

Lathrup picks Marten for football coach

By TOM BAER

Southfield-Lathrup didn't have far to look to find its new head football coach.

Bob Marten, an assistant football coach at Lathrup for the past four seasons, was picked this week to fill the head coaching position. He replaces Darrell Harper, who resigned last fall after 10 years as coach to become the school's athletic director.

Marten, 31, was chosen by a selection committee composed of Harper, Lathrup Principal James Smyth and several others.

"Marten has given the school system eight good years of service, and he deserves the opportunity to move up," Harper said. "I know he'll do a good job."

A physical education teacher at Lathrup, Marten spent three seasons as the school's freshman football coach before moving to neighboring Southfield High as reserve coach in 1973. He's been a varsity assistant at Lathrup since the 1974 season.

"I'm really looking forward to being the head coach," said Marten, who also coaches baseball at Lathrup. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

Marten was an outstanding halfback during his high school days at Allen Park. He played baseball, not football, in college at Eastern Michigan University. In his own words, he "didn't think much about coaching" until he signed on as Lathrup's freshman coach in 1970.

"Darrell was a big influence on me when I was at Lathrup, and John Finlayson influenced me when I was at Southfield High," Marten said. "They've both spent a lot of time

working with me, and I've learned a lot from them."

MARTEN'S FIRST year as head coach could be a difficult one. Last season, Lathrup had one of its best seasons ever, compiling a 7-2 overall record and finishing in a three-way tie for the Metro Suburban Association championship.

"However, much of the talent on that team will graduate this June. "We'll have to rebuild," Marten said. "We'll have graduated just about everybody, including some good-sized linemen. But we'll have our all-league

quarterback (Craig Rowley) and a couple of good defensive players back.

"We'll be running the same type of offense and defense as we have in the past on our varsity and reserve teams, so it shouldn't be too confusing for them."

But Marten and Harper have a more immediate problem: they have to find three new assistant football coaches.

"We have to offer those three positions to people in the school system first," Harper said. "But, if it's anything like the head football job and

some of the other coaching positions I've had to fill, we'll probably have to get them from outside the school system."

Anyone interested in the assistant football positions should call Harper at 354-7554.

Marten said he would continue as Lathrup's varsity baseball coach for the upcoming season.

Marten's wife, Margaret, also teaches at Lathrup. She coaches the school's synchronized swimming team.

Brother Rice cagers clobber Lahser, 71-55

By JOHN BOZZO

Birmingham Brother Rice used its vast depth of basketball talent to wear down Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 71-55, in a non-league basketball game Tuesday at Rice.

Standout junior center Tim Andree led Rice with 29 points, 14 rebounds, and two blocked shots. George Duncan added 14 points and Ron Washington dished out 10 assists.

Shawn Santa kept Lahser close during the first three two and one-half quarters of play with 26 points. Scott Pritchett added 12 for Lahser.

The score was tied following the first quarter. Rice had a slim two-point halftime advantage. In the third quarter, Rice steadily built the lead to 11 points, before leaving Lahser 13 points behind in the final quarter.

RICE COACH BILL Norton substituted freely

throughout the game. Three times he inserted his "Apache squad," a group of five players who enter the game as a unit.

"The great obstacle in dealing with Brother Rice," said Lahser coach Nick Conti, "is the intensity with which they

play. They are also very deep in talent. When you have 12 to 15 players all year they're in there, it becomes very difficult.

"They've also got that stopper in the lane," Conti added, "with Andree at center, so you

almost have to play flawless basketball just to keep it interesting.

Rice improved its record to 6-1 on the season with the victory. Lahser falls to 4-2 on the year. Both teams are unbeaten in their respective leagues. Rice is 3-0

in Catholic League play, while Lahser is 2-0 in Metro Suburban Activities Association action.

"We took advantage of scoring opportunities tonight," said Rice coach Bill Norton. "We've played seven games and everyone has had some

special defense to stop Tim Andree. This gives us other opportunities on other places on the court. The boys are just starting to see those other chances.

Rice will face Grand Rapids Creston in a non-league game Dec. 27 at Grand Rapids. Lahser is off for the holidays and will start playing again Jan. 6, with a home game against league foe Southfield-Lathrup.

In cage thriller

Lathrup edges Berkley

By TOM BAER

Southfield-Lathrup's basketball players have only themselves to blame for all the last-minute excitement connected with their 35-34 victory over Berkley High last Tuesday.

