



(F)10

Thursday, August 28, 1986 (M&E)



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

The hoop scoop

The Farmington Observer will preview the 1986 girls basketball season, including Yvette Malson (above) and Farmington Hills Mercy, in Monday's edition. The section will

feature reports on North Farmington, Farmington and Farmington Hills, as well as other Observerland teams.

AD Holland ends tedious coach hunt

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

So you want to be an athletic director.

Better read this first. Ron Holland, athletic director for the Farmington Public School District, is normally a personable, ever-joking man. These days, he's a bit terse. There's a cutting edge in his voice when he says: "I'm just a full-time recruiter, a purchasing agent." He has good reason to be snippy. It's been one helluva summer. Over the course of the last two to three months, Holland fired changes. Everybody had their own reasons for leaving. Some had been in it long enough, others had personal problems, conflicts. You hope things will settle down, but it's an ever-changing situation.

AT ABOUT 10 p.m., he got a call from a reporter. "I have bad news for you," said the reporter.

"Great," said Holland. "You Farmington Harrison girls basketball coach just quit."

"How do you know?" "He just told me."

So, with just two weeks remaining until the start of the season, he had to find another coach. Great. "Well, I hope it's all over," Holland said. "It just seemed like all of sudden it was time to make changes. Everybody had their own reasons for leaving. Some had been in it long enough, others had personal problems, conflicts. You hope things will settle down, but it's an ever-changing situation."

FARMINGTON HARRISON and Farmington each have three new fall sports coaches, North Farmington has two.

Dave Catherman, the long-time track coach at Farmington, replaces Don Kulek as the head football coach. Ross Bandy, who coached the boys swim team last winter, replaces Bill McCord as the Farmington girls swim coach. Bill Wahlstrom, who coaches the Farmington boys tennis team, replaces Ellen Zanke as the girls tennis coach.

"Well, I hope it's all over. It just seemed like all of a sudden it was time to make changes. Everybody had their own reasons for leaving. Some had been in it long enough, others had personal problems, conflicts. You hope things will settle down, but it's an ever-changing situation."

— Ron Holland (right)
Farmington AD



At Harrison, Jim Neve is the girls basketball coach. He was the assistant under Chris Lessnau, who departed last week. Glenn Bruchan, who coached at Southfield Manogue High School, replaces Harry Swystun as the boys soccer coach. And Chuck McClune, a former Hawks assistant, replaces Mark Holdridge as the swim coach.

Greg Capling, longtime assistant basketball coach, takes over for Greg Grodzicki at the helm of the North Farmington girls basketball program. And Bill Pinnell Jr., assistant at North previously, takes over the girls cross country program, replacing Ralph Tomby who filled in on a temporary basis a year ago. Holland is still in the process of hiring a boys basketball and a wrestling coach for Farmington. Still want to be an athletic director?

Sudden death?

Columnist sees fast end to grid year

FUTURE FORETOLD.

So what are your expectations for the upcoming season?

Short. You have short expectations? No. I expect it to be a short season. Especially for Observer & Eccentric prep football teams.



C.J.
Risak

back Scott Sosnowski and Southfield-Lathrup end Eric Stokes.

Names aren't too familiar, are they? That's what happens when you graduate a group of headline-grabbers — like those guys mentioned earlier — all in one year.

So does that mean we have little to look forward to this football season?

I didn't say that. Even if I thought it, I wouldn't say it. Thing is, people have been asking me who's going to be tough in our area, and I can't say anything with conviction.

My guesses are: Watch Farmington Harrison, particularly now that they've dropped down to Class B again (for the second time in five years). The Hawks play an all-Class A schedule, so a 6-3 mark could conceivably get them into the state playoffs.

By the way, I'll bet a few of the Class A schools in the Western Lakes Activities Association aren't too pleased with Harrison's smaller status. Playing a Class B team costs them playoff points. Losing to one could cost them any hope of a post-season berth.

Another team to watch is Country Day, which was eliminated by Detroit St. Martin de Porres in the first round of the Class C playoffs last year. Birmingham Brother Rice, too, should rebound after an off (4-5) year. Warrior coach Al Fracassa is reportedly planning to install a wishbone running attack.

North Farmington, with Selzer and some sizable blockers, could surprise some people. So could Southfield, the defending Southeastern Michigan Association champs, despite Dorn's graduation.

In Livonia, Churchill, which was eliminated from playoff contention in the final game of '85, and Stevenson both look formidable. And Franklin could be a tournament qualifier if it can survive its first three games — at Dearborn Fordson, home against Stevenson, and at Harrison.

So there are possibilities.

Always. But a year ago, there seemed to be more certainties. Westland John Glenn, Redford Catholic Central, Southfield and Country Day all were solid bets to make the expanded playoffs. This year, Harrison and Country Day look to be favorites for the post-season derby. The others are long shots.

Still, this is preseason. Once the first football is snapped, another Troy could emerge.

Enough about football. What about a capsulized preview of some of the other fall sports?

The upheaval shouldn't be as great. In girls basketball, Plymouth Salem will be awesome; so will perennial powers Farmington Hills Mercy and Livonia Ladywood. No team in the Eccentric area can match up with these powers. Southfield-Lathrup looks strong, though.

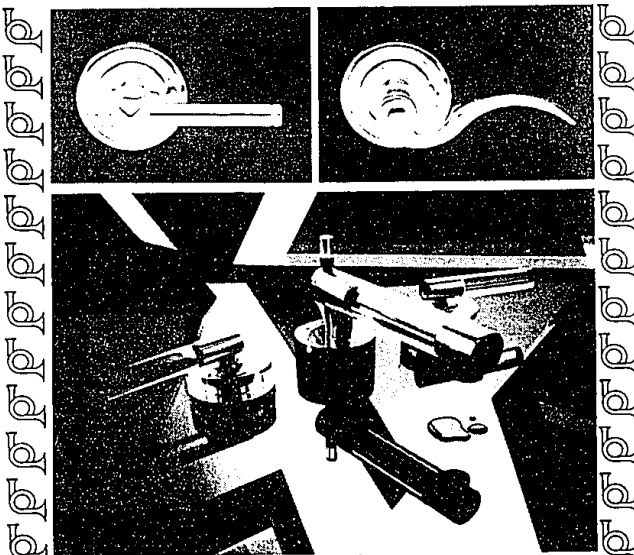
Some other choices for excellence are annual repeaters: Athens and Stevenson in boys soccer, Bloomfield Hills Andover in girls swimming, Bloomfield Hills Lahser in boys tennis, to name a few.

That's pretty good. One last question: How accurate do you figure these predictions to be? One hundred percent — for the next couple of weeks, anyway.

Save a life. Learn CPR. +

HERALD WHOLESALE

BALDWIN • JADO • ARTISTIC BRASS



We can furnish your entire home, from your front door (Baldwin to Schlage) your bath (Dornbracht to Delta) and your exciting European kitchen (K.W.C. to Grohe) all at wholesale. Our designers will help

3 of 10,000

Refreshingly Different Items

AT
HERALD WHOLESALE

20830 Coolidge Hwy
just north of 8 Mile Rd
308-4560

you create a look you'll love; we service everything we sell.

HOURS:
9-5:30 MON-FRI, 9-5 SAT
OR CALL FOR A SPECIAL
APPOINTMENT ANYTIME