

# Coach leaves as a winner Brown calls it quits

By TOM BAER

Whatever happens to Farmington High in the Class A regional tournament this week at Pontiac Central, coach Bruce Brown has let it be known that his decision will stand.

Brown won't be back next season as Farmington's basketball coach. He's leaving the sport after 10 years in coaching, the last five spent at Farmington High School.

Brown will leave coaching the same way he started in it — as the coach of a district-championship team. In 1966, Brown's rookie season, he guided Saugatuck to a district crown. Last Friday, his Farmington squad stunned Detroit Denby, 97-69, in the finals of the North Farmington district.

In defeating Denby, Farmington earned the right to face Bloomfield Hills Lahser in the Pontiac Central regional.

"People have asked me, 'Well, now that you've won this (the district championship), are you going to stick it out?'" Brown said. "But there's an old saying: There's nothing as fleeting as athletic success. I believe that."

"Next season, I might lose two bal-



Thursday, March 10, 1977

igames in a row, and I'd be a bum."

Brown, who teaches social studies at Farmington, listed the usual reasons for leaving coaching.

"I coached for 10 years, and it was fun," he said. "But now I want to do some other things. I'm going to take some courses, and maybe get more involved in teaching. I really enjoy teaching at Farmington, and I'd like to try some new things. And, of course, I'd like to spend more time with my family."

FARMINGTON WASN'T given much of a chance against highly-rated Denby in the district final. Denby, known for its tenacious press and for its hot-shooting guard, James (Sonny) Newman, entered the game with a 16-3 record, including district victories over North Farmington and Detroit Western.

Newman thrilled the spectators by bagging 30 points to lead all scorers, but Denby's press was a flop. Time and again, Farmington broke the press, found a man in the open and scored the easy basket. Three Farmington starters — Dick Radatz, Rick Milhizer and Rick McKibben — finished with 20 points or more.

Farmington has an unspectacular 13-8 record, including district victories. But the squad has won eight of its last nine contests, the only loss coming to rugged Pontiac Northern in the last game of the regular season.

"We have five or six very talented basketball players, but it was sometimes awfully hard to get us all playing together," said Brown of the team's earlier efforts. "Finally, we

seemed to get it together. We're mostly seniors and we should have matured earlier, but we didn't."

"We sort of had a knack of blowing big leads. We'd get a lead at halftime, and then figure out the darndest ways to kick the thing away."

BUT FARMINGTON managed to solve its problems with Milhizer and Radatz leading the way. There were other players involved in the comeback, according to Brown.

"Rick (Milhizer) and Dick (Radatz) are getting all the press, but Bob Finnell and Joel Soronen have just given us everything," Brown said. "Finnell (a 6-2 senior) is one of the finest shooters I've ever seen, but he's been willing to stifle the urge to shoot and concentrate on other things. He's been our leading rebounder just about every game."

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## Lahser clips Farmington

Bloomfield Hills Lahser advanced to the Pontiac Central regional boys' high school basketball finals by whipping Farmington, 76-52, Wednesday. Lahser meets Pontiac Central in the finals 7:30 p.m. Friday in Central's gym.

Lahser's Jamie Drew hit for 31 points in the game, as Lahser's patient offense exploded for 45 points in the second half. Farmington's Bob Finnell had 16 points to lead the losers. Dave Bennett added 18 rebounds and 11 points for Lahser.



Farmington's Bob Finnell gets in some practice before last Wednesday's big game with Lahser. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Bruce Brown: calling it quits after five years as Farmington basketball coach.

# Farmington, North Farmington win league swimming meets

By TOM BAER

Farmington High won nine of the 11 events and coasted to a first-place finish in the Inter Lakes League Meet last week at Walled Lake Western High.

Coach Jack Merritt's Farmington club amassed 430 points to runner-up Livonia Stevenson's 251. The league title was the first ever for Farmington.

In other league meets, host North Farmington won the Northwest Suburban League Meet by scoring 330 points, 45 more than second-place Livonia Franklin. Franklin had beaten North Farmington in a dual meet earlier this season. Farmington Harrison finished second in the Western Six League Meet with 267 points. Northville won the WSL meet with 341 points.

Farmington had three double winners in the individual events, with both relays and showed good depth in winning the 100 free. "It was a good team effort," said Merritt, whose team went 5-0 in ILL dual meets. "Everybody was in the meet record for us."

Ron Reinke, one of the few senior swimmers at Farmington, set a conference record in the 50-yard freestyle with a :23.3 performance, and then won the 100 breaststroke in 1:08.1. Junior Jim Pogue also won two events and qualified for the state meet in the 100 butterfly by going :55.9 in the preliminaries. Pogue's :55.9 in the finals won the fly, and he also copied a first in the 100 backstroke with a :59.3 clocking. Teammate Dave Uzelac, a sophomore, won the 200 individual medley (2:14.8) and the 100 freestyle (1:53.8).

FARMINGTON TOOK the first three places in diving as Bill Gioia won with 373.05 points. Greg Shuler finished second with 353.80, and Rick Reinken took third with 331.05.

Farmington's 200 medley relay (Reinke, Pogue, Uzelac and Brian Gore) qualified for state with a record-setting 1:45.2 performance. Farmington's 400 freestyle relay team (Fred Beattie, Gore, Pat Cavanaugh and Terry Inch) won in 3:36.0.

Stevenson's Tom Smith was another individual standout, winning the 500 freestyle (4:33.4) and setting a league record in the 200 free (1:48.1).

North Farmington won only two events, but had depth to spare in winning the Northwest Suburban League Meet. North's Todd Knock won the 100 backstroke in 1:00.9, and teammate Doug Campbell won the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.0.

"Our program is geared to conference meet swimming," said North coach Pat Dubie, whose team compiled a 7-5 overall record and a 3-1 mark in the NSL. "We work real hard throughout the dual-meet season, and then taper off and get real psyched up for the conference meet. That's the meet we point for."

"All of our kids swim well. Some swim very well. None of our kids swim poorly."

North's Jay Scopercio qualified for state in the 500 freestyle with a 4:57.4 clocking, good for second place behind Franklin's Steve Christie, who set a pool and league record of 4:55.8.

TO HARRISON coach Mark Holdridge, the Hawks' second-place finish, just 30 points ahead of third-place Plymouth Canton, represented a real comeback.

"Canton has three times as many swimmers as we do, so we were really pleased with second," Holdridge said. "A lot of our younger swimmers dropped their times, so it was

seemed to get it together. We're mostly seniors and we should have matured earlier, but we didn't."

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Harrison senior Jay Emerson qualified for state in the 100 back with a winning :58.3, and also finished first in the 200 IM with a time of 2:11.5. Teammate Charlie Hornacek qualified

in the 50 free with a :22.9, good for second place behind Northville's Mark Yanoschik, who set a pool and league record of :22.7. Hornacek had qualified for the 100 free earlier in the season.

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Farmington's Bob Carruthers provided some depth for the Falcon swimmer.