist?

## Creative muses at work in diocese

The following individuals in the Diocese of Rochester have recently produced books, videos, or music CDs or tapes:

- **Dawn Marie Chmiel** of Webster recently released her premiere CD, "For His Glory." Chmiel is music director for the chapel at St. Ann's Community and also works with several parishes in the diocese.

- **Deacon Ray Defendorf**, pastoral administrator of St. Mary's Parish in Bath, has produced three new CDs, "Listen to the Story! Stories, Songs and Prayers for Children," "Reflections" and a CD of personalized songs for special occasions such as baptisms and first communions. He has also repackaged three earlier recordings as CDs: "Prayer Songs by Deacon Ray Defendorf," "Walk With Me Lord: More Prayer Songs by Deacon Ray Defendorf," and "All Saints Together: New Prayer Songs and Other Classics by Deacon Ray Defendorf."

- **Paul Lobene** wrote and produced a highlight video/DVD of the 2003 Diocesan Youth Convention. Highlights include youth participation and Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

- **Edward D. Hoch**, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Rochester, wrote the book *The Iron Angel*, which contains 15 detective stories featuring the character Michael Vlado, a Romanian Gypsy sleuth.

- **Salvatore J. Parlato** of Rochester, using the pen name Chris Madeira Jr., has written the book *A Marine Corps Boot in Cold-War Parris Island*. The serio-comic work reflects his experiences as a recruit at the Marine Corps training camp in Parris Island, S.C., in 1954.

- **Peggy Rosenthal** of Rochester has released the book *Praying Through Poetry: Hope for Violent Times*. Inspired by Sept. 11, 2001, Rosenthal has selected poems that offer diverse settings and represent Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish faiths. She briefly introduces each poem and asks "How does the poem lead me to hope?"

- **John Siano Zeppetella** of Rochester, a member of St. Jude's Parish in Gates, is a soloist and guitarist who recently completed a CD of 11 Italian and English songs. The CD is expected to be released this month.



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