

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1992

SPORTS

B

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gesund sets GVSU record

Senior wide receiver Todd Gesund (North Farmington) hauled in five passes for 74 yards as his Grand Valley State football team romped past Valparaiso 45-14 in its season finale.

The Lakers finished 8-3 and tied for first place in the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference.

Gesund finished with a team-record 49 catches, breaking the record held jointly by Bill Luckstedt (1983) and Bob Mitchell (1991). Gesund moved into fifth place on the all-time receivers list at GVSU with 85 catches. He gained 1,297 yards and scored eight touchdowns in his career.

Coleman named grid MVP

Matt Coleman did it all for Michigan State's football team this year.

Coleman, a redshirt sophomore from Farmington Hills (Harrison), was named the team's most valuable player after leading them in pass receptions with 37, three for touchdowns.

He also played two games at quarterback, returned punts and kickoffs and scored two TDs while rushing for 62 yards.

But his accomplishments don't end there. Coleman was named to the Big Ten all-academic team. He carries a 3.43 grade-point average with a major in general business administration.

Fitzpatrick top rookie

Andy Fitzpatrick, former Harrison High quarterback, was named Rookie of the Year in the Patriot League after his freshman season at Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

Fitzpatrick, who is the first Holy Cross player to win the award, was honored as Freshman of the Week four times during the season.

Fitzpatrick made steady improvement, finishing the year 87-of-196 passing for 972 yards and four touchdowns. Seven of his nine interceptions occurred in the first five games. He also rushed for 133 yards and two TDs.

Falcons test new style of hoop play

Farmington High has a lot of new faces on its boys basketball team and a new, up-tempo approach, too.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



Denny Mikel adapted his coaching tactics to fit the talent on his Farmington High boys basketball team and had to do some adjusting in the process, too.

"We have real good quickness, so we're going to put some pressure on people and play an up-tempo game when we have the ball," said Mikel, who begins his second year with the Falcons.

"It's new to me because I've always been more deliberate — set it up, run this and run that. Sometimes I have to bite my lip and believe I'll get used to it."

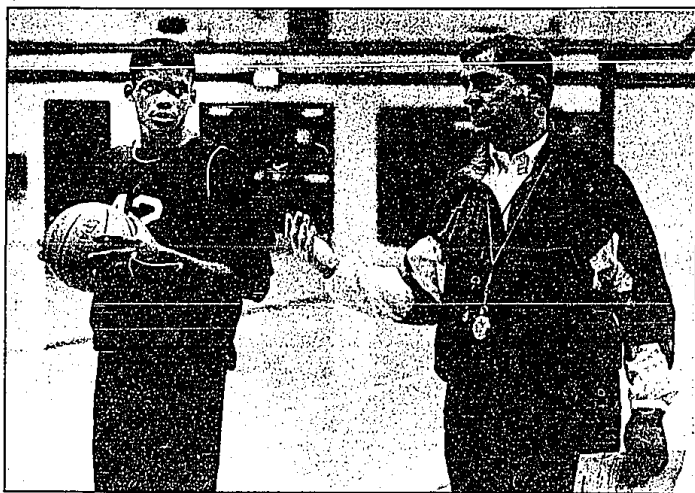
Farmington returns four seniors, but only one starter, from its last team, which finished 1-10 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 3-18 overall.

The Falcons have added nine varsity newcomers, including three transfer players and five who played on the JV squad.

"The kids like to play that (faster) style, and we have the kids to play it," said Mikel, adding a lack of size will be Farmington's weakness. "If we were to play deliberately against big teams, we'd be in trouble. We're going to try to neutralize the other team's size with our quickness."

The lone returning starter is 6-foot-1 swingman Brian Farr, who averaged six points per game.

The Falcons also bring back 6-1 swingman Matt April, 6-3 forward John Rudolph and 6-0 guard Dave Lehner. April and Rudolph are likely starters this year.



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Practice pointers: Junior Stan Lewis listens while Farmington coach Denny Mikel offers instruction to his basketball team.

"(Farr is) certainly going to be the leader as far as experience goes," Mikel said. "Brian is not a real vocal person, but he leads by example. He works hard and we expect the younger players to pick up on it."

Kris Willanen, a 6-foot senior guard, played basketball in ninth and 10th grades, but a soccer injury prevented him from trying to make the varsity last year.

"His inexperience is going to hurt him a little bit, but he's a good

enough athlete that he'll make some contributions along the way," Mikel said.

The Falcons have three transfers in 6-3 junior forward Stan Lewis from New York, 6-1 junior guard Jason Jackson (Ohio) and 6-4 sophomore center Ken Williams (New York).

