

Bob Rankin calls it quits as Seaholm grid coach

By JOHN BOZZO

Problems with the community prompted Bob Rankin to resign from the head football coaching job at Birmingham Seaholm High School after four years.

Rankin, a West Bloomfield resident, delivered a resignation letter to Seaholm principal John Schultz two weeks ago.

"To implement a successful football program at a Class A high school is a difficult task," Rankin wrote. "It becomes even more difficult when the lines of communication between the staff and the community are strained."

"The student athlete ultimately suffers the greatest loss in such circumstances," Rankin continued in the letter. "I cannot, in good conscience, be a

contributing factor in that loss.

"It is with deep personal regret that I resign my present co-curricular duties of head football coach at Seaholm High School."

Rankin will remain as physical education teacher at Seaholm. He has coached 13 years in the Detroit area and compiled a 12-24 record in four years as head football coach of the Eagles. His teams were 1-4 the first two years and have been 1-4 the past two years.

His brother, Bill, coaches cross-town rival Birmingham Groves. They have split the four games played against each other.

"I WOULD NEVER tell you how to write a story," Bob said to an Eccentric reporter. "There are many times

when I've run up against it (communication problems). When it becomes such a problem that it weighs on the athlete, it's time to change something. The easiest way to change is if I leave coaching."

Bob, 35, said that now he will be able to spend more time with his wife and three children; the oldest of the kids is seven. He said that coaching required a time commitment from after Christmas vacation through the football season. He ran strength and agility programs in the off season. He is undecided about future coaching positions.

"For seven to eight months of the year I'm home after the kids have gone to bed and leave before they get up," Bob Rankin said.

James Liddle, personnel director of

the Birmingham schools, said the coaching position was posted last week at colleges in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Deadlines for applications, which would be sent to Liddle, is Feb. 28.

After the deadline, Liddle said, a committee probably made up of a student, parent, Seaholm administrator and Carl Lemle, the director of physical education and athletics in Birmingham will review applications and set interviews.

LEMLE INDICATED he would prefer someone with previous varsity coaching experience.

Although Bob said that it did not influence his decision, a study now being conducted in Birmingham has found that it is difficult for the school

district to keep coaches.

"We've had problems because we've got quite a few 'outside' coaches," Lemle said, "people who do not teach in our system. We've had coaches in the past who have not been trained as a coach or as a teacher. It's much better to have a staff member who works with the kids to coach. Older coaches don't want to coach anymore," Lemle said. "Some claim we don't pay enough (head football coaches receive \$1,535). Because of the decline in enrollment we haven't been able to hire young coaches out of college in six years."

"Our enrollment has dropped," Lemle said, "our staff dropped, we've pink-slipped teachers and haven't been able to hire new ones."

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Oakland U. women dump Ferris

After three consecutive losses, the Oakland University women's basketball team savored its 70-67 triumph over Ferris State College on Monday.

The female Pioneers literally ran into trouble after their first 12 games of the season when they went undefeated. After losing to Grand Valley State in overtime, Oakland proceeded to lose a close contest to Wayne State then suffer a 30-point whipping by Saginaw Valley last Saturday.

"I think we're out of it now," said coach Rose Swidzinski, whose Pioneers are now 5-3 in league play. "We needed that win to get back in the groove. When you lose three in a row like that, you get into a slump, and then you start to wonder if you'll ever get back out."

"We were down a little psychologically for the game, but we came back and were able to handle the pressure well," she said.

Both Oakland and Ferris played a sloppy first half, with the Pioneers committing 15 turnovers and Ferris 18. The teams also encountered poor shooting efforts as Oakland made 12 of 33 shots and the Bulldogs just 10 of 32.

The Oakland cagers shot out to a five point lead right at the start as center Helen Shereda hit a pair of free throws and guard Kathy Hewitt converted a three-point play.

Midway through the half, Ferris caught up and took a pair of one-point leads, 17-16 and 19-18. The game was tied twice thereafter, but Oakland took a narrow 31-29 halftime lead as a result of baskets by Shereda and Lori Klerkoper.

Ferris outscored Oakland 16-7 beginning the second half and stroled to a 45-36 lead. The Pioneers, however, went on a streak of their own and raced to a 52-47 lead.

With 4-41 left, Ferris sported a 61-60 lead, but that was the last the Bulldogs saw of Oakland as they went over three minutes without scoring more than one basket. The Pioneers, behind the superb shooting of Shereda, took a commanding 70-63 lead and that sealed up their 13th victory of the season.

Shereda, with 19 second-half points, was the game's high scorer with 33. Besides hauling in 14 rebounds, the Fresno, Mich. native made nine of nine free throws and shot 63 per cent from the floor.

Hewitt joined Shereda in doubles with 12 points, as did Klerkoper with 10.

Center Tanya Johnson paced the Bulldog offense with 21 points, and fleet guard Linell Jones added 17.

"I think Shereda played a good second half, and so did Hewitt and Fisher (Jeanette)," said Swidzinski. "We made mistakes, but I think that is due to how young we are."

The Pioneers' next contest will be at Lake Superior State College this Saturday in a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association clash.

Oakland University (29) - Ferris State (47)
Oakland: Klerkoper 5, 34; 10; Hewitt 4, 49; 12; Johnson 8, 24, 21; Shereda 12, 34, 32; Scott 2, 0-2; Taylor 2, 18-19.

