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Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312

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Yarema is MSU's hope

THERE HE SAT, obviously uncomfortable in his present surroundings. Who wouldn't be? A dozen or so reporters crowding around, wanting to know how the football team he quarterbacked blew a 17-point lead and lost.

Dave Yarema squirmed a bit, but never dodged.

"I really thought we should have scored some more points," he said. "It was a strange thing. I really thought we were going to win. We just let it slip away."

Perhaps more than any other game this season, Michigan State's 24-20 loss to Notre Dame Saturday will prey upon Yarema. He had a chance to do what few quarterbacks in history have ever done: Beat Notre Dame twice.

It meant a lot to him, this game. A year ago he connected on 15 of 23 passes for 165 yards and three touchdowns as State shocked the Irish 28-23. The following week, Yarema was busted up by Illinois. His season was ended.

SO, FOR ALL that matters, was MSU's. Without Yarema, the Spartans were very ordinary, finishing 4-5 for the season.

Yarema's return at quarterback was to Spartan fans, hope. With George Perles as coach and Yarema back calling the signals, MSU might, finally, challenge the Big Ten's bigshots: Ohio State, Illinois and, particularly, Michigan.

The right way to get things rolling was with two wins to start the season. Knock off faltering, stumbling Notre Dame. Get the momentum swelling for that conference season.

The Spartans did get the momentum against the Irish, but, sadly, they just couldn't keep it going.

That pained Yarema. You see, the college he preferred while playing high school ball for Al Francassa at Birmingham Brother Rice wasn't MSU. It was Notre Dame.

"I wanted to go to Notre Dame," Yarema confessed. "They didn't recruit me."

THAT WAS about all the incentive a guy would want. Yarema started fast for the Spartans Saturday. By halftime, he had completed six of 11 tosses for 89 yards. MSU led 17-3.

Something happened in the second half. Yarema threw just six passes, completing three for 60 yards. The running game that accounted for 120 first-half yards managed just 77 in the second.

It's a fearsome, emotional thing, momentum is. Once gone, it is difficult to recover.

The Spartans lost their momentum in the second half. Turnovers hurt. Perles explained (three in the last quarter). But so did what appeared to be a wait-and-see decision — let's wait and see what Notre Dame does.

Reporter after reporter approached Yarema with the same question: Did MSU go conservative in the second half?

The young quarterback mumbled the question over before answering: "I don't think so. We were moving the ball well on the ground."

BUT THEY were moving the ball well in the air, too. Three times Yarema connected with Mark Ingram on long bombs. One was called back on a penalty, but the two that counted amassed 84 yards, nearly two-thirds of MSU's passing total.

Why not try throwing deep more often? "I don't think we were conservative," Perles said. "We set up that last pass (a 44-yarder to Ingram in the fourth quarter). We worked a long time to do it. If the timing had been a little better it could have gone all the way."

Instead, MSU couldn't pick up the first down, fumbling the ball away on fourth down at the Irish 17. The momentum had shifted to Notre Dame, and with it went the game.

"Hey, I'd like to throw the ball on every down," Yarema was telling reporters. "But that's me. I can't second guess anybody."

Maxwell goes out with roar



Jerry Maxwell

By Chris McCosky staff writer

He is aware he is hated by other coaches. And he, in turn, hates them and makes no attempt to hide his feelings. If you cross him, he'll find a way to get even with you. He has a mean, fiery temper. He coaches to win, period. And he doesn't coach by the book, he has written his own.

He is, by his own admission, a maverick. It's a reputation he has earned and of which he is most proud.

There are few coaches around as colorful, controversial or as successful as North Farmington's Jerry Maxwell. In eight years as the Raiders' varsity baseball coach, Maxwell has compiled a 134-76 record and won three Northwest Suburban League titles.

In a very short time, Maxwell took a dead program and made it a winner. He will not return to his post next year. He has

decided to retire as North's baseball coach. He made his decision after last season but didn't make it official until last week when he mailed his letter of resignation to Farmington Athletic Director Ron Holland.

"RON CAUGHT me last spring, before I had said anything to anyone about quitting," Maxwell said. "It was after we got beat. He came up and told me I had done a great job and not to quit. But, I knew after last season that I had had enough."

Giving up coaching wasn't easy for Maxwell. "It wasn't something I wanted to do," he said. "It was something I felt I had to do."

"I have been coaching for 23 seasons in one sport or another. I've been coaching baseball since 1970 (North varsity since 1976). It's physically tough to do justice to both coaching and teaching when you do them at the same time. You can slack off on one or the other, but I tried to do both as hard and as furious as I could. After last year, I had lost 10 pounds — I was totally wiped out."

Maxwell said he thought about quitting two years ago, but his family talked him out of it. Last year, when he mentioned quitting, they said he should.

