

His time has come

21-year wait ends, Catherman gets grid job

By Chris McCooley
Staff writer

It was the final home game for the 1985 Farmington football team. Few knew at that time that it was also Don Kuick's final home game as coach of the Falcons.

One of those who had a hunch, though, was Dave Catherman.

Although he served as the Farmington Junior varsity coach, Catherman rarely, if ever, watched the games from the sidelines. But there he was, on a picturesque autumn afternoon, strolling the sidelines, shouting words of instruction and encouragement to the players.

"I just wanted to see what was happening," said Catherman, who has coached track and football at Farmington High since 1962. "Don was already talking about having some troubles. He was getting discouraged. I just wanted to get a taste; to step back and see if I still had a love for the game."

He did.

Last Tuesday, Catherman was named head football coach at Farmington.

"WHEN THE change became evident, a lot of the kids asked me if I was interested (in coaching)," Catherman said. "They gave me a lot of encouragement. I decided that the atmosphere around the school wasn't as bad as people were saying. The foundation is good. Don did a great job here."

Catherman is no stranger to the Falcon football program. He coached the JV program in 1969, then became a varsity assistant under coaches Hal Beardley and Richard Hays.

Catherman was interviewed for head coaching post in 1983, the year Kuick was hired. He spent the

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— Dave Catherman
Farmington football coach

1983 and 1984 seasons coaching at Warner Middle School.

"I basically just wanted to step back and get out of the way a little bit," he said. "Don asked me to coach the JV this year."

He led the Falcons JV to a 5-4 season.

But Catherman has made his name as a track coach. He has been involved with the perennially powerful Falcon track program for 24 years, the head boys coach the last eight. His teams have won Western Lakes Division crowns the last three years.

"I inherited a traditionally great program (from Jerry Young), one that I'm very proud of. We've never had a losing record. In fact, I've never had a losing record in anything, and I don't plan on changing that."

ing that."

Catherman said he would continue to coach track.

CATHERMAN HELD an organizational team meeting for the football team Wednesday, and some 100 prospective players showed up.

"I laid out some things for them," he said. "I wanted them to know that they will have personal contact from me and that I wanted input from them. I told them I wanted to get the parents involved; that I wanted to get a commitment from the school. I want to improve the out-of-school opportunities for these kids. I want to work on getting a weight room. I want to let them know that we will be more organized in our preparation for the season."

One of the areas Catherman is most anxious to improve is the program's image — one he perceives as somewhat negative.

"I'm a Farmington product (class of 1958), and I've never really lost my loyalty to the school," he said. "I hope to continue to improve our image. We have to eliminate the negative press and build up the character of the kids. We have to get them to take pride in both their school and the program."

CATHERMAN IS currently putting his staff together. He has already named Forrest Geary as his varsity assistant. Geary held that role under Kuick.

"The rest of the staff is completely up in the air right now," he said. "It's a nice opportunity to step forward for real class people who want to lead and care."

Catherman is a 1962 graduate of Eastern Michigan University.

the week ahead

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 26
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford (men), 8 p.m.
Henry Ford at Schoolcraft (women), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1
Flint Mott at Schoolcraft (men), 7:30 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 26
Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Churchill, 7:30 p.m.
Wed. John Glenn at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.
Ply. Canton at Ply. Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Farm. Harrison at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Farmington at Northville, 7:30 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Ypsilanti, 7:30 p.m.
South Lyon at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Dearborn at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
Red. Thurston at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.
Claremont at Hamtramck, 7:30 p.m.
Harper Wcs. NO at Bish. Bopessa, 7:30 p.m.
Catholic Cent. at Bish. Gallagher, 7:30 p.m.
Redford Temple at Emmanuel Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Churchill at Ply. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31
Liv. Franklin at Farm. Harrison, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
Wed. John Glenn at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
W.L. Central at Ply. Salem, 7:30 p.m.

