


# Hawk matmen shine in OU tournament

By MARTY BIDNER

Detroit Catholic Central won its third championship in the 17-year history of the Oakland County High School Wrestling Tournament held at Oakland University over the weekend. A few area teams, however, experienced their best efforts ever at the annual tourney.

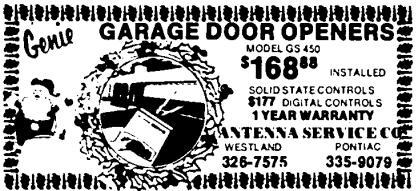
Farmington, for example, had never been among the top 20 teams, but managed a fourth place finish behind runners up Hazel Park and Pontiac Northern. Farmington's 11 matmen won 73 points, which was its best showing, and Rochester



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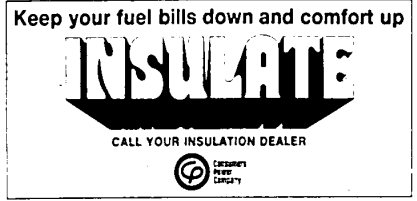
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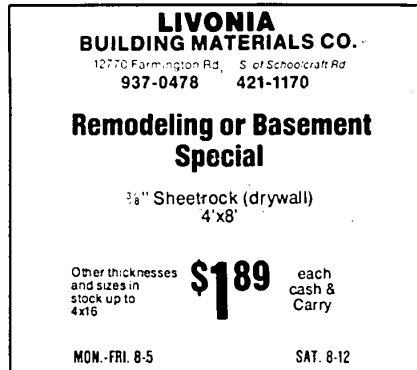
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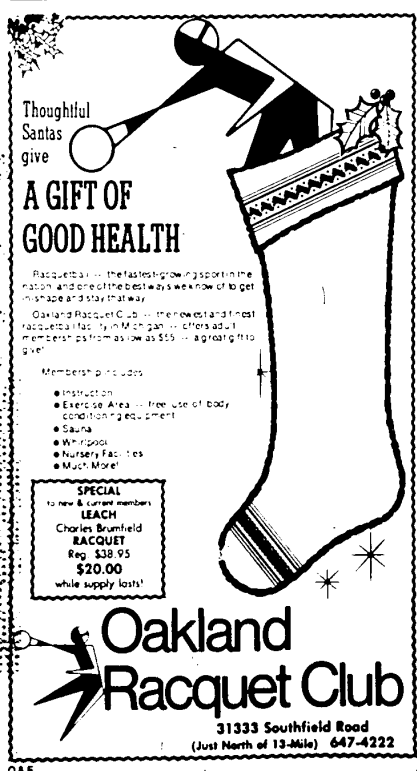
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High School mustered 37 1/2 points for an 18th place standing.

"It was a good thing to take as high as we did," said first-year Farmington coach Dick Cook, who was named mentor of the squad two weeks ago when former coach Larry Fortner was assigned principal duties in Paw Paw, Mich. "But, I wasn't surprised. We have good seniors and some good kids who came out of our junior high school program."

"I was very happy with the high standing because this is one of the toughest tests before the state meet, and a lot of state champions come out of this meet. The thing is that Oakland County is one of the toughest, if not the toughest, areas in the state for wrestling."

"We had kids that did well who didn't even place, so everyone was happy," said Cook, who believes that this year's team is the best squad ever assembled at the Farmington school.

DANIAN CRUDELE was Farmington's only individual winner as he pinned Lake Orion's Ed Hagan in the 155-pound bout at the 5:11 mark. Crudele, the Farmington captain, is one of only five seniors on the squad.

One of the other seniors, Kevin Johns, nearly beat defending state champion

**Falcon wrestlers triumph**

Coach Barry Walsh's Farmington High wrestling team, undefeated in four dual meets this season, got its first Lakes League campaign off to a good start by whipping Waterford Township 35-20 last week.

Farmington won nine of the 13 matches, including the 175-pound matchup where Dean Schultz decimated Bob Slabinski, 9-2. Farmington heavyweight Bruce McIntosh pinned Bill Smith in 2:44 for the 165-pound class. Farmington's Terry Hall pinned Bob Richards in 3:30. Farmington's Dave Murphy and Waterford's Randy Curran tied at a 10-10 draw at 88 pounds.

**Raiders nip fee**

Picture this scene: Two seconds are showing on the clock. The Farmington basketball team is down by one point and on the ball. The pass comes in, a Farmington player picks it up and lets go with a 20-foot jump shot. The crowd gasps as the ball hits the rim but doesn't fall in.

It was that close Tuesday night, in the final of the Redford Union Christmas Tournament when North Farmington slipped by Farmington, 70-69.

