

Thomann will coach OCC's men's team

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

One program's loss has become another's gain.

Fred Thomann, who coaches Plymouth Salem's girls basketball team and who directed the Salem boys for 13 seasons, has accepted an assistant coach's position for Oakland Community College's men's team.

OCC men's coach Tom McPhillips confirmed Thursday that Thomann would be his assistant.

"Tom and I have been friends for 20 years," said Thomann. "He was at Alpena (Community College) recruiting my Willow Run kids."

Thomann began his coaching career at Willow Run before coming to Salem in 1972. He built the Salem boys basketball program into a suburban powerhouse.

After the 1983-84 season, Thomann resigned because of differences with the school district regarding cutbacks in the sports programs. He retained his girls coaching position.

McPhillips APPROACHED Thomann last spring about the assistant's

position. The 1984-85 season marked McPhillips' return as OCC's coach after a three-year layoff.

"Tom coached last spring but wasn't too happy with it," said Thomann. "He asked me then about the assistant's job. I applied for the athletic director's job here but when I didn't get it, I thought I might as well do something with my time."

"I've never coached at that level, with that type of player. It's just something I always wanted to do, work with older players, so I thought I'd try it and see if I like it."

Thomann's impact on OCC's team will be delayed because of his "commitment to (Salem's) girls team. I can't do it on a regular basis until the girls season is over."

"That's one thing I made very clear to them. I don't want to jeopardize that."

In early practice sessions with OCC, Thomann said he'd been working on defense. If McPhillips and Thomann are in agreement on defensive philosophies, then the Raiders will be playing a lot of man-to-man in the season ahead.

Thomann has accepted a position as an assistant basketball coach with Oakland Community College's men's team.



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Julie Kusza (right) battles OU's Janet Widma for possession of the ball during Wednesday's contest. Schoolcraft won easily, 7-0.

Improvement shows as S'craft stops OU

Using Oakland University as a gauge, Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team has taken giant strides toward developing into a community college team to be reckoned with.

Not that the Ocelots were ever poor, but according to coach Ed Dudek, since their first meeting with OU's club team Sept. 18, they have made significant improvement.

"I was worried about this game," Dudek said after Schoolcraft demolished OU 7-0 Wednesday. "We were injured. We had 15 players, but quite a few of them weren't 100 percent."

AT LEAST Denise Plwko was. The forward from Fraser continued her torrid scoring pace with four goals, raising her season total to 18.

Plwko scored the first two Ocelot goals, helping them to a 4-0 halftime lead. Angie Butterfield and Julie Nowka also notched first-half goals.

Plwko scored twice more in the second half, sandwiched around a goal by Kerry Lanaghan. Sue Barrtram (from Farmington) and Wendy Propp each had three assists.

"The first time we faced (OU)," said

Dudek, "it was kind of a back-and-forth struggle. We won 6-3, but it was 2-1 at halftime. This time, they rarely crossed midfield."

"They weren't in the same condition as we were. I think we kind of wore them out."

SCHOOLCRAFT WAS without three players. Tamara Brown is out for the season with a knee injury and Dorene Dudek (Livonia Churchill) is lost indefinitely with a bad knee. Lori Nicely (Troy Athens) has a badly sprained ankle, but was expected to return this week.

The win boosted the Ocelots record to 3-3-4, with a trip to the Ohio State University Tournament on tap this weekend. The eight-team tournament is divided into two four-team pools, with the top two teams in pool play advancing to Sunday's semifinal and final rounds.

Schoolcraft opens against OSU Friday, then plays Marietta and Marysville, Miami (Ohio), which tied the Ocelots 1-1 Oct. 6, figures to reach the finals, Dudek said. Miami beat Schoolcraft in last year's tournament championship game.

Canton grid coach Barr resigns

By Chris McCoskey
staff writer

Richard Barr won his first game as head football coach at Plymouth Canton back in 1980. Sadly, that achievement may have been the pinnacle of his tenure at Canton.

The embattled Barr will resign his post following this his sixth year.

"This is it for me," Barr said last week. "With the new job, I just can't do both and justify all the things that I have to do."

Barr was named Canton's building manager by athletic director Paul Cummings at the beginning of the 1985-86 school year. The job is akin to that of an assistant athletic director.

"It was understood when I accepted that position that I would try to both coach and run the building this season, then make an evaluation afterward," Barr said.

"Not winning had something to do with it (the decision to resign), too," he added.

NOT WINNING: Going into last Saturday's clash with Northville, Barr's Canton teams had won 12 games and lost 39. The Chiefs have never finished at or above .500.

