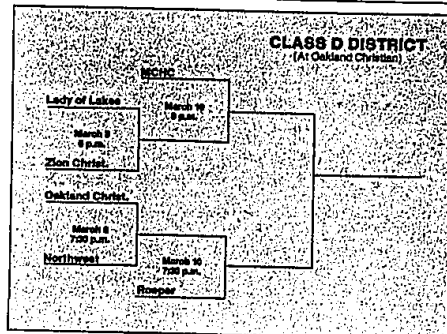
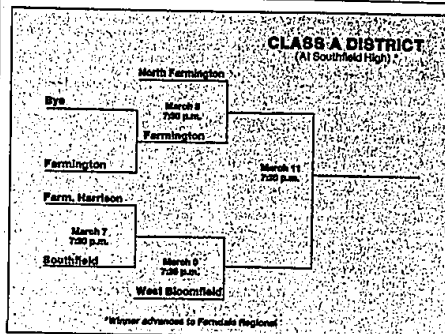


March madness



Can a Farmington team play giant killer?

COME TOURNAMENT TIME, certain subjects just are not discussed around certain athletic personnel at Southfield High School.

Southfield's excellent basketball team, still sky high over its stunning victory over favored Highland Park in the Parkers' gym last Tuesday, enters March Madness — the Michigan high school basketball tournament — Monday at home against Farmington Harrison in a district game.

It'd be the underdog of the decade to say that Southfield (18-2) is strongman of that district.

Harrison (4-14 as of last Thursday) can't touch the Blue Jays, who boast standouts like Joey Walton and Michael McCaskill. Neither should any of the other three district hopefuls — Farmington (6-11), North Farmington (6-10) or West Bloomfield (8-10).

It's the easiest of districts, and the regional at Ferndale High School

doesn't look much harder. The quarter-final? Probably an east-side suburban opponent. Probably no problem.

Yes, Southfield's road to the Final Four looks smooth and straight.

Should be easier even than last season when the Jays breezed to the semis before losing that heartbreaker to Flint Central on a 40-foot jump shot by Mark Harris in the closing seconds.

BUT YOU DIDN'T hear any of this from the folks in charge at Southfield... men like head coach Greg Sitka, or athletic director Fred Goldberg.

No, that would be "looking ahead" — and looking ahead has turned the Madness to badness for many a good basketball team.

"Anything can happen," Goldberg said, cautiously. "That's why they call it March Madness. Every year one of the state contenders gets knocked off in the districts. Look what happened to Detroit Northwestern last year.

"Anything could happen. A 40-foot shot could go in at the buzzer and knock you out of it. No, if you want to quote me at all, just say, 'Southfield will be playing Farmington Harrison at 7:30 on Monday.'"

Here's what some of Southfield's district opponents are saying about the upcoming competition.

Harrison coach Mike Teachman: "It's Southfield's district. It'd be a pretty big surprise if they didn't win it all."

North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian: "From a talent standpoint, somebody'd have to play really well and catch Southfield on an off-night besides. But, in the tournament, all records are sort of thrown out, and everybody's starting at zero and zero. That's the neat thing about the tournament."

Negoshian's Raiders play Farmington on Tuesday. On Wednesday night, West Bloomfield meets the Southfield-Harrison winner. The district final is



Tom Baer

set for Friday night. All games begin at 7:30 p.m.

THINGS AREN'T SO cut and dried over at Southfield-Lathrup High School, where the Metro Suburban Activities Association-champion Chargers (14-6) take on MSAA-foo Bloomfield Hills Laker (11-7) in a district game at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Coach Jim Kourtakis' Lathrup team, which has won its last 10 games, split with Laker during the regular season.

On Tuesday, two Birmingham fives, Brother Rice (10-8) and Groves (12-4), clash at 7:30 p.m. The winner of the Lathrup-Laker game plays Birmingham Seaborn (4-14) on Wednesday evening and Bloomfield Hills Andover (2-18) meets the Rice-Groves winner on Thursday.

"I think Lathrup is the favorite, because they've been getting better and better since Christmas," Groves coach Gary Sharpe said. "They're a cut above everybody else. But Laker, Rice and Groves are right there if Lathrup falters."

They'll play the final at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The district champ heads for the Ferndale Regional, where Southfield will be waiting.

Two Class D schools, Southfield Christian and Farmington Lutheran Northwest, are in separate districts this year.