Lathrup, which now owns a 5-1 overall record, was pulling away from a 26-all deadlock after three quarters, and could haveiced the win by making some crucial free throws in the final quarter.

The Chargers, however, missed from the line on more than one occasion, and Berkley stayed close. In fact, Berkley could have won the game if a last-second

jump shot by Marc Kaskas had dropped in instead of bouncing off the back of the rim.

Still, Lathrup coach Jim Kourtakias was pleased with his team's showing, despite its less-than-spectacular shooting: 11 of 33 (for 33 percent) from the field, and 13 of 21 from the line.

"I'm super pleased with our intensity and our hustle," said Kourtakias, whose Chargers have won five straight games after dropping their season-opener to Royal Oak Kimball.

"I thought we played some good defense and forced them (Berkley) to take a lot of shots they didn't want to take," Kourtakias said.

Lathrup's Peter McKnight, a 5-foot-11 senior, led the team with 12 points on three field goals and six of seven free throws. Teammate Karl Akerman, a 5-11 junior, followed with eight points and Karl Taylor and Jack Dake-san each has six.

Berkley, which fought back from a six-point deficit after the first quarter to take a 22-18 lead at halftime got 19

points, from 6-3 center Bruce Kaye. Gaurd Jay McHellen added nine points. Starting forwards Barry Lonik and Matt Burk failed to score.

Like Lathrup, Berkley was cold from the field, hitting on 12 of 44 shots for 27.2 percent. Berkley held a 35-21 rebounding advantage.

Franklin beats Oak Park

The play of Jim Wilson, Chris Baker, and John Zannis led Livonia Franklin to a non-league basketball victory Tuesday over Oak Park, 71-55.

Zannis pumped in 24 points to pace the Patriots' offensive output, while Wilson scored 22 and Baker 16. Baker also grabbed 14 rebounds to lead Franklin on the boards.

"It was a total team effort—the kids are improving greatly," said Franklin coach Jim McIntyre of his team's fourth win of the season against three defeats.

The Patriots came out quickly in the first period and scored 14 points while holding Oak Park to eight. The second quarter was much the same, as the Patriots entered the lockerroom at halftime ahead, 34-23.

"We did so well in the first half mainly on the strength of Baker, Zannis and Wilson," McIntyre said.

Franklin steadily built its lead in the second half, as the contest turned into a physical battle. Oak Park collected a total of 28 fouls and four technicals during the game, while Franklin had 10 personals.

"Overall, it was a good effort. The team hung in there and played good even though the game turned into a physical contest," said McIntyre.

YMCA sponsors tourney

The First Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament will be sponsored by the Birmingham YMCA during the week of Dec. 27-30, with all games being played at the Birmingham YMCA.

In this first year, there will be two tournaments, one for high school students and one for post high school men, up to 23 years of age.

Entry forms are available at the YMCA. The deadline is 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27. The first eight teams in each age group will be accepted and entries will close earlier if eight teams register before the announced deadline.

Individual awards will be given to the winning teams. Spectators may attend at no charge.

GC EAST—ROMULUS

Playing well at times and poorly at others, Garden City East was nipped by Romulus, 60-58, Monday in a non-league basketball contest on the Panthers' court. The loss was the second consecutive two-point game East has sustained.

"It's tough to take—no doubt it's a disappointment to them (players) and me," said East coach Billy Joe Young. The Panthers are winless in six games this season.

East started off slowly against Romulus and trailed 23-13 after the first quarter. The Panthers came back and out-scored the visiting Eagles, 35-24, during the middle two periods to take a one-point edge into the final eight minutes.

The score remained close throughout the fourth period. Darryl Lewis, who led Romulus with 14 points, scored a field goal with a minute left to break a 58-58 deadlock.

East had a couple of chances to tie in the final seconds, but failed to convert on a one-and-one free-throw situation and a close-range jumper.

"We seem capable of coming back, but when we get close or we get slightly ahead, we get erratic," said Young.

"Our biggest problem is that we are not really good jumpers and we are really short," Young continued. "They (Romulus) scored 12 points as a result of offensive rebounds and we scored two."

Young added that every one of his players who saw action had both good moments and bad. Because of that, the coach said, his Panthers had trouble controlling the tempo.

"I think a win or two will change things around," Young stated.

Mike Kossick led the balanced East scoring attack with 16 points. Jim Dziak tossed in 12 and Tim Taylor and Brian Slaven, 10 apiece.

The Panthers won the JV game, 56-51.



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