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(F1C)

# North gymnasts win 7th title

**C.J. Risak**  
**Will Domke be the OU choice?**

**J**OE WARRINGTON floated through the air, stretching for the pass lofted toward him, just below the basket. In one motion he caught the ball, then flicked it off the backboard and into the basket.

The buzzer sounded a moment later. And with its penetrating drone came an end to Orchard Lake St. Mary's basketball season.

Warrington's basket made no difference other than the final margin of defeat. The Eagles had fallen to Hillsdale 79-73 in the opening round of the NAAIA District 23 tournament. They had swooped back from near extinction, winning three late-season games to qualify for the tourney, only to fall prey to too many mistakes against a bigger, more talented team.

**NOT NECESSARILY** a better team, however. Despite their faltering, the Eagles never quit. Warrington's final effort was a testimony to that. They never gave up because Tim Domke wouldn't let them.

Domke has been St. Mary's coach since the college varsity program was re-introduced six seasons ago. He has guided the Eagles to three tournament berths in their five years as an NAAIA member.

He's done it in a style that can only be described as perpetual motion. During a game, Domke is constantly moving, treading a trail up and down in front of his bench, instructing players on the floor or consoling them on the sidelines.

On nights his team isn't playing, Domke is out looking for ways to improve it. Ask him what high school players in the immediate area impress him and he'll give you a rundown stretching from Warren to Wayne.

"And there's about a half-dozen from both Flint and Detroit I like," he'll add.

**HE HAS BUILT** his program by refusing to back away from any opponent. He has taken the team from St. Mary's, a tiny school placed on the picturesque shores dividing Pine and Orchard lakes, to play bigger schools like Wayne State, Grand Valley and Ferris State.

His team loses some of those games. But they don't quit. Against Hillsdale, St. Mary trailed by 19 points with less than nine minutes to play. Domke retained his positive attitude, still instructing, still battling.

Only one thing could depress a man so inflamed with optimism: a world without basketball.

Ten minutes after Monday's season-ending loss, he was saying, "I've got the best players I ever had coming back next year."

Only Domke may not be back to coach them. He is one of five finalists for the Oakland University coaching post. Other than Walt Studinger, who served as departing coach Lee Frederick's assistant, Domke is the only local candidate under consideration.

"I'd really like it, yeah," Domke said of the OU spot. "If I get it, I'll love it. But if I don't, it'll be alright. Hey, I'll still have a job (at St. Mary). I won't be unemployed."

**UNHAPPINESS** WITH his present position isn't what spurred Domke to toss his name into the ring. OU is upgrading its basketball program. That translates into more money and more scholarships. It's a better job, and it will provide Domke more to work with. He won't have to slice up scholarships piecemeal to provide everyone with something.

Can he handle it? Examine OU athletic director Dr. Paul Hartman's own criteria for the position:

- Experience: Domke has coached at the college level for six seasons. He has taken his team against Division II schools and battled them evenly. Three playoff berths in the first five years of the St. Mary program are proof enough.

- Recruiting: David Howard was chosen to be the NAAIA All-District team. The sophomore guard was recruited by Domke from Daytona Beach, Fla. He's had other recruiting coups — including transfers like Steve Kopicke, who switched from San Diego State, and Lance Davis, a former St. Mary prep star who will play for the Eagles next season. Best of all, he knows this area.

- Off-court image: Domke consistently stresses academics. He handles the media well. He's accessible and hard-working. And he is eager to tackle a position like that at OU.

**ALL OF WHICH** guarantees nothing in regard to who the next OU coach will be. But it does say a lot about Domke. If he doesn't get the OU job, OK, he'll keep plugging away at St. Mary.

He'll never quit pushing to improve. Moments after the Hillsdale game he was talking about his team, its youth and talent, and who he has in mind that could help it further, knowing he may not be the one doing the coaching.

"They're really a together group," he said. "They don't get upset over who starts or if I take them out."

"And it shows. They never give up."

Just like their coach — or perhaps their soon-to-be former coach.

**By Chris McCosky**  
**staff writer**

North Farmington gymnastics coach Mary Johnsee-Gilz wore a pin on the lapel of her blazer Saturday that read 10.0. Though none of her gymnasts earned such a score, the team's effort, to her, was indeed perfect.

