

The 1985-86 boys basketball season begins tomorrow night. To give you an idea what to look for, the Observer sports staff has put together a preseason All-Area team. These are the players we feel are the area's top individual talents coming into this season.

1. RICK ANDERSON, NORTH FARMINGTON, senior: Perhaps the hardest working and most sought-after basketball player in the suburbs. As a 6-5, Anderson is scoring threat both inside and out. He has improved both his strength and ball-handling skills over the summer. He played on the national finalist AAU team this summer with Terry Mills and other elite players in the state.

2. KEN GEORGE, FARMINGTON HARRISON, senior: A thinking man's basketball player. His court savvy is unparalleled in Observerland. A point guard, he has tremendous ball-handling and passing skills. Needs to develop an outside jump shot.

3. DENNIS BUSHART, REDFORD UNION, senior: A scoring machine. He has been one of the area's leading scorers since his sophomore season. He will play a dual role this year as a scorer and a passer. But his best sport may be baseball.

4. SKIP BARNETT, GARDEN CITY, junior: This young man came out of nowhere last year as a sophomore to lead Garden City to league and district titles. He has grown two inches to 6-8. Possessing a good touch and good leading ability, Barnett needs to develop quickness.

5. PAUL TAVANA, CATHOLIC CENTRAL, senior: An extremely hard worker who will move to forward this year. He has limited range on his shooting, but could be the area's top laser (at only 6-3). He is a three-year varsity player. Very coachable.

6. ANDY GRAZULIN, JOHN GLENN, junior: He joined the Rockets varsity line in the season. In the first minutes of his first game he notched a three-point play. He comes from talented stock: His brother Paul is a starter in Eastern Michigan, brother Mario starred at Glenn two years ago and at Western Michigan on a music scholarship. But the word from the family is Andy is the best of them all.

7. BRUCE KRATT, FARMINGTON, senior: As exciting a player as there is in the area. He plays a reckless game. He'll make the difficult pass over the simple pass any time he can. He'll throw up shots from 20 feet as easily as he will from 10. He'll take the ball to the basket again and again. As he is at his best when he's under control.

8. MICKY KATSCHOR, LIVONIA CHURCHILL, senior: A lot of coaches are picking Churchill to win the Western Lakes this year primarily because of the talents of this young man. He led the area in assists last year and was among the leaders in assists and points per game in the Ken George mold — very intelligent and unselfish on the floor. Also, a solid floor leader.

9. CORDELL ROBERTSON, BISHOP BORGESS, sophomore: Has the potential to be a big scorer because of his tremendous quickness. He was promoted to the varsity late last season. His performance made the coaching staff wonder why they hadn't brought him up sooner. A sophomore, expect this year to be higher on the list before next season.

10. PAUL MAKARA, SLYMOUTH SALEM, senior: A muscle-bound 5-10. Guard. He plays the game with a lot of intensity, which makes up for what he may lack in pure basketball skills. He's a make-things-happen type of player. He possesses a good jump shot and aggressive defensive skills.

Outlook for season gloom

By Fred Borgess staff writer

Observerland boys basketball is back again. The season begins tomorrow night with several area leagues starting promptly in league races. But don't expect to find any state tournament contenders among the area schools. It could be yet another season of futility for Observerland teams, which routinely get knocked out of state tournaments early.

The Western Lakes championship, won last year by Farmington Harrison, appears to be wide open. North Farmington, led by 6-foot-8 sharpshooter Rick Anderson and two transfers, is the early favorite.

Others mentioned as contenders include Westland, John Glenn, Westlake Central, Livonia Churchill and Harrison (led by guard Ken George). But the remaining seven teams are not far behind. Farley Park is being considered for the Catholic League's Central Division, where Warren De La Loaysa is Central Division, where Warren De La

basketball

Salle is the early favorite. But with the recently expanded Catholic League playoffs, Redford Catholic Central and Bishop Borgess could get a shot. The new Northwest Suburban League — Garden City, Redford Union, Woodhaven, Dearborn and Dearborn Edsel Ford — is also up for grabs. GC will rely on 6-8 junior Edp Barnett, while RU is banking on the continued scoring of Dennis Bushart.

GARDEN CITY may be hard-pressed to repeat its regional final performance and 20-4 record. Wayne Memorial, Observerland's top team, is banking on the continued scoring of Dennis Bushart, which closed last season.

As for Redford Harrison (led by Anderson), they've been the only team in the area to score 100 points in a game. The Rockets have scored over 100 points in six games, while Farmington Harrison (led by George) has scored 100 in two games.

