ALL-AREA GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Ron Gentz
Coach of Year

All-area 1st team selections

Maxann Reese
Borgess

Adriane Bryant
Borgess

Alisha Gordon
N. Farmington

Sarah Warnke
Canton

Amicie Crayton
Canton

Krista Snow
Harrison

Yvonne Malewski
Thurston

Borgess, Canton pace All-Observer team

BY C.J. HIRAK
STAFF WRITER

At the start, this girls basketball season seemed anything but special in Observerland.

The exception was Redford Bishop Borgess, a powerhouse primed to defend its Class C title. The other teams that had been so outstanding the previous year — notably Plymouth Canton and Livonia Ladywood — appeared to be in a rebuilding stage.

So much for first appearances.

Canton quickly rebuilt, peaking in time to make a strong run in the state tournament, a run that wasn't derailed until the Chiefs reached the state semifinals against eventual Class A champ Flint Northern.

Farmington Harrison enjoyed its best season ever, going 17-5. Garden City made it to the state regional final before falling. Lutheran Westland won its conference championship with a dramatic road victory in its final game. Livonia Stevenson and Farmington Hills Mercy each won district titles.

And of course, Borgess roared to its second-straight Class C crown.

A season that harvests so many unexpected successes is a tribute to strong coaching throughout the area. That made selecting the Observer's coach of the year a difficult task. The possible nominees were many: Borgess' Dave Mann, Garden City's Marshall Henry, Canton's Bob Blohm, Harrison's Pete Mantyla to name a few.

The honor, however, goes to Lutheran Westland's Ron Getz, who guided the Warriors to a share of the Metro Conference championship and a 19-3 overall record, their best ever.

Gentz spent his first three seasons at Lutheran Westland as a junior varsity coach. He is 57-28 overall in four years as the varsity coach; he was 43-10 as a JV coach.

Gentz gave JV coach Jim Aumann and volunteer assistant Dennis Horton some of the credit.

"I was blessed with 12 girls who played extremely hard for me and they always worked to get better," Gentz said. "Our goals were to have fun, use our God-given talents to their fullest, be a good witness in our sportsmanship and to win the conference. The team was successful in their accomplishments."

Following is a look at each member of the first team:

Maxann Reese, junior guard, Redford Bishop Borgess: A three-time selection on the All-Observer team with one season of high school basketball to go. Reese led the Spartans to their second-straight Class C championship, averaging 14 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals per game.

She made 51 percent of her shots from the field and shot 68 percent at the free-throw line.

Adriane Bryant, junior guard, Redford Bishop Borgess: Like Reese, Bryant is a three-year starter. Bryant became both a passing and scoring threat in the transition game this season. She averaged 11 points per game, and came through when several of the Spartans were struggling with 18 points in a Catholic League playoff semifinal victory over Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

She averaged about six assists and four steals per game.

Borgess coach Dave Mann discusses both of his All-Observer guards.

"I feel I have the best backcourt in the state right now and if both improve, I think you've got to put them with any backcourt in the history of the state," he said. "Maxann is a flashy scorer and Adrianne is a steady leader. They complement each other in their styles."

Alisha Gordon, senior forward, North Farmington: Coaches often ask players to make sacrifices for the good of the team, but when North coach Lance Davis asked Gordon to do was above and beyond the call.

Gordon started in the post for the Raiders as a junior. This season, Davis asked her to play point guard.

The four-year starter responded by leading Oakland County in scoring this season, averaging 27 points per game. Gordon, who surpassed 1,000 points in her career, also grabbed seven rebounds and had four assists per game as a senior. The 5-6 Gordon was a third-team Class A selection and also is an academic all-state performer with a 3.69 grade point average.

"She was the player who made us go," said Davis. "If she didn't have a good game, we were not successful. If she had a good game, we had a chance to win.

"She's very strong, very clever, especially underneath the basket. She's very creative."

