



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jerry Dolak is one of several returning starters on the North Farmington football team. The 6-foot, 185-pound senior will play upback and

monsterback for the Raiders, who were 7-2 last season. North will begin the season with a largely untested squad.

# Defense early key in North grid plan

By Dan O'Moara staff writer

While head coach Jim O'Leary talked with a reporter, the North Farmington coaching staff sat on the opposite side of the room watching film of the football team's intra-squad scrimmage.

The interview was suddenly interrupted by a loud pop — the sound of shoulders pads making contact.

"Who was that?" O'Leary asked.

"Zeno," the coaches answered.

Senior linebacker Rob Zeno, enhancing his reputation as a heavy hitter, made an impact on the audio portion of the tape, not to mention the ball carrier and the coaches.

O'Leary is hoping a handful of defensive holdovers such as Zeno and the North tradition for good defense will compensate early in the season for an inexperienced offense and young team.

Zeno (5-11, 170) returns at inside linebacker, and the Raiders also have secondarymen Chris White and Jerry Dolak back again. All three will be important two-way players this year.

THE RAIDERS, who were 7-2 last year, could be considered green on defense, too. But that's not as big a concern for O'Leary as the precision needed on offense.

"I never worry about the defense," he said. "I tell (assistant) coach (Mark) Babcock 'If we give up less points than we score, we're going to win. That's a great philosophy, isn't it?'"

"Defense is a lot easier to teach than offense. If the kids are aggressive, they might make mistakes, but the secondary should be able to cover for them."

And O'Leary has great confidence in his defensive backs and has great things to say about the four-man unit.

White, a 6-foot-2, 170-pound junior with outstanding potential as a wide



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Chris White caught 33 passes for 425 yards and three touchdowns.

receiver, will play free safety again, and Dolak, a 6-foot, 185-pound senior, has a year's experience at monsterback. White led the team with five interceptions and added 25 tackles, and Dolak made 35 stops, including 10 stops.

The halfbacks will be senior John Low (5-8, 150) on the short side and either junior Matt Mumment (5-11, 155) or junior Chris Rivers (6-1, 175), a transfer from Chicago, at the wide-

## football

side position.

"I'LL TELL YOU right now, we are much better in the secondary," O'Leary said. "This is probably one of the best we've had. If you took the best athletes on the team, three of the seven would be from the secondary."

As a whole, the Raiders are untested. North will put a mostly senior lineup on the field, but many of the team's 23 seniors are inexperienced. North played mostly seniors last year and lost much of its team to graduation.

The Raiders, however, have 25 juniors from a JV team that was 7-2 last year and 8-1 as freshmen, meaning North could be a year away from producing another powerhouse.

"(The juniors) have been winners all along, and I might add they pounded us pretty good when we scrimmaged them last year," O'Leary said.

"Experience wise, we're a young team. I think we're going to be a decent team, but there's no way of knowing until we get out there."

Senior Bart Siniarski (5-8, 170) would have been a fourth starter returning on defense, but he'll be the tailback this year and will be restricted to offense. Taking his place at noseguard is senior Lucien VanCleave (5-7, 150).

"HE'S SMALL AND tough," O'Leary said of VanCleave. "We can't afford to play (Siniarski) as much on defense, but Lucien is every bit as good as Bart was last year."

The tackles are seniors Paul Anders (6-3, 200) and Rob Jamrog (5-11, 165), but junior Mike Thompson (5-

Please turn to Page 2

# Harrison winning hoop numbers game

By Steve Kowalski staff writer

Because he coaches the Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team, Jim Neve usually avoids talking about the numbers that show up on the scoreboard, or in the win-loss column.

Those figures have embarrassed the Hawks long enough. Rather, when Neve refers to numbers, he's talking about the impressive number of girls he has in pre-season camp. — 38.

"The program is really on the upswing," said the third-year coach. "I've got three teams this year. My first year, all I had was the varsity. Last year I had a varsity and junior varsity, and this year I have varsity, JV and freshman teams."

Neve is especially pumped about his freshman class, which includes 16 girls. Interest in Harrison's program has escalated,

even though the varsity has a two-year, 1-41 record under Neve and until late in the 1987 season had lost 99 straight games.

THE HAWKS were 0-21 last year. "I'm glad I came back," Neve said. "I'm very enthused. The booster club has raised enough money for us to have had a banquet last year and enough to go to summer (basketball) team camp next year."

"Between (Harrison Athletic Director) Bob Wilson, (Farmington Schools Athletic Director) Ron Holland and (Principal) Clayton Graham, they've really supported us."

Neve also credits Harrison boys basketball coach Mike Teachman for working individually last winter on shooting with Neve's players and an improved middle-school program.

Now, don't let all this enthusiasm lead you to believe Harrison will challenge for the Western Lakes Activities Association title this fall.

