

N'wood shift affects area schools

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

A benefit to one and all?
Hardly. Not like before, anyway. Prior to the 1987 collegiate sports season, Northwest Institute decided to drop out of the conference. It had helped conceive and remain affiliated with the national association. It had always been part of.

Now, Northwest is reversing itself. The winners in the Midland-based college's decision are the other Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference members. It will rejoin starting in 1992-93. Oakland University is among the nine current GLIAC schools.

Others are Wayne State, Saginaw Valley State, Hillsdale, Michigan Tech, Grand Valley State, Lake Superior State, Northern Michigan and Ferris State.

The losers? The NAIA's District 23, to which Northwest has been a part of for 20 years. Among the district members are Madonna University and St. Mary's College. Other current members include Siena Heights, Aquinas College, Spring Arbor, Grand Rapids Baptist, Michigan-Dearborn and Concordia.

NORTHWOOD APPLIED for readmission into the GLIAC after the conference's expansion committee contacted school administrators in March, 1990. Seven months later, Northwest submitted its formal application.

Two weeks ago, the last remaining hurdle for re-entry was cleared when the GLIAC's president's committee unanimously approved the expansion. With 10 members (all within Michigan), the conference is at its all-time high.

college sports

Unlike Northwest's decision between the NAIA and the GLIAC four years ago, this choice was easier. "We looked around to see what was available to us," said Northwest athletic director Dave Coffey, "and the smart decision for us was to get back into the conference we were one of the founders of in 1972."

If Northwest wanted to continue to compete in football, it was, indeed, the only option available. Last year, the GLIAC combined with the Heartland Collegiate Conference to form the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference.

THE 11-TEAM football-only MIFC — six from the GLIAC, five from the Heartland (four located in Indiana, one in Ohio) — proved a tough nut to crack. It left Northwest, the only remaining NAIA-associated football team left in District 23, with no one to play.

"The way that football conference was constructed, with 11 teams, it left everyone in it with just one (non-conference) game," said Coffey.

"We were on the outs." Last fall, the Northwestern — playing as an independent — played games at Westminster, Pa.; at Findlay, Ohio; and at Tiffin, Ohio. They also hosted St. Ambrose, Iowa; Dayton, Ohio; St. Francis, Ill.; and NCAA Division III teams Alma and Adrian.

The cost of travel was extensive for an NAIA team. Northwest has applied for admission into the MIFC; the conference's council of athletic directors has unanimously approved.

ALL THAT'S needed is the MIFC's presidents' approval and Northwest will join the league in 1993 (scheduling problems have made earlier admission impossible). Also awaiting the president's OK is the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill.

The addition shouldn't affect the MIFC's current size, however, because there exists a strong possibility that two current members will be forced to leave by NCAA decree.

The NCAA passed legislation last January creating a new football-only division — I-AA. It is intended for all schools with NCAA I programs in all sports but football, in which they play Division II. Valparaiso and Butler fit the description; as Coffey noted, "The handwriting's on the wall. It appears they will be out of the MIFC."

But, Coffey insisted, MIFC football wasn't the only reason Northwest rejoined the GLIAC; nor does the fate of Valparaiso and Butler play a role. "We were admitted to the GLIAC regardless of what happens to them," he said.

"I THINK the move will benefit all our sports, equally."

Coffey was also careful to note that Northwest isn't necessarily severing its ties with the NAIA completely, although the school will be required by GLIAC law to compete in NCAA II in any sports in which the conference has an automatic national tournament berth.

A decision whether Northwest will go strictly NCAA II or maintain

dual-membership may not be made until next year.

Meanwhile, the NAIA's District 23 is scrambling to fill its dwindling ranks. Nazareth College was expected to join as a full member, but that changed abruptly when the school announced it was closing next year.

Northwood will continue as a district member through the 1991-92 season; when it leaves, it takes with it one of the best small-college volleyball programs in the state.

AT MADONNA, Jerry Abraham was building a solid challenger to Northwest's supremacy (five-straight titles); now his Lady Crusaders will get just one more chance to unsettle the champions.

"It will definitely weaken our district," said Abraham. "They're an excellent team."

The reaction is the same in most sports, although at St. Mary's, assistant basketball coach Kevin Donahue thought the loss wouldn't have a serious impact.

"I don't think so at all," he said. "They're a good team, a quality team. But we've added Michigan-Dearborn (in men's basketball) this year, and Tri-State is joining our district in '92-93."

Tri-State, located in Angola, Ind., is the first non-Michigan team to enter District 23. Donahue said of the decision: "Geographically, it made sense. They're closer to us (than schools in Indiana's NAIA District 21)."

