

Ruggiero selects Colorado State

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Annette Ruggiero, Farmington Hills Mercy's point guard and floor leader the past three seasons, has made a verbal commitment to accept a full-ride basketball scholarship at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

"There were a lot of factors that went into this decision," Ruggiero, a Plymouth resident, said Monday. "Mostly though, I really liked the girls (on the Colorado State basketball team). They were really friendly. And the school has a good engineering pro-

gram and I think that's what I want to get into.

"I want to get away for awhile. Not away from my family or anything like that, but just to get away. I think it'll be neat to see different parts of the country."

Ruggiero, surprisingly, was not heavily recruited. Many coaches felt her size, 5-foot-6, was too small for major college basketball.

STILL, HER accomplishments in high school were impressive. In her three years, Mercy won every championship available to a high school

girls basketball

team, including the state title in 1982. She is Mercy's career assist leader with 299, averaging 5 per game last year. Also last year she averaged 9.8 points and 3 steals per game.

She was named to both all-state and All-Area teams last year. But, perhaps the most telling statistic is that Mercy compiled a 64-5 record in Ruggiero's

three years as point guard.

She made official visits to Georgia Tech, Dartmouth and Western Michigan University besides Colorado State. Eventually, her choice was Colorado State or Western.

"I'm sure Annette made a good choice," said Mercy head basketball coach Larry Baker. "She really investigated this thing carefully and objectively. She was very mature about making the selection. She exhausted all possibilities and asked all the right questions."

place in the Western Athletic Conference last year, Brigham Young was the conference leader.

Ruggiero believes she'll have an opportunity to contribute immediately. "I haven't talked to the coach since I have committed, but I guess they really need a big girl and a point guard," Ruggiero said. "It looks pretty good for me getting a chance to play right away."

Ruggiero is the second Mercy senior to accept full-ride scholarship at a major university this year. Mary Rosowski signed with the University of Michigan last November.

COLORADO STATE finished in fifth

Annette Ruggiero
Mercy star heads west

North tops Spartans

Nothing like starting out a season on a positive note.

The North Farmington girls track team, for the first time in its history, has defeated Livonia Stevenson in a dual meet in Livonia. The Raiders, spurred by sophomore twins Terry and Tammy Spengler, defeated Stevenson Tuesday.

Tammy Spengler captured both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. She went 13.46 in the 100 and 28.1 in the 200. Terry Spengler won the 400 meter in 1:03.84.

Other Raider winners were Holly Thurston in the high jump (4-8) and Carolyn Aiken in the 800-meter run (2:32.1). North also captured the 800 relay (1:55.2) and the 1,600 relay (4:34.55).

STEVENSON, competing without several key performers, kept the meet close until the final event. Karen Millen dominated the hurdle events, winning the 100 meters in 18.1 and the 300 meters in 52.2.

Stevenson grabbed three firsts in four field events. Shawn Snyder won the shot put (27-11), Chris Schemanske won the discus (95-10) and Kim Smith won the long jump (14-10 1/4).

Susan Tatigian won the 1,600 run (5:48.2) and Michele Economou took the 3,200 (12:50.9). Stevenson also won the 400 relay (55.84) and the 3,200 relay (11:19.67).

It was the first meet for both teams.

Lansing club gets gym title

The Great Lakes Gymnastics Club of Lansing dominated the prestigious Capitol Cup Gymnastics Meet in Lansing capturing team honors in both the 13-15 and 12 age groups.

The Capitol Cup is a United States Gymnastics Federation (USGF) compulsory meet for Class I and Class II male gymnasts. Top scorers from the Capitol Cup go towards qualifying for national competition in June.

Great Lakes, led by Brian Halstead of Lansing and Adrian Besancon of Livonia, outpointed the Farmington Gymnastics Club 163.7-137.4 in the 13-15 division.

Halstead won all-around honors with a 55.9 score. Besancon, who placed first on pommel horse (9.6) and rings (9.1), was second all-around with a 54.7.

For Farmington, Bret Trocchio placed sixth all-around (46.3) and placed first on floor exercise (8.5). David Thomas scored a 9.0 on pommel horse and placed third.

IN THE 10-12 division, Great Lakes topped Farmington 157-144.65. Blake Gymnastics Club of Warren placed third, 138.65.

Livonia's John Besancon took all-around honors for Great Lakes with a 53.3. He placed first on floor (9.0), rings (9.0) and parallel bars (9.0).

Farmington's Doug Stibel placed eighth all-around (49.2) and fourth on floor (8.7). Teammate Nathan Blackburn placed ninth all-around with a 48.95 and fourth on rings (8.3).

Farmington had the lone competitors in the Class I 16-18 age group. Todd Olson of Canton won all-around honors with a 40.5. Chris Jeannotte, also from Canton, was second (36.9).

The Farmington Gymnastics Club was the site of the first Mid-American Team Classic, a USGF optional meet, last Saturday.

Again, Great Lakes was the dominant team, outscoring the four other competitors including runner-up Midwest Twisters from Wisconsin. Farmington placed third.

Halstead (50.55) and Adrian Besancon (49.4) placed 1-2 all-around for Great Lakes.

Future bright for Harrison

Continued from Page 2

The firsts will most likely be provided by seniors Brian Hood and Joe Sakaske in shot put, discus and sprints; senior Pat Henderhan in high jump and low hurdles; junior Kirk Armstrong in distance events; and seniors Chris Wojtowycz (hurdles) and Lee Ekstrom (sprints).

Others likely to contribute include: freshman Jason Panitch (distance), sophomore Pat Lowe (sprints), junior Wes Pringle (shot and disc), senior Dale Elenbaas (high jump and long jump) and freshman Chris Henney (high jump and long jump).

"Our strength is that we'll be able to put a lot of people in different events and keep everyone fresh," Henderhan said. "We won't have to double up with people."

The weakness will be individually. We have no real blazer in sprints, and we don't have any middle distance people breaking two minutes in the quarter-mile.

The Raiders open the NSL season Thursday, April 18, at Livonia Franklin.

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