

**Preseason practice:** Katie Hickey (right), a junior on the Farmington High School girls basketball team, attempts to dribble past a teammate during a practice session last week. Farmington's first-year coach Mary Sheltrown (below) gives instructions to her players during the practice. The Falcons are short on varsity experience this year with no returning starters. They begin the new season Tuesday on the road in a non-league contest at Bloomfield Hills Andover.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRIAN MITCHELL



## Hawks from page D1

able" player, according to Mantyla.

Fletcher will play on the opposite wing and is one of Harrison's most explosive offensive players. She averaged eight points, four rebounds and three steals, leading the team in the latter category.

"We're trying to emphasize attacking the basket, but she has such good pull-up jumper," Mantyla said. "That's not a good shot for a lot of kids, but for her that's her best weapon."

Jenkins will start in the post again and rotate with Andrezejewski. When the Hawks want to go big, they combine to give Harrison good size in the middle.

Jenkins averaged three points and four rebounds but is a key figure in Harrison's aggressive, pressing defensive scheme.

"We'll be a pressing team for 32 minutes," Mantyla said. "It's predicated on a maximum effort from every player every minute they're on the floor."

"Amy is a big key to that because of her versatility and the amount of ground she can cover as a post player."

Andrezejewski developed as a low-post scorer and rebounder last year, averaging seven points and five boards.

"She's a very strong defensive rebounder," Mantyla said. "She

had some big games for us. She's capable of being a force on glass and in the paint."

The returning juniors are 5-5 guards Ari and Ali Ault, 5-7 post Cierra Colbert and 6-0 post Charlotte Blasfield. Sophomore guards Emily Jackson (5-6) and Cassie Jemison (5-3) also spent part of last season on the varsity.

Ari Ault returns to play the point. She earned All-Western Division honors after averaging seven points, three rebounds and two assists.

"She's really, really gutsy," Mantyla said. "She's extremely competitive and will do whatever needs to be done to win a game."

Ali Ault was one of the first players off the bench and is "one of our toughest kids," according to Mantyla. "She's probably been the most consistent three-point shooter all through the preseason."

Shooting the three is a hallmark of the Harrison offense, but Mantyla wants the Hawks to improve their percentage (24 percent).

"People probably consider us a good three-point shooting team, but we're not happy with that," he said. "If we're going to shoot it, we need to shoot it a little better."

Fletcher led the team with 26

triples; Robie made 25. Ari Ault and Knutson 21. Ali Ault 17.

Blasfield is the team's most improved player and a relentless worker on the press, according to Mantyla.

Colbert is undersized as a post player but "gives us speed and quickness at that position and a great effort all the time," Mantyla said.

Jackson and Jemison are good on the press and can put pressure on the ball, but both have been slowed in the preseason by sprained ankles.

The varsity roster this year also includes senior Erin Hubble and junior Sarah Greene. The Hawks also have a four-year team manager in Lindsay Stefanko.

Harrison plays host to Waterford Mott in the season opener Tuesday and entertains Waterford Kettering on Thursday.

"We want to get a maximum effort from the kids every time we step on the floor," Mantyla said. "The old saying is you're only as good as your seniors, and I think we have a really dedicated group."

"As a team, our emphasis has to be on quality minutes instead of quantity, because it's impossible to keep so many good players happy."

## Raiders from page D1

Opponents certainly know of Heann and Street this year and will be looking for them, according to Meteyer.

"(They) realize the junior year is the toughest time for a lot of players," he said. "They made their mark last year."

"As soon as they go on the field, teams will try to take them out of the game by marking them closely."

"It's a challenge for these guys. If they can draw double-team coverage, that's going to open up other players."

Complementing Heann's skill on the forward line will be Wilder and Gabriel, if the Raiders choose to use three forwards.

"Wilder is the fastest player I've had at North," Meteyer said. "He has a lot of acceleration and quickness to the ball. He can put pressure on people and force them to cough up the ball."

"I feel real good with our scoring punch this year."

To start the season, the mid-field consists of Cinarantaro, Street in the middle with Donner and Klatchko rotating on the other side.

Shargorodsky is out with a broken arm but will have the cast removed this week. When he does, he'll have a lot of playing time in the middle field as will sophomore Brian Horr.

"This will be a passing team, a control team," Meteyer said. "This team will be able to hold on to the ball a little longer this year."

The defense includes Beaver, a two-year starter, and Shapiro at the fullback positions, Juncal at stopper with Salter and Every dividing time at sweeper.

"We have three seniors in that group," Meteyer said. "We have to get some young guys working in there, so next year we don't have this big shock."

The sophomores include defenders Jarret Kruse, Kyle Meteyer and Dan Mooney as well as midfielder Eric Phillips.

Munaco returns as the goalkeeper and will be backed up by junior Nick Jordan and sophomore Brian Buell.

"I think you can expect us to be a more multi-dimensional team," Meteyer said. "We're still not a big team physically, so we have to run people in and out.

That's where our depth will help. We're not going to blow anybody out, but I think we can be competitive with everybody we play. We don't want to be embarrassed; we want to gain the respect of our opponents."

A new post-season playoff format will give smaller Class A schools like North a better chance to do something in the state tournament, Meteyer added.

Schools with enrollments above 1,316 students will compete in Division I; schools with enrollment numbers between 840 and 1,314 are now in Division II.

"We play in the toughest league in the state," Meteyer said. "It's hard to do well, but playing a good game with those teams will prepare us for the state playoffs a little better."

"For us it's a chance to get past the first (district tournament) game — maybe have a chance at (winning) the district and to do a little something at the end of the season."

The Raiders begin the season Thursday with a 7 p.m. road game at Royal Oak Kimball.

## Falcons from page D1

1,129 points in her career and averaged 16.3 last year.

But Farmington also lost Maureen Carolan, Lisa Knight, Angi Newman, Sarah Rattai, Emily Engelman and Jenny Neale to graduation.

Junior Beth Jager, a 5-foot-7 guard, is the only returning player who was on the varsity at the start of last season.

Junior guards Shermia Anding (6-7) and Jamie Jakaeki (6-6) have some experience, but everyone else is new to the varsity.

Juniors Rachel Rattai, Heather Martin, Katie Maki, Katie Hickey, Nicole Davis and Kristina Kharsa are up from the JV. Rattai and Maki are 5-9 centers, Martin and Kharsa 5-6 guards, Hickey and Davis 5-8

forwards.

First-year players include 5-8 senior forward Claudia Bass, 5-5 junior guard Nicole McDoniel and 5-10 freshman post Stephanie Marx.

"Stephanie has a lot of talent for her age and is doing a nice job," Sheltrown said. "Beth Jager is one of the best shooters; she can handle the ball and drive to the basket."

"Jamie has a lot of speed and will have to take responsibility for delivering the ball and creating opportunities. Rachel runs the floors well and is not afraid to get inside and bang around."

Sheltrown has been busy teaching the offense she wants the Falcons to run, but she's just as concerned about having her

players read and recognize defenses.

"We'd like to push the ball up the floor in a fast break every time, and we're working on recognizing that," she said.

"We don't have a lot of height, so we'll have to get back and play defense. I prefer an aggressive man-to-man defense; I don't like a lot of switching. But we have to adapt to every team, and we might have to change to a zone."

The Falcons start the season Tuesday at Bloomfield Hills Andover.

"We'd love to have a winning season, and we'll do everything possible to do so," Sheltrown said. "But we'll take it one game at a time and tackle whatever

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