

Mercy cagers look tough again

By TOM BAKER

Farmington High School's girls' basketball team is loaded with talent again this year. Look for Mercy to stay alive and deep into the Class A state tournament in December.

That's the word from Larry Baker, Mercy's second-year coach who guided the Marlies to a 20-3 record and a shot at the State crown last year. Mercy advanced to the finals of the Class A tourney before finally losing to Detroit Northeastern, 47-43.

Farmington High School's girls' basketball team, beginning its second year, should be improved this fall. North Farmington and Farmington Marlies are beginning their inaugural seasons. Both squads should find it rough going.

Mercy's Baker had never even seen a girls' basketball game when he took over the coaching duties at the all-girl Catholic school last fall. But he learned quickly thanks to an experienced, talented team.

Mercy graduated three excellent players (Karen Gilbooley, Jean Otto and Judson Burton) from that squad, but 13 cagers will be back.

Some promising returnees are seniors K.D. Harte (5-6) and Leslie Sims (5-8), and juniors Kate McNamara (5-11), Diane Dietz (5-8) and Lynn Jelsch (5-8). All saw extensive service last season. And Mercy has a good-looking junior transfer in 5-8 Sue Brown, who's "very fast and has a good shot," according to Baker.

"I think we have as much talent as last year, if not more," Baker said. "We had a great bench last year. But I don't know if we can play together now. We haven't shown that yet."

"We should have a good fast break and the same pressure defense which worked so well for us last year. But we don't have a lot of height, so a tall team could hurt us. And we're prone to make a lot of turnovers."

Mercy opens its season on Sept. 21 at home against Detroit Pershing. The Marlies entertain Southfield High on Thursday (Sept. 23).

At Farmington High, coach Bob Lefkovich is hoping his team can improve on its 4-11 record.

"We feel we'll have a better team this season," he said. "We'll be more experienced, that's for sure. Some of our girls have attended summer basketball camps, and we started practice at the earliest possible date, Aug. 18."

"There seems to be a lot of spirit on the team, and the kids are working very hard," said Lefkovich, whose team opened its season with a 36-21 victory over district rival Farmington Harrison on Sept. 14.

Two experienced Falcon girls are Kathy VanDeusen, a 5-4 senior guard, and Pat Fournier, a 5-4 junior forward. VanDeusen played well enough to earn a place on the all-star Lakes League first team last year. Fournier was given honorable mention on the ILL team.

Farmington has three promising sophomores in Kim Patton (5-4), Kay Deeg (5-4) and Theresa Jourdan (5-10).

"I think we'll be pretty quick, and we'll have a good defense," Lefkovich said. "Our weakness could be rebounding. We don't have much height, which hurts. But I guess that's everybody's weakness in girls' basketball."

SANDRA LUBENICKI, a junior high physical education teacher, will coach North Farmington's girls' basketball team. North opens its season on Sept. 21 at home against Harrison.

"We'll have a rough time because we're a first-year team," Mrs. Lubenicki said. "But I'm very pleased with our turnout, and I'm happy with the progress our players are making."

Some North prospects are seniors Megan Saunders (5-4) and Jane Bush (5-10) and juniors Betsy Helke (5-4) and Merry Bates (5-4).

"We hope to run a lot on offense and

Basketball schedules

MERCY BASKETBALL

VARIETY SCHEDULE - Sept. 12-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 13-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 14-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 15-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 16-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 17-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 18-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 19-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 20-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 21-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 22-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 23-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 24-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 25-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 26-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 27-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 28-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 29-Southfield Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 30-Detroit Pershing, 7 p.m.

NORTH FARMINGTON BASKETBALL

VARIETY SCHEDULE - Sept. 12-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 13-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 14-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 15-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 16-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 17-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 18-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 19-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 20-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 21-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 22-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 23-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 24-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 25-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 26-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 27-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 28-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 29-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.; Sept. 30-Farmington Pershing, 7 p.m.

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The Farmington Hills City Clerk's Office will be open the following special hours:

Saturday, September 18th & 25th from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.
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Saturday, October 2, 1976 from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.
Monday, October 4, 1976 from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk
Farmington Hills

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