

## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



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## End near for Hawks' girls hoops?

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

The Farmington Harrison girls basketball program is on the ropes. Its future, dim.

Ron Holland, athletic director of the Farmington Public School District, said Thursday that a decision will be made in August whether or not to continue sponsorship of a girls basketball program at Harrison.

"Chris Lessnau (the head coach of the program) held a summer minicamp, like all the other schools in the Western Lakes do. He sent out letters to the middle schools and made about 80 phone calls to see what kind of interest there would be. He had a commitment from about 40 kids to attend the camp. But only about 12 or 13 showed up," Holland said.

The camp was cancelled.

"We are going to start practice Aug. 11 and wait about a week to see what type of numbers we get," Holland said. "We'll make a decision at that time."

The final decision to cancel the program would be made by the school's superintendent and the school board. If an insufficient number of players show up in August, Holland said he will recommend that the program be terminated.

"WE ARE very concerned about not being able to field a junior varsity and varsity program for safety factors," Holland said. "You have seven or eight kids just extending themselves too far. And you have a situation where freshmen and sophomores are competing on

the varsity level before they are ready. They are playing basketball, but what are they really getting out of it?"

The Harrison girls basketball team currently holds the longest losing streak in the state. Over the course of the last three seasons, Harrison has lost 61 consecutive games.

The constant losing has forced the better Harrison players away from the game. Last year, Jennifer Hughes was the only senior on the team and the only player on the team to have ever experienced victory in a Hawk uniform.

There has not been enough players to field a junior varsity team the past two seasons. Several times the team has begun games with only six players and finished with less than five.

IT'S AN ironic situation, considering Farmington Harrison's proud athletic tradition. The school has had consistent success in football, boys basketball and baseball throughout the 1980s.

"It's like I told the girls," Lessnau said. "First it's basketball, then it's soccer, then tennis, then track — they all have problems getting girls out. I don't know why it is, but the best girl athletes are not playing sports. They're into pom poms and cheerleading. I don't know why that is."

Lessnau does not expect things to change by Aug. 11.

"It's really disappointing," he said. "I've done all that I could do. And I don't think, come August, we'll have anymore kids show up."

A.J. Baker:  
Mr. HockeyBy Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Just who is this A.J. Baker character?

You see his name in the paper a lot. You see him at seemingly every high school and junior hockey game you attend. He seems omnipresent in hockey circles.

If you are true follower of amateur and college hockey, you might remember him from his playing days. He played college hockey at both Ohio State and Eastern Michigan before spending two years in Sweden playing on a semi-pro circuit.

Now he's more or less known as Mr. Amateur Hockey in these parts — although the title will embarrass him severely.

A.J. Baker, 27, heads up a company called Midwest Hockey Schools headquartered in Ann Arbor. Midwest Hockey is an offshoot of Dave McGuigan's Michigan Community Report project. McGuigan used to be the director of amateur hockey development for the Detroit Red Wings in the Ted Lindsay era.

He was Baker's mentor. "McGuigan was a genius," Baker said. "He created the position of amateur hockey director and sold it to Ted Lindsay. That position is what Danny Belsile Jr. (who works closely with Midwest Hockey) does with the Wings now."

MIDWEST HOCKEY, a fledgling but forever growing company, acts as a clearing house for amateur hockey in Michigan. It sponsors hockey clinics all across the state, it organizes and promotes high school hockey through an all-state game and the U.S. High School Invitational Tournament and it lends able assistance to local clubs.

Also, Midwest Hockey is the sponsor of the Midwest Summer Hockey League, soon to begin its fourth season at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

"What we are trying to establish is

## hockey

a supporting body to professional hockey," Baker said. "We want to be a facility whereby young players can gain the proper fundamental training and the proper exposure. So many parents and players are in the dark about what junior hockey is all about. They may have a boy who is a star at the midlevel level but they have no idea about the next step. We can answer those types of questions."

Baker's role with Midwest Hockey? He is a coach, a scout, a promoter and an administrator.

"I'm definitely trying to make a career out of hockey," Baker said. "I've recently obtained my marketing degree from Eastern Michigan University and I hope now to make Midwest Hockey a year-round, financially stable business. We want to make a few dollars, but at the same time we don't want to gouge the public. I realize that's a very fine line, but it can be done."

