

**Girls' teams seek improvement**

**New coaches face tough task**

By TOM BAER

Two new girls' basketball coaches — Farmington Harrison's Mike Hickey and North Farmington's Greg Grodzicki — have a couple of things in common.

For one thing, both men left successful junior high programs, Hickey at Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows, and Grodzicki at Dunckel Junior High before he became assistant boys' basketball coach at Farmington High.

And both coaches are entering programs that have become known for their lack of success. Harrison finished with a 6-12 record last season. North went winless in 20 starts and usually was beaten by lopsided scores.

Hickey, a 34-year-old manufacturer's representative, said he waited to retire from coaching after nine years at Sorrows. But then the Harrison offer came along.

"When this came up, I decided to give it a shot and see what it was like," he said. "It's going to be a challenge to work with girls . . . especially older girls."

"It was an opportunity to see if the coaching philosophies we used with the younger kids would work in high school as well."

Hickey, who twice guided Sorrows to the finals of the Detroit Catholic Youth Organization tournament, said:

"At that level, we're trying to teach kids how to play basketball. If we teach them the fundamentals and they learn properly, then they'll be successful."

"They'll be successful in terms of improvement, if not in terms of wins and losses."

HARRISON PLAYED in a summer league at Walled Lake Central. Other schools were Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, Milford, Holly and Brighton.

"Our girls were super," Hickey said. "They really took some beatings, but they kept coming back."

"The interest was very high. We had about 25 kids involved, and we played some team with established programs."

Harrison will have six experienced players returning for the season opener Sept. 11 against Novi at home. Three

prominent returnees are Gina Kilka, Sue Solomon and Lori Winkel.

"We have a couple of promising sophomores and quite a few guards," Hickey said. "They all want to play. And they all want us to teach them some things they can be successful with."

Jim McLaughlin, Hickey's assistant at Sorrows, will move to Harrison to coach the junior varsity team. Hickey's younger brother, Dan, coaches the girls' basketball team at Rochester Adams High School.

Grodzicki, who taught physical education at Dunckel, will move to North Farmington as a math teacher. The new coach is encouraged by the basketball turnout for the early practices.

"THE NINTH- and 10th-grade girls have been outnumbering the upperclassmen two to one," he said. "I think that'll help our program in the future. Don't expect any miracles right now, though."

"We'll start right from scratch with fundamentals. Some of these kids really need it. We'll probably stress defense. From the looks of the scores last year, that's what we need."

North Farmington opens Sept. 9 in a tournament at Royal Oak Dendero. Some experienced North players are Sue Bernas, Carol Varjabedian and Kathy Biehl.

The basketball team at Farmington's other public high school, Farmington High, begins its season Sept. 9 at home against Redford Union. Mercy, a Catholic League girls' basketball power under coach Larry Baker, opens at home Sept. 9 against West Bloomfield.

The Farmington area will have a new high school this fall — Lutheran High Northwest. The Class D school with about 150 students has moved from Birmingham to the former Highmeadow Elementary School in Farmington Hills.

Lutheran High Northwest will offer boys' soccer and girls' basketball this fall. Elaine Fiedler will coach the girls' basketball team, and athletic director George Lemke will coach the soccer team.

Lutheran High, which competes in the Michigan Independent Conference, has a Sept. 16 basketball opener at Lutheran North.



Della Rees (left) and Meg Henrich scrimmage during a recent practice session. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

DeAnna Forman looks for a shot.

**In soccer showdown**

**Angels nip rival**

Last Wednesday's soccer showdown between the Farmington Angels and the Ann Arbor Artemis at Schoolcraft College was a battle of the unbeaten in the Great Lakes Women's Soccer League.

And coach John Magee's Farmington squad stayed perfect with a 3-2 victory. The winners climbed to the top of the league standings with a 10-0 record. Ann Arbor slipped to second place with an 8-1 mark.

Farmington can clinch the league title if it can win its final regular season game against Huron Valley East Aug. 27 at Schoolcraft College.

Farmington snapped a 2-all tie with 10 minutes left to play as right winger Debbie Hunt deflected the ball into the Ann Arbor net.

Nancy Glynn, Farmington's outstanding center forward, assisted on the tie-breaker and scored two earlier goals to bring her season total to 60.

"She's an opportunist," said Magee of his star player. "She'll pick up a ball and, before you know what's what, she'll have it in the goal. She can kick with either foot, and she's very good with her head."

Describing the winning goal, Magee (Continued on Page 3C)



John Magee has coached the Farmington Angels to a 10-0 record this summer.



Nancy Glynn (right) maneuvers against Ann Arbor. (Staff photos by Bill Bresler)

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