Sarah Warnke, junior center, Plymouth Canton: Warnke was another of the Chiefs whose game blossomed as the season progressed. She led Canton in scoring (11.5 points) and rebounding (6.5), and was quick enough to average two steals per game.

"She's a very quick kid for her size and position," said Canton coach Bob Blohm. "I think her game improved tremendously."

That became evident in the state tournament, when Warnke twice recorded career scoring highs. Blohm added that once she learns how to play facing the basket, instead of just posting up, she'll become an even more imposing offensive force.

Amicie Crayton, senior guard, Plymouth Canton: Crayton was put in a difficult position at the start of this season. She was the only returning full-time starter from a team that had exceled. Crayton responded by leading the Chiefs to the state semifinals and a 19-7 season.

"As the year went on, her whole game rounded out for her," Blohm said. "The one thing she did really well for us was she went to the basket. And she learned to use her speed better."

A defensive demon, Crayton averaged 10.5 points, seven rebounds, 2.6 assists and a team-best 3.3 steals per game.

Krista Snow, senior forward, Farmington Harrison: In her four-year career as a Hawk, Snow proved she could do it all.

What she didn't do was get hurt. Snow missed just one game, starting 86. She finished with 880 career points. As a senior, she averaged 11.6 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

"She's a strong inside-outside threat," said Harrison coach Mantyla. "She's got a great work ethic, she plays hard and she understands the importance of every possession. It's going to be strange next year in the first game when she's not playing."

Yvonne Malewski, senior forward, Redford Thurston: The four-year letterwinner finished with 1,050 career points and led the Eagles to consecutive Mega Conference Blue Division championships in her last two seasons.

Malewski averaged 16 points, three steals and four assists per game while shooting 40 percent from the field and 80 percent at the free-throw line. She had a career-high 26 points in games against Livonia Stevenson and Westland John Glenn this season.

1994 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Maxann Reese, Jr.	Bishop Borgess
Adrian Bryant, Jr.	Bishop Borgess
Alisha Gordon, Sr.	N. Farmington
Sarah Warnke, Jr.	Ply. Canton
Amicie Crayton, Sr.	Ply. Canton
Krista Snow, Sr.	F.H. Harrison
Yvonne Malewski, Sr.	Red. Thurston

SECOND TEAM

Marie DuBose, Sr.	Bishop Borgess
Felecia Brooks, Sr.	F.H. Mercy
Shelye Sills, Jr.	Ply. Salem
Melissa Campesu, Sr.	Liv. Ladywood
Jill Van Tiem, Sr.	Liv. Stevenson
Heather Wohlfeil, Jr.	Red. Thurston
Vonne Jenka, Sr.	Garden City

THIRD TEAM

Tracy Rynkiewicz, Jr.	Liv. Franklin
Amanda Abraham, Fr.	Ply. Salem
Lauren Horton, Sr.	Luth. Westland
Julie Angell, Sr.	F.H. Mercy
Andrea Salyer, Sr.	Farmington
Jenny Markham, Sr.	Wayne
Anne Pogitus, Sr.	Liv. Ladywood

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ron Gentz . . . . . Luth. Westland