Ply. Canton at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.
Dearborn Fordson at Wayne Mem., 7:30 p.m.
Ester Ford at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Woodhaven at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
Red. Thurston at Taylor Kennedy, 7:30 p.m.
Bish. Gallagher at Bish. Bopessa, 7:30 p.m.
Brother Rice at Catholic Cent., 7:30 p.m.
St. Florian at Red. St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Claremont at Redford Temple, 8 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Troy, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 26
Liv. Franklin vs. Scotties
Liv. Stevenson vs. Grosse Pte. North at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 8 and 9 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27
Liv. Stevenson vs. Southfield-Lathrup at Southfield's Beech Wks. Arena, 8 p.m.
Liv. Churchill vs. Bloomfield Hills Andover at Detroit Skating Club, 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31
Liv. Churchill vs. Wyandotte Rosecrutt at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 1
Liv. Franklin at Morf Lakeside, 8 p.m.
Catholic Central vs. Ann Arbor Huron at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.



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SVSC bops OU twice

With All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) guard Randy Parlor sidelined, maybe Oakland University's mens basketball team thought it would get a break at Grand Valley State Thursday.

Instead, it was the Lakers who did the breaking. OU followed a strong comeback with a three-minute cold spell that allowed SVSC to remain near the top of the GLIAC standings with an 87-75 triumph.

The loss was the Pioneers' third in a row and fifth in six games. They are 9-5 overall and 3-1 in the GLIAC. SVSC is 10-6 overall and second in the GLIAC at 5-2.

Center Kevin Dundy did most of the damage for the Lakers, scoring 24 points on nine of 13 floor shooting and grabbing 13 rebounds. Robert Allen also worked well inside against OU, scoring 22 points and pulling in 13 boards.

THE PAIR combined for 10 points (Dundy six, Allen four) in a 19-2 Laker run that carried them from a 70-67 lead with 4:37 left to a commanding 83-70 advantage with 1:13 to go. During that stretch, 12 Pioneer possessions resulted in two points.

OU trailed 44-36 at the half, and with 13:26 left, was down 59-51. But the Pioneers reeled off seven straight points and outpointed SVSC 11-2 to take a 62-61 lead with 8:31 to play.

A Randy Strunk basket gave OU a 64-63 lead with 7:51 left — its last lead. The Lakers got the

next five points and stayed in front the rest of the way.

Johnny Johnson canned nine of 15 shots to score 18 points for the Pioneers. Strunk had 14 points and six rebounds and Walt Dixon netted 10 points.

Chris Howze, the team's high-scoring forward, remained mired in a shooting slump, making just three of 15 from the field and scoring seven points. Howze has hit just eight of 39 in the last three games.

With Parlor out for the season — he broke his foot against Saginaw Valley State Saturday — GVSC coach Tom Villeneuve went with sophomores Andy Kolp, from Birmingham Brother Rice, and Mike Davis, from Bloomfield Hills Lahar, at the guards.

Kolp responded with 18 points (eight of 15 from the floor), while Davis dishd out seven assists to go with four points.

THE OU WOMEN let their GVSC opponents get away in the first half, falling behind by 10 (33-23) at the intermission and never getting closer than eight the rest of the game in losing 73-69 Thursday.

Haygood's tip wins for OCC

Work on the boards often goes unnoticed, but for Oakland Community College's men's basketball team Wednesday it made the difference.

Twice in the final 37 seconds the Raiders made key plays on the boards to edge Henry Ford CC 61-60 at HFCC. The win kept OCC on top of the Eastern Conference standings at 5-1 and pushed its overall record to 12-1.

LeSean Haygood, a Plymouth Salem graduate, scored the winning basket for the Raiders, working the offensive boards to tip in a missed shot with 37 seconds left.

HFCC missed on its attempt to regain the lead, and Darrell Darling grabbed the rebound for OCC and was fouled. Darling missed the first of his one-and-one free throws, but too little time remained for HFCC to get off another shot.

Balanced scoring highlighted the Raider triumph. Willie Jones and Pat Gardner each notched 12 points and Darling and Haygood scored 10 each. Rod Thompson added nine and Gary Holt eight.

OCC, which trailed by six at the half, was plagued by poor free throw shooting. The Raiders made just nine of 19 and missed their first seven attempts.

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