

# Sports

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(F10)



Here are just a few of the reasons the Redford Catholic Central swim team has excelled (front, from left) Troy Shumate and Brian Dynia, (back, from left) Dave West, Alan Asari and Michael Hoeftlein. The Shamrocks are one of the most highly-rated swim teams in Michigan.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## CC rides wave of success

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

As the Redford Catholic Central swimmers gathered inside school last Tuesday before leaving for a meet in East Lansing, first-year coach Pete Leonhardt asked one of them a question.

"Where is the telephone?" Leonhardt asked. Leonhardt does not have his own office at CC, so he's still learning his way around the school. That's about the only trouble he's experienced in leading the Shamrocks to a 10-0 dual meet record and a No. 2 ranking in Class A behind Bloomfield Hills Andover.

CC faces its toughest dual to date, 2 p.m. Saturday at No. 5-rated Ann Arbor Pioneer. Because it lacks swimming facilities, CC practices

### swimming

and holds its home meets at Farmington Hills Mercy. Leonhardt, who had better facilities, but not as much talent during the last six years as Farmington Hills Harrison's coach, can't say enough about his new surroundings.

He took over for Chuck McClune, who accepted an assistant coach's job at Oakland University. Leonhardt doesn't make as much money at his new job, but he gains more satisfaction.

"THEY WERE FUN guys and a good group at Harrison, but I was really looking for a more

competitive situation," said Leonhardt, a 1979 Ferndale High graduate who is assisted by Scott Teeters. "I do my paper work at home and we practice at Mercy, so it makes our team a little removed from the general every day activities. But the school is very positive, along with the athletic department."

"This is worth it. I get a lot of satisfaction working with these kind of athletes. CC supports all of its sports."

Most of CC's swimmers got to know Leonhardt prior to high school. The 22-year-old has spent the last six years coaching the Michigan Stingrays United States Swimming Club, and at least half of CC's swimmers belong to the 170-member club.

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## State studies issue of safe pool depth

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

The future of competitive swimming at Michigan high schools and clubs could be seriously affected or even jeopardized by proposals that would require pools to conform to a standard depth.

At issue is the reasonably safe depth a pool must be for a swimmer to dive from starting blocks into the water during competitive swim meets.

The review of the current situation and possible institution of more stringent requirements has resulted from a growing concern among state and school officials over the number of neck-related accidents resulting in catastrophic injuries.

A committee appointed by the Michigan Department of Health met Jan. 23 to recommend changes to enhance safety. Officials from that department met on Feb. 8 to review the recommendations and begin its own deliberative process.

According to Warren McKenzie, assistant director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association who attended both meetings, the committee's recommendations were:

- If a pool has a deep end, that end should become the starting point and blocks should be used at that end.

- If blocks are being used in a pool, their use must be supervised by the person deemed responsible for the blocks.

- If the pool is no deeper than 4 feet at either end, the blocks should be withdrawn and swimmers should start in the water or from the deck (The 4-foot recommendation was changed to 5 feet in the subsequent meeting.)

### swimming

- If a pool is 5 feet or deeper, the blocks do not have to be removed after use for competitive purposes. If there is less than 5 feet of water, the blocks must be removed.

- Regarding new pool construction or major remodeling, the depth at the starting end should be no less than 6 feet across all lanes and extending 25 feet out from the wall.

McKenzie emphasized they were "interim" recommendations since they more than likely will be altered during the bureaucratic process, and he added it could be quite a while before any firm decisions are made.

"If we're lucky, we'll hear something in two months," McKenzie said. "I don't expect to see anything of a concrete nature until the end of next school year."

"It could take two years before any of the recommendations can become rules or regulations."

That's the immediate dilemma facing school districts, as well as municipalities and private clubs with pools. In the meantime, they exist in a state of limbo while they wait for a decision.

All sorts of numbers are being suggested as minimum depths, everything from 4 feet to possibly as much as 10 feet. Two meters (six feet, seven inches) has been much discussed as a likely number for the shallow end.

SOME POOLS already sit idle because officials fear the possibility of

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## North tips Hawks, gets into playoffs

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

North Farmington's 57-56 upset of Farmington Hills Harrison in the last league game Tuesday night revived memories of the 1988 basketball season.

