

Thursday, September 4, 1980

Girls' basketball preview

# Lady of Mercy girls seek to settle cage score

By TOM BAER

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's girls' basketball team will have an added incentive — revenge — to win its season opener Sept. 9 at home against West Bloomfield.

Mercy, usually a state cage power under coach Larry Baker, had its tournament run snuffed by West Bloomfield, 66-52, last year in the finals of the

state Class A district at Southfield High.

"It (revenge) might just creep into our thoughts," said Baker with a laugh as he prepared his Marlins for the 1980 campaign. Mercy, with six seniors back from last year's 17-4 club, should have another team worth watching.

And Farmington High, with a couple of Mercy transfers in the lineup, could turn a few heads in the Inter Lakes

League. Farmington entertains Redford Union Sept. 9.

Two new coaches, Farmington Harrison's Mike Hickey and North Farmington's Greg Grodzicki, face rebuilding tasks. North opens in a tournament at Royal Oak, Donora Sept. 9, and Harrison hosts Novi High Sept. 11.

Lutheran High Northwest, a Class D school which recently moved from Birmingham to the former Highmewood Elementary School in Farmington Hills, will have its inaugural varsity girls' basketball team under coach Elaine Fiedler. The opens Sept. 16 at Mt. Clemens Lutheran North.

**MERCY HAS** the experience and the height. Denise Basford, a 5-foot-9 junior, led the team in scoring with 12.5 points per game last season. This fall, however, she's recovering from a stress fracture in her left foot.

Suzanne Dietz (5-11) averaged 12.4 points and nine rebounds per game last year as a junior. Senior Kelly Fortescue has plenty of experience as the Marlins' center.

Some other Mercy prospects are seniors Mary Ellen Cox (5-3), Karen Rashid (5-6), Meg Mallon (5-7) and Marcy McGarrigle (5-8). Karen Shook, a 5-10 junior, was the most valuable player last year on coach Mike King's reserve team, which won the Catholic League's Central Division.

"We'll have a good inside scoring game for the first time since the Katie McNamara (a star on Mercy's 1977 state championship team) days," Baker said.

"We have the quickness, too. The quickest kids on the team are sophomore Carolyn Burt and junior Kathy Landry. I expect to be able to press with these kids."

Mercy tested its skills this summer in a league at Walled Lake Central High. "We dominated that league on the boards, and I expect we'll dominate during the regular season, too."

Mercy compiled a 9-3 record to finish second behind Harper Woods Regina in the Central Division last year. Regina "definitely looms as our toughest competition in the league again this season," according to Baker.

**MERCY LOST** two good players when junior twins Lisa and Linda Borchanian decided to attend Farmington High this year. Lisa (5-9) had quite a bit of playing time last season.

"I'm counting on a lot from those two," said Farmington coach Bob Lekovich, whose team finished at 11-9 overall and 3-5 in the Inter Lakes League last year. "They have the skills and the experience."

Farmington, with six returnees, has senior experience at guard and some height in the front line. Prospects include seniors Kelly Wallace (5-7), Sue Carruthers (5-7), Denise Goyette (5-7) and Carol Leonard (5-5). Juniors Chris Looser (5-11) and Stacy Green (5-3) were starters last season.

Juniors Sue Bergerson (5-9) and Cathy Crane (5-5) are up from Farmington's reserve team.

"I'm optimistic, but I'm not sticking my neck out with any predictions," Lekovich said. "I'm sure we'll be improved this year."

Livonia Stevenson is the defending champion in the Inter Lakes League.

Harrison's Hickey, who left a successful junior high program at Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows, has only two experienced players — juniors Lori Winkel (5-6) and Susie Solomon (5-6). Gina Kilka, a starter last year, didn't come out for the team.

"We'll be inexperienced and very small," Hickey said. "We'll have to play good sound defense and use what quickness we have. I'm pleased with their progress, though. They're working hard and putting in a lot of effort."

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Mercy's Denise Basford (with ball) scored 12.5 points per game last season. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Farmington's Kelley Wallace passes during a 1979 game.

## Prep cage schedules

### LADY OF MERCY

**VARSITY SCHEDULE** — Sept. 9, West Bloomfield, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 11, East Haven, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 16, at Walled Lake Central, 7 p.m.; Sept. 22, at Dearborn Bishop Ghehe, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 23, Ann Arbor Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 25, at Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 7, at Harper Woods Regina, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 9, Birmingham Marian, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, Detroit Dominican, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 22, Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 23, at Brighton High, 7 p.m.; Oct. 28, Harper Woods Regina, 7 p.m.; Oct. 30, at Birmingham Marian, 7 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Detroit Dominican, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 6, Catholic League playoffs, Nov. 10-14, State Districts.

