

Season begins Friday

Harrison, Farmington seek cage improvement

By TOM BAER

Although Farmington High and Farmington Harrison compiled mediocre basketball records last season, both teams showed signs of improvement toward the end of the campaign.

Both coaches, Richard Roy of Farmington and Mike Teachman of Harrison, hope that last-season success will carry over into the 1979-80 season, which begins on Friday on the home courts.

Farmington opens at home against Livonia Bentley and Harrison plays host to city rival North Farmington. Both games have 8 p.m. starts.

Harrison, which made the district finals before losing to North Farmington last season, finished with an 8-15 overall record and a 3-7 mark in the Western Six League.

"We were out of only two games, though — Highland Park and Flint Northwestern," Teachman said.

Brian Burgess, a 6-foot-2 senior, was

a starter for Harrison last year. Some other Hawk seniors are Mike Clary (6-5), Ted Kallgren (6-1), Mike Tetreault (6-1) and D.J. Hochstein (5-8).

Teachman is expecting good things from Reggie Upshaw, a 6-3 junior who "can jump through the ceiling," according to the coach.

Two other promising juniors are Goran Vasovski (6-9) and Steve Shannon (6-4). Shannon led the leading scorer on the junior varsity last season, and Vasovski led the reserves in freethrow shooting and assists.

OUR STRENGTHS will be our defense, attitudes and shooting," said Teachman, who has a 15-28 record in two seasons at Harrison. "Our weakness could be ballhandling. We've had trouble developing a lead guard."

Teachman stresses defense. "Look on any level and you'll find the teams that win the championships are the teams that play good defense," he said. "You can be cold, shoot 40 percent and

still win if you play good defense.

"We'll be playing man-to-man defense mostly. This looks like a team that can press hard and not lose a lot on rebounding."

Harrison opens its Western Six League season on Dec. 14 at Walled Lake Western. Plymouth Canton, the defending league champion, has only one returning player. "Most people are predicting that Northville will win it," Teachman said.

Rick Brewis, who played at U-M-Dearborn and Dearborn Divine Child, will be Teachman's assistant.

Farmington High, which finished at 6-15 overall and 4-6 in the Inter Lakes League, may have some height problems this season.

Farmington's tallest players — seniors Ron Sarcevic and Jeff McGrath — are 6-3. Two other senior Falcons are Bill Hehman (5-7) and John Dunn (6-9). Lehman, Dunn and Sarcevic

all started toward the end of last season.

"We'll be running a lot," Roy said. "Hopefully, we'll have good scoring balance. Defensively, we'll be putting a lot of pressure on people. Maybe by using 10 players, we can tire out our opponents."

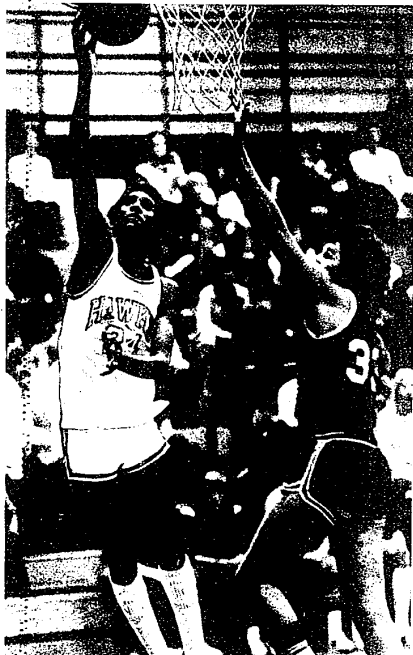
SOME OTHER senior returnees are Mike Stratis (6-0), John Reagan (6-3) and Doug Parker (6-2). Junior Jerry Liphart (6-2) was the junior varsity's leading scorer last year. Juniors Mike

Wozniak (5-10) and Kevin Nichols (5-11) also have made the team.

Farmington's Inter Lakes League season begins on Dec. 14 at Walled Lake Central.

Pontiac Northern, which will have a basketball team despite a millage failure, and Livonia Stevenson are favored to win the championship. Northern and Stevenson shared the title last season and Farmington tied with Waterford Township for fourth place.

Greg Grodzinski will be the assistant coach at Farmington.



Harrison's Brian Burgess (24) should see plenty of playing time this season.

Area cage schedules

HARRISON BASKETBALL

Varsity Schedule — Dec. 7, at North Farmington, 8 p.m.; Dec. 11, at Oak Park, 8 p.m.; Dec. 14, at Walled Lake Western, 8 p.m.; Dec. 16, at Flint Northwestern, 8 p.m.; Jan. 8, at Livonia Churchill, 8 p.m.; Jan. 11, at Plymouth Canton, 8 p.m.; Jan. 15, at Waterford Kettering, 8 p.m.; Jan. 18, at Waterford Mont., 8 p.m.; Jan. 22, at Redford Thurston, 8 p.m.; Jan. 25, at Northville High, 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Feb. 1, at Walled Lake Western, 8 p.m.; Feb. 5, at Birmingham Seaforth, 8 p.m.; Feb. 7, at Livonia Churchill, 8 p.m.; Feb. 12, at Highland Park, 8 p.m.; Feb. 15, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Feb. 18, at Farmington High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 20, at Waterford Mont., 8 p.m.; Feb. 23, at Northville, 8 p.m.; March 3-4, State District.

FARMINGTON BASKETBALL

Varsity Schedule — Dec. 7, at Livonia Bentley, 8 p.m.; Dec. 11, at Northville High, 8 p.m.; Dec. 14, at Walled Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Dec. 18, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Dec. 20, at Millard Lakeland, 8 p.m.; Jan. 8, at Plymouth Canton, 8 p.m.; Jan. 11, at Pontiac Northern, 8 p.m.; Jan. 15, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; Jan. 18, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; Jan. 22, at Birmingham Seaforth, 8 p.m.; Jan. 25, at Livonia Stevenson, 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, at Livonia Churchill, 8 p.m.; Feb. 1, at Walled Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Feb. 5, at Dearborn High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 8, at Millard Lakeland, 8 p.m.; Jan. 12, at North Farmington High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 15, at Pontiac Northern, 8 p.m.; Feb. 18, at Farmington Harrison, 8 p.m.; Feb. 20, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; Feb. 23, at Livonia Stevenson, 8 p.m.; March 3-4, State District.

p.m.; Jan. 22, at Birmingham Seaforth, 8 p.m.; Jan. 25, at Livonia Stevenson, 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, at Livonia Churchill, 8 p.m.; Feb. 1, at Walled Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Feb. 5, at Dearborn High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 8, at Millard Lakeland, 8 p.m.; Jan. 12, at North Farmington High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 15, at Pontiac Northern, 8 p.m.; Feb. 18, at Farmington Harrison, 8 p.m.; Feb. 20, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; Feb. 23, at Livonia Stevenson, 8 p.m.; March 3-4, State District.

N. FARMINGTON BASKETBALL

Varsity Schedule — Dec. 7, at Farmington Harrison, 8 p.m.; Dec. 11, at Walled Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Dec. 14, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Dec. 21, at Garden City East, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 11, at Redford Thurston, 8 p.m.; Jan. 15, at Rochester High, 8 p.m.; Jan. 18, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Jan. 22, at Southfield High, 8 p.m.; Jan. 25, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, at Brighton High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 1, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Feb. 5, at Farmdale High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 8, at Garden City East, 8 p.m.; Feb. 12, at Farmington High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 15, at Redford Thurston, 8 p.m.; Feb. 19, at Waterford Kettering, 8 p.m.; Feb. 21, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Feb. 25, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; March 3-4, State District.

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