

All-Area Gymnastics

North Farmington girls head 1979 team of 3 seniors, 2 sophomores

By MARTY BUDNER

North Farmington's superior gymnastics season is appropriately reflected in the 1979 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Gymnastics Team.

The Raiders, who tied for the state championship last month with Ludington, had two gymnasts and their coach selected. The team was picked by a coaches' ballot.

Kathy Temple was an overwhelming choice as the area's best all-around performer. Raider teammate Diane McLean made first team in floor exercises, and Mary Johnesee was picked as coach of the year. Others on the first team include Teri

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

April 12, 1979

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Teifke of Troy Athens on the vault, Christy Schwartz of Bloomfield Hills Andover on the uneven bars, and Lahser's Karyn Kokeny on the balance

beam. McLean, Teifke and Kokeny will be graduating come June, while Temple and Schwartz are just sophomores.

Even though she was only in her first year of high school competition, Temple earned her status as the best all-around gymnast.

Temple finished first at the state gymnastics meet with a 34.65. She was first on uneven bars, fifth on balance beam and fourth in floor exercises.

Voted North's most valuable gymnast, Temple won the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) individual championship, and the regional and state championships. Her highest score through the year was 9.20 on the bars.

"Her strongest event is definitely the bars — she only had one dual-meet loss," said Johnesee. "She's good all-around, but she's weakest in tumbling, and that's an area where she needs improvement."

"Twice this year — against Ann Arbor Pioneer and Bloomfield Hills Lahser — North scored more than 100 points. "I knew we were going to have a good team, and we were aiming to win a state championship this year," admitted Johnesee, who was a member of the North Farmington gymnastics team during her high school days in the late 60s. "It was my job to keep them (the team members) motivated, but I didn't have too much of a problem because they really wanted it."

"We only had seven girls on the team, and five were all-arounders. They put in a lot of hard work. We practiced five to six days a week, and a lot of girls felt it wasn't right for them to spend all that time in gymnastics."

"We're only losing two girls this year to graduation, and we'll have four of five good all-arounders returning," she said. "We should be a good team again next year."

The Raiders were 9-4 last year, and 8-5 the previous season. Johnesee is a third grade teacher at St. Fabian.

9.05 on the balance beam, and she helped lead her team to a 10-3 overall record. The Knights were second in the NSL to North Farmington, and runners-up in the Metro-Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) to Troy Athens.

At this year's state meet, Kokeny, who is headed for Michigan State, was sixth in floor exercises.

"She finished second in the state on the balance beam last year, and she would have been there again this year if she didn't have a couple of slips," said Lahser coach Kathy Gipper. "She just had a bad night, and never qualified for the finals."

"She's won most every time on the beam work this year, and she is even being recognized nationally for her work in that event by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. She is a very good leader, a hard worker and she did a lot to inspire the other girls."

"I would say she's improved most on the balance beam and floor exercises this year," she said.

In only her first year on the Baron team, Schwartz qualified for the state meet in bars, vault and floor exercises. Her best performance was ninth on the uneven bars.

Andover's only loss this season was by 15-hundredths of a point to Troy Athens. The Barons finished with a 12-1 record, and only the 10-8 season of two years ago kept this from being coach Bill Patton's best year ever at Andover.

"We had a very good year, especially considering the competition was so much better this season," said Patton. "We were basically led by Christy and Missy Otterbein, who complemented each other very well."

"Christy and Missy scored about the same, with Christy scoring higher on the bars, and Missy higher on the beam. Christy was a better vaulter."

"Christy liked bars, and that's where she did the best," he said. "She has a lot more potential than what she showed this year because of back problems."

TEIFKE WAS Athens' best all-around performer. She placed among the top three in three of the four events at the state finals, and finished as the third-best gymnast in Michigan.

The second team consisted of Lahser's Deedee Johnson (vault), North Farmington's Suanne Casillo (bars), Otterbein (Andover) and Lisa Boes (floor exercises) of Troy.



State gymnastics champion Kathy Temple of North Farmington can look forward to a prosperous future. (Photo by Randy Borst)

Raider coach earns honors for big year

For leading North Farmington to a share of the state gymnastics title with Ludington, Mary Johnesee was selected by her peers as the 1979 Observer & Eccentric coach of the year.

This was Johnesee's best year ever at North Farmington. Including their 14-0 mark this winter, the Raider record over Johnesee's three years is a

highly respectable 31-9 (775 percent age).

North Farmington's closest meet this winter — was a two-point victory over Bloomfield Hills Lahser. The Raiders' only blemish on an otherwise perfect season — which included a regional championship — was the deadlock at the state finals.

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MARY JOHNESEE
A former Raider

The best in gymnastics!

The five young athletes who comprise the 1979 Observer & Eccentric All-Area gymnastics team make this one of the best we've ever presented. All five have had previous experience before high school. Combining the record of all four schools they represent, these gymnasts led their teams to an overall 48-5 dual-meet mark. The all-star gymnasts are (left to right) Christy Schwartz from Bloomfield Hills Andover, Diane McLean from North Farmington, Teri Teifke of Troy Athens, Karyn Kokeny of Bloomfield Hills Lahser, and Kathy Temple of North Farmington. Temple was voted by area coaches as the best all-around gymnast. At the state meet last month, where she won the individual gymnastics title, Temple was first on the uneven bars, fourth in floor exercises and fifth on the balance beam. (Photo by Randy Borst)



1979 First Team Gymnastics

1979 FIRST-TEAM GYMNASTICS

Name	Event	School
Kathy Temple	All-around	North Farmington
Teri Teifke	Vault	Troy Athens
Christy Schwartz	Uneven bars	B.H. Andover
Karyn Kokeny	Balance beam	B.H. Lahser
Diane McLean	Floor exercises	North Farmington

SECOND TEAM

Teri Teifke	All-around	Troy Athens
Deedee Johnson	Vault	B.H. Lahser
Suanne Casillo	Uneven bars	North Farmington
Missy Otterbein	Balance beam	B.H. Andover
Lisa Boes	Floor exercises	Troy

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mary Johnesee of North Farmington

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Marian Ceccato, Birmingham Groves; Janet Thibodeau, Farmington Harrison; Beth Raymor, Troy Athens; Michele Smith, Troy; Lisa Scardina, Troy Athens; Lisa Goebel, Troy Athens.



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