The first quarter of play saw the Falcons go out in front with a slim lead. But the Raiders steamed full speed ahead and held Farmington in their reach.

The second quarter was a complete turnabout as the Raiders labored away, with strong outside shooting and quick passing. At the end of the half, the score was 40-30, North Farmington.

Still hot from outside, the Raiders hit the second half with a bang and came out like gangbusters. However, the Falcons wouldn't let up and were soon closing in on the North Farmington club.

Outrushed and out-gunned, the lackluster Raider offense didn't give up, and with the help of its defense, held on.

Early in the battle's fourth quarter, both teams locked horns and continued to give it all physically. Until the middle of the quarter, the North Farmington team held on to a slim lead at most five points.

But, midway in the quarter, something happened—the magic slowly died in the Raider fire and went over to the Falcons. The turnaround gave Farmington a chance to take the lead which it did with four minutes left in the game.

North Farmington charged back and regained the lead and held it.

With 15 seconds left, the Falcons were down by two. With seven seconds remaining on the clock, they were down by one. But in the end, North Farmington won, as Farmington couldn't score its last shot.

The final score was 70-69, North Farmington.

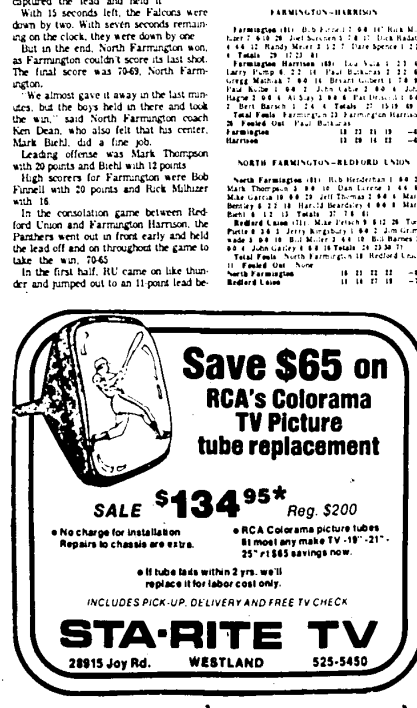
"We almost gave it away in the last minutes, but the boys held in there and took the win," said North Farmington coach Ken Dean, who also felt that his center, Mark Biehl, did a fine job.

Leading offense was Mark Thompson with 20 points and Biehl with 14 points.

High scorers for Farmington were Bob Furness with 20 points and Rick Mihzner with 16.

In the consolation game between Redford Union and Farmington, the Raiders went out in front early and held the lead off and on throughout the game to take the win, 70-69.

In the first half, RU came on like thunder and jumped out to an 11-point lead be-



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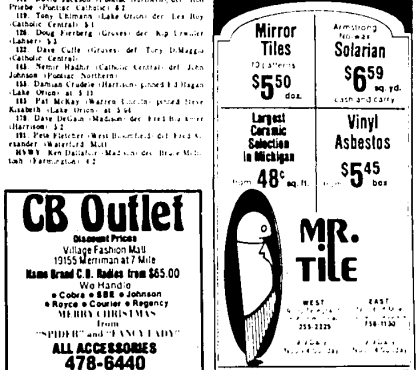
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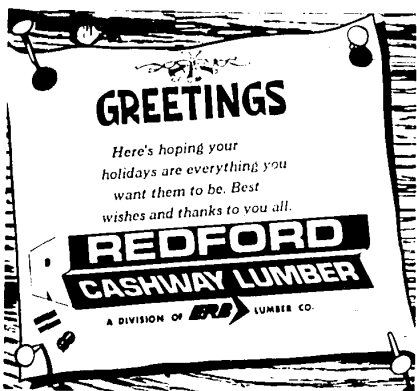
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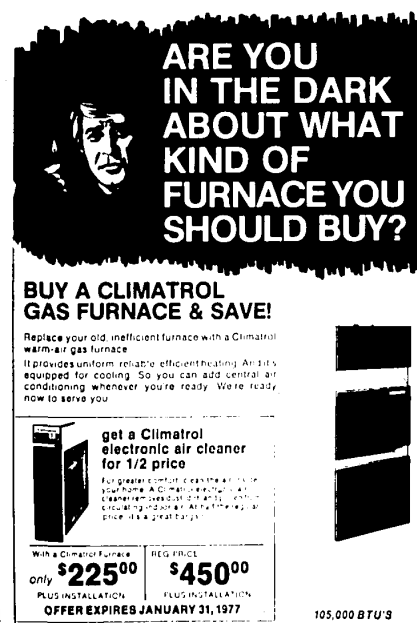


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