"I think our district is getting stronger and stronger. We're getting better and better players."

But the NAIA 23 still has to beware of the behemoth lurking in its neighborhood — the GLIAC and its football partner, the MIFC.

sports shorts

• SOCCER CHAMPS

The Farmington Bandits repeated as city champions in the boys under-12 division with a 3-0 record.

Team members are Abe Aon, Kenny Barton, Brad Geratowski, Chris Hart, Pete Jakobs, John Lowry, Jon Marchel, Ian McNeil, Paul Mitchell, Zack Papper, Dave Petrovich, Randy Sage, Nick Sosnowski, Dave Twardy and Dan Gabriel. The Bandits are coached by Craig Barton and Abe Twardy.

• The Farmington Cougars under-14 boys soccer team finished second in Division I with a 3-1 record. The Cougars scored 19 goals and allowed eight.

Team members are Mike Buchanan, Rob Burton, Steve Faro, Jeff Gandolfo, Phil Giovannini, Ben Goebel, Nick Hamblin, Mike Lane, Jim Madany, Brian McCluskey, Scott McKay, Chris McQuinn, Neal Mower, Keith Sudheimer, Matt Trunk, Brian Peterson, Jamie White and Duane Wilder. The Cougars are coached by Tom Faro and Jim Trunk.

• GOLF NEWS

Four Farmington golfers will be among the 150 competing in the 76th Annual AAA Michigan Open June 30 to July 3 at Grand Traverse Resort.

James Cole of San Marino Golf Club, professional golfers Dennis Kevin Burns and Constant DeMatia and amateur Dave Brochu will join Michigan's other top professionals to compete for \$80,000 in prize money. The winner will earn more than \$11,000.

• Jason Buha and Joseph Sullivan of Farmington Hills will compete with 349 other boys June 24-29 in the 74th Western Junior Championship at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Club.

The international field, ages 16-19 with handicaps of three or less, will play qualifying rounds June 25 and 26. The low 64 qualifiers will advance into match play competition.

• SAUM SCHOLAR/ATHLETE

Jeremy Saum, a former North Farmington High School athlete, recently won the \$10,000 Erwin "Red" Klein Memorial Scholarship in Westchester, N.Y.

Saum, who moved to Pelham, N.Y., two years ago with his parents, Rev. William F. and Elaine Saum, was a member of the North Farmington junior varsity soccer and basketball teams and played soccer and baseball in the North Farmington/West Bloomfield summer leagues in 1988 and 1989.

The Erwin "Red" Klein Memorial Scholarship is given to the top scholar athlete in Westchester County by Consolidated Edition of Westchester County.

Saum, who plans to attend Harvard, was co-captain of the soccer, basketball and baseball teams at Pelham High School. He was No. 1 academically in his graduating class.

• SOCCER TRYOUTS

The Farmington Soccer Club is accepting registrations for the fall season. Walk-in registration will be Saturdays, June 29, July 6 and July 13, at the Visitor Center at Heritage Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First-time registrants should bring a birth certificate and social security number. Registrations can also be completed by mail. Forms are available at the Farmington YMCA and Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Office.

The fee is \$25 and includes a uniform. Boys and girls with birth dates of Aug. 1, 1973 to July 31, 1983 are eligible. For information call the Farmington Soccer Club at 473-0182 or Jan Rocco at 553-8691.

• Livonia Youth Soccer Club tryouts for Little Caesars Premier under-12 girls (born between Aug. 1, 1979 and July 31, 1980) will be 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, at Bicentennial Park, Field No. 3. Call Mario Galindo (464-3957) or Jim Kearney (421-5233).

• Tryouts for the Vardar Soccer Club, a boys select team, will be 6 p.m. Monday, June 24, and 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, at Whitman Field on West Chicago between Farmington and Merriman roads. Boys born between Aug. 1, 1980 and July 31, 1981 are eligible. For information call Lynn Sawicki at 421-0187.

• Livonia Youth Soccer Club tryouts for a Little Caesars under-14 girls teams (born between Aug. 1, 1977 and July 31, 1978) will be 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, June 24 and 25, at Bicentennial Park, Field No. 7. Call 464-6277 for information.

Price is right for ex-Churchill coach

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Fred Price has closed a chapter in his athletic career in favor of another.

The longtime head boys basketball and track coach at Livonia Churchill High is stepping down. He will devote a majority of his time toward coordinating the Livonia Public Schools' recently revamped physical education and health curriculum.

Price informed Churchill principal Rod Hosman of his decision earlier this week. He also indicated that he would not seek the athletic director's job, recently vacated by the retiring Larry Joiner.

