

In Northwest Suburban League

North, Glenn pre-season choices

By Chris McCoskey
and Brad Emmons
staff writers

"North Farmington is the team to beat," said Westland John Glenn girls basketball coach George Sommerman, summing up the 1983 Northwest Suburban League (NSL) girls hoops race.

"North could be ranked in the state," he went on. "But, you can't let down in this league. All the teams can be giant-killers."

If you take a poll of NSL coaches, opinion would be that John Glenn and North Farmington are the frontrunners. North, 17-4 overall last year, won the NSL over Garden City, Livonia Franklin and Glenn.

Franklin and Redford Union, however, could be a factor. It's as Sommerman suggested: On any given night...

NORTH FARMINGTON

Call them the new-look Raiders.

The team fourth-year coach Greg Grodzicki puts on the floor in 1983 will barely resemble the 1982 team which fell in the district championship game to Walled Lake Central.

To be sure, Amy Austin will be back. The potential All-Stater with a 15 points per game scoring average will again be the Raiders' big gun. Senior center Suzanne Howley and junior guard Lisa Mummert also return.

But, the size is gone. Graduation stole Margie Lee and Marsha Thompson from the Raiders, their twin towers.

Being different, however, does not mean being worse. In fact, Grodzicki thinks his team will be better than last year.

"We are different. We aren't as big as last year, but we're quicker. We know we can run. It'll be a different brand of basketball, and, yes, I think we'll be better," he said.

North is able to make the transition to a speed team because of the versatility of Austin, who will swing between guard and forward, and the emergence of sophomore guard Laina Shaw, who can flat-out fly.

Others expected to help this year are seniors Mary Kozicki, Linda Rennard, and Islay Butters.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

"This could be one of our best teams," said Sommerman, now in his eighth year. "We'll get much better as we go along. We're still inconsistent, but we're enthused."

The Rockets are "10 deep," according to Franklin coach Tim Newman.

Leading the way is All-Observer standout Sophie

basketball



MINDY BAUNDERS/staff photographer

Amy Austin will again be the driving force in North Farmington's quest for a second straight Northwest Suburban League basketball crown.

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Castonguay, a 5-10 forward. She was the team's leading scorer. Castonguay is joined by returning starters Darla Bergman, a 5-11 center; Michele McCullen, a 5-11 forward; and point guard Julie Pucci.

"Pucci has worked to improve her game," added Sommerman, whose team was 13-9 a year ago. "She'll be a better player this season."

Also pressing for time is 5-11 junior Cheryl Dozier, a JV starter last season "who's strong inside with a good jump shot," said the Glenn coach.

And if that's not enough, sophomore Nancy Roulo, a point guard, and 5-11 Diana Sommerman are available for duty. They are joined by small forwards Julie Hysko and Judy Bundas, both juniors, and Sally Ling, a senior.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

The Patriots, like Glenn, return four starters.

But the problem is lack of size. Returnees Sue Johnson and Alicia Lettka, a pair of 5-8 seniors, should be off-guards, but must play with their backs to the basket according to Newman.

"They're two of our better shooters," said Newman, whose team was 11-9 a year ago. Mary Pollard, a defensive specialist, returns at the point. Junior Carolyn Smith returns as her partner in the backcourt.

Sophomore Tracy Lettka, who played as a freshman, will help bring the ball up, according to Newman. Karen McCool and Jill Phillips, both forwards, should also play.

"All five will be involved in the offense," Newman said. "They all can put it in. We're in the same boat as last year. We're smaller in size so we'll mix it up. We'll slow it down when we need to and run when we have it (the break). We don't want to get in foul trouble."

GARDEN CITY

It will be wait and see in 1983, said Garden City coach Jan Moore.

Forward Tammy Narramore is the only returning starter off last year's team which compiled a 16-4 record, good for second place in the NSL. Nine players were lost to graduation last year.

"I really don't know what to expect," Moore said. "Only time will tell, I guess."

Besides Narramore, last year's top point scorer, seniors Lori Russ, Carol Howard and Kathy Green will counted on to lead an otherwise inexperienced squad.

Besides the relative inexperience, Garden City



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Sophie Castonguay leads a veteran Glenn cast which includes four returning starters from last year's team, which upset Plymouth Salem for the district championship.

will have to overcome a lack of size if they are to compete for the title again this year.

On the positive side, Moore said this year's squad is more unified.

"This is a good team. They work well together. There were some conflicts last year with the combining of the schools that won't be a problem this year. There doesn't seem to be any pressure or hard feelings. These kids seem willing to work. That wasn't always the case last year," Moore said.

REDFORD UNION

When you speak of improved teams this year, be sure to include Terri Anthony's Redford Union squad.

Coming off a 3-18 season last year, Redford looked strong in area summer leagues and seem to be ready to make a mark on the NSL.

Returning this year are seniors Kellie Szabo, an All-League performer last year, and Brenda Peer. Also returning is super-sophomore Julie Marchand.

Marchand, said Anthony, is the key to the season for the Panthers. Marchand, though just 5-foot-8, will hold down the post position. As a freshman last year, she averaged nine rebounds and eight points per game.

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