THE MIDWEST Summer Hockey League is a perfect example of what Baker's aims are. After three successful seasons, the MSHL has established itself as superb off-season training and conditioning league for high school, junior, college and even professional players.

Mark Hamway and Richard Kromm of the Islanders both spent time in the MSHL. But the NHL will no longer allow its contracted players to compete in summer leagues.

Baker isn't fretting over it. He has 140 players ready to take the ice on eight teams. The MSHL has gotten so big, an MSHL II has been created for the younger players. It will play its season at the Ice Box in Brownstown Township. There are another 148 players in the MSHL II.

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BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Darryl Moise, who plays minor league hockey for the Erie Blades in the Atlantic Coast Hockey League, returns for his fourth season in the Midwest Summer Hockey League.

## MSHL rosters

BAKES CONFERENCE  
LAKERS

Bit White . . . . . Sachin-Chil  
Alan Lashvire . . . . . Midway AAA  
Joe Frederick . . . . . Lakeland Hawks  
Kevin Eakes . . . . . Grand Banc HS  
Darryl Moise . . . . . Erie-Chil  
Tom Kurzytnic . . . . . Detroit Jr.  
Steve Korch . . . . . Liv. Church  
Joe Bennett . . . . . Bantam AAA  
Gus Battaglia . . . . . Bantam AAA  
Bob Miller . . . . . Erie-Chil  
Hank Banas . . . . . Elmira College, NY  
Walt Franks . . . . . EMU  
John Smith . . . . . Kent State  
Dave Carrigan . . . . . Iowa State  
Paul Churich . . . . . Bowdoin College  
Steve Hamberg . . . . . O'Leary Hawks Jr.  
J. Jewett . . . . . Southfield HS

## WILDCATS

Tom Nowland . . . . . MSU  
Bill Tecos . . . . . Grosse Pointe North  
Terry Shook . . . . . Erie-Chil  
Mike Miller . . . . . Hennessey Engineers-Jr. A  
David McAuliffe . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Bill Munter . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Michael Freeman . . . . . Midway AAA  
Dell Gustafson . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Jeff Dobek . . . . . US International Univ.  
Tim Olschanski . . . . . Liv. Franklin  
Mike Heibel . . . . . Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Mark Krich . . . . . Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Dennis Ryan . . . . . Ann Arbor Pioneer  
John Tamer . . . . . Windsor Spitfires-OHL  
Pat Moray . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Dan Owen . . . . . Radford Royal-Jr. B  
Ben Gutzak . . . . . Flint Powers

## SPARTANS

Mike Williams . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Jeff Salvan . . . . . Catholic Central  
Lance Johnson . . . . . Sweden  
Kurt Kruger . . . . . Genesee State College-NY  
Pat Moran . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
Mark Schaffran . . . . . Midway AAA  
Jeff Kovak . . . . . Bantam AAA  
James Rudberg . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Walt Bartels . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Joel Kovak . . . . . Southfield Midway AA  
Dan Cammarata . . . . . Wexford Minnesota  
Ed Sheehan . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A, Churchill  
Bill Trisch . . . . . Potsdam College-NY  
Koby Nester . . . . . Midway AAA  
Jeff Tait . . . . . Sweden  
Jason Tratechoud . . . . . Bantam AAA  
Jeff Gerish . . . . . U-M  
Eric Kappelanski . . . . . Canton-Catholic Central

## BULLDOGS

Chuck Irwin . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Phil Bryant . . . . . Ferris State  
Rick Osborn . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Jeff Lutten . . . . . EMU  
Tim Harding . . . . . Univ. Illinois  
Dave Hale . . . . . Liv. Glenview  
Vody Fullerton . . . . . Bantam AAA  
Joel Brezausek . . . . . Ferris State  
Elynn Kryger . . . . . Plymouth Midway A  
Todd Kruger . . . . . U-Connecit  
Brad Beaud . . . . . OHL  
Vince Ryckel . . . . . OHL  
Brian Rennell . . . . . Midway AAA  
Mike Jorgenson . . . . . Midway AAA

Tim Osborn . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Fritz Brown . . . . . Andover Academy  
Andrew Brown . . . . . Kazoo Loy Wings

