

## Sports

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## North claims gym title

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

After the North Farmington gymnastics team captured the Farmington City Meet Wednesday, the Raiders probably hung a large "do not disturb" sign.

Rust was in order for the Raiders, who, in their fifth meet in nine days, collected 129.75 team points en route to the city title.

Host Farmington Harrison was runnerup with 124.25; Farmington finished third with 109.8.

A pair of 9.5s in the floor exercise by North Farmington's Kara Karhu and Eileen Murtaugh put the Raiders over the top. Mary Glitz's squad also put in some fine performances on the vault and on the uneven parallel bars.

But on floor is where the Raiders cleaned up with a team score of 34.3.

"Floor has always been one of our stronger events," Glitz said. "The girls are wearing down. They need a few days rest."

EXCEPT FOR the balance beam, where North Farmington edged Harrison 30.6-30.2 for first, Glitz was pleased.

Harrison made it close on the beam with fine performances by Tana Burningham and Tracy Solomon. Burningham captured first in the event with a score of 8.4. Solomon was second with 8.3.

Both also did well on floor exercise. Solomon brought in an 8.6 while Burningham collected an 8.4.

Being bridesmaid to North Farmington didn't bother Harrison coach Linda Perkins, whose team posted its highest score of the season.

"I thought we did really well," Perkins said. "Tana and Tracy hung in there like I expected they would."

The duo put in spirited performances in the final two events, but it still wasn't enough to catch the Raiders. After two events, North Farmington had 64.85 points, Harrison 61.25 and Farmington 55.65.

THE FALCONS stayed close mainly due to Jackie Daly's first-place performance in the vault. Daly posted an 8.95 to win the event.

Daly, a freshman, was also Farmington's top performer in three other events. She collected a 7.9 on the beam, which was good for a third-place tie with the Raiders' Lucine Toroyan. Daly's other scores included a 7.6 on the bars and an 8.55 on the floor exercise.

"Jackie's scores were a little down from (last) Monday," Farmington coach Mary Beth Schornhorst said. "I'm still pleased with all of her scores though. The team's really improving as we go along."

Another exceptional all-around performance came from Toroyan, who posted an 8.6 on the bars for first place for North Farmington. Toroyan's other scores included an 8.15 on the vault, a 7.9 on the beam (a team high despite losing three-tenths of a point for a time violation) and an 8.4 on the floor exercise.

Murtaugh, Toroyan's teammate, also made a mark in three other events besides her 9.0 in the floor exercise. She picked up second places on both the bars and the vault with an 8.0 and an 8.8 respectively.

THE OVERALL performance by her team came as no surprise to the North Farmington coach.

"They're all pretty consistent," Glitz said.

So was Burningham for Harrison. In addition to her fine performance on both the beam and the floor, she rated a third place on the vault and



photos by RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Jackie Daly placed in all four events during the Farmington city meet Wednesday, but her Falcon team placed third behind North and Harrison.

## gymnastics

FARMINGTON GYMNASICS	
CITY TOURNAMENT	
Wednesday at Harrison	
TEAM	RESULTS
1. North Farmington	129.75
2. Farmington Harrison	124.25
3. Farmington	109.8
VAULT	
1. Jackie Daly (F)	8.95
2. Eileen Murtaugh (HF)	8.85
3. Tana Burningham (F)	8.75
4. Tracy Solomon (HF)	8.65
5. Kara Karhu (NF)	8.4
6. Lucine Toroyan (NF)	8.3
UNEVEN BARS	
1. Lucine Toroyan (NF)	8.6
2. Eileen Murtaugh (HF)	8.0
3. Kara Karhu (NF)	7.95
4. Tana Burningham and Jackie Daly (F)	7.9
5. Tracy Solomon (HF)	7.85
BALANCE BEAM	
1. Tana Burningham (F)	8.4
2. Tracy Solomon (HF)	8.3
3. (tie) Jackie Daly (F) and Lucine Toroyan (NF)	7.9
4. Eileen Murtaugh (HF)	7.8
5. Kara Karhu (NF)	7.6
FLOOR EXERCISE	
1. Eileen Murtaugh and Kara Karhu	8.6
2. Tana Burningham (F)	8.4
3. Jackie Daly (F)	8.35
4. Lucine Toroyan (NF)	8.3

on the bar. On the vault, she had an 8.75 and a 7.6 on the bars.

