

North Farmington gridders 'start from scratch'

By TOM BAER

This fall could be a time when North Farmington football coach Ron Holland can stress learning more than winning.

Last year, North Farmington compiled a respectable 6-3 overall record and a 4-1 mark in the Northwest Suburban League. Livonia Franklin, the eventual NSL champion, handed the Raiders their lone league loss.

But North Farmington graduated 17 players—including some fine ones like quarterback Tom Moore, running back Bob Patek, place kicker Jeff Lemberg and guard Bill Nowland to name just a few—from that team. Just four starters from last year are back for the 1975 season, so it looks like a rebuilding year for Holland.

North Farmington opens its season Sept. 13 at home against Pontiac Northern of the Inter-Lakes League. The Raiders travel to Livonia Franklin on Sept. 27 for their Northwest Suburban League opener.

"At this point, we're pretty inexperienced with a lack of total depth and individual talent," said Holland, who is beginning his 12th year as head coach.

"We're just not going to have a lot of depth. We're kind of starting from scratch."

But there are a few bright spots and one of them is senior running back John Patek, Bob's brother. A 6-1, 180-pounder, John will play halfback and linebacker and also handle the team's punting and place kicking. He's also beginning his third season as a varsity regular—and that's important, according to Holland.

those three years of varsity football. He understands the offensive and defensive games at North Farmington.

North Farmington's three other returning starters are tackle Mark Schwartz and Bob Fredericks, and center Mark Beckock. The three linemen have grown quite a bit if last year's programs are to be believed. Schwartz, for example, was listed at 5-8, 130 pounds during last season. This fall, Holland gave him weight as 100. Beckock and Fredericks are both up about 15 pounds.

North Farmington has only five juniors on this year's squad. Two of the best are Paul Palek (5-8, 185), a running back and linebacker, and Greg Miller (5-9, 185), an offensive back and defensive lineman.

Holland, who has coached some excellent football teams during the past decade, offered some thoughts on a rebuilding year.

"We just try and prepare our team with an offense and a defense which they can handle with their individual skills and talents," he said. "And then we realize that we have to be patient and work that much harder with them. They're green and inexperienced—and we didn't even have a junior varsity program last year."

RESERVE FOOTBALL at all three Farmington public high schools was a casualty of a millage failure last year. Like his counterparts at Farmington High and Farmington Harrison, Holland was forced to carry more than 50 players on the varsity last season.

A lot of Farmington high school football players didn't get to play much last year—and all three varsity coaches will feel the effects of that lack of experience this year.

The Northwest Suburban League will be "extremely tough this year."

in Holland's words, with Franklin and Thornton High as the favorites.

"Livonia Franklin has everybody back. Thornton has everybody back, and Westland John Glen has all that speed and a good quarterback," Holland said. "None of those teams are rebuilding at all. Garden City East and North Farmington are right around the bottom."

The Northwest Suburban League will play with only five teams this year because Oak Park High School has left the loop. Most NSL teams have scheduled games with teams in the Wayne-Oakland League. For example, North Farmington travels to Clarkston for an 8 p.m. game on Oct. 24.

North Farmington's two traditional cross-town battles are scheduled for Nov. 1 at home against Farmington Harrison, and Nov. 8 at home against Farmington High School.

N. Farmington Football—Varsity	
Sept. 13	at Pont. Northern
Sept. 19	at W.L. Central
Sept. 27	at Franklin
Oct. 6	John Glen
Oct. 13	at C.C. East
Oct. 18	Thornton High
Oct. 24	at Clarkston
Nov. 1	Harrison
Nov. 8	Farmington

Junior Varsity	
Sept. 18	at Pont. Northern
Sept. 25	W.L. Central
Oct. 2	Franklin
Oct. 9	at John Glen
Oct. 16	C.C. East
Oct. 23	at Thornton High
Oct. 29	Clarkston
Nov. 6	Farmington

Staff photo
by Harry Mauthe

Defensive back Ken Strom (left) takes a crack at John Palek in a recent practice

Farmington runners shine in West Bloomfield meet

By TOM BAER

Farmington High cross country coach Gerald Young wasn't raving about his team's finish in the West Bloomfield Invitational last Saturday—even though his Falcons finished in a fifth-place tie with Birmingham Groves with 256 points.

"We didn't run as well as we thought we should have," said Young, who coached Farmington to the Inter Lakes League cross country title last year. "We figured we'd have a pretty good team again this year, so we thought we'd be pretty near the top at the meet."

