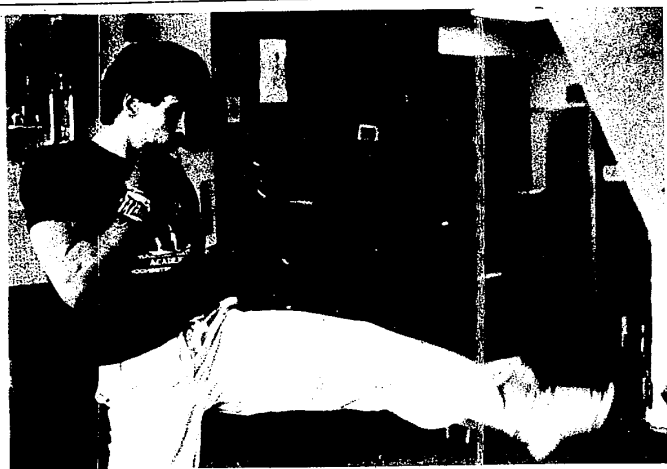


Monday, April 12, 1982



DAVID FRANK/staff photographer

Kerry Roop, the director of a martial arts school, will go after the light heavyweight kick boxing championship in June.

Just for kicks

Roop 'foots' bill to promote kick boxing

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

You might say Kerry Roop gets a "kick" out of boxing.

Roop, 31, who is the director and instructor at Nature's Way Martial Arts in Rochester, will go after the light heavyweight kick boxing championship in June.

He will fight champion Dan Macaruso, a kick boxer from Rhode Island who has held the title for the past three years, in a 12-round title bout. Roop will challenge Macaruso June 14 at the Premiere Center in Sterling Heights.

However, while renowned boxers like Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns fight

for personal glory, Roop's effort is just one of many geared toward promoting the sport of kick boxing.

He speaks openly and sincerely when he discusses the sport. It can be compared to boxing, but Roop insists, when the two are presented side by side, kick boxing will prevail as the more popular spectator sport.

"The general public, once they've seen kick boxing, is twice as turned on by it," Roop said. "I think people who like to see fights will get excited about kick boxing."

"IT'S NOT there yet," he said, referring to the sport as a heavy spectator event, "but it's going to be. Kick boxing is only six

or seven years old. It's catching on. ESPN (a 24-hour-a-day sports cable station) telecasts it every week.

"I've been one promoting it in Michigan, and I haven't heard any complaints. I think the boxing people are afraid, because kick boxing is more exciting."

In an effort to make kick boxing more visible to the general public — more specifically, the fight crowds — Roop wants to stage bouts on boxing cards. His logic is a simple one.

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Softball teams ready to play

By Tom Baer
staff writer

What do Dennis Place, Dennis Mikel and Doug Engler have in common? They're all first-year softball coaches at Farmington-area high schools.

At Farmington, Place was picked to succeed Rich Roy, who was named head football coach. Mikel took over for Dave Finney, who resigned as North Farmington's coach. Engler stepped in at Our Lady of Mercy, filling the post vacated by Linda Barber.

Mike Teachman and Jan Burmeister are in their second seasons at Farmington Harrison and Lutheran High Northwest, respectively.

Mikel, who has experience as an assistant football and basketball coach, is enthusiastic about his softball team. Last year, the Raiders were 4-10 — the best record in the school's history. Four seniors are back from that team.

In addition, Mikel has several good prospects from the Raider junior varsity team, which won 10 of its 12 games under coach Pat Gathout.

"On paper, we're looking better than ever before," Mikel said. "This is a hard-working, talented bunch. We'll be a very good defensive team, especially in the infield. We're hitting OK in the batting cage, but of course that's nothing like hitting in a game."

The returning seniors are first baseman Debbie Pank, who hit .367 last year, shortstop Betsy Lee and outfielders Stacey Greenberg and Sue Plinick.

Some juniors from the '81 junior squad are infielders Amy Austin and Margie Lee, outfielders Leslie Cullen, Kim Dreck and Amy Gilson, catcher Sharon Rightman and pitcher Sue Culver. Sophomore outfielder Linda Renard is another possibility.

"Our pitching will be vulnerable," said Mikel, who has Mummert and sophomore Michelle Rosen in addition to Culver. "That's our weak spot. I guess."

North opens at 4 p.m. on April 20 at Redford Thurston, a Northwest Suburban League opponent.

FARMINGTON'S PLACE has five returnees — a senior and four juniors — from last year's team. He's especially enthusiastic about freshman shortstop Kerry Rogers, who'll probably be in the starting lineup.

"She's dynamite," Place said. "She can hit and throw the ball further and run faster than any other

girl on the team."

Some other Falcon mainstays: senior outfielder Mary Long, junior infielders Mo Twomey and Missy Maloney and sophomore outfielder Tara Twomey. Twomey and junior Kathy Huta, both righthanders, will handle most of the pitching.

"Our defense looks very strong," said Place, "but the offense looks kind of average right now, although we could have a few shining stars. It doesn't look too bright in the pitching department. I need some help there."

Farmington opens at Harrison at 4 p.m. on April 20.

AT LADY OF MERCY, Engler is working with several experienced players.

