

SPORTS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1994

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Findlay still U.S. champ

Steven Findlay of Farmington defended his national championship in roller skating earlier this month in Lincoln, Neb. Findlay, the reigning world champ in world-class men's figures, was No. 1 on the cards of all five judges at the U.S. Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating Championships.

"He skated amazingly well," coach Bud Patton said. "He was slick the whole time and managed to reach down, skate well and pull it out. The judges said they thought he was good last year but was considerably improved."

The 23-year-old Findlay will try to repeat as world champion Oct. 9-16 in Salsomaggiore, Italy. He won his first world title last year in France. Patton is confident Findlay can win again.

Findlay's closest competitor is another U.S. skater whom he has beaten twice this year. An Italian will be among the top challengers, also.

"We're certainly expecting him to defend his title, and I think he will," Patton said. "I just know him and how well he's been skating, and he's worked really hard for it. That's why I'm so confident."

College football family

The Pawlowski family of Farmington Hills sent two boys to prestigious universities with the dual purpose of playing college football.

Todd Pawlowski had his athletic career at Northwestern cut short by a knee injury while younger brother Brad hopes to crack the starting lineup this fall at Princeton.

Both are graduates of North Farmington High School — Todd in 1991 and Brad in '92 — where each played football, basketball and track. Both are studying mechanical engineering.

Todd was switched to the offensive line when a new coaching staff took over last year. He earned a starting position as a 6-foot-5, 285-pound guard but suffered torn knee ligaments in a game with Boston College.

After two operations and attempts to rehabilitate the knee, his doctors recommended Todd give up football. He retained his scholarship and will graduate on time next spring.

"This is the first August he hasn't been working out with a team since he was 8 years old," his father, Doug Pawlowski, said.

The 6-foot-6, 295-pound Brad began his junior year at Princeton and hopes to win a starting job at offensive tackle after earning a letter last fall. Princeton plays its first game Sept. 17 at Cornell.

Raiders win golf tourney

North Farmington won its second golf tournament in the same week Wednesday when it finished first in the 12-team Farmington Invitational at Kensington Golf Course.

The Raiders shot 357, West Bloomfield 404 and Detroit Country Day 410. North also won the city tournament on Monday.

Lake Orion golfer Scott Erkin was the medalist with a 75 total, and Derek Nelson of Farmington High was the runner-up, also at 75.

North senior Drew Sopha was third overall (75), North junior Andrew Wantuck fourth (76), Farmington Harrison junior Chris Gowan fifth (77) and North senior Scott Steinaul eighth (78).

North's championship team effort included sophomores Ian Woodhouse's 78 and junior Ron Vedder's 80.

Varsity overcomes alumni

Scott Blanchard nearly got what he wanted. But his chance to teach the reigning king of Madonna University sports — Jerry Abraham, who coached both the volleyball and softball teams to outstanding finishes at their respective NAIA national tournaments — a lesson slipped away.

Blanchard is Abraham's assistant volleyball coach, but Thursday he drew a different assignment: Blanchard coached the Madonna alumni against the Abraham-coached varsity in the annual season-opening scrimmage.

Only this was not the normal Geritol-slurpers against the creme-de-la-creme kind of match. This alumni team included NAIA All-Americans and all-stars like Mike Pitt, Tom Smith, Karl Vandusen, Glenn Opatka, Malissa Marx, Kristy McFadden and Jenny Sladewski.

"We couldn't finish it in three," said Blanchard. Unfortunately, the alumni didn't, and it proved costly. The varsity prevailed in five games, 12-15, 8-15, 15-13, 15-8, 15-12.

What made it hard for Blanchard to swallow was that the alumni were up 12-5 in the third game. But it was all in fun; now the season starts in earnest.

The Lady Crusaders, ranked fourth in the NAIA pre-season coaches' poll, travel to the Mesa State (Grand Junction, Colo.) College Tournament this Friday and Saturday.

Observerland swim notes

The Claremontville Swim Club of Livonia, sanctioned by U.S. Swimming, offers a competitive program for 4-year-olds through high school age at Claremontville High School.