"I'm glad I had the chance to see her (Burningham)," Glitz said. "I've heard so much about her, and Jackie Daly, too."

Such feelings of community weren't uncommon at the inaugural city meet.

"We have three quality teams. That says a lot about the community," Perkins said. "We're all comrades."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN topped Walled Lake Western 117.95-95.25 Wednesday to improve its record to 5-2.

won bars with a 7.95, placed second on vault (8.05) and third on beam (7.15).

Freshman Dana Holda placed third on vault (8.0) and tied teammate Amy Pastori for third on bars (6.95). Sue Lally placed fourth on vault (7.75) and Jennie Syria placed fourth on beam (7.1).

The Rocks are 3-2 on the season.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN topped Walled Lake Western 117.95-95.25 Wednesday to improve its record to 5-2.

Gipper's Ghost  
Rice grad adds page to Notre Dame's loreBy Jim Hughes  
staff writer

Before Lou Holtz gets too carried away with plans for turning around the football program at the University of Notre Dame, he may want to consult with Brother Rice graduate Robert Quakenbush.

It seems Quakenbush, a Notre Dame alumnus, has the formula needed to put the fight back in the Irish. But there's a problem. The approval has to come from above. It must come from the Being who, according to bumper stickers, is given the credit for making Notre Dame No. 1.

Quakenbush (pronounced QUAK-en-bush), a 1972 graduate of Brother Rice, penned a fictitious novel entitled, "The Gipper's Ghost" (O'Connor Publishing Co., \$4.95). In a word, the book is cute. It tells of a fictional history of football in South Bend, Ind., a hypothetical present and a fictitious future, with plenty of help from God Himself.

TIRED OF A 22-game losing streak, God sends the legendary Knute Rockne back to the campus, along with an outstanding running back named George Gipper. It's time, God feels, to win a bunch for the Gipper.

"The Gipper's Ghost" is fast-moving and fictional, but its contents bring back fond memories to Notre Dame grads and even the "Subway Alumni." People such as Frank Leahy, Grantland Rice, the Four Horsemen and, of course, Rockne and Gipper, come back to life in the 120-page softcover book.

"I thought it would be fun to write something like this," said Quakenbush, 32, now president of his own public relations firm in Chicago. "A couple of years ago, I was sitting in the Notre Dame stands during a game, after we had lost two or three in a row. It was raining, and we were kidding around in the stands. A fellow couple of rows behind me said, 'You know what the problem is? God is mad at us.'"

"Then I said, 'It could be worse, we could have lost them all.' Between these two statements I wondered, what if we lost them all? Then God would have to intervene," he added with a laugh.

In Quakenbush's fiction, God intervenes after a season-opening 45-7 loss to the University of Michigan. Gipper, who is actually assumed the name of Dutch Reagan (as in Ronald Reagan in the movie, "Knute Rockne, All-American"), and Rockne, who assumes the role of a priest and team chaplain, Father Vane (but his fictional call him Father Rock), enter the scene. After a 14-14 tie against Michigan State University, the Irish turn it around.

"I DON'T KNOW if it was out of loyalty or what," Quakenbush said, "but a Michigan team does not lose to Notre Dame (in the book)."

There's also some loyalty to Brother Rice. The Notre Dame quarterback, Hart Collins, is named after two former Fighting Irish players who lived in Birmingham — Leon Hart, the 1949 Heisman Trophy winner whose sons attended Rice, and Greg Collins, a college All-American and former Rice all-star.

He also mentions Brother Rice High — where the fictional Hart Collins prepped — and football coach Al Fracassa. "If Notre Dame ever considers hiring another high school football coach, I hope they remember Mr. Fracassa's address," Quakenbush said.

Quakenbush, who spent 16 years in

"The Gipper's Ghost" is available from author Robert Quakenbush. Send \$6 per copy to Robert Quakenbush, 1344 N. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill. 60610.