### 18, North Farmington, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 20-22, State District Tournament.

### FARMINGTON HIGH

**VARSITY SCHEDULE** — Sept. 9, Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 11, Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 25, Livonia Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 30, Walled Lake Central, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, Walled Lake Central, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 9, at Millard Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, Pontiac Parkers, 7 p.m.; Oct. 21, Waterford Township, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 23, Livonia Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 28, North Farmington, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 30, at Walled Lake Central, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Millard Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 6, at Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 13, at Waterford Township, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 18, at Canton, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 20-22, State Districts.

### Garden City East, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 13, Livonia Franklin, Nov. 18, at Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 20-22, State Districts.

### LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST

**VARSITY SCHEDULE** — Sept. 14, at Mount Clemens Lutheran North, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 21, at Harper Valley Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 28, at Harper Woods Lutheran East, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 30, Pontiac Oakland Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 1, at Southfield Christian, 8 p.m.; Oct. 16, at Rosville Baptist Academy, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, Mount Clemens Cardinal Rooney Central, 7 p.m.; Oct. 18, at Pontiac Oakland Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 24, Southfield Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Rosville Baptist Academy, 6 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Rosville Baptist Academy, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 11, Bloomfield Hills Hooper, 6 p.m.; Nov. 20-22, State Districts.

### FARMINGTON HARRISON

**VARSITY SCHEDULE** — Sept. 11, Novi High, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 16, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 23, at Farmington High, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 23, at Livonia Churchill, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 30, at Westland John Glen, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, Northville High, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 7, Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 9, Plymouth Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, at North Farmington, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, at Waterford West, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, at Walled Lake Western, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, at Livonia Churchill, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, at Northville High, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, at Plymouth Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 6, Waterford West, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 11, Farmington High, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 16, at Walled Lake Western, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 16, at Farmington High, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 20.

### NORTH FARMINGTON

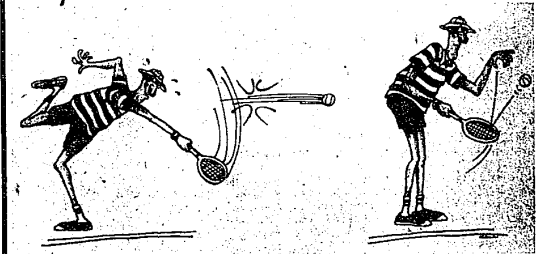
**VARSITY SCHEDULE** — Sept. 9, at Royal Oak Deere, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 16, Farmington High, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 20, Birmingham Scitaban, 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 20, at Westfield City East, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 2, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 21, at Livonia Franklin, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 21, at Westland John Glen, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 28, Farmington High, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 30.

# Tennis is Strategy

## FALL TENNIS LEAGUES NOW FORMING!!

Day & Evening LEAGUES  
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# Last chance to register for O&E golf tournament

Men's Women's Open Golf Tournaments  
Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

**MEN'S**  
36 holes medal play: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14. Entry fee \$25 (green fees, trophies and prizes).

**WOMEN'S**  
18 holes medal play: Wednesday, Sept. 17. Entry fee \$11 (green fees, basket of practice balls and trophies). Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, tournament director, and enclose with entry blank.

NAME .....

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Men's entries close Sunday, Sept. 7, at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Thursday, Sept. 11, after 12 noon (478-4493).

Women's entries close Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Monday, Sept. 15, after 5 p.m.

Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Township.

Entries may be mailed to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia 48152.

Last call.  
Only a few days remain to register for the men's portion of the Observer & Eccentric Open Golf Tournaments.

Men have until 6 p.m. Sunday to return their registration forms to Whispering Willows Golf Course either through the mails or in person.

The municipal course, site of both the men and women's tournaments, is located at 20500 Newburgh Road just south of Eight Mile Road in Livonia.

Entry forms are available in most editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and at Whispering Willows.

Women have until 5 p.m. Sept. 10 to sign up for their tournament.

Entry fee is \$25 for the 36-hole men's tournament, \$11 for the 18-hole women's competition.

Amateur golfers who reside in the Observer & Eccentric circulation area — Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, Livonia, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Rochester, Avon Township, Plymouth, Canton, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township and Troy.

Traditionally, more registrations are turned in the last few days prior to the entry deadline than during any other week once the tournament is announced and publicized.

Both tournaments are co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Golf Course.

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