

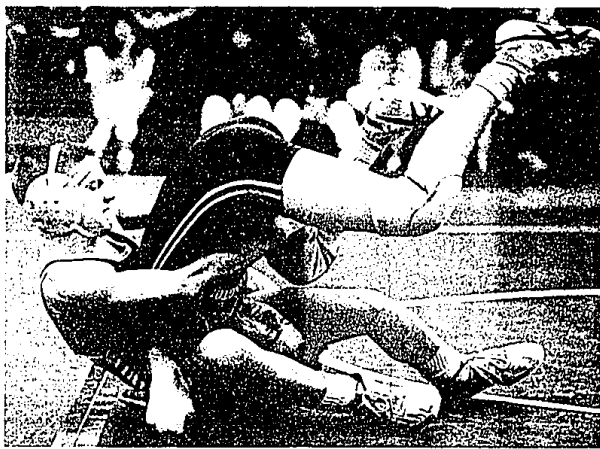
Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/644-1101

Monday, February 8, 1988 O&E



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North Farmington's Jeff Head flips his opponent, Chris Phillips of Farmington, during their 105-pound bout Thursday. Head eventually won the bout with a pin, but Farmington won the match and the city championship.

Farmington captures city mat championship

Farmington captured the city championship and locked up a share of the Lake Division wrestling title Thursday, crushing North Farmington 46-24.

The Falcons, who won seven straight bouts and jumped in front 40-6 at the conclusion of the 135-pound contest, finished 4-1 in the division and are 7-1 overall.

"This caps a pretty good dual-meet season," Farmington coach Al Heyar said.

The Falcons went in front to stay when Chris Gardiner pinned John Cassidy at 2:04 of the 112-pound bout. That gave Farmington a 12-6 lead, and the Falcons proceeded to win the next six.

Making it three consecutive falls for Farmington, Jamie Madrey pinned Adam Foreman (1:55) at 119 pounds, and Steve Lee pinned Brian Walney (1:41) at 126.

Leading 24-6, the Falcons won the next three on decision. Rob Woodbeck beat Matt Thompson 12-3 in the 132-pound match, T.J. Armstrong blanked Doug Hoyt 5-0, and Armstrong edged his opponent at 138 and Todd Jacobs edged his

wrestling

Haider opponent 4-2 at 145. Steve Walter capped Farmington's string of victories with a pin in 3:41 over Chris Swek to end the 155-pound bout.

North picked up a couple of pins to cut Farmington's lead in half, 40-24. The Raiders' Chris Sirvo needed one minute to stop Mike Scialabasi at 1:07, and Zalm Cummalaj pinned Charles Wyatt in 3:07 at 198.

North's Jeff Jacobs and Farmington's Paul Daniels won by forfeit at 185 and heavyweight, respectively.

"Farmington has a tough team, we knew that," North coach Dick Cook said. "They won the division, and we're happy for them."

Cook held out 112-pound Jack Beall and 126-pound Bill Murley to make sure they were rested and healthy for the league meet Saturday.

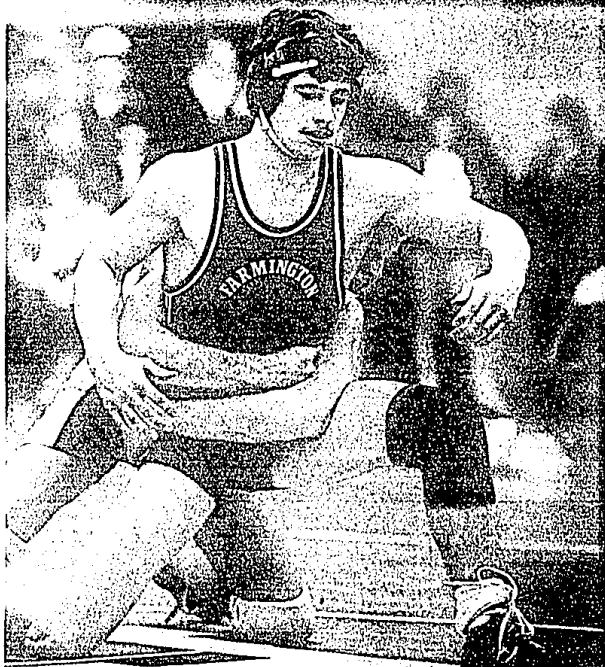
The Raiders are 0-5 in the division and 3-9-1 overall.