That was the year North made a late-season run and that culminated with the Raiders winning the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

"Our team reminds me a lot of that team," said senior Chris White, who scored a game-high 41 points Tuesday. He was a freshman on the JV team three years ago. "They weren't blessed with a lot of talent, but they kept working hard and ended up the better team."

The de ja vu experience has North hoping for a repeat of history.

As was the case in '88, the Raiders had to win their last game — also a makeup date — to qualify for the playoffs. Despite being a low seed, North won three straight in the tournament.

THE RAIDERS, facing another must-win situation, finished 5-7 in the league, qualified as the lowest of eight seeded teams and knocked Walled Lake Western out of the tournament field. North also claimed the title of city champions, having won the round-robin competition.

That was good news. The bad news is North must play at first-place Plymouth South in the first round Friday. The Raiders defeated the Raiders 84-63 Saturday. "The kids stayed for it, that was one of their goals," North coach Mike Negoshian said. "Now you go and play them. There's no question they're the class of the league. We'll show up."

"It's going to be tough playing Salem," White said, "but it's going to be fun trying. We could have a hot night, and they could have an off night."

A hot night is what the Raiders, 7-10 overall, had Tuesday. They controlled the tempo and shot just under 50 percent (19-40) in the last three quarters. North was 21 of 51 for 41 percent overall, Harrison 21 of 54 for 39 percent.

The Hawks, who are the No. 4 seed in the tournament and will play host to Northville, are 9-3 when held to less than 60 points. Harrison finished 7-4 in the WLA and is 12-5 overall.

"WE KNEW we had to shoot the ball extremely well and we did," Negoshian said. "When that happens, you look like a genius."

"Fifteen years ago when I was a young man I probably would have tried to take credit for that, but that was the kids. They knew we had to live with the jump shot and, to their credit, they made some real good decisions."

White fueled a third-quarter surge, scoring 13 points as the Raiders doubled their first-half output and outscored Harrison 22-15. North led 44-38 entering the fourth period.

### basketball

Jon Sturtz, Mark Temple and Brian Lee combined to score the last six points of the first half and pull the Raiders within one at halftime, 23-22.

White and Dean Pennala picked it up in the third quarter, hitting back-to-back triples and giving North a lead (28-23) it never lost. White hit three treys and was four of four in free-throw shooting in that quarter.

"I think I'm a second-half player," White said. "I didn't get warmed up until the third quarter. I hope that isn't the case, but the last three or four games that's what I've been doing."

Pennala scored all 12 of his points in the second half, including seven in the third quarter. His two driving layups in the last minute gave the Raiders their 44-38 lead.

"THAT WAS the best game he's played all year, and it couldn't have come at a better time," Negoshian said. "Pennala in the second half was probably the difference."

Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, "Sturtz added 10 points and Bill Chwalik eight for the Raiders. Junior center Paul Gilydis, despite not playing most of the first quarter and being ill, scored 17 points to lead Harrison. Andy Smith had 14 points and Andy Fitzpatrick nine."

"Without controlling the tempo, we could have won the game if we had gotten it inside," Teachman said. "I didn't want to use Gilydis. He was sick since Saturday with bronchitis, but he stepped up and had a pretty good game."

The Raiders took their biggest lead at 51-40 on Chwalik's putback early in the fourth, but Harrison rallied to make the final score close.

Gilydis scored 10 points in the last quarter, and Smith and Roy Granger made threes to get the Hawks within 57-54. The Raiders missed a one-and-one with 25 seconds left, and Gilydis made it 57-56 with 37 on the clock.

ON THE inbound play, Harrison forced a turnover from Sturtz, but Granger missed an attempt at three and Fitzpatrick missed on the rebound as time ran out.

"In the second quarter, we stopped doing what is good for us for some reason, and then we tried to win the game at the end," Teachman said.

"We stopped passing the ball and stood with it. Then we tried to throw the 10-foot pass. We were going to get it all back at once instead of in bits and pieces."

"We felt we had to keep it a low-scoring game," Negoshian said. "They've got a lot of good athletes, and they get up and down the floor real well. We had to make sure it didn't get out of hand."

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