Southfield High senior Scott Stone took individual honors considering the four high schools from Southfield and Farmington entered in the Class A event. Stone, who had an outstanding junior year in cross country and track, finished fifth in the AA field with a 15:54.8 clocking. Southfield scored 559 team points.

Farmington's swiftest man was senior Arno Slat, who finished 14th in 18:15. But Farmington showed some depth in the meet with junior Stuart Gladfelter (34th place), sophomore Harold Rutledge (52nd), senior Craig Bloomer (67th) and senior Mike Gallagher (88th).

Southfield's Stone is a hard worker and should do very well for the Blue Jays this fall, according to coach Chuck Balog.

"HE'S TRAINED hard all summer, so he should be ready for it," Balog said. "We're hoping for some good things from him."

"He's still not the kind of runner

who's ready to win the big ones," Balog added. "He just doesn't get out there fast enough. The kids who win the big invitations are usually first, second or third at the mile mark. Scott has never been in that position. He's usually 10th or 12th and then works his way up. He's going to have to get over that."

Stone's summer training included participation in the Farmington Founders' Festival Road Race. He won the Junior Division with a time of 33:47 over the 10-mile course.

Another area prep runner who did well in the Festival race was Farmington Harrison's Mike Redford. And, like Stone, Redford also did well in the West Bloomfield Invitational, finishing 18th with a time of 16:18.9.

"He's a good one," said Harrison coach Larry Fortner. "He's a good team leader. He was kind of out in the woods during his sophomore and junior years, but he's developed his skills and matured quite a bit now. He should have a good year for us."

North Farmington scored 427 team points. The Raiders' best showing came from junior Dave Good, who finished 26th in 18:29.0.

"He's going to be a good one for us this year," said North Farmington coach Ed Davis. Groves Pointe North and Kalamazoo Jay Norris dominated the Class AA standings. North won with 32 points to Jay Norris (7). A pair of North runners, Dave Lewis and Jeff Stafford, finished one-two with times of 15:31.7 and 15:46.7 respectively. Jay Norris' Cooper Tomlinson finished third. St. Joseph topped the Class A standings with 78 points, while Royal Oak

Shrine won the Class B-C title with 38 points.

The West Bloomfield Invitational, held at Marshbank Metropark in Orchard Lake, is the beginning of a long season of high school sports.

"It's a real good course," Young said. "It's kind of a rolling course, not too hilly, relatively flat. The competition is excellent—the best we see until the state meet."

Class AA School Points

Groves Pointe North 32 points, Kalamazoo Jay Norris 7, Pontiac Central 18, Temperance Bedford 31, the Farmington Highland Birmingham Groves 28 each, East Detroit 25, St. Clair Shores Lakeside 24, Jackson High 23, Warren Central 22, Sterling Heights Stevens 21, Walpole Lake Western 20, Royal Oak Kinnell 20, Livonia Sherwood 20, North Farmington 17, Flashing 12, Hazel Park 11, Birmingham Seaholm 10, Kalamazoo Central 10, Farmington Harrison 10, Southfield High 10, Clarkston High 9, Berkley High 8, Flint Northwestern 8.

Class AA Individual Results

Dave Lewis (Groves Pointe North) 15:31.7, Jeff Stafford (Groves Pointe North) 15:46.7, Cooper Tomlinson (Kalamazoo Jay Norris), Tim Pompey (Kalamazoo Central), Scott Rues (Southfield High) 15:54.8, Bill Weidensch (Groves Pointe North) Dave Leforge (Kalamazoo Jay Norris), Dale Savage (Groves Pointe North), Ed Sullivan (Jackson High), Jeff Scott (Kalamazoo Jay Norris), Joel Mangos (Birmingham Groves), Arno Slat (Farmington High) 18:15, Mike Redford (Farmington Harrison) 18:29.0, Dave Good (North Farmington) 18:29, Stuart Gladfelter (Farmington High) 34th, Harold Rutledge (Farmington High) 52nd, Craig Bloomer (Farmington High) 67th, Mike Gallagher (Farmington High) 88th.

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Pre-run warmups involved all of the nearly 550 high school cross country runners who participated in Saturday's West Bloomfield Invitational. Lee Averill, coach at the township

high school, saw his team well prepared for the competition but knocked out of contention by a single runner who tripped and took several others with him. (Photo by Cindy Gray)