FRANKLIN 46, HARRISON 21: The Patriots won the last five bouts on pins Thursday to wipe out a slim lead by Harrison and capture the Western Division dual-meet victory.

The Hawks took a 21-16 lead when Jason Fox pinned Dave Kube at 2:47 of the 145-pound bout. That was the last of three straight Harrison victories that saw the Hawks rally from a 16-6 deficit.

Ted Prusinski got the Hawks started with his pin in just 41 seconds over Robert Nettle at 119. Ed Sarno decisioned Dan Ignagni 6-3 at 132, and Scott Havener won by void at 138.

Harrison's lead was short lived, however, as Franklin's Farris Alamai (2:15), Grant Gordon (1:27), Glenn Ploche (1:12), Walter Brown (2:18) and Frank Johnson (0:25) scored consecutive pins in the last five weights. Their respective opponents were Pat LeFlar, Todd Lytwynick, Matt King, Phil Hong and Jeff Peck.



Farmington's Rob Woodbeck makes a move to the situation and went to take a 12-3 decision in the 132-pound bout. Farmington's Matt Thompson. Woodbeck reversed

Falcons searching for new grid coach

Farmington High School will need a greater commitment on all fronts if the Falcons are to turn their football program around, according to former coach Dave Catherman.

The 26-year coaching veteran stepped down after two years as Farmington's head coach, citing the amount of time the position required and that it took away from his other roles as teacher and family man. The Falcons were 2-7 last season.

Ron Holland, director of athletics for Farmington Public Schools, said he interviewed four candidates last week and plans to talk with an additional six this week.

None of the applicants are from within the school district. Holland said he hopes to make a recommendation to the board and name a new coach by March 1.

Catherman, who plans to continue as coach of the boys track team, was the only football coach in the high school building and only one of two who was a teacher.

CONSEQUENTLY, much of the responsibility for organizing and seeing through non-coaching related matters was shouldered by the head coach. "There was not enough added support from other sources to be able to delegate," Catherman said.

"There needs to be more of it to get the program going," he said. "There needs to be much more of a commitment from everybody in the Farmington school system."

Catherman spent a lot of his time reconditioning equipment and overseeing fund-raising projects such as car washes on weekends. Fund raising was necessary for such things as filming games, replacing practice dummies and paying off a large debt incurred after renovating the school weights.

"After 26 years, I just lost the will to do all those little things other than coaching," Catherman said. "It got to the point I wasn't interested in that."

"The way the program is structured it forced me to take a lot of time away from my family obligations," he added. "I didn't think I could do the job right and still handle my teaching and personal life."

FARMINGTON has taken a back seat to city rivals Farmington Hills Harrison and North Farmington in the sport, as well as other Western Lakes Activities Association members.

Catherman said he was envious of programs that are "well into their



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— Dave Catherman
Ex-football coach

roulins" that allow the head coach to concentrate on coaching. Unlike other schools, Farmington has no sports or conditioning classes that enable coaches to meet with athletes in a classroom setting.

"There was not enough contact with the kids on an individual or team basis to get to the point we ought to be," Catherman said. "Other schools seem to have created such an advantage, being able to see the kids during the day."

Jerry Potter, principal of Farmington High, said it's matter of priorities in scheduling that prevent the school from providing that benefit. Catherman, who teaches math and physical education, was needed to balance the teaching load in those

football

areas, according to Potter.

"You can do those things if you don't need him in an academic area," he said. "Philosophically, it would be wrong to build a schedule around a P.E. or football class."

POTTER ADDED the school would be obligated to do the same for other sports. Farmington offered a football conditioning class under its phys-ed curriculum several years ago, but was required to open it to all students.