Bloomfield Township and Beverly Hills, always had an urge to write. As though he majored in business administration at Notre Dame, he wrote for the college newspaper and was sports editor of the Notre Dame and Brother Rice yearbooks.

The Notre Dame fiction was a hobby. "I've always enjoyed writing in one capacity or another," he said. "I pursued this as a hobby. I went home (after a Notre Dame game) and wrote three chapters showed it to some of my friends. They all liked it, so I thought it would be fun."

"I KEPT working on it as a hobby. I worked on it off and on for about nine months. It went to the printer in August of last year."

One could probably get through the book in a short sitting. Although the storyline is unreal, the setting is not. For Notre Dame grads or fans who've been part of the campus on game day, many of the passages "wake up the echoes" from memory banks.

"On campus, various student groups commenced setting up outdoor grills, yellow sawhorses and blue tablecloths at choice locations along the busiest walkways. Sales of hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst and soda pop were brisk. A favorite stop was the Knights of Columbus concession, renowned for its steak sandwiches."

"The most popular place of all was the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. The first floor was alive with two colors — gold and blue. The merchandise sparkled: the staff... T-shirts, caps, jackets, pennants, collectors' plates, coffee mugs and various carried the words, Notre Dame, or bore the famous leprechaun, with his upraised fist, or the familiar 'ND' monogram."

Anyone who recalls the thrill of seeing the Golden Dome for the first time, or had end zone seats across from "Touchdown Jesus," may catch themselves waxing nostalgic while flipping through the pages.

"When I wrote the book, I talked to my friends and put together all the fond memories of Notre Dame. It helped us recall life at Notre Dame. It's more than a story about football. It's almost a story on how much fun it was to attend Notre Dame."

IRONICALLY, The storyline is quite similar to one in David E. Hughes's fiction, "You Gotta Believe."

In that book, a football player comes from nowhere to rescue a foundering professional football team from New York. The player? Guy O'Downey. His initials? G.O.D.

"I've never heard of that one," Quakenbush said, "but some people have compared it to 'Damn Yankees.' In that one, the help comes from the devil. In mine, the help comes from an entirely different direction."

Notre Dame fans will be glad to know that in Quakenbush's book, football returns to the glory days of yesterday when winning games were as frequent as prayer sessions at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

If you happen to be a University of Southern Cal fan, don't read the book. You'll find it has an unhappy ending.

## Raiders regroup to destroy Farmington

North Farmington's basketball team got back to form Friday night at the expense of neighboring Farmington, winning 63-44 in a Western Lakes clash.

Rick Anderson (14 points, 16 rebounds) and Paul Wahman (13 points) led the way for the Raiders, but coach Tom Negoshian credits the entire team.

"We just played and executed better than we have been," he said. "We got a lot off the bench. You can't win with just one or two players. Tonight all five or six played well."

Jim Hagland turned in an 11-point performance for the Raiders.

North had lost five of its last six games prior to Friday night.

North began and ended the game

strong outscoring the Falcons 15-5 in the first quarter and 24-10 in the final quarter.

Kyle Mutz scored 15 points to lead Farmington (4-4 in the conference, 6-5 overall). Bruce Kratt added 10.

North is 3-5 in the conference, 5-5 on the season.

HARRISON 67, W.L. WESTERN 55: Winning in Walled Lake, as coaches throughout the Western Lakes conference know, is mighty difficult.

Farmington Harrison, the undefeated league leader in the Western Lakes, survived its first tie Friday — but not without shedding some blood.

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## Salem floors Vikings

Plymouth Salem put together its best team gymnastics performance of the season Thursday night in a 125.35-88.35 win at Walled Lake Central.

A 34.2 team score on floor exercise keyed the win. Beth Rafal scored 9.05 and Becky Talbot 9.0 on the event to place 1-2. Jackie Huff, still hampered by a clipped bone in her ankle, took third with an 8.6.

Rafal amassed a superb 33.9 all-around score. In addition to floor exercise, she won vault (8.85) and balance beam (8.6). She placed second on uneven parallel bars (7.4).

Talbot scored 33.1 all-around. She



Eileen Murtaugh, shown performing her uneven bars routine, scored an impressive 9.0 on floor exercise for North Farmington.