Jim McKinstry comes from Livonia Churchill to Farmington to replace the departed George. McKinstry was named to the 1985-86 All-Area team. The Rockets have scored over 100 points in six games, while Farmington Harrison (led by George) has scored 100 in two games.

The High School of the Sacred Heart is making some noise in January. CC coach Martin Robinson is closing in on 500 career wins. Edp Barnett is scoring with a 4.3 average.

Here's a look at Observerland's cagers

CATHOLIC CENTRAL

- Head coach: Denise Motewick, 14th season.
- League affiliation: Catholic League A-19 Division.
- Last year's overall record: 13-7.
- Notable losses to graduation: Consensus All-State guard John McKinstry (23 points per game).
- Leading returnees: Third team All-Area forward Paul Tavana, 5-8 senior; forward Greg King, 6-5 sophomore center; 5-11 junior guard; Tom Goodwin, 6-4 junior forward; Sean McCleary, 5-11 senior guard; Greg King, 6-5 sophomore center; Ken Wanzel, 6-4 senior forward; Anthony Armstrong, sophomore guard; Brian Davis, sophomore guard; Sean McLoughlin, 6-4 senior guard; and Paul Kirsch.
- McKinstry's '85-86 outlook: "We hope to be more aggressive offensively and defensively. We'll have to be."
- Notable losses to graduation: All-Catholic League guard Joe Gregory (18 ppg), guard Gerry Low, forward Chuck Abright and center Paul Hewitt.
- Leading returnees: Mario Brown, 6-2 senior forward; Ivan Colman, 6-5 senior forward; Alex Marshall, 6-1 senior forward; and Corde Robertson, 6-3 sophomore forward.
- Promising newcomers: John Godes, 6-1 senior forward; Mike Stewart, 6-2 senior forward; Tyrone Bennett, 6-3 junior forward; Rick Goldberg, 6-2 junior forward; Maurice Hickel, 6-2 junior forward; Maurice Finkler, 6-4 junior forward; Kevin Van Hook, 5-11 junior guard; Kevin Williams, 6-1 junior forward; Patrick Hickmah, 6-2 sophomore forward; and Dwayne Kelley, 5-11 sophomore guard.
- Fusco's '85-86 outlook: "I think I was inexperienced, but we'll be deep. At the beginning of the season we're looking for improvement as we go along."
- We could be a good team at the end of the season if our younger players come through. We're looking for leadership from our seniors.

REDFORD THURSTON

- Head coach: Mike Furco, fourth season.
- League affiliation: Catholic League A-19 Division.
- Last year's overall record: 12-6.
- Notable losses to graduation: All-Catholic League guard Joe Gregory (18 ppg), guard Gerry Low, forward Chuck Abright and center Paul Hewitt.
- Leading returnees: Mario Brown, 6-2 senior forward; Ivan Colman, 6-5 senior forward; Alex Marshall, 6-1 senior forward; and Corde Robertson, 6-3 sophomore forward.
- Promising newcomers: John Godes, 6-1 senior forward; Mike Stewart, 6-2 senior forward; Tyrone Bennett, 6-3 junior forward; Rick Goldberg, 6-2 junior forward; Maurice Hickel, 6-2 junior forward; Maurice Finkler, 6-4 junior forward; Kevin Van Hook, 5-11 junior guard; Kevin Williams, 6-1 junior forward; Patrick Hickmah, 6-2 sophomore forward; and Dwayne Kelley, 5-11 sophomore guard.
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REDFORD ST. AGATHA

- Head coach: Larry Ducky, second year.
- League affiliation: Catholic League's C-D West Bracket.
- Last year's overall record: 17-11.
- Notable losses to graduation: Forward Chris Carlisle (8 points a game last season).
- Leading returnees: Jim Kuttler, 5-11 senior guard forward (16 ppg); Kevin Fouka, 6-1 junior forward (11 ppg); Kevin Rich, 6-4 junior center (7 points a game last year); Wade Fouka, 6-8 sophomore guard (4 points and 4 assists ppg); and Paul Gardner, 5-10 junior guard.
- Promising newcomers: Larry Brown, 6-3 senior forward (11 ppg on J); Pat Watson, 6-1 leader forward and Jamie Dudge, 5-10 junior guard.
- Ducky's '85-86 outlook: "We expect to be very competitive. We played well all times last year."
- Jim Kuttler is an outstanding shooter and Kevin Rich is a very good inside player. We hope these two can put a lot of pressure on other teams' defenses.
- We're not going to be a better team. Not only did they get bigger, they got better. We got a commitment from some people who want to become better basketball players and are willing to work for it."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