Catherman said his resignation was not meant as an expression of protest. He said he simply accepted the situation as it was and decided to act in regard to the impact of the job on his own life.

"That's just the way it is," he said. "First of all, I thought I could do the job under those circumstances. I wanted to take my shot in spite of those handicaps."

Catherman, a former star athlete at Farmington, added it was "entirely" his own decision, too. There was no pressure from boosters or the administration to resign.

"My plan was to re-evaluate things after three years," he said. "I didn't think I needed to let things go any farther."

"I TOOK A step back to see how different situations might pop up and had to make some decision. My priorities are my family and young son, and they were being cut short. It seemed best to make a move."

Catherman, who was the junior varsity coach for two years and a varsity assistant for 13 prior to becoming head coach, would like to continue coaching football in Farmington under less demanding and pressurized circumstances.

He spent the first nine years of his career coaching football at Dunkell and Warner middle schools. He has a combined 52-23 record as a middle school, junior varsity and varsity coach.

"I could probably be more effective working at a lower level," Catherman said. "I would like to move down and continue to work with the younger boys. That's where I feel I can be most effective in the Farmington program."

CC football trio commits to Spartans, Holy Cross

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

While George Perles was being courted by the Green Bay Packers, Redford Catholic Central's 6-foot-6, 280-pound offensive tackle Toby Heaton was entertaining offers from four different schools, including Michigan State.

Rated one of the state's top blue chip football prospects, Heaton said the talk about Perles leaving MSU was unsettling, but he was convinced East Lansing was the place to go when the Spartan coach announced he was staying, turning down the lucrative NFL job offer.

"He (Perles) came right out and told me that he wouldn't leave and that he was done with pro football," said Heaton, a Plymouth native. "He said it emphatically."

"Once I heard he was talking to them again, for an instant, I felt it had been all a show. But I couldn't blame him for talking to them (the Packers). After I learned he was staying it made me believe in him all the more."

Heaton was tempted by the University of Colorado's offer. His two brothers live in nearby Denver.

"I liked Colorado a lot," Heaton said. "I liked the coaching staff and it's beautiful campus. My brothers thought it would be nice to have me play there, but they said they could accept my decision wherever I'd go."

HEATON also visited Southern California. He returned recently from a trip to Los Angeles, impressed with USC's program, but not the style of



Toby Heaton

living in Tinseltown.

Which brought him back to MSU and Perles.

"Probably a lot of it (going to MSU) was the coaching staff . . . and I like coach Perles," said Heaton. "And being closer to home was a factor, not that it was that important, but it was a bonus."

Not only did MSU receive good news when Heaton committed last week, the Spartans also reeled in Detroit Mackenzie tackle Matthew Amacker along with Lansing Sexton running back Alan Haller, both considered blue chippers.

In other recruiting news, two of Heaton's teammates, All-American back Chris Kovath and All-State tackle Pete Dankert, will both

football

sign with Holy Cross, a Division I-AA school in Massachusetts.

DANKERT, a 6-4, 225-pound standout, had attracted interest from both Northwestern and Wisconsin of the Big 10 before settling on Holy Cross.

A top-rated academic student at CC, Dankert indicated he will major in mathematics.

"As far as football, I liked the way they run their program and I like the facilities," said Dankert, who resides in Plymouth. "And the coaches are good people."

Kovath, who helped CC earn a berth in the state Class A championship game en route to an 11-2 record, may be following in the footsteps of Holy Cross all-American Gordie Lockbaum, who received national recognition last season for playing both on offense and defense.

"I enjoyed my visit, and I really liked the coaches," said Kovath, who lives in Brighton. "I'd like the opportunity to play two positions."

The Great Lakes Conference also picked off some All-Observer standouts last week including Westland John Glenn wide receiver Pat Pettit (Ferris State), Glenn linebacker Kurt Kuban (Saginaw Valley) and Livonia Stevenson tackle Alan Pitta (Saginaw Valley).