"I've always been involved in some part of coaching," Price said. "But since I got involved with the coordinating of physical education and health, the past year became a full year for me."

"What I want to do now is do the best job I can for the Livonia Public Schools, and that's why I'm going to devote all my energies in that direction. So far I have enjoyed that challenge."

Price will continue to teach a pair of classes at Churchill, while serving

in his recently created role as P.E. and Health Coordinator for the district (working out of Perrinville School).

"LPS (Livonia Public Schools) put a large sum of money into physical education and I'd like to see it fulfilled and realize its potential," Price said. "We have a long way to go in that area, but I see a lot of enthusiasm."

The district spent over \$1 million to improve fitness and health awareness on the elementary and high school levels. A middle school sports team program was also reinstated after a 10-year absence.

A native of Logansport, Ind., Price came to Livonia in 1956 where he taught and coached at Emerson Junior High before moving over to the brand new Churchill High facility in 1969.

During his coaching career, Price was one of Observerland's most successful track coaches, leading the Chargers to 13 straight Western Six League titles (in 14 years).

After Churchill joined the 12-school, two-divisional Western Lakes Activities Association, Price's track teams captured three titles, includ-

ing the first year the WLAA was in existence.

THE CHARGERS also won three regionals and eight Observerland Relays crowns under Price.

In basketball, Price served as both a JV and varsity coach for Churchill. He was the head varsity coach for three seasons (during the late '70s and early '80s), returning to the bench for another stint during the 1987-88 season.

Ironically, Price's most successful year in basketball occurred last season when the Chargers captured their first Class A district championship since 1977, only the third in the school's history.

Churchill was eliminated in the regionals by Dearborn, finishing with an overall record of 15-9.

"Both sports will be tough to miss," Price said. "What I'll miss the most is helping kids improve their skills. I'll miss the association with the athletes and the work that goes into preparing for an athletic contest."

"Sure, it will be different in the winter and spring for me. The fall I've always had open, but I'll be just

as busy, and be able to do some things that I didn't have the time to do before. I'll be bringing some sanity back into my life."

Price will also be missed by the Observer sports department.

During the past two decades he has compiled the area's top boys track listings, which ran weekly during the spring.



HERALD SASH & DOOR CO

The Place to Buy Windows

Winter chill can steal the comfort right out of your home. But Hurd windows help you keep winter chill (and summer heat) outside, where they belong.

Hurd Windows are built tight with solid wood interior, triple-weatherstripped, then, if desired, clad with rugged extruded aluminum, for years of maintenance free beauty.

Most important, Hurd Windows with Heat Mirror™ actually insulate your home as well as a comparable thickness of fiberglass, so your home stays more comfortable year-round. It will cost you less to heat in the winter and less to cool in the summer.

No other leading window is built with more care than Hurd. And no other leading window gives you more performance, comfort or value. Don't take our word... Compare and you'll find Hurd tops them all. Herald Sash and Door is the largest stocking dealer in Michigan.

EXTRA \$100.00 OFF
on presentation of this ad on the purchase of six or more windows.
FREE DELIVERY in tri-county area.

One coupon per customer.

HERALD SASH & DOOR
20830 Coolidge Highway
Oak Park, Michigan 48237

(313) 398-4560



The ultimate wood window™

Mon-Fri 8:00-5:30, Sat 8:00-3:00
(Two doors North of 8 Mile)

*Heat Mirror is a trademark of Southwall Technologies



Hurd beats the other leading windows all ways. Here's Why...



- Extruded built-in clad sash and frame for maintenance free finish
- Heat Mirror™ film insulates twice as well as ordinary double pane
- Solid pine interior to paint or stain
- Double pane with divided sashes and Heat Mirror™ insulate twice as well as ordinary double pane

Cost 25% Less Than Other Top Brands

We also carry:

- Steel door systems by FIVE STAR
- Velux Skylights
- Wascos Skylights
- Pre-hung doors
- Kitchen Cabinets
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Hardware
- Major Appliances
- Light fixtures & supplies

To meet all of your building needs

Results.

Plant your advertising message in the Observer & Eccentric classified columns and reap the rewards.



Be EnergyWise

"I NEEDED HELP."

My friends were doing crack. And I didn't want to be left out. So I tried it. Before long, I was stealing just so I could buy drugs. But I didn't stop there. I got kicked out of school and even spent time in jail. I was destroying my mother and father, not to mention my little brother. Because my parents called STRAIGHT, I learned to cope with peer pressure and to say no. Now we're a close family again.

If someone you love has a problem or if you need more information about drug abuse, call

(313) 453-2610

STRAIGHT