



North Farmington's Paul Cotter, who holds the 145-pound title in the Northwest Suburban League, toils during a recent practice.

North matmen land 2nd in league meet

Young grapplers help team

North Farmington's wrestling team, with some talented youngsters leading the way, capped a strong second half of the season by scoring 164½ to finish second in the Northwest Suburban League meet Saturday on North's mats.

Perennial champion Westland John Glenn won the title, scoring 229½ points in the league meet. Redford Thurston took third with 94 points, Redford Union had 75½, Garden City East 64 and Livonia Franklin 58½.

North, coached by veteran Jim O'Leary, won its last seven dual meets despite losing two experienced performers, Keith Kilmer and Dan Orr.

"We wrestled the last seven meets with two seniors, two freshman and six sophomores," said O'Leary, who earned his 100th career coaching victory recently. "But those young kids really came through. They did a tremendous job for never having wrestled much before."

North's most impressive wrestler is senior Paul Cotter, who won his 25th match, against five losses, with an 11-5 win over Glenn's Dean Garza in the 145-pound championship bout.

North sophomore Matt Gasser upped his match record to 23-8 by winning the 98-pound title with a 4-2 win over Redford Union's Jeff Hopp. Raider freshman Brian Hood, who has won 18 of his 25 matches this season, claimed the 185-pound crown, dethroning Glenn's Tom Alofi, 5-4, in the final.

Ken Nielsen, a Raider senior, won the 167 title with a 3-1 decision over Glenn's Vlar Vaughn. Nielsen has a 15-8 record.

North had runners up at 105 and 138. Glenn's Tom Gibson pinned North's Tom Brown in 4:39 at 105, and Glenn's Rob Pasoloci pinned North's Eric Collier in 2:38 at 138.

Glenn wrestlers were involved in 11 of the 13 weight class finals. After a week layoff, North will wrestle in the state Class A district tournament Saturday, Feb. 20, at Walled Lake Central.

Farmington High will wrestle in the Inter Lakes League at 4 p.m. on Friday at Walled Lake Central. Farmington High will meet the Western Six League field on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

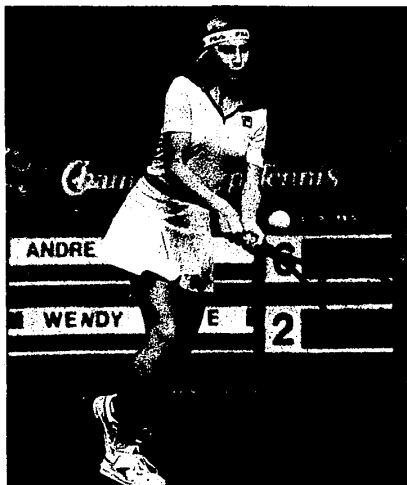


Jim O'Leary, who has more than 100 coaching victories, watches his Raider wrestlers work out.



C.J. Risak

Will Avon keep calling?



Andre Jaeger concentrates on a baseline shot during a preliminary match last week.

Was that Avon calling? This year, yes. Next year, maybe not. OK, OK, so you've heard all the rumors. None of the top women tennis players want to play in Detroit. They don't like the city, they don't like the weather, so they don't come.

Detroit always gets shafted, you say. The best players show their prejudice against our glorious city by snobbishly proclaiming, "I don't want to play in Detroit. You couldn't pay me enough to risk my life playing in that city."

Hold it, Detroiters. Your paranoia about our city is already well-known. It came aching loud and clear during Super Bowl week when all those out-of-town sports writers had the nerve to call our town cold.

LET'S FACE it: our town does get cold in the winter. Many of their criticisms were well-taken and, anyway, the good ink Detroit got nationwide far outweighed the bad.

So let's not go overboard with this Avon deal. Fact is, we aren't the only city that's had bad luck with the Avon circuit.

Avon is considering dropping its sponsorship of the tour, if you didn't already know. A decision is due from the cosmetics company April 1.

That doesn't mean the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) circuit will fold. According to Trish Faulkner, tour director for the WTA, there "are some other companies that have expressed an interest in picking up the circuit."

"We are looking at other options and examining the possibility of cutting down on the number of tournaments so more top seeds can play more often."

I KNOW WHAT your thinking, Detroiters. Why our city? Every year the top players pull out just before the Detroit stop. How come?

Please turn to Page 4

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