

Falcons surprise coach, finish 3rd

By TOM BAER

Farmington High's second-place finish in the Schoolcraft College Invitational high school wrestling tournament last weekend surprised a lot of people including Falcon coach Barry Walsh.

Southfield-Lathrup didn't finish high in the tournament's final team standings, but the Chargers had an individual champion in 121-pound Rob Parent. And Lathrup coach Ray Tooley wasn't at all surprised with Parent's performance.

Westland John Glenn, a Class A wrestling powerhouse, won the 32-team Schoolcraft tourney with 182½ points. Runner-up Wayne Memorial scored 177 points. Farmington had 126, Clarensville 122½, Farmington Harrison 102, and Birmingham Groves, 97.

North Farmington and Southfield

High finished 13th and 32nd, respectively.

"Our kids did a fine job, and I'm really proud of them," said Farmington coach Barry Walsh. "This is my first trophy as a coach, and I'm real happy with the third place. I knew we had the potential, but I didn't think they were ready to finish this high in this kind of a tournament."

Farmington's Ron Stern won the 98-pound championship, defeating Dearborn Edsel Ford's Reg Gourd, 6-2, in the finals. Farmington took two second places with Jim Simmons and Dean Schultz. Simmons made it to the finals of the 147-pound class before dropping a 6-3 decision to Mt. Clemens' Fred Worthen. Earlier, Simmons recorded a 4-3 decision over Harrison's Kevin Johns. Schultz lasted until the finals of the 157-pound class, where he lost, 5-4, to Bay City Western's Barry Walde.

ANOTHER FARMINGTON wrestler, heavyweight Bruce McIntosh, finished fourth, losing on a referee's decision to Ypsilanti High's Mike Williams. McIntosh's performance represented a painful effort, according to Walsh.

"He injured his ankle in the third period of the overtime period," Walsh explained. "He wanted to go back in so badly that I taped his ankle and he went back in and finished the match — even though he could hardly stand up."

Lathrup finished 19th with 44 team points thanks mainly to a talented sophomore who is undefeated this season. In the 121-pound final, Parent defeated Groves' Dave Reed, 8-6. His 164 total record includes 11 pins.

"I'm pleased with Parent, but I'm coming to expect a winning performance," Tooley said. "He's doing it every time I send him out there."

"His strong point is his ride. He can hold down just about anybody, and nobody can hold him down. Once he's ahead, he can ride anyone all the way, and he can escape them, if he has to, without any trouble."

Lathrup's Dave Setudua had his undefeated status spoiled in the tournament. He started out by pinning South Lyon's Dave Marchello in 1:30, but then lost to Harrison's Kevin Johns, 9-4, in 147-pound competition. Another Lathrup man, Jim Fish, pinned Wally Exasie of South Lyon in 3:20 before losing to West Bloomfield's Pat Williams, 7-3, at 107 pounds.

FARMINGTON HARRISON, which was rated the 10th best Class A team in the state by one poll, had a respectable sixth-place finish at Schoolcraft.

Harrison's highest finish came in the 176-pound class, where Fred Blackmer finished second, losing to John

Glenn's Jim Meyer, 13-3, in the finals. Johns took a third at 147, losing to Farmington's Simmons, 4-3.

Harrison's Damian Crudele captured third place at 157. He had decided Farmington's Marty Bona, 4-1, in an earlier match, but then dropped a referee's decision to Clawson's Mike Munyon. Harrison's Pat Maher advanced to the quarterfinals of the 134-pound class before losing to Wayne Memorial's Tim Clark on a fall in 1:05.

Harrison coach Dick Cook wasn't around at the completion of the tournament. He was back in Farmington at Botsford Hospital with his heavy-weight Brian Steffans, who suffered a concussion during a match.

"He (Steffans) is fine now," Cook said. "But I think I've lost him for a week. It was a freak accident. He was wrestling and his opponent's knee came down on his head. It was the first time I've ever seen anything like that happen."

NORTH FARMINGTON finished 13th with 69 points. One North stand-out was Marty Benda, who finished third in the 134-pound class. Benda lost a 2-2 decision to Glenn's Tim Meyers in the semifinals after pinning Groves' Mike Guffie in 5:55. Other North wrestlers and their finishes: John Cotter, fourth at 140; Bill Koss, sixth at 155; and Rick Curtis, sixth at 180.

"I was pleased with our finish," said North Farmington coach Jim O'Leary. "We're very young and inexperienced. Marty (Benda) did a great job, and I'm pleased with him. He didn't wrestle well in the semifinals, but he wrestled super before that. He pinned the 132-pound weight champion of the Oakland County Tournament (Guffie)."

Southfield High finished last with only three points, but coach Ruel McPherson was happy his team had the tournament experience.

"This was our first big tournament

this season, and it was a good eye-opener for us," McPherson said. "It was good for us to face some of the best wrestlers in the state. We need to be in four or five tournaments like this."

