

## Tie Ludington for state title

# North gymnasts meet goal

By TOM BAER

North Farmington's girls gymnasts set a lofty goal for themselves before last weekend's state championship meet at Spring Arbor College.

North's girls wanted to take the state title from Ludington High, the perennial champion in the sport.

Well, North came as close as possible, scoring 97.99 total points to tie the outstate gymnastics power in the state meet. And, as far as coach Mary Johnnessee is concerned, North's goal has been reached.

"Ludington's been the state champion for the past four years, and my girls were determined to take it away from them," she said. "It's true we're sharing the title, but in a way it's a defeat for them (Ludington) because most years no other team could come this close."

North Farmington, which won 14-straight dual meets and a state regional title this winter, had exceptional performances from Kathy Temple, Suzanne Casillo and Diane McLean in the championship meet.

Temple, a sophomore with a long gymnastics background in the Steve Whitlock program, was North's strongest performer in the state meet.

She won the all-around competition, which includes skills from the four individual events, with 34.65 points, and finished first on the uneven parallel bars with 17.95. She also took a fourth in the floor exercise (17.15) and a fifth in the balance beam (16.25).

"It helps a lot when you get girls who aren't beginners at 16," said Johnnessee concerning Temple's previous experience.

"Kathy's very confident in herself. She keeps her composure — even if there's a fall, she comes right back. She doesn't fall apart. And a lot of them do."

CASILLO, A junior who scored in last year's state meet, tied for fifth place on the bars with 16.60 points. "She didn't have her best meet (at state), but she's excelled for us all year," Johnnessee said.

A senior who hopes to participate in gymnastics at the University of Michigan next season, McLean tied for sixth place on the beam (17.25), and finished in a three-way tie for sixth in floor exercise (17.0).

North's team had only seven girls, but Johnnessee got lots of mileage from them.

"Of the seven girls, five were all arounders," she said. "And that meant I had depth. And all of my girls qualified individually for the regional meet. If

## Farmington Observer sports

one of the top ones had a bad day, the others could fill in.

"And having a small team gave me another advantage: I could spend more time with each girl."

The gymnasts weren't the only ones taking the honors for North at the state finals. For her accomplishments this season, Johnnessee was named girls' gymnastics coach of the year by the other coaches at the meet.

"It was an honor I never expected because I'm a young coach," said the 26-year-old Johnnessee, who teaches the third grade at St. Fabian Elementary School in Farmington Hills.

A 1970 graduate of North Farmington, Johnnessee competed for the school's gymnastics team and for club teams until an injury confined her to coaching. This is her third year as North coach.

WHAT'S AHEAD for North's gymnasts?

"I definitely encourage them to keep in shape and to keep their strength up by running," Johnnessee said. "They can work out in the gym during their study halls."

"Many of the area gymnastics clubs are starting programs for high school girls one of two nights a week," she continued. "And we're hoping to go up to Ludington in June for their beach meet. It's just a fun thing they have on the beach."

East Lansing finished third with 95.55 points at the state finals. Ann Arbor Pioneer was next with 96.35 points, Bloomfield Hills Lahser had 94.85 followed by Muskegon Mona Shores with 93.75.

Another Farmington area gymnast, Farmington Harrison's Janet Thibodeau, qualified for the state meet. She finished 19th on the beam with a score of 7.70.



Diane McLean works out on the balance beam in North Farmington's gymnasium.



Suzanne Casillo gets in some practice before last weekend's state high school girls' gymnastics finals. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## NF boys' squad lands 8th at state

Dave Flaugh and Jeff Dwyer each took a 10th place to pace North Farmington's efforts in the boys' state high school gymnastics championships last Saturday at Spring Arbor College.

North Farmington compiled 128.35 team points to finish eighth in the nine-team field. Ann Arbor Pioneer won the meet with 146.65 points, and Alpena was second with 146.40.

North's Flaugh, a senior, finished 10th on the still rings with a score of 7.85. Dwyer, a junior, placed 10th in the all-around competition with a 40.60 score.

Dwyer's finishes in four other events: 13th in the parallel bars (7.60), 14th in the floor exercise (8.25), 14th in the high bar (6.20) and 16th in vaulting (8.55). Bob Burns, a North Farmington junior, scored in the side horse, taking

15th place with 5.80 points.

During the regular season, coach Dennis Fitzgerald's North Farmington team compiled a 3-4 dual-meet record and finished fourth in the eight-team Southeastern Michigan Interscholastic Gymnastics Association.

Flaugh was a-league champion in the still rings, posting an 8.55 at the league meet at Trenton High.

Fitzgerald is enthusiastic about the gymnastics program at North — especially the girls' team, which tied Ludington for the state championship last weekend at Spring Arbor.

"We have one of the few truly educational high school sports here," Fitzgerald said. "I don't know of another sport where the boys and girls get along and co-exist the way they do in gymnastics at North Farmington."

## Meet results

### GIRLS' GYMNASIICS FINALS

TEAM FINISH — 1. (tie) North Farmington and Ludington, 97.99 points each; 2. East Lansing, 94.35; 3. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 94.35; 4. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 94.85; 5. Muskegon Mona Shores, 93.75.