The Raiders, with individual brilliance and powerful team depth, overmatched their opposition to win the Western Lakes Activities Association and the Lakes Division championships.

North amassed 131.70 points, its highest score of the season, to win the title. It was the seventh consecutive league title for the Raiders, five straight in the old Northwest Suburban League and the last two in the W.L.A.A.

Plymouth Canton earned 125.10 points to place second overall and win the Western Division title over third-place Farmington Harrison (121.25).

**NORTHVILLE**, with a healthy Cathy Heitert, surprised Plymouth Salem beating the Rocks 120.50-120.25 to take fourth place. Farmington placed sixth, with Walled Lake Western seventh and Walled Lake Central eighth.

North was the heavy favorite to win the league title, but to Gilz, the winning wasn't all anticlimactic.



Freshman Tracy Solomon scored a 9.0 on vault to earn a Western Division medal for Harrison.

"I was extremely pleased we did so well," said the veteran coach. "It was our highest score of the season. I think we are peaking at the right time, and that's very important. You know, this was only the second time all season I had my complete lineup competing at the same time."

Because of the Raiders' phenomenal depth, injuries and illnesses to top performers went virtually unnoticed. With key people out of the lineup, the Raiders managed to average in the mid-to-high 120s and earn a 12-4 dual-meet record.

An example of the Raiders' depth: four of the top-10 finishers in all around were from North — Dona Kebrle and Eileen Murtaugh (tied for third with 33.40 points), Sharon Shifra (seventh with 32.85) and Lucine Toroyan (ninth with 32.05).

The real battle of the day was for second place and the Western Division title between Canton and Harrison.

Harrison, ranked No. 2 in Observerland behind North much of the year, was seeking its first-ever division title. But, after a good score on vault (32.40), the Hawks stumbled on uneven parallel bars (29.15) and balance beam (28.60).

**CANTON, IED** by a superlative effort from senior Linda Beale, scored in the 30s in all four events.

"Both fortunately and unfortunately, everything came out as I predicted," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "Our performance was definitely



North's Sharon Shifra scored a 9.1 to win Western Lakes and Lakes Division medals in the vault. The senior placed seventh in the all around.

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## gymnastics

WESTERN LAKES LEAGUE  
 GYMNASTICS MEET  
 at North Farmington

**Team results:** 1-North Farmington, 131.70; 2-Plymouth Canton, 125.10; 3-Farmington Harrison, 121.25; 4-Northville, 120.50; 5-Plymouth Salem, 120.25; 6-Farmington, 114.30; 7-Walled Lake Western, 110.75; 8-Walled Lake Central, 107.25.

**All Around:** 1-Linda Beale (PC), 34.10; 2-Cathy Heitert (H), 33.90; 3 (tie) - Dona Kebrle (NF), 33.40; Eileen Murtaugh (NF), 33.40; 5-Beth Rafal (PS), 33.20; 6-Tracy Solomon (H), 32.85; 7-Sharon Shifra (NF), 32.85; 8-Katie Macdonald (H), 32.20; 9-Lucine Toroyan (NF), 32.05; 10-Diane Hale (H), 32.00.

**Vaulting:** 1-Sharon Shifra (NF), 9.10; 2 (tie) - Tracy Solomon (H) and Dona Kebrle (NF), 8.95; 4-Linda Beale (PC), 8.90; 5 (tie) - Eileen Murtaugh (NF) and Diane Hale (H), 8.85; 7-Cathy Heitert (H), 8.75; 8-Beth Rafal (PS), 8.55; 9-Annette Bryce (PC), 8.50; 10-Katie Macdonald (H), 8.25.

**Uneven bars:** 1-Cathy Heitert (H), 8.00; 2-Linda Beale (PC), 8.40; 3-Katie Macdonald (H), 8.30; 4-Sharon Shifra (NF), 8.30; 5-Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.25; 6 (tie) - Tracy Solomon (H) and Suzanne Gibbons (PS), 7.90; 8-Annette Bryce (PC), 7.85; 9-Beth Rafal (PS), 7.80; 10 (tie) - Dona Kebrle (NF) and Diane Hale (H), 7.75.

