

# Local drivers would be kings of rallying

What Richard Petty is to stock car racing and Don Garlits is to drag racing, Don Jankowski and Ray Thompson plan to be professional rallying in the U.S.—the undisputed "kings."

Giving substance to their intent of dominating the still fledgling segment of motorsports here is an enviable record compiled in three campaigns as rallyists.

Underlying this confidence in their ability to compete is a natural and sustaining interest in things automotive that keeps the two rallyists striving to improve the performance of their machine and themselves.

Both 26 years old, driver Jankowski

of Farmington Hills and navigator Thompson of Birmingham grew up in their native Detroit area dissecting car engines much as other youngsters learned to decipher the intricacies of baseball or football.

Rallies require participants to follow a specified course and arrive at several checkpoints at specific times.

Thompson became involved in rallying in 1972 when he manned a check point for a local sports car club, "The Ralligators." Later, he persuaded Jankowski to "sweep" the course at another rally that same year.

UNTIL THEN, Jankowski's only racing experience had been infrequent

and personally unfulfilling sorties on area dragstrips. But, when he discovered he was catching the last cars in the rally as he drove from check point to check point gathering control sheets, he decided rallying was the right combination of motors and sport for him.

Ironically, a car thief provided the next spur for the Jankowski-Thompson rally team. Don had his car stolen and he replaced it with one of the hottest rally cars available, a 1972 Dodge Colt.

They added well over \$3,000 of their own money and "more hours than money could buy" to prepare it for competition.

In their first outing, they finished a satisfying fifth in the Snow-Drift Rally at Grayling in January 1974. In October, they finished 10th at the Sunrise 400-Mile Rally at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Next month captured the first place in Class B of the rugged and renowned Press-On-Regardless (POR) Rally in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Exalted over their initial ability to consistently place in competition where 50-75 per cent of all entries regularly fail to finish, the Jankowski-Thompson duo got a taste of frustration the next season. A shortage of time and money limited their ability to compete, and the best they could claim in an abbreviated campaign

was sixth in the Marathon 400 at Traverse City in June.

"ACTUALLY," Thompson said, "the contrast between seasons turned out to be a good thing. It made us deal with the fact that winning wasn't easy and would take a near total commitment."

They made that commitment and saw it bear fruit in 1976. They placed in each race they entered except the season-ending Marquette 1,000, successor to the POR, in which they spun out during the third and last night of the race. For the season, they finished third at Midland in April, fifth at Olean, N.Y., in August, fourth at

Denton, Tex., in September and seventh at Chillicothe in October.

Rated a strong and promising professional rallying team by observers, Jankowski and Thompson believe 1977 can be the year they assert their claim to the national spotlight. Team spokesman Thompson says, "We plan to enter all 10 events in the SCCA pro series and the North American Rally Association's entire America's Cup series."

"And, we will not be content short of dominance because we now have the experience, competitive know-how and durability to win."

## Harrison rips Seaholm, 76-55



Thursday, February 3, 1977

(F11C)

Birmingham Seaholm tossed in the first two baskets, but Farmington Harrison outscored the Maples in every quarter and took a 76-55 victory last Tuesday night in a non-league game played at Harrison. The victory lifted coach Bob Sutter's Harrison team to 8-5 overall. Seaholm fell to 2-12.

Once Harrison took the lead in the first quarter, Seaholm never caught up. Harrison led, 34-24, at halftime and then upped the margin to 18 points (56-38) after three quarters.

Harrison's Bryant Gilbert scored a game-high 20 points with eight coming in the third quarter. Teammate Larry Pump added 16 points with 10 coming in the second quarter. Harrison shot 33-71 for 46 per cent from the floor. The Hawks made 76 per cent of their free throws.

Coach Bob Sherwood's Seaholm team was 23 of 47 from the field for 48 per cent. The Maples were 58 per cent from the line. Bob Folin and Mike

Jeske each scored 10 points for the losers.

Harrison outscored Seaholm, 49-34, Gilbert led Harrison with 12 rebounds, while teammates Paul Butkunas and Lou Vulaj each grabbed 10. Vulaj helped out with 10 points, two steals, and nine assists.

Harrison plays next on Friday (Feb. 4) at home against Northville High. Seaholm returns to Southeastern Michigan Association action with a game at Southfield High on Friday. Both games begin at 8 p.m.

**HARRISON-BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM**

**FARMINGTON HARRISON (76):** Lou Vulaj 4, 22, 10; Larry Pump 8, 24, 16; Paul Butkunas 4, 12, 8; Bryan Gilbert 4, 44, 20; Gregg Mathias 3, 32, 8; Bert Baruch 5, 8, 10; John Calk 8, 12, 1; Pete Lambert 1, 2, 2; Totals: 33, 76-55.

**BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM (55):** Chuck Letzer 4, 2, 4; Bob Folin 2, 22, 1; Jeff Stuber 6, 24, 14; Mike Jeske 6, 24, 10; Scott O'Brien 4, 22, 10; Dave Smith 4, 2, 2; Mike Prock 1, 6, 2; Totals: 23, 48, 33.

**RECORDS:** Harrison 8, Seaholm 2. Fought Out: None.

**FARMINGTON HARRISON:** 12 14 14 12 34

**BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM:** 12 14 14 12 34

## Ferndale downs North

Ossie Cobb scored 33 points to lead Ferndale High past North Farmington, 71-57, last Tuesday night in a non-league basketball game at North Farmington. The less-dragged coach Ken Dean's North Farmington team to 7-9 overall this season.