"I want to spend more time with my family. Family is No. 1. When you are coaching, family becomes No. 2. I was becoming really grouchy in the classroom. I mean, it just got to the point where I didn't enjoy it anymore. I would be thinking how much nicer it would be to be home in front of a fire instead of out on the field. I was glad when it rained because we wouldn't have to play. That's not the attitude I wanted to have as a coach," Maxwell said.

That's part, about 90 percent, of the reason Maxwell has quit. The other part is losing. Maxwell simply could not stand to lose. He had been a winner from his second year on at North. But, the last two years, his teams have struggled. Last year's team finished with an 8-14 record.

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Sophs guide Falcons to Schoolcraft victory

By Brad Emons staff writer

Farmington's cross country team is usually in the money at the Schoolcraft Invitational.

But on Saturday, the Falcons wouldn't settle for just place or show. They found themselves in the winner's circle for a change with 36 points.

Westland John Glenn was a distant second with 76 and Redford Union was third with 86 in the boys' meet.

"We've taken our share of seconds and thirds," said Farmington coach Jerry Young. "We've always finished well in this meet."

It was the Falcons' first Schoolcraft title since 1970. Young was the coach then and was the coach when Farmington finished second three consecutive years (1974 through 1976).

"This is the best group we've had since 1970," Young said. "We were fourth in the state then. This group compares with them."

ON THE FLAT, 5,000-meter Schoolcraft course, Farmington placed four in the top 10, six of the top 20 finishers (see statistics).

Sophomore Chris Inch was second overall behind the champion, Dave Homann of Garden City, who was clocked in 16:42.2.

Inch's time was 16:51.3. He was followed by

cross country

teammates Al Stebbins, sixth place, 17:02.4; Bryan Lawton, seventh, 17:05.5; Bruce Kratt, 10th, 17:14.9; Dave Dunneback, 11th, 17:18.1; and Bruce Kerr, 17:30.8.

"Our senior captains (Dunneback and Kerr) are doing a nice job providing us with senior leadership," said Young, the Falcons' coach since 1966. "We're doing a good job right now, but we're young and that's what scares me."

The future, however, looks nothing but bright for Farmington. Stebbins, running in only his fourth varsity meet, is a sophomore along with Inch. Kratt, who moonlights as a kicker on the Farmington football team, is a junior along with Lawton.

"These kids are just finding out what it's all about," Young said. "They're just learning the game."

THE FALCONS could even be tougher with the return of senior Dan Clappison, who's been out with a kidney infection.

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

The Falcons, as is their way, ran in a pack Saturday. After Chris Inch took second, Al Stebbins (front) and Bryan Lawton followed in sixth and seventh.

Bright future for Pioneer sports?

By C.J. Risak staff writer

PAUL HARTMAN'S schedule was jammed. Not just with the normal, everyday type of stuff college directors wade through, either. He was busy planning for such sporting activities as grassed pole climbing, kite flying and hot air balloon sailing.

That's what happens when you co-chair the committee in charge of Oakland University's Septembertest, part of the college's 25th anniversary celebration.

It seemed like a throwback to the early days on campus, when Hollie Lepley, OU's first AD, had job titles that included:

- Director of Physical Education, Intramural Sports and Recreation at OU;
- Director of Physical Education and Athletics for the Pontiac school district;
- Dean of students.

Lepley's various responsibilities kept him busy 12-14 hours a day, six days a week, for his first three years (1959-63). Michigan State University-Oakland (MSU) was first known) had no required physical education courses for credit. It had no intercollegiate athletic program, and there were no plans for developing one.

But Lepley recalled in a speech delivered at the opening of the OU Hall of Honor last March, "I did intimate that after a period of time students would introduce the subject of intercollegiate athletics."

THEY DID. In 1964, OU scheduled intercollegiate competition in cross country, soccer, basketball and swimming.

When the school first opened, remember, there was no athletic facility. The Intramural building, now called Lepley Sports Center, didn't open until 1964.

Students with athletic cravings had to go off campus, to places like Willis Elementary School's gymnasium. It



was fortunate for Lepley and OU that he was director of Pontiac's athletics, too. That allowed use of certain facilities.

MORE THAN EVER, the current OU administration is interested in building up the sports program. Hartman, who is entering his second year as AD, acknowledged that the athletic program "has expanded tremendously. We've put more money into all of our sports this year."

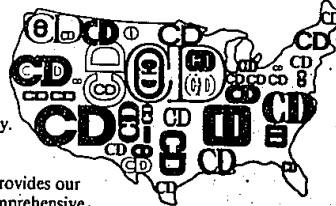
Expansion is the future of OU sports. Not that the school will start a football program — "It would be a real mistake financially," Hartman said, but athletic achievement is being stressed as one means of putting OU on the map.

It's a far cry from the cutbacks of the late '70s, which forced the cancellation of baseball and softball. Both are high on Hartman's list to be reinstated as varsity sports.

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