**Balance beam:** 1-Beth Rafal (PS), 8.55; 2-Eileen Murtaugh (NF), 8.50; 3-Linda Beale (PC), 8.20; 4-Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.20; 5-Dona Kebrle (NF), 8.05; 6-Cathy Heitert (H), 7.90; 7 (tie) - Diane Hale (H) and Annette Bryce (PC), 7.85; 9-Katie Macdonald (H), 7.75; 10 (tie) - Tracy Solomon (H) and Wendy Rainer (OU), 7.70.

**Floor exercise:** 1-Dona Kebrle (NF), 8.60; 2-Linda Beale (PC), 8.55; 3 (tie) - Eileen Murtaugh (NF) and Cathy Heitert (H), 8.35; 5 (tie) - Tracy Solomon (H) and Beth Rafal (PS), 8.30; 7 (tie) - Jackie Hill (PS) and Lucine Toroyan (NF), 7.95; 9 (tie) - Wendy Rainer (OU) and Katie Macdonald (H), 7.65.

H-Oakland University; NF-Norfolk; PC-Plymouth Canton; PS-Plymouth Salem; W-L-Walled Lake Western; W-L-C-Walled Lake Central; W-L-C-C-Walled Lake Central.

## Raiders rally, but its too late in loss to Southfield

**By C.J. Risak**  
**staff writer**

The state basketball tournament is commonly called the "second season". It got that nickname because it offered all teams a second chance to prove themselves.

In the Southfield district Wednesday, both Southfield and North Farmington had their chances — seconds, thirds and fourths, a full complement each. In the end, the favored Blue Jays finished on top by a 53-46 margin.

The Jays, now 15-7, battle West Bloomfield (8-13) for the district championship at 7 p.m. Friday at Southfield. North bows out with a 9-11 mark.

It would be difficult to say Southfield won the game. Survived may better describe it. The Jays had a 19-point cushion (49-36) with five minutes to play and nearly blew it.

**BUT NORTH** was just as guilty of bumbling away chances. The two teams played more like it was their season opener rather than the start of the second season.

"That's been the story of our season," said Greg Silwka of his team's sur-folding act down the stretch. "We lack that very special discipline you have to have in tight situations."

Rick Anderson nearly made up for North's earlier missed opportunities with some red-hot shooting in the Raiders' late rally. Anderson canned three jumpers as North scored 10 straight points to pull to within three (49-46) with 30 seconds left.

But it wasn't enough. Silwka called a timeout to get his team's attention — the Jays committed six turnovers and missed the front end of two one-and-one free throws to aid the Raider rally — and it worked. First Kenzie Hollie sank a pair of free throws with 13 seconds left, then Charlie Hart added a pair 10 seconds later to close out the scoring.

Actually, North had the Jays right

where it wanted them. Raider coach Tom Negoshian had worried about Southfield's half-court pressure man-to-man defense, and the play of Hart and Vince Baldwin, prior to the game.

**EARLY FOUL** trouble hurt Hart's effectiveness: He drew his fourth personal with 6:38 to go in the third quarter. And with several other Jays bothered with foul problems, Southfield was forced to go to a zone defense the entire second half.

"I hate that," Silwka said of the zone. "It takes away from our steals and it takes away from our fast break. Now we have to walk the ball up the floor and set it up."

That is just what Negoshian wanted. Unfortunately, the Raiders just couldn't take advantage of the breaks given them. North went to the line 10 times in the first quarter and eight in the second. Only six of the foul shots were converted. Four misses were the first shots in one-and-one situations.

"**WE WANTED** to see if we could get them into a zone," Negoshian said, "and we did that. We ran some picks and cuts and hoped we might get them into foul trouble."

"We shook the hell out of the ball from the perimeter, then we can't hit the free throws."

Baldwin led the Jays with 13 points. Hart managed 11, Tyrone Green had 10 and Ron Austin had nine. Anderson finished with 20 for North. Bob Chwalk chipped in with eight.

**BALDWIN, HART** and Hollie combined for 31 points in Monday's district opener as Southfield romped to a 77-47 victory over Farmington.

Baldwin netted 18 points, Hart had 17 and Hollie 16 as the Jays jumped to a 13-point halftime edge.

Bill Robinson's 17 points was best for Farmington, which finished the season at 4-17. Brian Looser contributed 10.

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