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(F1D)

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The hoop scoop

The Farmington Observer will preview the 1986 girls basketball season, including Yvette Malon (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.

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 & Ecacentric prep football teams.

Kindly be more expansive. Well, first of all, football for many high school teams will be over before November arrives. The final football Friday of the regular season is Oct. 31 — Halloween night.

Don't expect many teams in the O&E coverage area to be masquerading as playoff hopefuls, though. Five area teams qualified for the enlarged playoffs in '85, and Troy made it all the way to the Class A finals before bowing. That won't happen this season.

Why not? Tony Boles, Torin Dorn, Marc Spencer, Brian Smolinski, Chris Sullivan, John Locker, Ken Wandzel for starters.

What about them? They're gone, taking their considerable talents to college with them. Some hugely gifted players are gone, but more, the depth of talent a year ago proved to be extraordinary. The gap their graduation has created will be difficult to refill.

Any guesses on potential stars? Right now, major college prospects are Livonia Franklin linebackers Chris Parent, Detroit Country Day running back Brian Stephens, North Farmington running back Scott Selzer, Orchard Lake St. Mary's guard/defensive end Scott Kowalski, Troy kicker Scott Kiani, Rochester Adams running back Delbert Littlejohn, Troy Athens full-



C.J. Risak

back Scott Sosnowski and Southfield-Lathrup and Eric Stokes.

Names aren't too familiar, are they? That's what happens when you graduate a group of headliners — 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 two extra 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 Fraccasa is purportedly planning to install a wishbone running attack.

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.

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 terser. 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 snappy. It's been one helluva summer.

Over the course of the last two to three weeks, Holland lined up seven new coaches for the upcoming fall season. He still had two vacancies left to fill for the winter season, but he figured the fall season was set.

That changed last Tuesday night.

AT ABOUT 10 p.m., he got a call from a reporter.

"I have bad news for you," said the reporter.

"Great," said Holland.

"Your Farmington-Harrison girls basketball coach just quit."

"How do you know?"

"He just told me."

"Great."

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 Farming-

ton girls swim coach. Bill Wahstrom, who coaches the Farmington boys tennis team, replaces Elmer Laike as the girls tennis coach. At Harrison, Jim Neve is the girls basketball coach. He was the assistant under Chris Lessman, who departed last week. Glenn Bruehau, who coached at Southfield Manoogian High School, replaces Harry Sverstik as the boys soccer coach. And Chuck McClune, a former Hawks assistant, replaces Mark Hollridge as the Farmington coach.

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Greg Coggin, longtime assistant basketball coach, takes over for Greg Grodicki 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 Temby who filled in on a temporary basis a year ago.

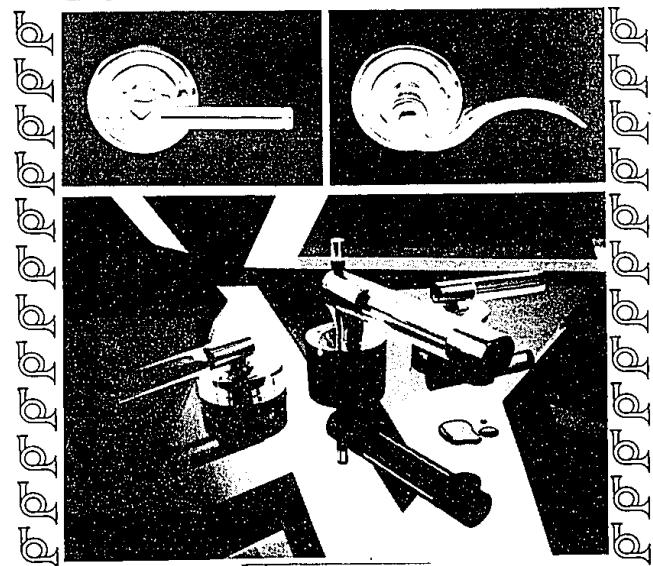
Holland is still in the process of hiring a boys basketball and a wrestling coach for Farmington.

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