Ferris State: Jones 7, 34, 17; Pratt 0, 2-2; Sieret 4, 35, 11; Smith 8, 54; 10; Henderson 6, 0-0; Johnson 8, 24, 21; Taylor 2, 18-19.

Total Fouls: Oakland, 23; Ferris State 25.
Fouled Out: Klerkoper (10); Hewitt (10); Sieret (5); Henderson (5).
Oakland: Ferris State 23 21 17

Area's best swim times

A listing of outstanding swimming and diving performances by high school boys in the area, compiled by coach Pete Biglin of Southfield-Lathrup High, will appear every Thursday in The Observer & Eccentric. Coaches with times to report are asked to call Biglin at 354-7655 from 3-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 879-9494 in the evenings.

25-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

1. West Bloomfield (Kevin Schmidt, Tim Moser, Kevin Winkler, Brad Braun) 1:43.8
2. Southfield-Lathrup (Jordan Kiefer, Peter Meyer, Mitch Ferguson, Doug McIntosh) 1:44.4
3. Highland Park (Alan Dewa, Scott Mann, Dave Smith, Bill Dumas) 1:45.7
4. Birmingham (Tom McGinty, Mark Van, Mark Hinkman, Steve Schmidt) 1:45.8
5. Rochester Adams (Rob Hildom, Scott Phillips, William Bratz, Tim Housworth) 1:45.2
6. Farmington Hills (David Gorman, Bob Jones, Mel, John Hanson, Mark Kozan) 1:45.5
7. Birmingham (Bryler Rice, Jim Beck, Ward, John McKinley, Tom Lynch) 1:45.4
8. Southfield-Lathrup (Steve Meyer, Doug McIntosh, Todd Kozak, Tom Lynch) 1:45.9
9. Troy (Steve Rabin, Dan Hahn, Lee Chish, Chris St. Amant) 1:46.0
10. Bloomfield Hills (Laurie Mark Slater, Bob King, Clayton Muller, Mike Peters) 1:46.2

50-YARD FREESTYLE

1. Jim Kiefer (Greenville) 1:47.6
2. Tim Murphy (Anderson) 1:47.6
3. Dan Ratcheter (Greenville) 1:49.3
4. Dave Erickson (Greenville) 1:49.4
5. Tom Housworth (Adams) 1:50.1
6. Gordon Gabel (Birmingham) 1:50.1
7. Bob Hildom (Adams) 1:51.1
8. Eric Overhardt (Seaboard) 1:52.2
9. William Bratz (Adams) 1:52.2
10. Karl Heck (Greenville) 1:53.2

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

1. Dan Ratcheter (Greenville) 2:01.1
2. Tim Murphy (Anderson) 2:04.0
3. Tom Housworth (Adams) 2:05.1
4. Jim Kiefer (Greenville) 2:05.6
5. Dave Smith (Lathrup) 2:05.9
6. Tom Housworth (Adams) 2:07.2
7. Jack Kozak (Adams) 2:07.7
8. Dave Hinkman (Lathrup) 2:08.3
9. Mark Thierke (Anderson) 2:08.9
10. Scott Stanford (Lathrup) 2:09.3

50-YARD BUTTERFLY

1. Dan Ratcheter (Greenville) 2:01.1
2. Dave Smith (Lathrup) 2:04.0
3. Tim Murphy (Anderson) 2:05.1
4. William Bratz (Adams) 2:05.6
5. Jim Kiefer (Greenville) 2:05.9
6. Mark Hinkman (Lathrup) 2:07.2
7. Jordan Kiefer (Anderson) 2:07.7
8. Dave Erickson (Greenville) 2:08.3
9. Kevin Winkler (West Bloomfield) 2:08.9
10. Gordon Gabel (Birmingham) 2:09.3

100-YARD FREESTYLE

1. Doug McIntosh (Anderson) 2:09.6
2. Gordon Gabel (Birmingham) 2:10.1
3. Tim Murphy (Anderson) 2:10.1
4. Kevin Winkler (West Bloomfield) 2:10.1
5. Jim Kiefer (Greenville) 2:10.1
6. Tom Housworth (Adams) 2:10.1
7. Charlie Hinkman (Farmington Hills) 2:10.1
8. Dean Gabel (Anderson) 2:10.1
9. Dave Erickson (Greenville) 2:10.1
10. Mitch Ferguson (Anderson) 2:10.1

500-YARD FREESTYLE

1. Jim Kiefer (Greenville) 4:50.6
2. Dave Smith (Lathrup) 4:50.6
3. Tim Murphy (Anderson) 4:50.6
4. Kevin Winkler (West Bloomfield) 4:50.6
5. Bob Kiefer (Greenville) 4:50.6
6. Bob Hildom (Adams) 4:50.6
7. Bill Vincent (Seaboard) 4:50.6
8. Glen Hinkman (Lathrup) 4:50.6
9. Tom Housworth (Adams) 4:50.6
10. Shawn Keating (Birmingham) 4:50.6

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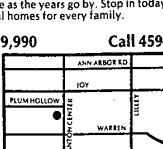


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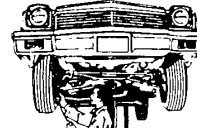
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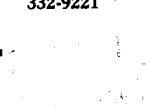
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