

Sports

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(F1B)

Mercy cagers prevail

Farmington Hills Mercy began the 1991 girls basketball season with a victory Tuesday, but the public school teams were not so fortunate in their season debuts.

The Marlins scored an impressive victory over Walled Lake Central, a veteran team expected to contend for the title in the competitive Western Lakes Activities Association, 52-48.

In other games: visiting North Farmington let a lead slip away and lost to West Bloomfield 52-44 in overtime, host Farmington Hills Harrison was beaten by Brighton 60-53 and cold shooting resulted in Farmington losing 49-22 to Warren Lincoln in the first round of the Troy Athens tournament.

MERCY 52, W.L. CENTRAL 48: As expected to be the case this year, the senior duo of center Laure DeMatia and guard Kathleen Berrigan paced the Marlins with 16 and 14 points, respectively.

DeMatia and Berrigan, who also had seven assists, are returning starters from a team that was 17-6 and won a district championship.

The Marlins led 29-20 at halftime and extended their advantage to 45-31 after three quarters.

Central was 10 points better in the final period when it sank nine of 14 free throws but never held the lead. Senior Jenny Czeach scored 14 points to lead the Vikings.

W. BLOOMFIELD 52, NORTH 44: The Raiders were on the verge of a big win over a program, which has been one of the best in the suburbs in recent years, leading 42-36 with a

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Andy Fitzpatrick assumes the quarterback duties for the Harrison football team, having studied under former stars Mill Coleman and Plamen Magdevski.

Hawks figure on making '91 banner year

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

One of the greatest ongoing success stories in Michigan high school athletics centers around the Farmington Hills Harrison football team.

The Hawks are 176-42-1 under veteran coach John Herrington and have won four state championships. Harrison has been a playoff semifinalist the last five years, reaching the final game three times (1987-89) and winning a pair of titles.

And the early line on the 1991 team is the Hawks should be pretty good, if not outstanding, once again. Harrison has another talented senior class, which includes returning starters Jason Gietzner, Mike Pesci, Roy Granger, Greg Piscopink and Dan Hight, and will begin the season with an all-senior lineup. All but Hight were two-way starters last year, and Granger and Piscopink were regulars on the '89 Class B championship team.

But the most ambitious schedule in school history awaits the Hawks, who open Saturday, Sept. 7, against defending Class A champ Birmingham Brother Rice in the Silverdome and close the regular season at home Saturday, Nov. 2, against Toledo Central Catholic.

"THIS TEAM has the capability of getting into the Class BB playoffs, but our schedule is the toughest we've ever had," Herrington said. "The problem could be qualifying. 'We wanted to play somebody good and we got it. The second game is with Plymouth Salem, and they happen to have 41 lettermen back.'"

1991 HARRISON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER: Saturday, Sept. 7, Birmingham Brother Rice, 7 p.m. at the Silverdome; Saturday, Sept. 14, Plymouth Salem, 1 p.m. at home; Friday, Sept. 20, at Walled Lake Western, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 27, at Plymouth Canton, 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER: Saturday, Oct. 5, Livonia Church, 1 p.m. at home; Friday, Oct. 11, at Northville, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 19, Livonia Franklin, 1 p.m. at home; Oct. 26, W.L.A.A. playoff.

NOVEMBER: Saturday, Nov. 2, Toledo Central Catholic, 1 p.m. at home.

1990 REVIEW

Harrison lost its first game to Detroit St. Martin DePorres but then won 10 straight, including a 29-0 rout of Westland John Glenn for the Western Lakes Activities Association championship and playoff victory over Mount Clemens Clintondale (27-19) and Auburn Hills Avondale (48-16).

Oxford, the eventual Class BB runner-up to Dowagiac, stopped the Hawks in the state semifinals at Jackson, 48-38. Harrison finished 10-2.

The Hawks, the only school to win the Western Division title in the W.L.A.A. during its nine-year existence, have won three straight league championships and seven overall.

Gietzner returns at tackle on offense and Pesci at fullback, while Granger and Piscopink will play new positions.

Granger (5-8, 160) moves from swingback to tailback in place of 1,500-yard rusher Gary Devine. Granger was next with 541 yards and five touchdowns on 58 carries, and he had his biggest day in the state semifinals with 184 yards and two TDs in a 48-38 loss to Oxford.

"It's a game-breaking type of tailback," Herrington said. "He has

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Mill 'The Thrill' making pitch for MSU's QB job

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Like rockets armed with radar-guided warheads, a pair of "smart bomb" athletes are homing in on the starting quarterback position at Michigan State — and they originate from opposite directions.

Mind you, these two constitute just half the Spartan arsenal. Four players are competing for the starting role, each bolstered by a strong spring performance and different abilities that they believe should make them MSU's first-strike weapon.

Publications both national and local examine the quarterback predicament — four guys trying to fill the graduated shoes of Dan Enos, with no favorite emerging from spring drills — and they draw what the Spartan players and coaches believe is the wrong conclusion.

That MSU has a serious problem at the position. "I'm not worried about it at all," said starting junior guard Toby Heaton. "I think our quarterback situation will be really good, whoever's in there."

football

coach Ed Zaunbrecher agreed. "It's not a choice of who's not doing well," he said. "They're all doing well. It's just a matter of who will help us win. 'There's not a bad choice available.'"

So far, people outside the organization have tabbed UCLA transfer Bret Johnson as the favorite because he has the most playing experience. A redshirt junior, Johnson started 11 games for the Bruins in 1989, passing for nearly 1,000 yards and 12 touchdowns.

But there are a few others who don't plan on surrendering easily. Mill Coleman, the Farmington Hills Harrison phenom who will be a redshirt freshman, and John Gieselman, a redshirt junior from Rochester who graduated from Birmingham Brother Rice, are both candidates. So is Waterford Kettering grad Jim Miller, a sophomore.

COLEMAN and Gieselman enter the fray from opposite directions. Coleman was the highly recruited

prep player of the year after guiding Harrison to consecutive state titles, establishing state records for career passing yardage and TDs.

Gieselman went unrecruited by major schools, even though he quarterbacked Rice to the state semifinals in '87. Indeed, the best he could manage was honorable mention all-Eccentric as a senior.

But as a walk-on at MSU, Gieselman drew notice when he was named the outstanding offensive player of the Green and White game in the spring of '89. That performance also earned him a scholarship.

There are other factors separating the two. Gieselman is 6-foot-2; he did get some game experience for MSU in '89. And, as Zaunbrecher noted, "He probably has more experience with this system than anyone else."

Coleman, on the other hand, lacks varsity experience and size — he stands 5-9. But he does have something that can't be coached: "If anything, it's my escape ability," was Coleman's self-description. "I can innovate."

WHAT BOTH do possess are strong arms and intellect. Said Zaun-

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SPARTAN QUARTERBACK



GUY WARREN/staff photographer

Quarterback contenders at MSU: Mill Coleman (left), from Farmington Hills; John Gieselman (center), from Rochester and Brother

Rice; and Jim Miller (right), from Waterford Kettering.

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