Veteran player: Junior
Brad Jaffe returns to play
No. 1 singles for the North
Farmington tennis toath
Farmington tennis team.
He had a fine sophomore
season, posting a 16-3
record and winning the
Western Lakes Activities
Association title. The
Raiders won the WLAA
team title and have the
talent to finish on top
again this year North is
3-0 thus far with victories
over Westland Glenn, West
Bloomfield and Farmingover Westland Glenn, West Bloomfield and Farming-ton. Following spring break, the season resumes Monday with a match at Livonia Churchill.



## Raiders seek WLAA title repeat

Who has the best boys tennis team in Observerland? An educated guess says it's North Farmington.
The Raiders are the defending Western Lakes Activities Association champions and look to make another run at the title with much of their team back for 1998.
North also finished second behind Bloomfield Hills Lahser in a difficult regional tourns-

with much of their team back for 1998.
North also finished second behind Bloomfield Hills Lahser in a difficult regional tournament and outpointed West Bloomfield to qualify for state.
"We'll be compositive again this year, and we should have a very successful season," coach Dennis King said. "With all the players having an extra year of experience, I think we'll be stronger than last year." The Raiders were 10-1 in dual meets, losing only to West Bloomfield. But they've already svenged that defeat, taking a 6-3 victory over the Lakers while starting this season 3-0 before spring break.

North was 10-0 in league matches but didn't play tournament. The Raiders aroled out, and WLAA rules prohibited it from being played after the league tournament. The Raiders are led by junior Brad Jaffe, the defending WLAA champion at No. 1 singles who had a 16-3 record.

His primary competition could be Farmington Harrison's Ryan Shade, who lost a three-setter (4-6, 6-1, 6-3) to Jaffe in the finals of the WLAA tournament.

"(Jaffe) should be very tough," King said. "However, there are some other good players. (Shade and Jaffe) had a couple good matches, so he'll have some competition.

"Hoe failed, will build on that and complex contraction of the world on the stand party had be party and the property.

"He had a great year last year. Hopefully, he'll build on that and

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two of his losses in singles com-petition.

Junior Justin Street, who was 16-5 at fourth singles and second in the WLAA, will team with sophomore Chris Erickson to

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do even better at the state level this year."

Senior Nomit Shah has returned to the team this year and replaces the graduated Soth Weingarten, who was the WLAA champ at No. 2 singles.

Shah chose not to play last year to concentrate on his academics and enhance his chances of being accepted at first-rate colleges, according to King. Shah played No. 4 singles as a freshman and sophomore.

"Ho's been on the tennis courts (in the last year)," King said. "It's not like he took the year off from tennis; so he looks real tough."

Senior Steve Krieger was the WLAA runner-up at No. 3 singles and is back again. He has held that place in the lineup since he was a freshman and had a 17-4 record last year.

"He's going to have a great year there," King said, adding Krieger lost a three-setter (6-4, 5-7, 7-5) in the regional semis to a Lahser opponent. "He has a lot of experience in tennis and good court sense."

Junior Brandon Finkel moves up from No. 3 doubles to play No. 4 singles. He and sophomore Brady Dwyer were second in the conference tournament last year. "He's really hitting well," King said. "He was an all-round player last year. Wherever we needed a strong player to come in, he was the one who played."

Finkel had an 11-3 record with two of his losses in singles competition.

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BOYS TENNIS

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"How been on the tennis courts (in the lank year)." King said.

It was a single server the result of Street and Erickson, who was brickson's doubles and had an 18-3 record. Junior Mark Frankel, who was Erickson's doubles partner, and an ercord of 20-0. had a record of 20-3. Senior Mark Solomon and

Dwyer will be the No. 3 doubles players in most cases; sophomores Greg Fox and Andrew Golaszowski start the season as the No. 4 team.

Sophomores Jon Panush, who combined with Fox to win the WLAA title at fourth doubles, Joch Wood, Gobe Yachinathy and Andy Bocknek will have some play; at time at doubles, too.

Following spring break, the Raiders resume the season Monday at Livonia Churchill.

"Hopefully, wo'll do as well as last year and even better at the state level," King said. "It all depends on what happens on the tennis courts."

## CC tennis team eyes return to state meet

Detroit Catholic Central's tennia team has to take a different route, but cach Greg Grabowskis believes the Shamrocks will atill make the state meet their final dostination this season.

The Michigan High School Athlette Association has divided Class & Ateams into two divisions, with the Shamrocks having Division I status because of their higher enrollments.

Ten me classification means the Shamrocks will play in the regional hosted by perennial state powers Ann Arbor Huron and Fioneer and Huron.

For years, CC competed in the Dearborn regional, which it usually won to gain entrance to the state meet. Dearborn is now the site of a Division II regional.

Grabowski doubts if the Shamrocks can win the Ann Arbor regional but thinks they can challenge for second place. The top two teams and anyone else finishing with at least 16 team points qualify for the state meet.

The Shamrocks are 2-1, beating Dearborn Divine Child and Allen Park Cabrini but losing to Birmingham Brother Rice (5-3).

"Overall we're stronger than we were last year, and we're pretty well rounded." Grabowski said. "We could upset some good teams in the State (meet.)"

The Shamrocks finished second in the Catholic League, won a regional and finished 12th at the Class A meet last year.

CC returns its four singles players from, including the former No. 1. Brian Foley, who is now playing No. 1 doubles.

Grabowski said it wasn't a demotion and Foley has handled his new position with class.

The No. 1 singles player is senior Tom Tarnacki, who won a regional and was runner up in the Catholic League at No. 2 single. The No. 2 is sophomore J.D. Shade, who was a state finalist at No. 4 singles.

"Brian had some injuries, took the summer off, and when he came back Mike and J.D. pretty much beat him in challenge natches," Grabowski said. "He's been super positive, which is great because it's a tough transition. It actually helps us but, makes us stronger.

At No. 3 is freshman Michael Findling, whose older brother storred at Livonia Stevenson and plays for Michigan State.

Senior Marc Sicilano will play No. 4 after spending his last spason at No. 2 doubles team features senior Nick Rost and sophomore Rob Sparks.

The No. 2 doubles team is tomprised of junior Nick Gray and sophomore Rob Sparks.

The No. 3 doubles team is comprised of junior Nick Gray and sophomore Rob Sparks.

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