Christian (14-5) is hosting a five-team affair with Royal Oak St. Mary's

(14-5), Plymouth Christian (7-11), Detroit Bethesda (13-5) and Ann Arbor Greenhills (record unknown).

Southfield Christian won a share of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference, which includes Plymouth Christian and Bethesda, this season. Greenhills beat Christian earlier this year, however, and the Royal Oak squad has played a tough schedule.

Lutheran Northwest, which had lost 17-straight games this season, will participate in the district at Pontiac Oakland Christian.

Northwest meets host Oakland Christian in the second game of a double-header at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes plays Clawson Zion Christian at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The district continues on Thursday with the Lakes-Zion winner playing at 6 p.m. and the Northwest-Oakland Christian winner meeting Bloomfield Hills Reeper at 7:30 p.m. The final is set for Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Farmington finishes 2nd in WLAA swim meet

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

There was one conclusion Plymouth Salem swim coach Chuck Olson found easy to make after the Rocks sped to the first-ever Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) title Friday: "It didn't come easy — this is a tough league."

Salem's perfect record in WLAA dual meet competition made the Rocks the favorite coming into the meet, but going into it was apparent they did anything but dominate.

Salem piled up 275 team points, outdistancing runner-up Farmington's 190 rather easily. Plymouth Canton was third with 152, followed by Livonia Stevenson (141), Livonia Churchill (127), Northville (107), Farmington Harrison (88), Livonia Bentley (76), Walled Lake Central (10) and Walled Lake Western (0).

WHAT MADE SALEM'S task difficult were a pair of double winners and, as Olson put it, "Some awfully fast swimmers."

Harrison's Ted Rudel and Farmington's Alec Campbell each won a pair of

individual races. Farmington collected four firsts to two for Salem. Depth proved invaluable for the Rocks. They garnered six seconds and a pair of thirds. Farmington had just one second in the meet.

"Everybody had to do it," Olson said after the victory. "Just like all year."

Campbell's wins came the 200-yard individual medley (2:00.57) and the 100 butterfly (52.57).

Rudel captured the 200 (1:47.16) and 500 (4:49.80) freestyles for Harrison.

Salem's firsts came in the diving, as Todd Riedel totaled 363.25 points, and in the 100 breaststroke, with Ashley Long splashing to top honors (1:03.03).

FARMINGTON'S OTHER individual league champion was Chris Edwards in the 100 free (49.63).

Stevenson had a pair of individual winners — Kurt Hein in the 50 free (22.44) and Kevin Everhart in the 100 backstroke (57.56).

The Stevenson team of Hein, Mark Jubenville, Everhart and Greg Deska won the 200 medley relay (1:43.13), up-

setting the top qualifying Salem team of Mike Harwood, Mark Roehrig, Long and Bob Bowling (1:43.79).

Farmington's Randy Gallinger, Fred Courville, Edwards and Campbell combined to take the 400 free relay (3:19.01), beating the Salem quartet of Erik Kleinsmith, Scott Anderson, Tim Harwood and Tom Shaw (3:21.11).

Tim Harwood collected two seconds for the Rocks in the 200 IM (2:04.31) and 100 back (57.99). Kleinsmith outdistanced Canton's John Simons for second in the 200 free by the narrowest of margins (1:49.10 to 1:49.11) and got another second in the 500 free (5:00.20).

Farmington's Edwards added a second in the 50 free (22.84) to go with his league championship in the 100 free, and Stevenson's Hein also had a second, in the 100 fly (54.70), to go with his 50 free win.

Other seconds went to Canton's Simons in the 100 free (49.62) and McBraitne in the 100 breast (1:04.12) and Churchill's Vic Valente in the diving (331.05 points).

The final event on the swim schedule is the Class A state final Friday and Saturday at Michigan State University.

North topples Township

Guard Mike Black scored 21 points Friday to help North Farmington finish its regular basketball season on a successful note with a 67-62 victory over Waterford Township.

North, which plays next against city-rival Farmington on Tuesday in the state Class A district at Southfield High, owns a 9-10 record.

Ray Doyle, Black's backcourt mate, contributed 15 points, and John Dawson scored 10 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Paul Pretto and Dan Holloway scored 18 and 15 points, respectively, for Township, which trailed by eight (34-26) at halftime.

"This was probably one of our better games of the season," said North Farmington assistant coach Rob Henderson. "We got off to a fast start and played the game at our tempo."

