

# Prep cagers gear up

(Continued from Page 2B)

Three other Hawk prospects include seniors Dale Sklar (5-11) and Bruce Yeager (6-1) and junior Steve Hollatz (6-4). It may take Yeager, an outstanding football linebacker, a few games to limber up his basketball muscles. Sklar didn't come out last year, but showed promise as a sophomore.

Harrison placed fourth in the six-team Western Six League last season. Plymouth Canton and Waterford Mott shared the title. Northville and Canton look strong this year. Teachman and other coaches have said.

At North Farmington, coach Ken Dean is "taking a wait-and-see attitude." Dean has five lettermen back from last year's squad, which won the Northwest Suburban League with a 7-3 record. The 1979-80 Raiders were 10-10 overall.

The returnees include senior guards Matt Rued (6-0) and Doug Schulte (5-10) and senior forward Jim Crowley (6-1½) and juniors Mark Bowditch (6-3) and Tom Rennard (6-3).

## Boys' basketball schedules

### FARMINGTON HIGH

**BASKETBALL SCHEDULE** — Dec. 5, at Livonia Bentley, 8 p.m.; Dec. 9, at Northville High, 8 p.m.; Dec. 12, at Livonia Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 16, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Dec. 19, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Jan. 6, at Plymouth Canton, 8 p.m.; Jan. 9, at Milford Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 12, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; Jan. 16, at Pontiac Northern, 8 p.m.; Jan. 20, at Birmingham Seaholm, 8 p.m.; Jan. 23, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; Jan. 27, at Livonia Churchill, 8 p.m.; Jan. 30, at Livonia Stevenson, 8 p.m.; Feb. 3, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Feb. 6, at Wall Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Feb. 10, at North Farmington, 8 p.m.; Feb. 13, at Milford Lakeland, 8 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Farmington Harrison, 8 p.m.; Feb. 20, at Pontiac Northern, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 27, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; March 2-6, districts.

### NORTH FARMINGTON

**BASKETBALL SCHEDULE** — Dec. 5, at Farmington Harrison, 8 p.m.; Dec. 9, at Wall Lake Central, 8 p.m.; Dec. 12, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; Dec. 19, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Jan. 9, at Garden City East, 8 p.m.; Jan. 13, at Rochester Adams, 8 p.m.; Jan. 16, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Jan. 20, at Southfield High, 8 p.m.; Jan. 23, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, at Livonia Franklin, 8 p.m.; Feb. 3, at Ferndale High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 6, at Westland John Glenn, 8 p.m.; Feb. 10, at Farmington High, 8 p.m.; Feb. 13, at Garden City East, 8 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Waterford Township, 8 p.m.; Feb. 20, at Redford Union, 8 p.m.; March 2-7, district.

Dean called 5-8 junior Jeff LaBelle "a real scrapper." Three more junior prospects include Bill Gravitus (6-4), Steve Young (6-0) and Jim Franchi (6-0).

"We're weakest in experience, even with the five kids back," Dean said. "Roud started almost every game, but Schulte played very little, and Crowley played only off and on. I have several kids coming off the junior varsity, but until they play a little bit . . . I just don't know."

But Dean believes he has a group of winners.

"This is a good group of kids," he said. "They're fun to work with and eager to learn. They practice hard and that's a plus for us."

"If we can get through the first four or five games with some success, I think it might build into a good season."

**FARMINGTON HIGH** coach Rich Roy is coping with what he calls "our perennial problem" — lack of height.

"We're not very big," Roy said. "Our

two tallest kids are 6-4, both juniors. But we'll be an exciting team to watch. We were in most of the games last season, even though our record wasn't that great."

Farmington, a member of the Inter Lakes League, compiled a 6-14 overall record last year, but two of those victories were upsets over Livonia Stevenson and Milford Lakeland.

Jerry Liphardt (6-3) was an all-conference selection last season, but may be slowed by an ankle injury this winter. Other prospects: Mike Wozniak (5-9), Kevin Nichols (6-0) and Mark Orlando (6-8).

As Roy mentioned, the two tallest players are 6-4 juniors Paul Kobel and Paul Hickey.

"I think we'll score points," Roy said. "Jerry (Liphardt) is a good shooter, and so is Orlando. Defense and rebounding are our big problems right now. We're a little slow up front."

Stevenson and Pontiac Northern usually dominate the Inter Lakes basketball doings, and Lakeland is supposed to be improved this seas.

"Lakeland and Northern are supposed to be big," Roy said. "And (Stevenson coach) George VanWagoner always does a nice job with his kids."

Lutheran Northwest, which moved from Birmingham to the old High-meadow Elementary School in Farmington last fall, is one of those teams with nowhere to go but up.

Coach George Lemke's Crusaders lost all 21 of their games last season. This season, the Class D school won't field a junior varsity squad because of lack of numbers. The varsity team will play its home games in a gym at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville.

Northwest has three experienced seniors, Dave Austin (6-1), Carl Payne (5-10) and Mario Serra (5-6). Some junior prospects include Andy Farah (5-10), Mark Garrett (5-11), Brandt Rousseaux (5-10) and Paul Goode (5-9).

"Dave (Austin) is my height," said Lemke with a laugh. "We're going to have to be quick and scrappy because of our lack of size."

"We'll have to pressure the ball and force the other team into turnovers before they get set up."



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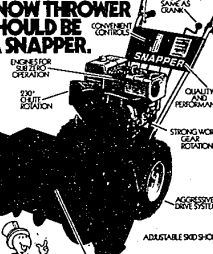
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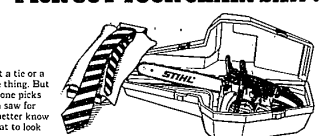
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