Cobb made 15 field goals and went five for six at the free-throw line for his game-high 33 points. No other Ferndale player finished in double figures, but Dave Milburn and Paul Jackson had eight and six points respectively.

Ferndale grabbed a 14-11 lead after the first quarter, but North came back with 20 points in the second quarter to make it close (34-31) at halftime. Ferndale put the game away by outscoring North, 21-14, in the third quarter.

Mark Bentley led North Farmington with 16 points on seven field goals and two of four from the line. Mark Thompson and Mike Garcia chipped in with 12 and nine points respectively. Harold Beardsley, North's 6-foot-7 junior center, fouled out after scoring only four points.

North Farmington returns to Northville Suburban League play on Friday (Feb. 4) with an 8 p.m. game at Livonia Franklin.

**FERNDALE-NORTH FARMINGTON**

**FERNDALE (71):** Ossie Cobb 15, 34, 21; Paul Jackson 8, 8, 6; Dave Milburn 8, 8, 6; Jerome Perry 2, 12, 8; Mike Storer 2, 2, 2; Al Hoot; Dave Smith 4, 2, 2; Jim Sanding 0, 5, 1; Dan Holton 0, 12, 1; Bob L; 4; Scott Rutherford 0, 2, 1; Jay Newman 0, 0, 0; 4; Totals: 33, 71-57.

**NORTH FARMINGTON:** Mark Thompson 12, 9, 6; Mike Garcia 9, 9, 0; Mike Garcia 3, 34, 9; Mike Thompson 12, 12, 1; Mike Ziemba 1, 2, 4; Herb Roth 1, 2, 2; Tim Mather 1, 2, 1; Jeff Thomas 2, 6, 2; Harold Beardsley 2, 5, 1; Mark Bentley 2, 24, 16; Mike Calk 2, 2, 2; Totals: 23, 57.

**FERNDALE:** 12 14 14 12 34

**NORTH FARMINGTON:** 12 14 14 12 34



Harrison's Bryant Gilbert (54) scored 20 points.

## Wrestling titles at stake

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison, enjoying its best wrestling season ever, can capture its first Western Six League crown if it can finish first in the league meet Saturday (Feb. 5) at Northville High. And coach Dick Cook's Hawks, with a 5-0 WSL record, look like a good bet to take the title.

"The kids are really excited," said Cook, who coached Harrison to a 12-1 overall record this season. "We're favored to win the league. In fact, this is the first year we've gone undefeated in the league."

There's also a lot of title excitement going around the wrestling teams at Farmington High and North Farmington. Coach Barry Walsh's Farmington club is favored to win the Inter Lakes League title at the league meet next Saturday at Waterford Township. The Falcons are 5-0 in ILL meets.

North Farmington, 7-2 overall and 2-2 in the Northwest Suburban League, has a chance to at least gain a tie for the crown if it can win the NSL meet next Saturday at Thurston.

"We haven't figured out how we're going to do that, but I'll tell you our kids are really hopped up about it," said North coach Jim O'Leary, whose team got a break when Thurston tightened up the NSL race by knocking off powerful Westland John Glenn in a dual meet last week. "Our kids figured they were out of the picture, but now they have a chance."

Unlike the WSL and the ILL, which base their wrestling titles solely on the league meets, the Northwest Suburban League counts loop dual meets toward the crown.

**HARRISON AND** North Farmington tuned up for their league meets by competing in tournaments last weekend. Harrison hosted a double dual, tying Clarenceville High (28-28) and beating Waterford Kettering (48-18). North Farmington finished second with 125½ points, just three fewer than Dearborn Heights Annapolis, at the Dearborn Edsel Ford Invitational tournament.

Harrison had another fine performance from senior Damian Crudele, who won two more matches at 165 pounds to up his individual record to 23-3 this season. Crudele pinned Clarenceville's Kevin Respekt in 5:12, and then decided Kettering's Tom Dougherty, 9-1.

"I've been wrestling Damian up a weight all year, but he's pinned just about everyone he's wrestled there since the Schoeller Tournament," Cook said. "He's a hard worker with a lot of natural talent. He could be the state champion this year."

Another Harrison matman, Kevin Johns, posted two victories at 145 pounds. Johns bested Clarenceville's Paul Laurens, 12-4, and then decided Kettering's Ken Cotter, 7-1. Harrison's Jerry Bishop recorded two pins at 155 pounds, taking Clarence-

vill's Mike Rodeziewicz in :48 seconds and Kettering's Dan Devers in 5:41.

"We could have won it," O'Leary said. "We should have won it. We had the same number of kids in the finals and the consolation as Annapolis, but we just didn't come through depth-wise."

"But I can't be too disappointed. We won a trophy. We've won three trophies (at invitational meets) this season, and that's more than we've won in a lot of years."

North's Marty Benda lifted his individual record to 27-7 with a 7-0 decision over Dearborn Heights Crestwood's Dale Dreher in the 132-pound finals. North heavyweight Jim Suckamp has a 19-3 record after defeating Dearborn High's Paul Sidor, 20-4, in the heavyweight finals.

North's John Cotter finished second at 138, dropping an 8-6 decision to Dearborn's Osterhoff in the finals. Cotter has a 25-4 record. Terry Halling gave North a second place at 112, losing to Annapolis' Mike Hindmarsh, 14-0, in the finals. Halling has a 16-1 individual record.

The three Farmington high schools will compete in the Class A district tournament at Davison High School, located east of Flint, on Feb. 12.

Meet summaries—see page 3

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North Farmington's Bruce Kilmer (top) struggles with opponent during a recent match.