The swim season begins after Labor Day. For more information, call Mary Ellen Matthei at (510) 778-0028.

St. Radford Catholic Center is seeking a varsity swim coach for the upcoming season.

Those interested should call Bob Benetto, athletic director, at (512-894-3789).

Hawks try to mold another winner

After winning a sixth state championship last year, Farmington Hills Harrison is expected to have another fine football team.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



Farmington Hills Harrison is back on familiar ground as the 1994 football season approaches.

The Hawks are on everyone's list of top teams once again and getting loads of preseason recognition after two low-key years.

Harrison is ranked No. 20 in the country — the highest Michigan team — by the USA Today and will no doubt be favored to repeat as Class A champion.

"Coming off last year with kind of a surprise performance and a lot of players back, we expected to be rated pretty high," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

"If you have good players, you can accept the heat. Sometimes it's fun to try and sneak up on people, but we haven't been able to do that for a lot of years."

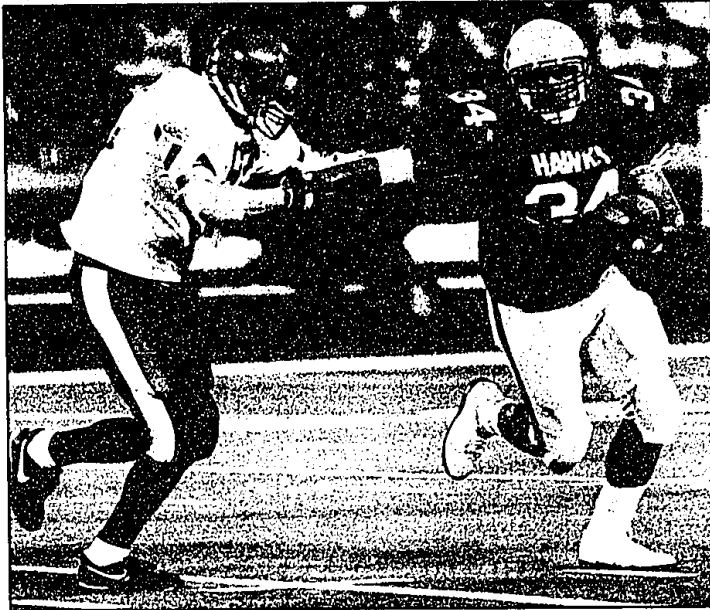
The Hawks, who were 11-2 and upset Westland John Glenn to win the Western Lakes Activities Association title for the ninth time, do have some good players.

Harrison is strongest at the offensive skill positions with the return of seniors Nick Williams and Kevin Bryant — both Division I prospects — and junior Jason Granger. All were first-team All-WLAA players.

The outlook would have been even brighter if Harrison had a healthy Scott Gurka. The senior running back was granted an extra semester after suffering a knee injury last year, but he injured the other knee five weeks ago in a summer passing league.

"He's starting to practice again next week and could end up being a starting defensive end," Herrington said. "We have depth at (tailback), but we do need him at outside linebacker. His speed on defense would be a great asset."

Besides lacking size and depth, the Hawks need to get some other things straightened out if they're going to be the team people think, Herrington



DANIEL LEVITT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

College prospect: Nick Williams stiff-arms a Midland tackler in the state championship game last year. Division I schools are recruiting him.

said. "Our double sessions didn't come up to our expectations," he said. "We had players missing practices and being late, and that normally doesn't happen in our football program."

"We feel the team has to get on the same page and become cohesive, and we haven't achieved that yet."

Harrison has always been a balanced team offensively, but the running game looks more potent now with Williams and Granger.

Williams (6-2, 245) was the star of the playoffs when he played tailback and had half of his 550 rushing yards

and 10 touchdowns. But he will start the year at fullback again and also play inside linebacker.

"We expect Nick to be a force on offense," Herrington said. "He's going to have to play more two ways, so we'll have to find a place to rest him. He's being recruited by a lot of schools, and they're anxious to see how he does this year."

