Anderson: His season is 12 months long

SPRING. Rick Anderson's buddies are busy playing baseball or running track or grooming for the prom. Rick Anderson, the

Summer. Anderson shows up at the

Then he goes off and plays basket-

Wayne State University gymnasium, one of 350 kids (mostly from the inner city) trying out for the Amateur Athlet- Union basketball team. He makes the team, and helps it advance to the national fourney.

AAU was just one of several basket-



Rick Anderson has elevated his game to a higher level than most Observerland players. His goal is to get North Fermington a championship.

ball activities Anderson busied himself with. There were also a couple skills camps and, of course, the North Farm-ington team camp.

Fall. Anderson-comes to open gym twice a week.— It's open when the North Farmington girls basketball team mnt playing. When the girls are playing, Anderson is there, too. He watches the girls, then when-the gym clears, he grate a basketball and works on his game.

Winter. It's time for Rick Andersor to display the fruits of his labor.

THE OBSERVERLAND basketball scene has seen too few players like Rick Anderson.

In an area and era where young peo-ple have so many different avenues of recreation open to them, so many dis-tractions, Anderson has set his goals and diligently stayed after them.

"I just think he's a tremendous example for other young people," North-Farmington coach Tom Negoshian said. "Everybody wants to be a great shooter, but they have to learn that it doesn't happen by accident.

"What impresses me about him is that he's never gotten high-headed: Any success he's had hasn't changed his work habits. If anything, he's worked harder. He's an bonor student in the classroom (3.4 grade point) — If you wanted to pick out a case of a studentablete who hasn't lost alght of the importance of education, he'd be the one."

'I just think he's a tremendous example for other young people sald. Everybody wants to be a great shooter, but they have to learn that it doesn't happen by accident."

Tom Negoshlan North Farmington coach

sophomore. To prepare, he played summer ball in Detroit for the first time.

The first time, I was really intimidated, Anderson said. The whole thing was mental more than asything. But the way those guys could jump. 14 never seen anybody jump like that.

When he got back, he had Negothian put him on a jump-roping program. By the end of the summer, he had Improved his vertical jump by at inches.

He started for North as a sophomore and averaged 16.5 points and 9.5 rebounds a game.

He received some attention from college coaches the summer after his sophomore season. He was aking 46 white kid the college scouls were envisorment of the summer after his sophomore season. He was aking 46 white kid the college scouls were envisored the summer after his sophomore season. He was aking 46 and 10 thrors stocky by the time he became a senior.

That never hannened. a senior. That never happened.

LAST SEASON Anderson earned All-Area honors scoring 19 points a game and grabbing 10% rebounds. He icd his-team to a 16-7 finish and a district championhsip.

But some major college scouts turned away, He hadn't filled out as much as they thought, and be was still primarily a perinter played inside. He primarily a perinter played inside. He overaged nearly 11 rebounds a game for us last year.

Anderson wasn't the least hit anyowed with the critician. He worked harder at his game and did his best to strengthen his upper body. Turied to stay on a weight program, he said. I just can't gain any weight.

He heard given up on playing major college hashethall and, judging from the amount of mail he gest, many major college havent given up on Anderson.

"Right now, he's the most sought at "Right now, he's the most sought at "Right now, he's the most sought at "

son. Hight now, he's the most sought af-ter while player around. Negoshian-said. "Is there a better white recruit in this area?"

ANDERSON IS anxious for this zea-son to begin. For the first time, he's playing with the guys he grew up with, and he's taken on a new role. He's the

playing with the guys he grew up with-and he's taken on a new role. He's the-leader on the floor.

"There's been times out in practice-when I think I'm really being a jerk," Anderson said, "Like I'll be getting on the guys, telling them to hit the shot of-hustle — things like that. But after-wards, the guys just say, "What are we doing tomight" It's all forgotten." Rick Anderson's primary goal this-season is not to land Rick Anderson as Division I scholarship.

What is important is that the team-wins, "Anderson said." If we win, then my personal goals will follow." A rather unique stituted these days. But then, Rick Anderson is a unique young man.

Basketball preview Harrison eyes a repeat of 1984-85

By Chris McCosky staff writer

OW THIS ought to be some fun.
Yes, sir. Take a pretty
competitive boys baskethall
league, the Western Lakes,
and throw in two of the better teams
from the disbanded Northwest Subraban League, John Glenn and North
Farmington.

ban Leágue, John Gienn une cross-Farmington. Nice, but there's another twist.
Take those two new teams and put them in what has been considered the toughest of the two divisions — the Lakes. Now we have North, Glenn, Plymouth Salem, Livonia Stevenson, Walled Lake Central and Farmington all in one division.
The other division — the Western— has continuity atrengthened itself. In fact, the Western Lakes considered champion has come worked western Division the pass as easons. Plymouth Canton in 1993 and Farmington Harrison last your.

Harrison last year.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL, a team many area coaches are picking to win the title this year, Livonia Franklin (enother immigrant from the NSL), Northville and Walled Lake Western round out the Western Division.

"I think this is the toughest league in the state — not in terms of competiveness — in terms of winding the division." Harrison coach Mike Teachman sald. "You have to be at your best for 16 games. The conference championship is decided by only one game."

He's right. There may be leagues that showcase better individual talent, but there are few leagues where a team has to carve through a 16-game schedule in order to play for the league crown.

As for the three Farmination public

As for the three Farmington public school teams: optimism. Harrison ap-

pears better than it was a year 180, and last year the team won the league titler, North Farmington has two of the area's most productive players and a vastly improved supporting cost; Farmington, although short, on depth and size, has a team that cannot be tak-en lightly by too many Western Lakes

HARRISON

Last year, Mike Teachman assembled the best group of athletes the Western Lakes had to offer and posted a 16-9 record and a league title. "This year's team makes last year's team seem like patty-cake," Teachman aald.

said.

Startling nows, inn't it? He's refer-ring to the way his 193-86 team plays:
It is more aggressive, scrappler and hustles more than his team a year ago.
The big reason is we have more poo-ple to do it with, "be said. "Last year," I basically played the same five guys. This year, I have 11 guys who play that way."

This year, I have It goys who pay was way."

The team's best (some would have said only) true basketball player from a year ago is back. Ken George, a talented point guard, will provide the floor leadership and a large chuck of the offense for the Hawks this year.

OTHERS EXPECTED to draw initial starting assignments are senior Rod Sarcevick 6-3 post player, senior guard Jeff Hoxtow, Junior Scott Blasell and either 6-3 senior Will Lund or 6-1 senior Jon Weisberg.

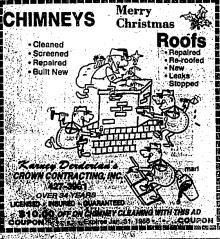
Seniors J.T. Quaries and Mark Rosen will also see plenty of court time, as will 6-5 junior transfer Brad Ridgeway, who moved here from Ohio.

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