"If I don't feel I've done a bad job," Barr said, "The people I work for and with know that we've done a lot of good things. Obviously, the win-loss thing is not what anyone wanted. But people think we go out every Friday just to lose. We try to do everything there is possible to win. We don't do anything differently than anybody else. It's just sometimes you don't have the material to do the things you'd like to do."

Barr, more than any recent football coach in Oberlinland, has been the target of constant criticism from the community. This newspaper has

been deluged with letters, most unsigned, filled with angry criticism of Barr. The complaints have come from parents, boosters, former, and even current players.

Two years ago, two members of Barr's coaching staff resigned in mid-season citing differences with Barr's coaching philosophy.

Barr got into trouble with both the community and the school district last season for passing out cigars to his players following a victory.

BARR, REMARKABLY, has remained calm in the face of the criticism.

"People in the stands have their opinions. Other coaches have their opinions. Kids have their opinions. As a head coach, you know you are going to take the flak. It's part of the job, comes with the territory."

"The losing is hard to take, for everyone. That's the reason you get the flak. The flak is hard to take sometimes, but you adjust to it. No one knows what it's like to be a head coach unless you've done it. It's easy to call the plays from the stands."

He's even retained his sense of humor.

"I'll tell you what, if anything my players have learned to deal with adversity."

Deep down, though, Barr admits the losing hurts him.

"I'm very disappointed," he said. "My goal was to turn this program around and get it over .500. I've had six years to do it and it hasn't happened. Everyone has a reason why it hasn't happened, be it true or false. People have the right to believe what they want. But we know why we do certain things. We aren't."

BARR CAME to the Plymouth-Canton district in 1964. In 1970 and 1971 he coached football at the

middle school level. He then became Tom Moshimer's assistant at Salem in 1972.

"I've enjoyed coaching," he said. "No regrets, no regrets. I'm proud of what we've done. It's tough to lose, but through it we've always stressed and maintained a positive attitude. Losing is not the end of the world, and we've tried to teach that to our kids. All our kids have survived."

Barr also made it clear that nobody forced him to resign from coaching.

"Nobody ever told me that I had to resign," he said. "Paul Cummings told me last year, 'If you feel pressure it's because you're putting it on yourself.' The administration and my superiors never made me feel I had to quit. It was strictly my decision... and that decision will probably make a lot of people happy."

A committee will be formed to select a new coach after this season. Barr and Cummings will be among the members of that committee.

"I'm not bitter at all," Barr said. "Whoever gets the job, I wish them all the luck in the world."

"Who knows, maybe after I'm out of coaching for a while I'll miss it and want to get back into it somewhere," he said.

Meanwhile, the best way to end his Canton coaching career, he said, would be with a victory. Canton plays rival Salem on the final day of the season.

North's upset plans fail

Pete Scerri, the Livonia Stevenson soccer coach, summed it up best:

"It's getting harder and harder. Anyone can beat anybody this time of year."

Scerri should know, after the scare North Farmington put into the Spartans in a state tournament game Friday at North Stevenson held off the Raiders 2-1 to advance into the regional semifinals against Plymouth Canton. The game is tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Canton.

"We played our hearts out," said

Cole. "We just couldn't get lucky. The rain did slow down the game, so in that respect it may have been an advantage for us."

Stevenson's Karl Bach got the only goal of the opening half, converting a Mel Karlis pass. The Spartans made it 2-0 on Larry Richter's goal in the second half, with Karlis again assisting.

North cut the Stevenson lead to 2-1 midway through the final half on Monty Najjar's score. Jim Ragland got the assist.

Churchill outruns Hawks

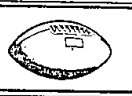
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16-18; 4. Pete Mads (LC), 16-30; 5. Tom Bason (FH), 16-41; 6. Eric Olsen (LC), 16-47; 7. Ken Gendler (LC), 16-48; 8. Scott Howard (LC), 16-49; 9. Jeff Barringer (FH), 16-51; 10. Pat Rank (FH), 17-05.

Dual records: Churchill, 3-5; Hamilton, 2-5; LIVONIA CHURCHILL (day) 19 FARMINGTON HARRISON 43 Thursday at Warren

Individual results: 1. Karen Kanior (LC), 19-25; 2. Jerry Anderson (FH), 19-35; 3. Carol Gudek (LC), 19-42; 4. Amy Mastenak (LC), 20-31; 5. Stacy Wolf (LC), 20-35; 6. Denise Coop (LC), 20-42; 7. Jettie Sawka (LC), 21-25; 8. Golden Church (LC), 21-45; 9. Gaye Fleischer (FH), 22-15; 10. Karen Gendler (LC), 22-12.

Dual records: Churchill, 9-0 Western Division champs. Hamilton, 2-5.



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