



## Raiders focus hope on veteran setter



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Darcy Pinzi, a senior hitter, is the top returning player at Harrison. See Page 2C for a preview story on the Hawks and Farmington Hills Marcy.

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Hitters get all the glory in volleyball, but the setter is usually the glue that holds a team together.

After all, someone has to get the ball to the hitters, and a team with a good setter has a jump on the competition.

That's why North Farmington coach Sandy Lubienlecki isn't worried about having lost five starters, including six hitters, from last season's 30-10 ballclub.

The team's lone returning starter is setter Debbie Weintraub, a 5-foot-3 senior who led the Raiders in assists and serving (points and aces) last year.

"Hitters are easier to develop, and everyone wants to be a hitter," Lubienlecki said. "But when you have a setter anybody can hit from her sets."

"Obviously, it's a rebuilding year when you lose five starters. But of the six this one (the setter) is the easiest to build around."

"And we've got others who can set when Debbie is in the back row, so we can take advantage of her all-around talents," she added.

North graduated all-area hitter Missy Bossacawen, as well as Suzi Butcher, Stephanie Knapp and Pam Konjarevich, but the Raiders won't be lacking talented people to receive Weintraub's sets.

Donna O'Brien, 5-8 senior, and Vikki Seamons, 5-10 junior, are the top hitting prospects.

O'Brien gained a lot of experience last year when others were injured and was a key contributor, and Seamons, the center on the basketball team, represents North's height.

"We're not as tall as last year, but this is probably the best team as far as jumping at the net and quickness on the court that we've had at North," Lubienlecki said.

"You've got to have a player going across the front when the other team's good hitter is up there. (Seamons) has been hitting super in practice, so opponents will have to put somebody awful good on her."

The Raiders have another good



File photo

Debbie Weintraub is North Farmington's lone returning starter, but the Raiders can build their team around her superb skill as a setter.

hitter in Courtney Knapp, a 5-8 junior, and Lubienlecki has been impressed by Patti Gooding, 5-8 senior, and Eve Clair, 5-7 sophomore.

"Knapp has the best hitting technique," she said. "Some time at practice, I'm going to videotape her to show others how to hit a volleyball properly."

Clair was the setter on the JV team last year, but she will be used mainly in the front row because of her excellent jumping ability.

"For a girl who is 5-7, she can block girls much taller than her, be-

cause she gets up over the net," Lubienlecki said.

The Raiders also return Kelly Coulson, 5-5 senior, and Pam Gressler, 5-4 senior. Coulson will continue as the team's No. 1 server and a defensive specialist, and Gressler will be the other setter, replacing the graduated Carrie Lee. O'Brien will start in the No. 2 server position again.

"It's not that (Coulson) is not a good hitter, but we had other girls who were taller and took advantage of their height," Lubienlecki said.

Rounding out the 1989 roster are setter Army Post, 5-8 junior, and hitter Wendy Wolf, 5-7 senior who is also a good server.

"With so many experienced players having graduated, the big thing for these players is to get into the season," Lubienlecki said. "We need to play some games and get the feel for it. By the end of the season, we should be a solid team."

### FARMINGTON

The Falcons have a first-year coach in Sharon Hekker, who hopes to turn the Farmington program around.

Hekker coached at DeWitt High School last season after graduating in 1987 from Michigan State where she played volleyball all four years.

The former Bloomfield Hills LaSalle player has five returning players on her Farmington team.

Two of them, 5-8 senior Katie McDonald and 5-8 junior Carrie Miller, started for the Falcons last year. The other holdovers are 5-10 junior Bonnie Wheelis, 5-4 junior Margaret Martin and 5-3 junior Dawn Montrese.

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## Looking into crystal ball for '89 sports forecast

**T**HE FIRST LADY was gracious enough to have one last conversation with me before she leaves the White House.

Forget Joyce Kilson or Jean Dixon, when I want to consult somebody about the stars, I call direct to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

As a Pisces, Nancy advised me in our last conversation, "Do whatever you can to get caught up in your responsibilities."

Sounds reasonable enough, considering I've been delinquent in forecasting the Year in Sports — 1989.

