



C.J. Risak

Sorrows is cage king

How often has it happened?
A high school team completes a highly successful season and praise for the fast is heaped upon the head coach, flowery compliments from school administrators, the media and even the water boy's mother.

It's also true he usually deserves them because the head coach is the one who takes the brunt of the attack when things aren't going so well.

But lost in the shuffle are the assistant coaches or those in the junior high programs. They're the ones who begin polishing the raw talent of young athletes to get them started on the road to a successful prep sports program.

It's guys like Coach Mike Basford. Basford coaches Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows girls' junior high basketball team. He has been doing so for five years and was the first girls' coach in the fifth and sixth grade in his first year.

He moved up to the junior high level the next season, and in four seasons has compiled an astounding 89-3 record. Over the past three years his team ran off 71 straight victories, a string that was broken in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) city finals this year.

Making the city finals three straight years is something no CYO official can remember happening in any sport in the organization's 30 years. And no team had ever won two straight city championships.

BASFORD'S COACHING ability has

helped make some local coaches very successful. Larry Baker, who directed Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's team to a state title in 1977, has been a beneficiary of some Sorrows' graduates.

Mercy's leading scorer last season was Denise Basford, the coach's daughter. It was Denise who first got the elder Basford interested in coaching at Sorrows, when she took an interest in the game during grade school.

Other prep players who were groomed at Sorrows include Peggy Warte, an All-State performer at Brighton; Sue Carruthers, a starter for Farmington's varsity last season; Lori Winkle, a starter at Harrison last year; and several Mercy players, including Lisa and Linda Borchman and Mary Ellen Cox.

The key to his success is simple. "It's probably just hard work," Basford said. "We really work on the fundamentals — passing, shooting and dribbling. But few have such success. Unlike most other coaches, Basford isn't a school teacher — he's an attorney for General Motors, in charge of litigation. He isn't a fanatic as a coach — his teams practice three nights a week.

HIS COACHING background includes teams in the Class A recreational leagues. But the talent is so plentiful at Sorrows that players that didn't make the junior high team have made high school teams.

One example is Winkle, who was a manager of Sorrows' team and now starts for Harrison. Other man-

agers at Sorrows that are playing at some level in high school include Carol Leonard at Farmington and Chris Otto at Mercy.

"We only had 15 uniforms, so that's all we kept on the team," Basford said. "But the managers got to play in practice."

This year, Sorrows swept through the CYO district tournament, winning the final, 46-22 over Detroit St. Suzanne's. In the regional final, Sorrows beat Redford St. Robert's, 22-19, and then whipped Wyandotte Mt. Carmel for the west side championship, 33-15.

In the city finals against Grosse Pointe St. Clair, the Sorrows team finally stumbled, losing 22-20. Their season record was 23-1.

Seven members of the team return next year. But gone will be the all-time Sorrows scoring leader — Sarah Basford. Sarah averaged over 12 points a game this year and next year will join sister Denise at Mercy.

Other players the Sorrows' coach thinks will play extensively in high school include point guard Mary Herz going to Mercy, whose brother plays for Detroit Catholic Central, and Mary Ann Kuhnlein, a guard who will be following in her brother Greg's footsteps at Farmington. Greg, also a guard, started for Farmington in 1978-79.

Local coaches like Mercy's Baker, Farmington's Bob Lekovich and Harrison's Neil Redford can thank Basford for some of the victories their teams get in the future.

Running champ to visit

Bill Rodgers, three-time Boston marathon winner and America's premier long-distance runner, will visit the Detroit area at 7 p.m. March 24.

Rodgers, who set an American Marathon record in Boston last year with a time of 2:09:27 — the third fastest marathon in history — will be the featured speaker at a seminar on long-distance running sponsored by Total Runner, the Southfield running specialty store. Sharing the stage with him will be Ellison Goodall, one of the country's leading women runners.