Southfield won only one match. Greg Gagner defeated Livonia Churchill's Rick Strayan, 22-6, in the 140-pound class before losing to North Farmington's Cotter on a pin in 3:38. Another Southfield wrestler, Chris Cozens, was leading Ypsilanti's Kevin Bush in a 147-pound match. But the contest ended with Cozens being pinned in 1:03.

Meet summary

TEAM FINISHES — 1. Westland John Glenn 182½ points; 2. Wayne Memorial 177; 3. Farmington High 126; 4. Clarensville High 122½; 5. Ypsilanti High 120; 6. Farmington Harrison 102; 7. Birmingham Groves 97; 8. Dearborn High 91; 9. Mt. Clemens 88; 10. Clawson High 79; 11. Bay City Western 75; 12. Thornton High 74; 13. North Farmington 69; 14. Livonia Churchill 66; 15. Oak Park East 65; 16. West Bloomfield and Walled Lake Western 64 each; 17. Plymouth Salem 63; 18. Farmington 62; 19. Dearborn 61; 20. Dearborn Ford 59; 21. Dearborn Ford 58; 22. Dearborn Ford 57 each; 23. Dearborn Ford 56 each; 24. Dearborn Ford 55 each; 25. Dearborn Ford 54 each; 26. Dearborn Ford 53 each; 27. Dearborn Ford 52 each; 28. Dearborn Ford 51 each; 29. Dearborn Ford 50 each; 30. Dearborn Ford 49 each; 31. Dearborn Ford 48 each; 32. Dearborn Ford 47 each; 33. Dearborn Ford 46 each; 34. Dearborn Ford 45 each; 35. Dearborn Ford 44 each; 36. Dearborn Ford 43 each; 37. Dearborn Ford 42 each; 38. Dearborn Ford 41 each; 39. Dearborn Ford 40 each; 40. Dearborn Ford 39 each; 41. Dearborn Ford 38 each; 42. Dearborn Ford 37 each; 43. Dearborn Ford 36 each; 44. Dearborn Ford 35 each; 45. Dearborn Ford 34 each; 46. Dearborn Ford 33 each; 47. Dearborn Ford 32 each; 48. Dearborn Ford 31 each; 49. Dearborn Ford 30 each; 50. Dearborn Ford 29 each; 51. Dearborn Ford 28 each; 52. Dearborn Ford 27 each; 53. Dearborn Ford 26 each; 54. Dearborn Ford 25 each; 55. Dearborn Ford 24 each; 56. Dearborn Ford 23 each; 57. Dearborn Ford 22 each; 58. Dearborn Ford 21 each; 59. Dearborn Ford 20 each; 60. Dearborn Ford 19 each; 61. Dearborn Ford 18 each; 62. Dearborn Ford 17 each; 63. Dearborn Ford 16 each; 64. Dearborn Ford 15 each; 65. Dearborn Ford 14 each; 66. Dearborn Ford 13 each; 67. Dearborn Ford 12 each; 68. Dearborn Ford 11 each; 69. Dearborn Ford 10 each; 70. Dearborn Ford 9 each; 71. Dearborn Ford 8 each; 72. Dearborn Ford 7 each; 73. Dearborn Ford 6 each; 74. Dearborn Ford 5 each; 75. Dearborn Ford 4 each; 76. Dearborn Ford 3 each; 77. Dearborn Ford 2 each; 78. Dearborn Ford 1 each; 79. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 80. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 81. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 82. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 83. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 84. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 85. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 86. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 87. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 88. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 89. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 90. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 91. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 92. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 93. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 94. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 95. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 96. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 97. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 98. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 99. Dearborn Ford 0 each; 100. Dearborn Ford 0 each.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES
111 POUNDS—Ron Stern (Farmington High) defeated Reg Gourd (Dearborn Edsel Ford), 6-2.
121 POUNDS—Scott McKay (Livonia Churchill) defeated Rudy Ann (Thornton High), 4-3.
134 POUNDS—Mike Williams (West Bloomfield) defeated Jerry Henzley (Westland John Glenn) in referee's decision.
140 POUNDS—Bob Parent (Southfield-Lathrup) defeated Dave Reed (Birmingham Harrison), 4-3.
157 POUNDS—Nick Pascoe (Westland John Glenn) defeated Doug Finkley (Birmingham Groves), 4-2.
176 POUNDS—Bill Meyer (Westland John Glenn) won on disqualification over Tim Clark (Wayne Memorial).
180 POUNDS—Chris Sade (Clawson High) defeated Mark Desjardis (Clarensville High), 15-1.
192 POUNDS—Fred Worthen (Mt. Clemens) defeated Jim Simmons (Farmington High), 6-4.
220 POUNDS—Mike Mayran (Farmington High) defeated Don Belski (Farmington High), 4-3.
285 POUNDS—Barry Walsh (Bay City Western) defeated Don Belski (Farmington High), 4-3.
313 POUNDS—Jim Meyer (Westland John Glenn) defeated Fred Blackmer (Farmington Harrison), 12-6.
350 POUNDS—Rod Holman (Ypsilanti High) defeated Dave Calhoun (Plymouth Salem), 2-1.
HEAVYWEIGHT—Mike Williams (Ypsilanti High) defeated Mark Desjardis (Clarensville High), 2-1.