HONORABLE MENTION

Redford Bishop Borgess: Alysha Smith, LaZandra White; **Plymouth Canton:** Kristi Fiorani, Melissa Marzot, Jackie Nicastri; **Farmington Hills Mercy:** Mitzi Ruddock, Piper Metz, Carrie Schwagle; **Livonia Ladywood:** Becky Bilski, Kathy Denkert; **Plymouth Salem:** Kelly Lukasik, Liz Erickson, Karen Gundry; **Farmington Hills Harrison:** Erin LaCosse, Kelly LaCosse, Monique Anderson, Erika Greene, Jenny Mysliwiec; **Garden City:** Jamie Faber, Christie Glover, Jennifer Auditish; **Livonia Stevenson:** AnneMarie Aquino; **Redford Thurston:** Jean Herron, Kristi Engel; **North Farmington:** Corrie May; **Livonia Franklin:** Jaclyn Deane, Katie Main; **Livonia Churchill:** Jamie Clark, Mary Daly, Patti Maldonado; **Westland John Glenn:** Jami Grigal, Rochelle Harris, Kelly Kleine; **Farmington:** Amanda Porter, Kim Washnock; **Wayne Memorial:** Rica Barge, Sandy Jackson; **Lutheran High Westland:** Amy Gentz, Jenny Prutchitt, Jenny Twietmeyer, Katie Obinger; **Redford Union:** Lauren Wright, Theresa Walker; **Redford St. Agathon:** Kelly Vandermariere, Susan Baxter; **Livonia Clarenceville:** Wendy Roy, Pam Irusiano; **Westland Huron Valley Lutheran:** Rachel Wichmann; **Plymouth Christian Academy:** Karin Reed, Lisa Erickson; **Plymouth Agape Christian:** Gretchen Batsch.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 15
A.A. Pioneer at Ply. Canton, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
St. Agatha at Det. Media Arts, 3:30 p.m.
Garden City at Taylor Truman, 7 p.m.
Red. Thurston at D.H. Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Liv. Churchill at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.
Alumni Team at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.
Dearborn at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
A.A. Huron at Ply. Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Luth. Westland at St. Alphonsus, 7:30 p.m.
Flint Powers at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.
Ply. Christian at ND Prep, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Rochester at F.H. Harrison, 2:30 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 16
Indiana Wesleyan at Madonna, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 7:30 p.m.
Mich. Christian at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Dec. 17
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 5:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Dec. 15
Liv. Franklin vs. D.H. Lahser at Detroit Skating Club, 6:40 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16
Liv. Franklin vs. S'field-Lathrup.
Liv. Stevenson vs. Divine Child at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 4 & 6 p.m.
Liv. Churchill vs. South Lyon at Howell's Grand Oaks Arena, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17
Liv. Churchill vs. Ann Arbor Huron at A.A. Veterans Arena, 5 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Grosse Pte. South at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

SWIMMING

WAYNE MEMORIAL 90
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 90
Dec. 13 at Wayne

200 yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Baker, Zoumbens, Menard and Draper), 1:53.09; 2. Wayne, 1:54.36.
200 freestyle: 1. Barber (WM), 2:05.08; 2. Cummings (JG), 2:02.58; 3. Hall (WM), 2:17.48.
200 individual medley: 1. Gerlough (WM), 2:19.53; 2. Menard (JG), 2:27.54; 3. Zoumbens (JG), 2:33.23.
50 freestyle: 1. Draper (JG), 24.09; 2. Ferguson (WM), 24.94; 3. Law (WM), 25.52.
Diving: 1. Baker (JG), 182.3 points; 2. Henry (JG), 158.7; 3. Phillips (WM), 136.25.
100 butterfly: 1. Menard (JG), 1:01.87; 2. Gerlough (WM), 1:02.72; 3. Jackson (WM), 1:29.54.
100 breaststroke: 1 Nemeth (WM), 1:07.82; 2. Zoumbens (JG), 1:09.13; 3. Brame (WM), 1:05.56.
500 freestyle: 1. Ferguson (WM), 5:33.35; 2. Cummings (JG) 5:08.17; 3. Boulton (JG), 5:14.31.
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Draper, Zoumbens, Menard and Cummings), 1:43.26; 2. Wayne, 1:44.3.
100 backstroke: 1. Draper (JG), 1:03.99; 2. Hall (WM), 1:13.32; 3. Nemeth (WM), 1:15.02.
100 breaststroke: 1. Barber (WM), 1:12.49; 2. Law (WM), 1:18.18; 3. Zoumbens (JG), 1:22.83.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Jackson, Bailey, Hall and Ferguson), 4:18.15; 2. Wayne, 4:18.56.

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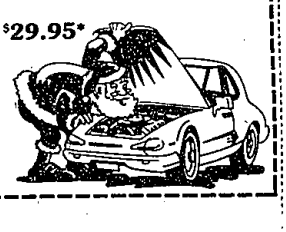

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