The program will take place at Hamilton Place, a health club and fitness center located at 30332 Southfield Road in Southfield. The seminar is being co-sponsored by the Michigan

Runner magazine and Adidas. RODGERS HAS become one of this country's most popular sports heroes in recent years. In five years, he has won the Boston crown three times. Last year Rodgers capped that achievement by winning the New York marathon for the fourth time with a finishing time of 2:11:42.

Ms. Goodall, 24, is a former world record-holder for the half-marathon and recently won the 1980 San Blas Puerto Rico, half-marathon race. Last week, she competed in the invitational International Amateur Athletic Cross-Country Championship in Paris.

Charlie Blanchard, owner of Total Runner and a Boston-qualified marathoner himself, said he invited the

pair to Detroit because of the growing interest in running in the area.

"Detroit was late in catching on to running, but we're catching up fast," Blanchard said. "This area is just reaching the crest as far as running is concerned. Literally thousands of Detroit-area people are out there running every day for fitness and for health; participation in competitive events has increased exponentially in recent years, and I don't see it stopping soon. Exposure to world-class athletes like Bill and Ellison can only add new impetus to that boom."

Tickets are available at Hamilton Place or Total Runner, 29207 Northwestern Highway in Southfield. For ticket information, call 646-8990.

Central picks coaches

Richard Schneider, athletic director Tom Evans and Dr. Barry Roseborough, district director of personnel.

Van Sicken has an impressive background in local football. He was an All-State performer while playing at Walled Lake High School and went on to All-Big Eight and All-American honors at Iowa State University.

HE GAINED professional experience playing for the Ottawa Rough Riders and Toronto Rifles of the Canadian Football League and the Des Moines (Iowa) Warriors in semi-pro ball.

"I'm very happy to be chosen," Van Sicken said, adding that he would initiate some changes in the football program but would not elaborate what they would be. "I've been looking forward to getting a shot at the job and hopefully it'll work out well."

Darnot's most recent coaching ex-

perience was as an assistant kicking coach at Central. He is a former Isle marathoner and ran track at Holly High School.

The selection of Groth as track coach ended a long search for Central officials, who had hoped to fill the post by March 1. The high school track season opens in the middle of April.

The delay was in the best interests of the schools, according to Schneider. "I would rather see us go without a track program than just put a warm body out there," Schneider said.

"You have to be concerned with hiring someone who's responsible and well-qualified, no matter what the person's intentions may be."

The assistant principal also noted that one coaching vacancy remains at Central — that of assistant softball coach. That position is expected to be filled shortly.

Rice cops title

(Continued from page 1D)

their shots, it was a matter of making them. I was really worried about our defense because of Sucher."

"He got motivated and he started playing with the bigger people," Siwka said about the improved Sucher. "He was a little hesitant at the beginning of the year. He has tremendous moves. I'm really proud of him, and the ways he's played."

SHASKEY ALSO PLAYED an instrumental part in the Warrior victory with his play in the second quarter. Shaskey came off the bench when Jokisch got his third personal foul only to lead the team to the halftime tie.

Southfield led from the start, taking a 16-11 first-quarter lead and extending it to 22-14 early in the second quarter before the Warrior comeback.

The Southeastern Michigan Association co-champions continued to hold the

upperhand in the third quarter behind Sucher's play.

Southfield outscored Rice 35-34. Jokisch pulled down 11 and Shaskey had seven for the winners.

Rice hit 21 of 52 field goals for 40 percent, but made 18 of 26 free throws. The Blue Jays scored three more buckets, hitting 24 of 59 shots for 41 percent. They hit only nine of 16 free throws.

BROTHER RICE, 60, SOUTHFIELD 57

BROTHER RICE (49) — Brian Brennan 4, 0-0, 6; Kevin Smith 1, 1-2, 3; Tom Chisholm 1, 0-1, 2; Rob Manilla 4, 4-4, 12; Tom O'Leary 2, 2-3, 6; Paul Jackson 4, 0-0, 8; John Shaskey 2, 7-10, 11; 1:09 into the second period and dominated the boards the rest of the half.

