

Senior gymnasts pace North

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(FDC)

By Chris McCosky
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Gymnastics is called a spotlight team sport for an obvious reason — it's a team sport that spotlights individual performance.

The spotlights were busy as ever during the Farmington at North Farmington meet Monday night. North, the No. 1-ranked team in Observerland, beat the Falcons 126.35-106.9. But, the spotlight didn't spend too much time on the scoreboard. North was an overwhelming favorite.

The spotlight first focused on the coaches. Farmington's rookie coach Mary Beth Feeney is a former North Farmington gymnast. Her coach, Mary Johnson-Glitz, is still in charge of the Raiders. Feeney graduated from North in 1978.

"She came in and said, 'Hi, coach,'" Glitz said with a laugh. "It's great to see her do well as a coach. Her team has improved so much since the season began."

Said Feeney: "I would have liked to have made a better showing against

them, but that's the way it goes."

Still, Feeney acknowledged her team's score, 106.9, was one of its highest marks of the season.

NEXT TIME the spotlight found the North Farmington seniors, Donna Kebrdie and Sharon Shiffra. The two seniors, standouts for four seasons at North, were performing in their final home meet. They were presented flowers before the meet.

They will not soon forget their final performance, either. Each took first place in two events. Shiffra won the vault (8.25) and the uneven parallel bars (8.5). Kebrdie won the balance beam (8.3) and the floor exercise (8.5).

While in the Raider corner, the spotlight illuminated some other top performances. Kara Karhu took third place in the bars (7.55), the floor exercise (8.0) and tied for third with teammate Lisa Brundie on the vault (7.9).

Lucine Toroyan, a petite-but-highly-energetic freshman performer, took second on the beam with an 8.2 and fourth on vault with a 7.85. She and

teammate Marilyn Dunn tied for fourth on bars, each scoring 7.45.

The spotlight next shone on Farmington's highly talented junior, Katie Macintosh. Macintosh was stricken with the flu, but that couldn't keep her out of the lineup.

"She said she didn't want to let the team down so she's going to compete. But, she's really sick," Feeney said before the meet.

SHE COMPETED as well as she has all season. She scored an 8.2 on vault, good for second place; 8.21 on bars, again second place; 8.05 on beam for third place and 8.25 on floor exercise, second place.

"I don't know where I got the energy," Macintosh said. "Macintosh has performed well all season for the Falcons. Has the team's losing season taken the fun of it for her?"

"No, not really," she said. "I keep improving my scores. That's all I can do."

The spotlight not only illuminates talent, but it catches heart, guts and desire as well. Macintosh and teammate

Debi DeWitt demonstrated that.

DEWITT BADLY bruised her heel warming up prior to the meet. She was scratched from competition on the beam. She needed three scores of at least 7.7 to qualify for the state regional meet on the floor, her best event. Farmington had just three meets remaining, so DeWitt wasn't about to let her opportunity pass by.

Despite the painful heel, she performed her floor routine, grimacing in pain throughout. She did well, but her 7.35 score fell short of the qualifying mark.

Farmington's Karen Runyan came through with her best scores of the season: 6.2 on vault, 6.8 on bars and 6.55 on beam.

When the spotlight finally shut off, North's record had improved to 9-2. Farmington's fell to 3-4. The Falcons will host Walled Lake Western tonight. The Raiders travel to Northville Monday.



Kara Karhu, North Farmington sophomore gymnast, scored an 8.0.

Hawk gymnasts set new mark

Yawn. The Farmington Harrison gymnastics team has done it again. The Hawks broke, for the third time this season, the school record for most team points.

The Hawks topped an improved Northville team 121.75-117.35 Monday night.

Breaking the school record so many times during the course of one season is an easy thing to take for granted and poke fun at — but Harrison coach Kim

Dennis said the new record couldn't have come at a better time.

"Northville is a good team," Dennis said. "I was worried about this meet until we started really hitting our routines."

Dennis relaxed when freshman Tracey Solomon hit an 8.25 on her uneven parallel bars routine. The mark not only took first place, but it broke a school record set in 1979 by Kathy Purcell of 8.20.

HAWK TEAMMATE Jill Birsa scored an 8.05 to take third on the bars, and Harrison was off and running.

"We had been in sort of a slump recently, but when we hit bars, I was relieved. It was the first time we hit bars all year," said Dennis.

In addition to her first on bars, Solomon won the floor exercise (8.40), and took second on both the vault (8.2) and the beam (8.20).

Solomon was second all-around with 33.05 points and Birsa was third with 31.2. Both all-around scores were personal bests for the two Hawks.

Cathy Heller took all-around honors for Northville, winning the vault (8.35), the beam (8.55) and taking seconds in the bars (8.15) and floor (8.35).

The Hawks (8-6 overall, 5-1 in the league) will travel to Walled Lake Central Monday.

Farmington schools compete in 30-team Schoolcraft net invite

Thirty women's volleyball teams, including defending champion Temperance-Bedford, will vie Saturday for the prestigious Schoolcraft Invitation title.

Pool play begins at 9 a.m. with the top eight teams advancing to the quarterfinals, which begin approximately at 4 p.m. All day admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

Tournament director Joe Jandasek said that the final match should begin approximately at 7:30.

Bedford, ranked No. 9 in Class A by a statewide coaches poll, will compete in Pool F along with Livonia Clarenceville, Northwest Suburban League

(NSL) co-leader North Farmington, Northville and Novi.

Livonia Stevenson, sporting a 20-3 overall record, is in Pool A along with Burton-Atherton, Roseville Brabiec, Walled Lake Western and Farmington Harrison.

POOL B includes Livonia Bentley, Garden City, NSL co-leader Redford Thurston, Walled Lake Central and Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Dearborn appears to be the favorite in Pool C, which also includes Livonia Franklin, Southfield, Southfield-Lathrup and Ferndale.

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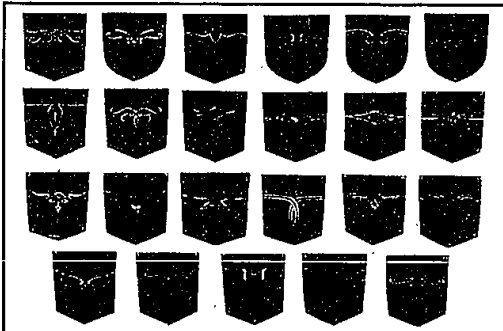
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