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

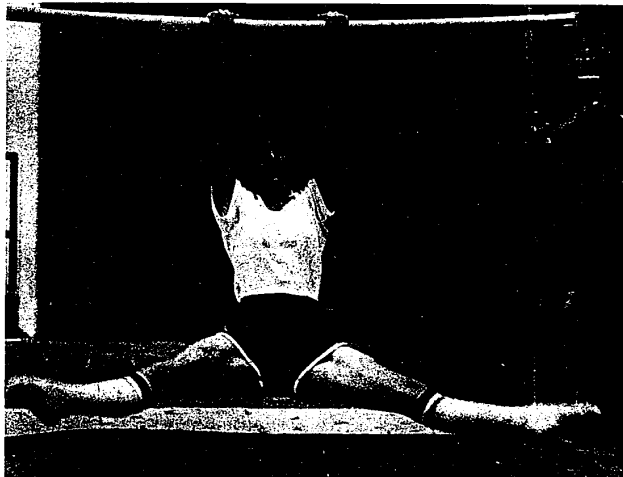
ALL AROUND — 1. Kathy Temple (North Farmington), 34.65; 2. Angela Deaver (Pioneer), 34.15; 3. Teri Telfer (Alpena), 34.10; 4. Sue Syquia (East Lansing), 33.95; 5. Julie Bender (Midland), 33.65.

VAULTING — 1. Julie Bender (Midland), 14.55; 2. Sue Syquia (East Lansing), 14.15; 3. Teri Telfer (Alpena), 13.95; 4. Pam Jabroski (Ludington), 13.85; 5. Angela Deaver (Pioneer), 13.85; 6. (tie) Diane McLean (North Farmington), Sandy Young (Freeland) and Kim Hamilton (Mona Shores), 14.05 each.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS — 1. Kathy Temple (North Farmington), 17.95; 2. Sue Syquia (East Lansing), 17.65; 3. Teri Telfer (Alpena), 17.15; 4. Theresa Bender (Ludington), Jackie Dickinson (East Lansing), 16.60 each; 5. Julie Bender (Midland), 16.35; 6. Angela Deaver (Pioneer), 16.20.

BALANCE BEAM — 1. (tie) Angela Deaver (Pioneer) and Teri Telfer (Alpena), 16.25 each; 2. Pam Jabroski (Ludington), 16.45; 3. Cynthia Rogers (Midland) and David 5. (tie) Kathy Temple (North Farmington), 16.25; 6. (tie) Sandy Young (Freeland) and the Steady Lay (Lansing), 16.10 each.

FLOOR EXERCISE — 1. Julie Bender (Midland), 17.40; 2. Sue Syquia (East Lansing), 17.40; 3. Pam Jabroski (Ludington), 17.40; 4. Kathy Temple (North Farmington), 17.15; 5. Natalie Kennedy (Warren Memorial), 17.10; 6. (tie) Diane McLean (North Farmington) and Kathy Kokenzy (Lahser), 17.05 each; 8. Angela Deaver (Pioneer), 16.80; 9. Kendra Brooks (Ludington), 16.45.



Kathy Temple, North's strongest performer in the state meet, works out on the uneven parallel bars.

## Falcons' Uzelac scores at state

Farmington High's Dave Uzelac closed out his prep swimming career with a scoring performance last Saturday at the state Class A swimming and diving championships at Michigan State University.

Uzelac, a senior, turned in a lifetime-best 47.7 in the 100-yard freestyle and earned 12th place.

"It was a good meet for him," said Farmington coach Jack Merritt, who guided his team to a second-place finish in the Inter Lakes League this season. "He made up his mind that he wanted to place in the state meet — and he did."

Only one other Farmington area swimmer, Farmington Harrison's John Rudel, managed to qualify for the state finals.

Rudel, a junior, qualified in the 500-yard freestyle, but went 5:02.0 in the state meet, far away from scoring and way off his season best of 4:56.2.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won its third-straight Class A title, scoring 196 points. Birmingham Groves, led by freestyler Scott Tyler, took second place with 123 points, and Ann Arbor Huron was third with 67.

Pioneer failed to take a first in the individual events, although it did win both relays.

Groves' Tyler had an outstanding meet, smashing his 1978 record in the 500 free with a 4:31.0 clocking and establishing a state standard in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:41.1.

Groves diver Reynaldo Castro, a foreign-exchange student from the Dominican Republic, shattered the state record

in one-meter diving with 531.65 points.

Plymouth Canton, a member of the Western Six League with Harrison, had a double winner in Paul Petersen. He won the 100 butterfly (52.39) and the 100 breaststroke (59.40).

Livonia Stevenson, an Inter Lakes League school along with Farmington High, produced an outstanding swimmer in Tom Smith, who went 4:36.1 in the 500 to finish second behind Tyler, and then logged a 1:56.99 in the 200 individual medley to place second behind Monroe's Mike McCloskey (1:56.95).

Two other records were set at the state meet. Ken Cooper of Holland West Ottawa established one standard with a 32.7 in the 100 backstroke, and Pioneer's 400 free relay (Matt McKoen, Craig Finley, Jim Sells and Ron Counsel) set the other with a time of 3:11.2.



Farmington's Dave Uzelac

**APRIL 1, 1979**  
**2 P.M.**  
**COBO ARENA**  
**PRESENTS**

**In Person!**  
**Harlem Globetrotters**

TICKETS PRICED AT: \*7.00, \*6.00 & \*5.00  
AVAILABLE AT: COBO ARENA BOX OFFICE,  
OLYMPIA TRAVEL (BIRMINGHAM), J.L. HUDSON'S.  
GROUPS OF 25 OR MORE ORDER NOW BY  
CALLING: (313) 895-5500.  
MAIL ORDERS SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
ALONG WITH A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO:  
COBO ARENA, 301 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE,  
DETROIT, MI. 48226

**FOR INFORMATION CALL: (313) 962-1800**