

## 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 fall, 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 one-time quarterback Tom Moore, running back Bob Patak, place kicker Jeff Lemke and guard Bill Novak—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.

"All this year we're pretty inexperienced with a lack of total depth and individual talent," said Holland, who is beginning his 13th year as head coach.

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

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

He has GOOD speed and overall football talent," Holland said. "And he has the knowledge gained from

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

North Farmington's three other returning starters are tackles Mark Schwartz and Bob Fredericks, and center Mark Babcock. The three linemen have grown quite a bit if last year's programs are to be believed.

Schwartz, for example, was listed at

54-129 pounds during last season.

The fall, Holland gave his weight as

58-160. Babcock and Fredericks are both

up about 15 pounds.

North Farmington has only five seniors this year's squad.

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.

Holland, who has coached some ex-

cellent football teams during the past

decade, offers some thoughts on a re-

building year.

"We just try and prepare our team with an offensive and defensive 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 in-

experienced—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 mileage failure last

year. Like his counterparts at Farmington High and Farmington Harrison, Holland was forced to carry

more than 30 players on the varsity

last year.

A lot of Farmington high school foot-

ball 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 Glenn 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 withdrawn from the NSL, leaving no scheduled games with teams in the Wayne-Oakland League. For example, North Farmington travels to Clarkston for an 8 p.m. game on Oct. 21.

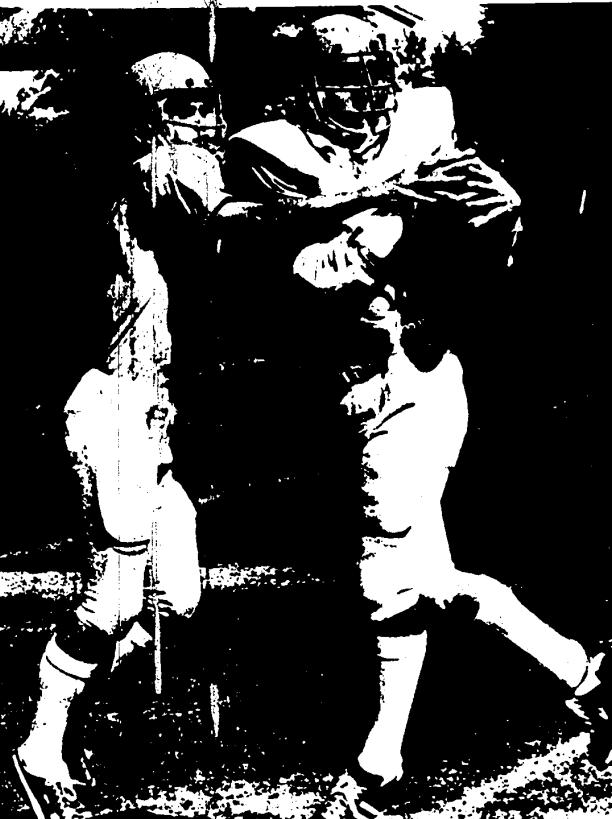
North Farmington's two traditional cross-town battles are scheduled for Nov. 1 at home against Farmington Harrison, and Nov. 8 at home against Farmington High School.

N. Farmington Football—Varsity

	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8
at Post Northern									
Sept. 13 at W.L. Central	2:00								
Sept. 20 at Franklin	2:00								
Sept. 27 at John Glenn	2:00								
Oct. 4 at G.C. East	2:00								
Oct. 11 at Thornton High	2:00								
Oct. 18 at Clarkston	2:00								
Oct. 25 at Harrison	2:00								
Nov. 1 at Farmington	2:00								
Nov. 8 at Farmington	2:00								

Staff photo

by Harry Mauthe



Defensive back Keh Strom (left) takes a crack at John Patak 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 the Falcons finished in a tie for second place in Birmingham Grand with 246 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, but we thought we'd be pretty near the top at the meet."

Southfield High senior Scott Spone took individual honors considering the four high schools in the Southfield Invitational, where he 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 16:15. But Farmington showed some depth in the meet with junior Stuart Gladfelter (34th place), sophomore Harold Rutts (52nd), senior Craig Bloomer (67th) and senior Mike Gallagher (88th).

Southfield's Spone is a hard worker and showed up very well for the Blue Jays that fall, according to the 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 invitational are usually first, second or third in the mill race."

Young has been in that position a few years, usually 10th or 11th and then works his way up. "He's going to have to get over that."

Spone's summer training included participation in the Farmington Founders' Festival Road Race. He was the Junior Division with a time of 53:47 over the 10-mile course.

Another area prep runner who did well in the Festival race was Farmington Harrison's Mike Redford. And, like Spone, Redford also did well in the West Bloomfield Invitational, finishing 18th in 16:10.6.

"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 47 team points. Redford's best showing came from junior Dave Good, who finished 24th in 16:29.0.

"He's going to be a good one for us this year," said North Farmington coach Ed Doherty.

Grosse Pointe North and Kalamazoo Loy Norris dominated the Class AA standings. North won with 33 points to Loy Norris' 71. A pair of North runners, Dave Lewis and Jeff Stafford, finished one-two with times of 15:31.7 and 15:46.7 respectively. Loy Norris' Cooper Tomlinson finished third.

St. Joseph topped the Class A standings with 78 points, while Royal Oak



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)

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