But it's never too late, so here is your Observerland horoscope:

**Basketball:** Little Livonia Clarenceville stuns state-ranked Farmington Harrison in the Class B district.

"Those guys from Alaska — the Seawolves — spurred us on," said coach Clarenceville coach Paul Chugh. "After they beat U-M, I knew we had a chance."

Laments Harrison coach Mike Teachman, chewing a towel: "We didn't take them lightly, I swear."

Farmington High wins Class A district after going 0-20 during the regular season.

"This team seems to be peaking at the right time," said Falcons coach Bob Kaup.

Livonia's Stevenson's 4-foot-6, 270-pound Mike Vrooman shatters scoreboard at Westland John Glenn.

"I warned him about hanging on the rim," said coach Jim McIntyre.

Canton beats Salem for district title when Brian Paupore, fouled at midcourt, sinks a pair of free throws with no time left on the clock.

"What's good for the goose is good for the gander," said the referee, who made the controversial call.

**Baseball:** Syd Finch reports to Garden City High for spring training. He strikes out 21 straight batters on opening day and has the Cougars thinking state title.

"This must be an April Fool's joke," says Cougars coach Bob Dropp.

Gay, sleet and rain force cancellation of high school baseball season for many Observerland teams.

"It must be football season," says



Brad Emons

Harrison coach John Herrington.

"I've seen worse weather," says Thurston coach Emil Majeski, whose team wins the Tri-River League.

New Stevenson coach Dick DeVries gets thrown out of the first three games for arguing with umpires.

"When I was the debate coach at Chubbuck I never got tossed," says a bewildered DeVries.

Michigan High School Athletic Association director Jack Roberts warns about suspensions for players and coaches caught chewing tobacco.

"Steve Irwin is gone; we're innocent," said Glenn coach Norm Hoenes. "All my players chew now."

**Football:** Redford Catholic Central coach Tom Mach hires Mouse Davis as his offensive coordinator.

"If you thought we were wild and crazy last year, wait until this year," proclaims Mach. "When Wayne Fontes let him go, I pounced on Mouse like a cat."

Glenn beats Harrison for Western Lakes title, 45-7, as quarterback Mill Coleman is sacked 11 times.

"Every one of our defensive players wanted to make sure he (Coleman) was graduating," said Glenn coach Chuck Gordon.

"Mill couldn't find any of his receivers, it was too foggy," complained John Herrington, the Harrison coach.

U-M's Tony Boles accepts the Heisman Trophy after beating out Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders by one vote.

"I'd like to thank Barry's line for not blocking as well as mine," said Boles.

Jim Gibbons, who moved up as athletic director at Redford Union, on his possible replacement as coach: "All I can tell you is that the guy lives in South Bend, Ind., does magic tricks for fun and has a better sense of humor than me."

**Hockey:** Westland's Mike Modano comes out of the juniors to lead the Minnesota North Stars to an upset playoff series win over the Red Wings.

"I couldn't do it alone, a lot of the credit goes to my linemates Joe Murphy and Tim Higgins," said Modano.

Al Iafate surprisingly appears on the CBC television show, "Cherry's Grapevine." (Commentator and former Boston coach Don Cherry is Iafate's biggest critic.)

"I don't much care for Don," said the Toronto defenseman. "But anyway, 'Blue' (Cherry's dog and co-host) is the star and one who makes the show go."

Tennie: Carrie Cunningham turns over the losing to Steffi Graf in the finals at Wimbledon.

"This amateur stuff is for the birds," said the 16-year-old Livonian. "By now I could have already paid for my college education at Stanford."

**Golf:** Little known PGA tour player Bob Proben a surprise winner at the Masters.

Proben accepts the Green Jacket from last year's winner Curtis Strange: "This fits well, but how about the other green stuff?"

**Soccer:** Stevenson coach Pete Scerril leads his team to another state championship and squashes rumors about retirement.

"I'll be here at least until 1992," Scerril said. "Don't forget, the World Cup is coming here."

**Figure skating:** Garden City native Jeri Campbell wins the Ladies Singles title at the U.S. Championships.

"The next step is the Olympics, then it's Ice Capades," said the young skater.

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