

Raiders look to retain last year's magic

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

A LOT OF coaches in Sandy Lubiencki's shoes wouldn't be looking forward to this volleyball season.

Lubiencki's North Farmington team lost four of its frontline players off a team that finished 27-8 and ranked No. 2 in Observerland a year ago. Included among those departed were Amy Austin, Mary Kozicki and Linda Rennard who graduated and Lalana Shaw who moved out of the district.

"Oh, it'll be different, but it's going to be a lot of fun," said the personable coach.

The reason it'll be fun is that North still has a wealth of talent coming back. Namely, seniors Patti Kozicki, Donna Konjarevich, Brooks Landback and Suzette Greenberg, all of whom were regulars a year ago.

ALSO BACK are seniors Julie Pistole, Stephanie Hockema and Stacy Talamini who saw limited action last year.

The key, according to Lubiencki, is Kozicki.

"Patti is just a fantastic player," Lubiencki said. "She is a state-caliber player and I'm going to be really pushing to make sure she gets the recognition she deserves."

Kozicki is the team's setter and floor leader. In North's system of play, the setter is crucial.

"The key is setting. A lot of people think you're in big trouble if you lose a

volleyball

real big hitter. But, to me, we're in trouble if we lose Patti," she said.

The difference in this year's Raider team, according to Lubiencki, is its diversity.

"Last year, people pretty much knew that the ball would be going to Amy (Austin). When you have a player of her ability, sometimes you rely too much on her. You go to her all the time. This year, we'll do a lot of different things. No one's going to know where the attack is coming from," she said.

DEPTH is also a strength of North's. Lubiencki is counting on contribu-

tions from junior Nancy Cothran and three promising sophomores, Tammy Spengler, Terry Spengler and Kris McKinn.

"We have a bit of everything," Lubiencki said. "We have hitters, blockers, speed, hustle and a lot of depth."

Remember, the year after North lost standout Nancy Hughes, who later starred at Schoolcraft and the University of Georgia, it won the district championship.

North opens its season at home Wednesday against Novi.

FARMINGTON

The Falcons can also bemoan some notable graduation setbacks, like Jill Waterman, Laura Varty and Tara Twomey.

But to second-year coach Kim O'Neill's hopeful rescue comes a band of versatile athletes.

"We're not real big, but we have some girls with outstanding verticle jumps," O'Neill said. "What I like about this team is we have good passers and real good all-around athletes."

The Falcons will floor a senior lineup. Jenny Lindbert, Laura Spence, Mary Ann Kwasienski, Jenny Wischmeyer, Pam Faulkner and Judy Baranyal all saw action last year.

O'Neill is also hoping for contributions from juniors Patti Mathews, Cathy Fear, Lisa Edwards, Anne Nau and sophomore Jenny Zuboraki.

The biggest surprise for the Falcons has been the development of sophomore Lori Casaroli. O'Neill said she may be the team's regular setter.

"I really can't say how we're going to be at this point," O'Neill said. "We haven't been together that long. Half the team played basketball, so we're just now getting them out to practice."

Farmington's first match will be Saturday in the Garden City Tournament.

FARMINGTON HARRISON

Coach Ron Short isn't about lay claim to a state championship this season, but he is delighted with his team nonetheless.

"I'm happy with this group," he said. "We're very young. We only have two returning seniors and two juniors."

"But this is a real aggressive group. They are willing to work and they are willing to learn. It's a joy to coach them. They are more in tune to what's going on."

Seniors Kim George and Colette Cashin, along with juniors Jennifer Hughes, Diana Raddatz and Heather Greit are likely to see a great deal of court time. Battling for the No. 6 spot will be junior Kristi Hugh and sophomore Janine Whittmore.

But Short also said that he'd be substituting freely. "There will be a lot of playing time for everyone," he said.

Last year, Harrison placed second in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Despite the Hawks' inexperience, Short said a division title isn't out of the question.

"We should have a shot at the division," he said. "We placed second last year and the teams are very similar. If we improve like I think we're going to, we will have a good chance."