"All three are certainly welcome additions to the program and are going to make us a more competitive team this year," Mikel said. Lewis will play most of the time

outside but can move inside if needed. Jackson is a point guard and one of Farmington's best defenders. Williams is a promising young prospect, according to Mikel.

"Once (Lewis) gets comfortable with the system, I'm confident Stan is going to have a good season. (Jackson) has good quickness and handles the ball well. (Williams) has the potential to be a good high school basketball player."

See FALCONS, 4B

Glieberman plan works in CFL

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

He's a builder. It's what he does. He's built more than 5,000 homes, 1,200 condominiums, several businesses and an impressive collection of antique Mercedes Benz automobiles.

Now, at age 53, Bernie Gliberman is in the process of rebuilding one professional football franchise, laying the ground work for another and, at the same time, preserving and rejuvenating a 116-year-old league.

Glieberman, who still lives in West Bloomfield, bought the moribund Ottawa Rough Riders in October of 1991 and, with the help of his son and team president Lonie, built it into one of the healthiest franchises in the Canadian Football League.

"The Gliebermans have brought stability and structure to the entire organization," said Saul DeMeo, who was director of communications for the Rough Riders before and after the Gliebermans. "He has been successful in implementing a (Rough Riders) Hall of Fame, which has been trying to build for years. Season ticket sales were up, attendance went up by an average of 1,000 per game, he's put money into promotion and marketing and merchandising. He's turned



Bernie Gliberman

everything around."

Including the team's performance on the field. The Rough Riders finished with a 9-9 record, 7-2 at home, their best since 1983.

"Nobody wanted to buy this team," said Jo-Anne Polak, the team's general manager for three years prior to the sale. "The league was running the show and there were so many problems I couldn't even begin to tell you. But the day Bernie walked in, those problems were alleviated."

Glieberman's blue print for success was the same for a football team as it was for houses and condos: build a strong foundation

first, use the best materials available, don't take any short cuts and build it to last.

"All I did was buy the team and hire the best people," Gliberman said. "The only guts I had was the guts to pay the kind of money it takes to hire the best people."

Building a future

It had more to do with vision than guts. Somehow he looked at a dying franchise that was \$800,000 over its salary cap and \$1 million in debt playing in a dying league and saw a winner.

"Bernie Gliberman is part of a major transformation taking place in the CFL," said league commissioner Larry Smith. "Bernie Gliberman (Toronto Argonauts owner) Bruce McNall and (Calgary Stampeders owner) Larry Rykman are leading an emergence of a more progressive management style in our league."

At the center of this new management style is the belief that the eight-team CFL needs to grow to survive.

"We can exist as an eight-team league," Smith said. "But do we want to exist in a state where we are chasing our tails all the time?"

To grow means that the CFL needs to build new markets. And See GLIEBERMAN, 2B

North coach enters U.S. Open

Jon Teal's college career has ended but he isn't finished with competitive swimming.

The first-year North Farmington boys swim coach will compete this weekend at the U.S. Open Swim Championships in Orlando, Fla.

"If there is a word to summarize why I'm still competing after my college career at Oakland University, I'd have to say it is determination," Teal said.

"It was fortunate to have some good swimmers in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle events in college, but I still have the desire to swim faster."

The U.S. Open attracts class swimmers from around the world. Teal, a 1988 graduate of Redford Catholic Central, competed last year in Minneapolis along with

such stars as Matt Biondi, Pablo Morales and Mike Barrowman.

He placed 11th in his best event, the 100-meter freestyle. Some of those who were ahead of him have left the sport, so Teal believes his chances are improved this year.

Teal said the 100 freestyle should be his best event, and a time around 50 seconds would probably "catch someone's attention."

Former CC and OU teammate Jim Surowiec encouraged Teal to stay with the sport after his college eligibility was used up. Surowiec said Teal has gotten faster and stronger each year.

"I told him once he hangs up his suit it's over," Surowiec said. "If you don't try, you'll have to deal with the 'What if?' the rest

of your life, so go for it."

Teal said he once read about a former Olympic swimmer who said "Don't be afraid to win; don't be afraid to lose."

"I'm carrying that to the starting blocks each race. It keeps me calm but confident."

While at OU, Teal had best-year times of 20.60, 44.60 and 1:39.32 in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyles.

He holds the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference record in the 100 (45.90) and was part of OU national record-setting relay in the 400 medley (3:19.30) and 200 freestyle (1:21.02).

Teal takes over at North for Susie Gendron. His assistant is Danny Knipper, a 1990 graduate of North and former All-Observer swimmer who owns the school record in the breaststroke.

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