TEX CONFERENCE  
WOLVERINES

Jeff Savitsky . . . . . Canada Jr. B  
Mike Gilmore . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
Dennis Johnson . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
Todd Temburton . . . . . Allen Park College  
Rick Robitaille . . . . . Liv. Church  
Colin Aymond . . . . . Tall HS, Conn.  
Scott Swendkowski . . . . . Midway HS  
Neil Carnes . . . . . Plymouth-Bantam AAA  
Adam Garmes . . . . . Plymouth-Kent State  
Tommy Vockley . . . . . Falcon-Jr. A  
Rodney Taylor . . . . . Waterloo Blackhawks  
Joe Moenik . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
John MacDougall . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Mait Evc . . . . . Country Day HS  
Scott Jagod . . . . . Cranbrook HS  
Sean Flynn . . . . . Cranbrook  
Chris Keller . . . . . Country Day  
Matt Wilman . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A

## BRONCOS

Doug Brown . . . . . Ann Arbor Huron  
Brad Kippe . . . . . Flint Airworth  
Jason Bardetta . . . . . MSU-M  
Jim Pien . . . . . Sag. Arthur HS  
Todd Van Acker . . . . . Midway AAA  
Dave Miller . . . . . Howell HS  
Eric Van Acker . . . . . Lake Forest College  
Dennis Smith . . . . . Peoria-IHL  
Paul Maitre . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
John Loucky . . . . . Sag. Arthur HS  
Dave Bramble . . . . . WMU  
J.C. Gerry . . . . . Colby College, Maine  
Mike Stanley . . . . . Falcon-Jr. A  
Kevin O'Connor . . . . . Detroit Jr. C  
Scott Sebastian . . . . . AA Gabriel Richard  
Phil Paquette . . . . . U-M Dearborn  
David Ward . . . . . Northwood Institute

## FALCONS

Jeff Temple . . . . . Liv. Stevenson  
Dave Church . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
Ron Dunn . . . . . Ann Arbor Jr.  
John Bergeron . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
Jeff Croley . . . . . Windsor Midway Major  
Bob Tam . . . . . Midway AAA  
E.J. Sawyer . . . . . Hennessey-Jr. A  
Bill Terry . . . . . Kalamazoo Wings  
Scott Walter . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
Todd Bayer . . . . . Compwore-Jr. A  
David Davidson . . . . . Bantam AAA  
Steve Gasser . . . . . O'Leary Hawks Jr.  
Chris Barhart . . . . . Plymouth Jr. C  
Art Eastman . . . . . Falcon-Jr. A  
Thomas Carlsson . . . . . Midway A  
Kenny Chaput . . . . . U-M Dearborn

## HUSKIES

Allen Avery . . . . . Tinton HS  
Mike Trench . . . . . Country Day  
Mark Isal . . . . . Ferris State  
Dan Phelps . . . . . Falcon-Jr. A  
Dan Francis . . . . . Mich. Tech  
Don Perreite . . . . . Midway HS  
Mike Hartman . . . . . North Bay-OHL  
Rich Stromback . . . . . Midway AAA  
Doug Stromback . . . . . North Bay-OHL

## soccer

200 kick squads  
swarm Livonia

The World Cup may be over, but soccer is still going strong, particularly at Schoolcraft College where the Wolverine VII tournament will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

An estimated 200 youth teams and 3,000 players from the midwest and Canada will compete for age-group titles this weekend. Over 20,000 participants and spectators are expected.

Tournament play begins Friday at three different sites: 8:10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Dickinson School and Bicentennial Park; and 8 a.m. to 7:20 p.m. at Schoolcraft.

Matches will continue Saturday at two sites: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Bicentennial and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Schoolcraft.

All finals will be held Sunday at Schoolcraft. Play begins at 9 a.m. Admission is free, but parking is \$1 per car, per day.

AGE-GROUP TITLES for boys are as follows: under-10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19. The five girls divisions include under-10, 12, 14, 16 and 19.

Games will be played simultaneously on 13 different fields at Schoolcraft, nine at Bicentennial and four at Dickinson.

Last year, the tournament generated an estimated \$1 million for the local economy. This year, according to Schoolcraft College athletic director Mary Gans, approximately 1,000 motel and hotel rooms will be booked.

Last year's Wolverine VI tourney produced six champions from the Observer and Eccentric coverage areas: (boys) Vardar III, under-13; Troy United, under-16; Troy Michigan Metros, under-18; Vardar III, under-18; (girls) Plymouth Western Suburban Soccer League Stingers, under-14; and Livonia Florist Hawks, under-16.

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