

North to defend NSL title

Prep netters grid for season

By TOM BAER

North Farmington has a league title to defend. Farmington Harrison finished second in its league last year, but wants to be No. 1 this season. Farmington High is "a lot better off this year than last," according to its coach.

That's the story as the three Farmington high school boys' tennis teams prepare for the upcoming season.

Last season, coach Norm Stanisewski's North Farmington tennis team compiled a 12-1 overall record and won the Northwestern Suburban League title. Stanisewski has six experienced returnees from that team. One of the most promising is David Epstein, a senior, who should play at No. 1 singles this season.

"Epstein was a good player last year, and he should be even stronger this season," Stanisewski said. "He plays a good, steady game. He's not particularly big, but he can hit the ball when he has to."

North has three more returning lettermen in Bob Schaffer, Kevin Howley and Rick Karoub, all seniors. Seniors Dave Dittmar and Tom Clancy also have some experience from last season. Lars Johansson, a senior foreign-exchange student, could find a

place on the varsity. "He could help us," Stanisewski said. "He's big and he has some good strokes."

Some North Farmington junior prospects include Ross Ruhl, Herb Roth, Brian Hartley and Dave Blume. Bruce Allan and Steve Chupinski, both sophomores, have been looking good, according to the coach.

NORTH BEGINS play on April 22 at non-league Livonia Stevenson. The Raider's first NSL meet is scheduled for April 27 at Westland John Glenn.

Farmington Harrison had an 8-5 overall record and a 6-4 mark in the Western Six League last season. Harrison won the WSL League Meet, but finished second in the final standings because it lost two dual meets to Northville High.

Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein hopes his team can finish on top this season.

"We have all the good kids back, and we hope to be very good this year," he said. "Northville, the defending champion, has everybody back, too, so they should be good. I'd like to think we can beat them, though."

Harrison has two talented returnees in seniors Danny Green and Bob Mal-



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itz. Last season they teamed up to win the league doubles crown. Green should be the team's No. 1 singles player this year.

"He's a very consistent and steady player."

A twin brother combination, juniors Chris and David Forberg, have lots of experience from last season. Brian Gordon, a junior transfer student from Birmingham Groves, "looks very good so far," according to Goldstein.

Harrison begins its season on April 20 at home against Farmington High. Harrison opens its WSL season on April 22 at Waterford Mott.

FARMINGTON HIGH coach Richard Burgess hopes his team can improve on last season's 5-8 overall record and the 5-5 showing in the Inter Lakes League. Farmington graduated only two players from that team, which finished third in the ILL.

Some promising returnees are seniors Jeremy Dando and Dave Crane, who should play No. 1 doubles, and senior John Carlstrom, who should play at No. 1 singles. Each saw plenty of action last season.

"Carlstrom not an especially hard hitter, but he's a solid tennis player," Burgess said. "He's serious about tennis. He knows his strokes and he gets the net."

Some other prospects are senior Chuck Amori and juniors Greg Merland and Keith Farnie.

Livonia Stevenson has dominated the ILL tennis competition in past years, and the Spartans look good again, according to Burgess. "I would anticipate Stevenson being tough, although they lost last year's coach."

Steve Whitlock's Ac-

ronauts gymnastics club won the team trophy in each of the four divisions.

Following is a list of the divisions and how the local girls placed.

Class I Children: Sisi Porcetta of Bloomfield Hills fifth.

Class II Junior: Beth

Clauss of Bloomfield Hills did not place; Jill McBride of Bloomfield Hills second.

Class I Junior: No local finishers.

Class I Senior: Karen Martino of Livonia first.

Teri Teitke of Troy third; Sarah Weston of Troy fifth; Teresa Bertocin of Bloomfield Hills ninth.

Class II Junior: Beth

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