Granger (5-8, 148) is the fastest player Harrison has ever had after running a 4.3 in the 40-yard dash. He was second in rushing with 815 yards and six TDs.

"He has outstanding moves and

he's stronger this year, he's all the way up to 150 pounds," Herrington said. "He's a game breaker. If you keep giving him the ball, he's going to make something happen."

The Hawks have depth in the backfield with senior fullback Jeremy White (6-0, 185) and junior tailback Jeff Aschoff (5-11, 170).

Harrison has an outstanding wide receiver and all-round player in Bryant (6-0, 170). He led the team with 25 receptions for 553 yards and eight TDs. He also averaged 33½

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Raiders will attempt to build on '93 finish

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington concluded the last football season with a 3-6 record, and that's exactly what coach Jim O'Leary is focusing on — the ending.

The Raiders won their last two games over Livonia Franklin and South Lyon, and they played well in a 14-0 loss to Class A runner-up Westland John Glenn before that.

O'Leary hopes his 1994 team can pick up where the previous one left off and build on the strong finish.

"It was kind of a momentum builder, because I think the kids came into the year with a better attitude," he said. "Until the end of the year, the kids didn't believe they could win."

The Raiders enter the new season with a shortage of players (27) and a lack of size and depth in the line. But North does have good skill players and could contend for the Lakes Division title, according to O'Leary.

"I think we can be a darkhorse if we stay healthy," he said, adding the Western Lakes Activities Association isn't as strong as last year. "I think we can compete with everyone, and I

don't think we're going to get blown out."

Senior Russell Hayes (6-10, 175) moves from tailback to quarterback and won the Top Gun Award at the University of Michigan camp.

He would have played the position last year, but North had a need at running back and he led the team with 484 rushing yards on 116 carries.

Hayes has a "rifle for an arm" and is a quarterback in the mold of former Harrison star Mill Coleman and is good at sprintout and play-action passing, O'Leary said.

"He won't be playing tailback, but we will run option football with him," he said. "We're going to run more than we pass, but we also have very good backs to spread the wealth around."

The Raiders gained a capable replacement for Hayes in former Farmington High tailback Nigel Whit. The 5-foot-6, 150-pound senior was

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DELL BRIDGEMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Offensive leader: Senior Russell Hayes will concentrate on playing quarterback for the Raiders this year.

North graduate returns to coach boys team

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington's new boys soccer coach is no stranger to the school, the program or the players.

Rocky Patel, a 25-year-old medical student at Wayne State University, is a 1987 graduate of North who played two varsity seasons for the Raiders.

Patel, who replaces Kris Galczyk, was previously an assistant JV coach at Farmington Hills Mercy and has coached many of the North players in the Farmington Soccer Club.

"Soccer is a passion for me," Patel said. "If I'm not doing medical-related stuff, I'm out on the soccer pitch."

"I'm very excited about coming back. If I can show (the players) something they can use in a game, that's just a delight. I coached a lot of them

when they were freshmen and sophomores and have seen their progress."

Patel will be helped by the return of 10 players, including eight seniors. The Raiders were 4-12 last year.

Junior Chris Kemp and senior Joe Zima are returning starters at forward, and they will be supported by seniors Cory Monahan and Fred Leung.

Kemp and Zima are "pure forwards" while Monahan and Leung will play most of the time at other positions. The Raiders graduated leading scorer Denny Bendamer (nine goals) while Zima netted five and Kemp two.

Patel is counting on Monahan, a four-year letterman whose primary position is halfback, to be the

"disrupter" and put pressure on the opposing forwards.

"The advantage of our team is we're very flexible," Patel said. "Everybody can play any position, so you'll see a lot of alignments from us."

"Our forwards and halfbacks are so versatile other teams will wonder what's going on because there will be so much switching. Anytime we win a ball in the middle, we think we can come off the counter attack real strong and use our quickness to our advantage."

Senior Dami Rion was an all-division player and will be the field general in the midfield. He's also an offensive halfback who scored three goals.

Lumaj is another key player in the midfield with a knack for scoring. Junior Brandon McKay and

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