The seniors include pitchers Dawn McKenna and Tammy Ford, shortstop Virginia Minoli and outfielders Jeanine Delvigna, Mary Miller and Yvonne Regan. Junior infielders Mary Comben and Kelly Humphrey are also expected to play key roles.

"We have an enthusiastic bunch, and it should be a fun season," Engler said.

"Defensively, our infield and outfield look good. I couldn't say about the hitting. We just haven't been outside enough. You never know about pitching until you get in the games."

Mercy travels to Brimingham Marian, a Catholic League opponent for its softball opener on April 20. Game time is 4 p.m.

LAST SPRING, Teachman's Harrison team lost all of its 13 games. Some 12 players, including two seniors, are back from that team.

"I had a lot of fun last year despite our record," Teachman said. "The kids were fun to work with and very coachable."

"Hopefully, they've learned a lot about playing this game. I think they have some confidence now."

Harrison's two top pitchers are sophomores — Karen Sklar and Michele Vogel. "Karen's a good hitter, so she'll always be in the lineup," Teachman said.

Some experienced Harrison players include senior infielders Janet Munn and Lori Winkel, junior infielder-pitcher Kris Witte and junior outfielder Dawn Lukomski.

Harrison hosts Farmington in the April 20 opener.

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Wounded Wings

Maxner hopes to come back

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Wayne Maxner is not a masochist. He's just a long-time Detroit Red Wing hockey fan.

The former Red Wing coach, fired late in the season while the team languished in last place in the National Hockey League's Norris Division, said he would like to return to the Detroit organization in some capacity, that is, if it will take him.

But Maxner made it clear that his comeback would be dependent on a number of items, including a management turnover. Present owner Bruce Norris has the Detroit Red Wings up for sale, and a new management team is expected by the beginning of the 1982-83 season.

Maxner indicated the team could be sold within the week.

"Mr. Norris is doing what he should have done 25 years ago," said Maxner, speaking before a crowd of more than 90 people at the Troy Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting Thursday afternoon at the Northfield Hilton Hotel.

"My heart is here," he said. "I've always been a Red Wing fan, and I know the organization. I've learned a great deal over the past year."

Detroit finished this season 20th overall in the standings among 21 teams. As a result, the Red Wings missed the NHL playoffs — which started last week — for the 11th time in the past 12 seasons.

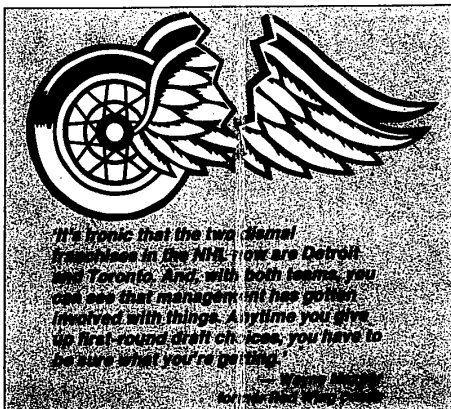
DETROIT'S LONE playoff appearance since 1970 was during the 1977-78 season, when it defeated the Atlanta Flames in the first round, then lost to the Montreal Canadiens in the next round.

Why has Detroit — one of the original six NHL teams — faltered so miserably over the past decade? Maxner said it stems from the top.

"It's ironic that the two dismal franchises in the NHL now are Detroit and Toronto," said Maxner, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia. "And with both teams you can see that management has gotten involved with things."

Detroit started strong this season. The Red Wings won their opening game and stayed among the division leaders through the first third of the season.

But Detroit's management — headed by Jimmy Skinner, director of hockey operations — made some player transactions in



an attempt to acquire more experience.

Skinner traded forwards Dale McCourt, Mike Poligo and Brent Peterson — three first-round draft picks over the years — to Buffalo for veterans Jim Schoenfeld, Danny Gare and Derek Smith. In a separate deal, the Wings acquired goalie Bob Sauve for "future considerations."

"Anytime you give up first-round draft choices, you have to be sure what you're getting," said Maxner. "It's always better to look at a trade with hindsight, but you also have to live with it."

"THAT TRADE (Detroit-Buffalo deal) was based on hope. If we had made the playoffs it would have been a great trade. But we suffered for it."

"People were hoping that trade would work out, but when you have a trade on hope nine out of 10 times it's not going to work out."

"I don't think there was anything more that Jimmy Skinner wanted than to make the NHL playoffs for one last time before he retires," he said. "Both he and Bruce

Norris would have liked to have gone out on a right note."

Maxner took over as coach of the Detroit Red Wings in November 1980, replacing Ted Lindsay. It was Detroit's 11th coaching change since 1970.

Maxner, 38, rose rapidly through the Detroit organization.

He had coached Detroit's farm club in Glens Falls, N.Y., for only two months when he was summoned to the NHL. Maxner previously had coached the Windsor Spitfires of the Ontario Major Junior Hockey League.

Maxner, who played professionally in the Boston Bruins organization, said the key to coaching and playing is hard work.

"You've got to work hard all the time — whether you're playing or coaching," he said. "And sometimes the players just weren't mentally ready."

"We were beaten in the corners so many times in our building, and that's why we lost so many games in the third period. Right now, Mark Osborne is the only player on the team I wouldn't give up."

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