SOUTHFIELD (57) — Tony Ziegler 0, 0-1, 0; John Piper 7, 3-4, 17; Byron Green 2, 1-3, 5; Vincent Dean 8, 5-8, 17; Jay Hissley 1, 0-0, 2; David Darden 1, 0-0, 2; Dave Sucher 7, 0-2, 14. TOTALS — 24, 9-16, 57.

TOTAL FOULS — Brother Rice 18, Southfield 20. FOLLOUED OUT — Jokisch (18).

BROTHER RICE 11 15 15 16 — 60
SOUTHFIELD 16 13 16 12 — 57

in the pocket/W. W. Edgar

John Hurley's dream of establishing a record for consecutive 600 series and having his name listed in the American Bowling Congress record book turned into a nightmare Wednesday morning at Westland Bowl.

With a string of 49, he was aiming at the record of 52 held by Ron Thompson of Columbus, Ohio and hoped to move a step closer when he took his turn in the morning men's league.

It was not to be, however.

He opened with a 182 and followed with 209. Taking count he learned that he needed another 209.

But Lady Luck frowned on him and he had to be content with a 170 for 561. It was the first time he had missed 600 since the halfway stage of last season.

"If it is any consolation, his 49 in a row gives him second place in the book of records."

BOB HITT, the former milkman from Livonia, is lending credence to the old saying that old bowlers never quit.

It has been some years since Bob bowled regularly in the all star leagues. But this past week, he bowled in the Wanderland Class and came up with a 694 series.

It wasn't good enough to pace the classic, but it proved that he still could bowl with the best.

While Bob was spilling the pins, Jim Anderson, a few lanes away, put together games of 206, 246 and 268 for 702.

Good as this score was, it only beat Paul Isken by four pins when he registered the most consistent series of the night with games of 234, 232 and 232.

ILDRED McCANDLESS hit the

high point of her bowling career at Plymouth Bowl when she actually tried and succeeded in converting the 7-10 split. She looked at the pins then spun her ball toward the 7-10 pin. It hit the target hard enough to cause it to slide over and topple the 10 pin.

With a 133 average, she was bowling in the Early Birds loop and had games of 150, 151 and 169 for 470.

IT TOOK PATIENCE but Cele Stefan finally bowled her first 500 series in the Belles League at Woodland Lanes, she rolled games of 151, 162 and 187 for the goal she had been seeking.

In the other leagues, Floyd Radley, the oldest man in the loop, posted a 233 and Joann Harek had a 204 in the Keglerettes.

Kim Handley, with a 135 average, had games of 210, 189 and 121.

In the junior house league, Jim Radford was top man with 569.

PAUL HORTE continued his high scoring in the Cent Classic with games of 243 and 232 in 655.

Behind him came Jerry Cole Jr. with 642, Lee Snow with 639, and three others — Mike Hayes, Jim Barka and Mark Hefer — tied at 605.

IN OTHER performances, Jake Tolanci had 617 in the St. Collet league at Plaza Lanes and Pat Gih had a 631 in the Business and Industrial League. In the senior house league at Merry-Bowl, Larry Ostler was tops with 655 and Carl Hunt posted a 289.

Harry Tolanian showed the way in the Vinco League at Garden Lanes with a 248 in 675, and Steve Kanisk topped the senior citizens with 593 and Fran Derkatch took top honors in the ladies

classic at Westland with a series of 202, 202 and 199 for 603.

Mrs. Kevin Landacre moved into the spotlight at Bel-Aire Lanes with a 257 best performance of her career. A 168-average bowler, she ended the range for a 276 game in a 555 series.

B'ham Marian track team co-sponsors spring clinic

Birmingham Marian and Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy are co-sponsoring a women's track and field clinic on Friday at Mercy.

The clinic will emphasize participation for both athletes and coaches.

Meanwhile, two more members were added to the Bel-Aire 700 club.

Both new members broke the 700 barrier in the Classic. Last week, Dan Kijnski qualified when he had a 257 in 714 and last Thursday night Van Craycraft gained his entry by linking games of 267, 224 and 212 for a 703.

There will be four sessions, each one hour long. Sessions start at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call John Dunn at Marian High School, 644-1750.

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