## basketball

"We're two years from being real competitive, and I won't predict (wins or losses), because when I do I usually eat my words," he said.

Harrison lost power forward Darcy Pinzi, its leading scorer (10 points per game) and rebounder (11 rebounds) to graduation. Rebounding, however, are four letter winners.

"THIS TEAM IS more team oriented," Neve said. "I've got more equal balance in my starting five. Last year, all we had was Darcy to score, and everyone else was just coming along."

No one's come along further than Najarian, who Neve believes has a chance to earn post-season honors.

The job of getting the ball to her will belong to her 5-6 sister Andrea Najarian, the point guard.

"If Karen keeps the right frame of mind, she's got a good shot at it (post-season honors)," Neve said. "She has a totally different attitude."

"Last year she didn't have confidence in her shot — even though she had a good shot — and would rather pass it off. This year she shoots the ball well and runs the offense just excellent."

The other returners include 6-foot senior center Shari Barnes and junior guard April Jones, who missed the last half of the '88 season because of a knee injury.

Jones had knee surgery during the off-season and Neve wasn't sure she'd return.

"SHE HAS tremendous, tremendous

drive," Neve said. "She should help the team immensely. Today, you wouldn't think she had the operation. She worked very hard and by her senior year she'll be a bonafide ballplayer. Her knee is still acting up on her, so she won't be really ready until the fourth or fifth game."

Sophomore forward Dence Pinzi (5-11) will challenge for a starting forward spot. Pinzi spent most of last year on the JV but made an impressive varsity debut late in the year, scoring six points and seven rebounds in a district loss to Oak Park.

Harrison opens the season Thursday, at home against Milford Lakeland and plays host to Livonia Clarenceville Tuesday, Sept. 5.

"Lakeland is so big it's unbelievable," Neve said. "Their JV beat ours last year something like 62-4 and our varsity lost by 30-some points. The second game we've got Clarenceville, which is more on our level."



By Steve Kowalski staff writer

Patrick Matriepierre is the lone returning senior soccer player at Farmington Hills Harrison, but even he isn't ready to return.

Matriepierre suffered a displaced sternum in a swimming accident and will be out two to four weeks, coach Glenn Breuhan said.

Harrison will miss Matriepierre's leadership early, with the loss of seven starters to graduation and the loss of two players to England.

Two players to England? Forward Matt Rippen, who would have been a senior, and his brother, midfielder Dan Rippen, returned to England after spending time in the states.

SO THE FIRST question posed to Breuhan is "How does Harrison intend to improve on its 4-7-4 record with a those missing?"

The Hawks were 1-5-4 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association last year, and they usually look forward to the Class B tournament when they won't have to face any rugged WLA teams.

"We expect to improve as the sea-

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— Glenn Breuhan  
Harrison soccer coach

son goes on," Breuhan said. "We're so young, we look forward to the following year when we'll have a few more seniors."

Grant Hubbard, Harrison's starting goalkeeper a year ago, graduated, so the vacancies begin there. Others who graduated include Todd Whittemore, an all-WLA choice, and Thierry Beros, the team's leading scorer with nine goals and three assists.

Harrison also must replace three midfielders, Edward Dryngel, Reid Boger and Ron Leitch, who graduated.

"My midfield will be inexperienced, and we need Matriepierre because he's a senior — a forward with experience," said Breuhan. In his fourth year. "With him it's a day to day thing."

Among the starters returning are co-captains Jay Boger and Mark Lebovitz. Boger, one of the tallest players on the team at 6 feet, plays defender, and Lebovitz lines up at a forward.

Junior Ben Pinsky, a starter at fullback last year, might be moved to one of the midfield positions to lend some leadership, Breuhan said.

"You need a 100 percent effort always, with many young teams,"

Breuhan said. "We have a small team. Lebovitz is a skilled, finesse player with a little more size, so I'm expecting him to score a few more goals for us."

With all the seniors lost to graduation, there is plenty of room for newcomers to shine, Breuhan said.

One of the most impressive freshmen is Jeremy Teachman, who is expected to share time with Chris Schrowe at goalkeeper. When Teachman plays in the net, Schrowe will be used at fullback, Breuhan said. Another promising freshman is Matt Schrowe, a forward.

"TEACHMAN STILL needs some work but he looks pretty good," Breuhan said. "I expect Teachman to become a starter."

The Hawks received a boost when a pair of brothers, Mike Wolters and Greg Wolters, transferred to Harrison from talent-rich Livonia Stevenson. Mike, a junior forward, and Greg, a sophomore defender, did not play for Stevenson's Class A title team in '88 but Breuhan welcomes both.

"They're good players and we'll take them," Breuhan said. "Greg might work in as a stopper. He's aggressive and Mike looks like a good forward."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jay Boger, a veteran defender, will serve as a co captain for Harrison this fall.

Mike Wolters, a transfer from Livonia Stevenson, is expected to help the Hawks.