- Head coach: Paul Clough, fourth season.
- League affiliation: Metro Conference.
- Last year's overall record: 12-10.
- Notable losses to graduation: Forward Chris Carlisle (8 points a game last season).
- Leading returnees: Jim Kuttler, 5-11 senior guard forward (16 ppg); Kevin Fouka, 6-1 junior forward (11 ppg); Kevin Rich, 6-4 junior center (7 points a game last year); Wade Fouka, 6-8 sophomore guard (4 points and 4 assists ppg); and Paul Gardner, 5-10 junior guard.
- Promising newcomers: Larry Brown, 6-3 senior forward (11 ppg on J); Pat Watson, 6-1 leader forward and Jamie Dudge, 5-10 junior guard.
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Western Lakes preview

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Gordie Davis, 14th year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes (Lakes Division).
Last year's overall record: 11-10.
Notable losses to graduation: All-league guard Mike Byrdman (18 points per game last year), forward Ron Tice, and guard Pat Keller (10 ppg).
Leading returnees: Steve Harvey, 6-1 junior guard; Jerry Dett-Greif, 6-2 senior center; and Andy Draxler, 6-4 junior forward.
Promising newcomers: Tim Wiley, 6-2 senior forward; and Gary Bates, 6-2 junior guard.
Davis' '85-86 outlook: "We hope to be competitive in our new league, WLLA's Lakes Division. We're going to be playing teams we're not too familiar with."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Jim McKinstry, first season.
League affiliation: Western Lakes (Lakes Division).
Last year's overall record: 19-4.
Notable losses to graduation: Class A district.
Title issue: How good is the team? Five starters including All-Area center Joe Duke (17 points per game), Matt Burns, 6-5 forward; Vic Harris, 6-4 forward; Chris Hickey, guard and Ed Gilbert.
Leading returnees: Jim Kimble, 6-1 senior forward; Dan Palmiano, 6-3 senior forward; Chris Gorenz, 6-3 senior guard; and Lara Richters, 6-9 junior guard.
Promising newcomers: Eric Johnson, 6-3 junior center; Dan Gray, 6-2 junior forward; Jeff Gibson, 6-0 junior center; and Pete Mazzoni, 6-3 junior guard. Transfer from Livonia Bentley include: Rich Gregory, 6-4 junior center; and Matt Coker, 6-10 senior guard.
McKinstry's '85-86 outlook: "After they gain some game experience and use it all together, we should have a very competitive ball team."

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Don Albarton, sixth year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes (Western Division).
Last year's record: 6-13.
Notable losses to graduation: Forward Scott Hale (18 points per game) and center Mike Harrison (10 ppg).
Leading returnees: Mickey Katschor, 5-1 senior guard; Andy Oliver, 6-0 senior guard; Ken Gancoski, 5-0 senior forward; and Matt Ahen, 5-1 senior center.
Promising newcomers: Brian O'Shea, 6-1 junior forward; Steve Oweck, 6-1 junior forward; Kevin Bebb, 5-11 junior guard; and John Kirtka, 5-11 junior guard. Transfer from Livonia Bentley include: Dennis Hebe, 5-8 senior guard; Joe Parks, 6-1 senior forward; and Brad Wyse, 6-3 sophomore guard.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Joe Frances, first season.
League affiliation: Western Lakes (Western Division).
Last year's overall record: 5-16.
Notable losses to graduation: Guard Tom Phelps and forwards Jeff McCaw and Tim McGillivray.
Leading returnees: Chris Ferris, 6-2 junior center; Mark Karpel, 6-1 junior guard; Dave Jones, 6-4 junior center; Bob Bokowski, 6-0 senior guard.
Promising newcomers: Steve Przasnik, 6-2 junior forward; Pat Dreiner, 6-5 junior point guard; and Chris Hickey, 6-4 junior guard.
Frances' '85-86 outlook: "We're going to play hard. We want to play tough offense — good defense."

Observer's '85-86 outlook: "We have three starters from last year's team (which finished second in the WLLA's Western Division). They're ready to go to be our strength this year."
Our JV team was 19-2 last year, we finished second in our division and three of our starters are back. (But) everybody is looking past us. They better not look too far. We're going to be right in the thick of things."
"We have a lot of experienced ball handlers and outside shooters. The inside game is going to be a little questionable."
"The Churchill team looks like a clone. All the players are the same size, 6-1."

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