Township, which is closing at the end of the school year, finished the regular season with an 8-12 record.

state tournament play Tuesday with an 8-11 record.

Kanny, a 6-foot-3 senior, fired in a team-high 18 points, and teammate Dan Zang added 17. Rob Wendland scored 19 for WLW, and Dan Gabriele had 12.

Farmington jumped out to a 13-4 lead, but Western came back to trail by just one (26-27) at intermission. Farmington led by six (43-37) after three quarters.

"Our kids just didn't play with much intensity," said Farmington coach Richard Roy. "Maybe they were looking ahead to North Farmington in the district."

"The difference in the game was the fourth quarter. We hit some key free throws. Kanny was six for seven from the line."

FARMINGTON HARRISON'S Dave Younger scored 24 points, dished off six assists and pulled down nine rebounds Friday to pace the Hawks' 83-72 win over Walled Lake Central.

Younger, a 5-foot-8 junior guard, was 10 of 13 from the line and seven of 12 from the field. "We hit him instant offense," said Harrison coach Mike

Teachman. "When he's playing, that ball's going in or he'll die trying."

Wes Jones scored 14 points for Harrison, and teammate Dave Quarles had 12. Central was led by junior guard Scott Norris (24 points), Tom Cummings (11) and Doug Sage (10).

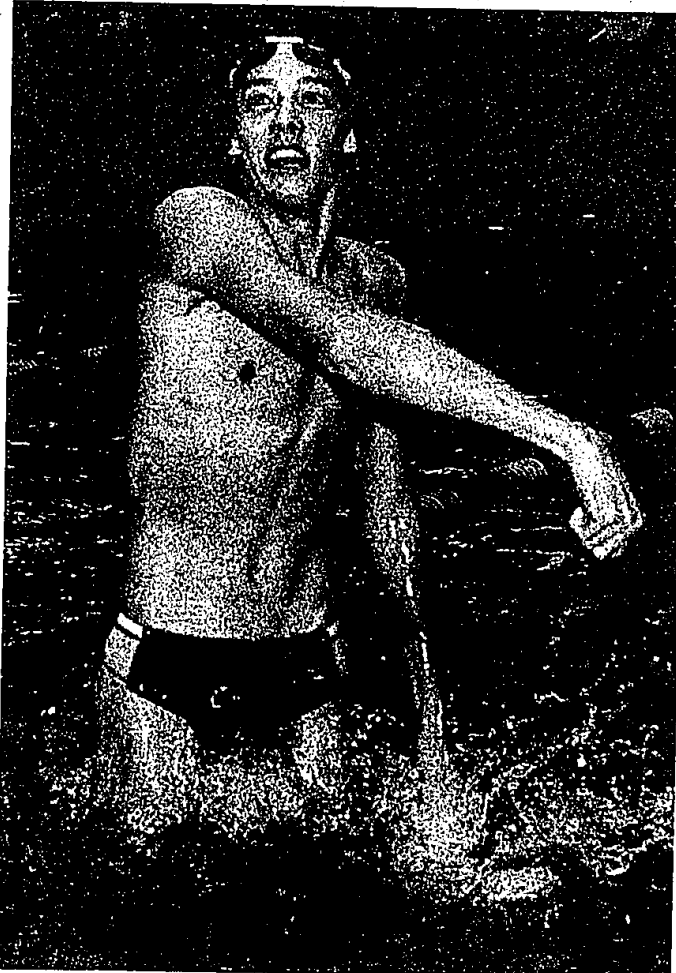
Harrison made 31 of 42 free throws. Central, now 8-12, was 14 of 23 from the line. Harrison held a 40-26 halftime lead.

Harrison meets powerful Southfield in the opening game of the state Class A district at Southfield at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR! That's the cry you'll hear around Farmington Lutheran Northwest these days. Northwest completed a winless regular basketball season (0-20) Friday by falling to Groesse Pointe University Liggett, 91-42, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference game.

Mike Amann scored 23 points for Northwest. J.T. Parks scored 22 for Liggett, and Brian Hunt added 16.

Northwest plays Pontiac Oakland Christian on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the state Class D district at Oakland Christian.



DARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Harrison's Ted Rudel rejoices after setting a new Salem pool record in winning the 200 free in the

WLAA championships. Rudel returned to win the 500 free and shatter another pool record.