North Farmington's John Cotter stays on top of his opponent during a match at the Schoolcraft College high school invitational wrestling tournament. Cotter finished fourth in the 146-pound class, and North finished 13th with 69 points. (Photo by Bob Woodring)

Boys' gymnastics preview

Sport combines 'grace, strength, flexibility'

By SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN

Although boys' gymnastics in Farmington is overshadowed by other winter sports and by the lack of gymnastics training in the middle schools, coaches at the three Farmington high schools—North Farmington, Harrison and Farmington—are optimistic about this season.

Dennis Fitzgerald, a business teacher at North Farmington, doubles after hours as the boys' gymnastics coach. He anticipates the December-through-February season to be one of "learning and getting stronger" for his 17-member team which includes two seniors, nine juniors and six sophomores. "We should get better every week," Fitzgerald said, pointing out the team's stiffest competition will be late in the season when North Farmington meets Ann Arbor Huron on Feb. 14.

"Huron scored high early this season," said Fitzgerald, "and with gymnastics being a predictable sport, we know we'll have a tough time against them."

North's team has two strong all-around competitors who compete in all but one event—trampoline. They are juniors Greg Bessacwen and Jim Meggas.

"BOSSCAWEN SCORED third at the Huron Invitational before Christmas, and Meggas has pushed Greg all season," Fitzgerald said. "One is strong where the other is weak."

Other top competitors for North Farmington are junior Bill Beno in floor exercises and trampoline, senior Mark Rapp on the side horse, junior Bob Linsay on the high bar, and junior Jeff Eddy on the still-ropes. "And it's a tossup for parallel bars," commented Fitzgerald.

North will host its invitational on Feb. 4. "We invited 11 high individually," explained Fitzgerald. "The meet will offer two hours of a lot of gymnastics form elementary school clubs to high school teams."

Fitzgerald's team practices every day after school and on Wednesday nights. "On weekends, during the summer..." the coach added.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL'S 12-Gymnastics team also practices

every day except Monday nights when they compete.

Coach Bob Sallow explained their competition schedule includes two classes of teams, one which scores from 100-110 points, the other around 75 to 85 points. "There are seven or eight of these teams in the last category, including Harrison, who will battle it out this season," he said.

A physical education teacher and a regional gymnastics judge, Sallow described his team as "average but with one very strong senior, Darrell Yee, who should place second or third in the state in rings this year."

"Most of them are beginners, just starting out. It takes quite a while to develop a gymnast," Sallow continued, explaining it can take up to three years to learn a trick.

"And it can take a good year to pick up the idea of flowing from one trick to another, making a smooth transition," he added.

In addition to Yee, other strong team members are seniors Larry Naser, Dave Sosnowski and Doug Harris. Sophomore Brian O'Connor is doing well in his first year, according to Sallow.

HARRISON'S TEAM was started by Sallow seven years ago when he was teaching at Beechview Elementary School. Although he has only been at Harrison for six years, he has been the coach for seven.

"Gymnastics is a great sport. It's a combination of grace, strength, and flexibility. It's self-disciplining; it takes a special kind of person to be a good gymnast," Sallow said.

The Farmington High School team is in its second season. Coach Jim Hafke, a gymnast from the age of nine and now a national judge, has a 12-member team composed of two sophomores, four juniors and six seniors.

Farmington has lost its first three meets so far, and Hafke anticipates their losing the rest because "they aren't strong enough yet, even though six are returnees from last year. I want them to concentrate on their individual scores this season, to improve them from one meet to the next," Hafke said.

The team's top performers are seniors Tim Hafke, the coach's son, on the pommel horse and rings; Dave Hill on the floor, rings and high bar; Tracy Curtis and Dave Hill on the trampoline; and junior Steve Hartwig on the parallel and high bars.

Farmington practices two hours a day, five days a week at Farmington Training Center where the team must share the gym with the girls' gymnastics team and where their time is limited.

Hafke believes gymnastics is the "greatest mental and physical sport in the world." He is surprised it isn't stronger in Farmington.

"We had a poor turn out for try-outs," he said. "But I don't blame the students. There are no feeder systems in the Farmington schools to promote interest in gymnastics; no place for boys to get the background for the mental and physical pressures of gymnastics. This is one of the few Olympic sports not stressed, and I'm really surprised," he said.

Prep schedules

N. FARMINGTON BOYS' GYMNASTICS
Rushmore Schedule—Jan. 17, at Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 24, at Taylor, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 29, at East Lansing, 7 p.m.; Feb. 4, at North Farmington Harrison, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 7, at Ann Arbor Huron, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 10, at Ypsilanti High, 7 p.m.; Feb. 13, at Dearborn High, 7 p.m.; Feb. 16, at Ann Arbor Huron, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 19, at Dearborn High, 7 p.m.; Feb. 22, at Michigan Interscholastic Gymnastics Association meet at Trosch High, 10 a.m.; March 12, State Finals.

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