The Hawks open their season at the GC tourney.

Falcon coach Brown resigns

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Bruce Brown has quietly resigned as girls basketball coach at Farmington High School.

"Please don't make a big deal out of this," said the personable Brown.

Brown gave up the job because it was becoming too demanding.

"I just don't want to put the time into it that it takes."

Girls basketball in this area has evolved to such quality that in order to compete, programs have to be active all year. That is, teams must play summer ball in order to floor a competitive team in the fall.

And Brown realizes that. "Our program has reached a point now where we really have some nice kids coming up. And I would feel guilty if I didn't devote the time they require and deserve. And, frankly, I don't want to do that," Brown said.

INSTEAD, BROWN will coach the younger kids. He coaches the freshman boys basketball team at Farmington.

Brown has been the head girls coach for three seasons and coached varsity boys prior to that.

He didn't have any idea who his replacement would be, he said, but he recommended his assistant, Diane Schwartz, for the job.

"She has done an outstanding job with the JV girls. She'd be my choice. I'd like to see more of the men coaches

get out and let some more female coaches in."

"I think it would be in the best interests of the game. I think women coaches, as role models, would be very healthy."

Bruce Brown, his quiet patience, his friendly demeanor, his knowledge of the game's fundamentals and his ability to make playing basketball fun, regardless of wins and losses, will be greatly missed.

Farmington pins Chargers down; North's Hood gets best of old rival

The Farmington wrestling team started its 1984-85 season on top of visiting Livonia Churchill Thursday, racking up 7 pins against the Chargers en route to a 50-22 win.

Mike Stern started things out for the Falcons with a quick, 38-second pin against his 98-pound opponent, Pete Leventis. Dave Hoyer (165) picked up a pin over Steve Thibodeau in 1:30. At 112 pounds, Mike Papp pinned Conrad Oswald in 1:23.

The Farmington assault continued when Mike Cody (139) pinned Mike Marocco in 1:14. Ab Hazzon (185) stuck Rob Fielick in 49 seconds. Dan Partio (195) nailed Dan Pawlus in 14 seconds and heavyweight Bill Critcher pinned Ted McKnight in 37 seconds.

Other wins for Farmington included Jason Forge (128) over John Parr, 3-2,

wrestling

and Dave Cunningham (187) over Brian Clemens, 16-3.

Three Chargers got in on the pin extravaganza, including 119-pounder Mike Krause's pin of Mark Palko at 4:28. Dave Dudek (145) stuck Mike Merom in 48 seconds and Tim Krause (165) nailed Scott Martinuzzi at 3:18.

The last Churchill winner was Scott Priebe (132) with a 15-6 decision over Gary Blair.

BELLELEVILLE 70, NORTH FARMINGTON 3: The state-ranked Belleville

wrestlers flexed their muscles Thursday and North Farmington suffered the consequences by way of a 70-3 trouncing in the Tigers' gym.

Brian Hood (185), however, won a major personal triumph. He defeated his nemesis, Doug Chapman, 7-4. Chapman ousted Hood last year in the district tournament.

North wrestled Ypsilanti in a match where only individual victories were counted. There was no team score registered.

In the Ypsi battle, Hood was a

winner by decision again, this time by a 17-3 margin.

Other winners for the Raiders were Paul Cook (118) in a 12-8 decision over Charlie Fults, James Benda (132) pinned Mike Coval in the first period, Cory Barisch (145) defeated Chad Payne, 14-3 and Kurt Hegley (165) pinned Dick Isaacson in the third period.

North is 1-2 overall.

Ocelots split

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team will take a 2-4 overall record into this weekend's tournament at Lakeland CC.

Last week the Lady Ocelots split a pair of games in the Lansing CC Tournament.

In first-round action, Shawnee State (Ohio), the eventual tourney champ, downed Schoolcraft, 76-63.

Sue Withrow was one of four Shawnee players scoring in double figures. She finished with 22.

Schoolcraft, meanwhile, was plagued by a rash of second-half turnovers after trailing by only 1 at the half, 40-39.

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