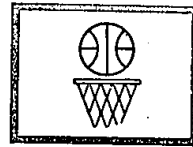


Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312



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Monday, March 12, 1984 O&E

Swim coach Hatch resigns

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Jordan Hatch, the man who has led the North Farmington girls swimming team to four Northwest Suburban League swim titles in five years, will not return as coach next year.

Hatch said he was given an ultimatum by the district administration — either resign or be fired. He has resigned.

Farmington athletic director Ron Holland agreed that Hatch was given a choice by the administration.

He went through some administrative evaluations, Holland said of Hatch. "It was suggested to him that he look at the total program and make a decision whether he should go on as coach, or not. He obviously felt he was better off to resign."

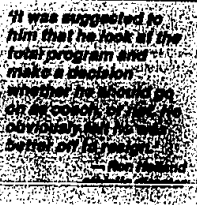
PAT DUTHE, the man Hatch replaced as girls coach five years ago, will likely replace Hatch. Hatch had also replaced Duthe as North Farmington's boys swim coach three years ago, but Duthe returned to take over that post this season.

Because Duthe teaches in the school district, and because he is an experienced swim coach, he was able to bump Hatch from the job. Hatch does not work in the district and, thus, is not protected by the district's policies.

According to Holland, Hatch's ability as a swim coach was not a factor in the administrator's evaluation.

"There's a lot more to coaching than wins and losses," Holland said.

Apparently, Hatch had some failings in performing some administrative tasks. Hatch admits his shortcomings in that area.



"When I started out, I was fresh out of college," Hatch said. "I made some mistakes out of my own immaturity and lack of experience. There was no one there to teach me the ropes. Along the line, I've adapted to some of those things and there are some that I haven't. In that aspect, it's my own fault."

SOME OF the area's Hatch may have been lacking in, he said, were in equipment organization, locker room maintenance, and administrative paperwork. He also said he had a tendency to use improper language around his swimmers and that angered the administration.

"I had slip ups in my language, like when I get upset or something. And what coach doesn't? Also, some of my ideas didn't go over too big with some of the parents," he said.

Hatch said he felt there was a lack of communication between the administration and himself because he worked outside the school. He also feels that many of the mistakes could have been

avoided with better communication.

"You know, I didn't have a Ron Holland around when I started to teach me the ropes. I had a lot of questions then, but I figured that wasn't the right time to be asking them. So, I kept my mouth shut," Hatch said.

Hatch said he wasn't aware of how tenuous his position would be at North when he took the job.

"WHEN I hired in, nothing was said to me that Pat Duthe could come back any time he wanted. After I was hired, Clayton Graham (North principal) told me that if Pat wanted back in the job was his," Hatch said.

When asked if he held any bad feelings for North Farmington, Hatch wasn't sure how to answer.

"As far as the kids go, you know, I love them. I have been with them for four years and I'll continue to help them and do things for them when they ask."

"But, I've learned some things from this. I've learned from my immaturity and my mistakes. I've learned that there is more things to worry about in coaching than just the kids. I could be real bitter. You know, when a guy just quits three or four years ago and then comes back. But, I told myself 'I wouldn't be that way. This hurts. I'm just going to try and understand it all,' Hatch said.

Hatch, who will be getting married in July, has had assistant coaching offers from Livonia Stevenson and John Glenn. He isn't sure of his next move.

"I know I'm not mature enough yet. But, I'll keep learning. I still want to do whatever I can to help turn young kids into young adults. I like to help them grow," Hatch said.



FANDY BORST/staff photographer

Observer's best

Dave Hovey of Farmington was named the area's best wrestler in his 98-pound weight class. The entire All-Area wrestling team is featured on page 2C.

Pioneers narrow coach candidate list to 5 hopefuls

And then there were five.

The list of candidates for the basketball coaching position at Oakland University has been pared down to a final five, according to sources. A committee of OU coaches and faculty, appointed by athletic director Dr. Paul Hartman, has interviewed four of the finalists and will reach a decision on the new coach by the end of this week.

The last person to be interviewed was believed to be Dick Bennett, a leading candidate and coach at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point,

where Hartman served as AD before coming to Oakland last June. Bennett's team still was playing in the NAIA tournament this past weekend.

Three other candidates are Tim Domke, currently the coach at Orchard Lake St. Mary; Greg Camp, an assistant coach at Toledo University; and Walt Studinger, an assistant coach at OU last season.

Domke has coached St. Mary since varsity college basketball was re-introduced there six years ago. In five years of NAIA play, the Eagles have reached

the post-season tournament three times. They were eliminated from this season's tourney by Hillsdale last Monday.

Camp's Toledo team was playing in the Mid-American Conference tourney over the weekend.

The coaching position became open when administration officials decided not to renew Lee Frederick's contract after the recently concluded season. OU finished the year 13-14, losing its last six games.

— C.J. Risak

Rice takes district Warriors win 3 OT affair

By Marty Budner
staff writer

It was one of those classic Brother Rice-Lahser basketball confrontations. And, as usual, Brother Rice won. And, as usual, it wasn't easy.

In fact, the state-ranked Warriors needed triple overtime to dispose of a

Knights team that just refused to be taken for granted. The 67-66 Rice victory was witnessed by more than 700 chilled spectators at the Southfield-Lathrup gym.

Ironically, Nick Conti, the former Lahser coach, was on the losing end of most of those Rice-Lahser match ups. This time Conti was the winner and

Mike Fedlo, who took over for Conti three years ago, the disappointed loser.

"It was like deja-vu out there. It was back to the days of when men were men and boys were boys," said Rice coach Nick Conti, whose team opens regional play Tuesday night at Ferndale High School against Southfield.

"When Rice and Lahser played basketball, we waged knock-down, drag-out games. That was the way it was tonight. It was good to be on the winning end of a Lahser-Rice game."

"When I was at Lahser we played Rice 10 or 11 times, and we only won once," he said. "And most of them were very tough games. I know how they feel."

Most people had Rice penciled in as district champions before the state-playoff district tournament began. Fedlo didn't believe it and neither did his players.

THE KNIGHTS controlled most of the first half by putting pressure on the Rice guards, changing up defenses and trying to "push" the ball up court whenever possible. Lahser attempted to use its quickness to wear down the taller Warrior squad.

It was a very effective game plan.

"I think maybe we had a little more incentive because we were up against the 'Goliaths,'" said Fedlo, whose team finished the season with a 17-4 overall record.

"Sometimes we look a little unassuming out there on our front line, but they can play with a lot of incentive," he said. "We just played super, and it was there to be had."

Indeed it was.

Lahser could have pulled off one of the area's gigantic upsets ever in regulation time.

With just four seconds left and the game tied at 50, senior guard Mike Davis had picked up a loose ball after a missed shot by teammate Matt Lewry. He was fouled and went to the free-throw line with a chance to win the game.

Rice had called time out to discuss strategy and perhaps make Davis think a little more about his important one-and-one opportunity. The teams returned to the line and the referee handed Davis the ball.

At that precise moment, Rice's Matt Dingens — who headed to the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship — pulled off one of the classic trick plays in high school sports. He tapped Lewry and motioned him to switch spots in the lane.

PLAYERS AREN'T allowed to move after the referee hands the ball to the shooter. Both Dingens and Lewry moved, and it was ruled a double-lane violation. Davis had missed the shot, but it didn't matter.



Lahser's Steve Beck (30) and John Boos (25) do everything they can to stop B.J. Armstrong (10).

Please turn to Page 2

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