Break is over; Farmington teams resume play

By C.J. RISAK

'Tis the season . . . or the midseason, depending on your point of view.

Millions of people throughout the world may have just finished ringing out the old year and bringing in the new, but coaches throughout Farmington are preparing to resume the old season in the new year.

While the Farmington schools have been on Christmas break, their sports teams have been on a break as well. For some coaches the time has provided them with the chance to regroup their forces and make some needed adjustments in their programs. Other coaches just hope that the momentum their teams had before the break will carry over when they begin the toughest part of their schedules.

Two coaches who are hoping to continue the success they had at the end of 1978 are Farmington's wrestling coach Dick Detters and North Farmington basketball coach Ken Dean.

Farmington's wrestling squad has been no t to unbeatable thus far. The Falcons won nine of ten dual meets and finished in third place at the Oakland County tournament. In their last showing, a triple dual meet against Southfield, Southfield-Lathrup, and Redford Union, Farmington came away with three lopsided wins, including a 51-16 triumph over a strong Lathrup squad.

"We're doing just super," Detters said at the time. "The kids are progressing real well. We'll be ready for the Schoolcraft Invitational."

The Schoolcraft Invitational is the first event of the year for Farmington. Harrison, which had a 5-2 dual meet record and finished sixth in the Oakland County tourney, and North will also take part.

"Some of those west side teams—Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn—will be real tough at Schoolcraft," Detters said. "And Southfield-Lathrup—they have a real good tournament team."

SO, WHILE the wrestling coaches prepare for one of the biggest events of their season, the basketball coaches hope to carry strong performances from their last couple of games of '78 into 1979.

Farmington, Harrison, and North all finished the year in the Farmingtor Christmas tournament. North was the winner, beating Harrison in the finals, 58-42. But all three teams came away with at least one tournament victory.

North had the most impressive start of the three, winning five of its six starts. However, the schedule wasn't a particularly tough one, with only one of the six currently sporting a winning record.

"We don't schedule opponents according to how tough they are," Dean explained. "We try to schedule teams that have programs that are similar to ours.

"This may not be the best schedule if, say, we were aiming solely for the state tournaments at the end of the year. But that really isn't our objective."

Whatever their objective, the easy part of North's schedule will last just a couple more games. The Raiders open '79 with winless Redford Union, then will host a fast-improving Southfield team. After that, North gets into the heavy stuff in the Northwest Suburban League—first at home against Livonia Franklin, then away to battle defending league champ Westland John Glenn.

While North's early schedule may have been easy, Harrison's was just the opposite. Besides facing North twice, the Hawks played two other strong teams—Flint Northwestern and Plymouth Canton. The result was just one win in their first seven games (against Redford Union in the opening round of the Christmas tourney).

The schedule doesn't get any easier for the Hawks. On Jan. 9 they host Redford Thurston, the only team to beat North this season. Then Harrison gets into its Western Six League contests, with consecutive games against Waterford Mott and Kettering.

Farmington wasn't too successful in the early part of its season either, winning only two of eight games. Falcon coach Rich Roy will try to turn that around when the team opens the '79 portion of its schedule. He'll have something to build on, as the Falcons ended '78 with a win over Redford Union.

It won't be easy, however. Farmington starts with Canton and following are Franklin, Waterford, and Livonia Stevenson.

Farmington was the only school to get its swim season underway before the new year, and the Inter-Lakes League defending champs got off to a rocky start, losing to Livonia Bentley in a dual meet and finishing eighth (out of twelve teams) in the Redford Union Relays.

The Falcon tankers did beat Southfield by an 87-85 score and now they must get ready for their dual meet with North on Jan. 9. North is the defending co-champion of the NSL and this is its first meet of the season. It should be quite a battle.

Meanwhile, Harrison, third last year in the Western Six, will open its season against Northville. The Hawks then go on the road for three straight meets against strong opposition—Canton, Birmingham Seaholm, and North.

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If North Farmington is to continue on its path to a successful season, it will need good performances from Mike Howley, a senior forward. (Staff photo)

Chargers win fourth, 66-56

Lathrup outduels Berkley in Silverdome

By C.J. RISAK

Southfield-Lathrup made its first appearance Friday at the Pontiac Silverdome a successful one, as the Chargers started strong and finished strong in beating Berkley, 66-56.

The contest was one of several scheduled this year before a Detroit Piston game. And, the way Lathrup started, it appeared the setting suited them fine.

With Berkley looking lethargic, Lathrup took command quickly, jumping to an 18-4 lead after one quarter. Karl Taylor and Ron Gold led the surge with six points each.

But the second period was a different story. The Bears, with only one loss going into the game, came alive and began cutting the Chargers lead. Taylor had given Lathrup its biggest lead of the night, 24-6, with 5:40 remaining in the quarter when Berkley came alive. The Bears outscored Lathrup, 15-5, in the remainder of the second stanza, including a 10-2 spurt in the final 3:30, to narrow their deficit to 30-21.

"I talked to them (at halftime) about their shot selection and told them they were lazy in getting back on defense," Lathrup coach Jim Kourtakis said. "I told them to concentrate on getting back on defense."

Berkley fought back in the third quarter but could never pull closer than seven points. The Bears still trailed, 45-35, at the end of the stanza.

But in the fourth quarter, Berkley began to rally. Lathrup's Taylor picked up his fourth personal foul with six minutes remaining and retreated to the bench. The Bears immediately mounted a rally, scoring eight straight points to cut the Chargers' lead to 50-48.

It was a seesaw battle for the next few minutes. Gold hit hit three free throws to give Lathrup a five point advantage. But Berkley's Mike Reinsel answered with a basket to cut the Charger lead to 53-50. Taylor then returned to the lineup, just in time to hit a basket and draw a foul. He converted the three-point play to give Lathrup a 56-50 lead with 2:40 left on the clock.

Berkley rallied again, as baskets by Jay McMellen and Barry Lonik sandwiched around a two pointer by Lathrup's Gold narrowed the lead to 58-54. Reinsel then hit two free throws to pull Berkley back within two, 58-56, with 1:04 left.

But Taylor scored six more points in the final minute, and Karl Ackerman hit a pair of free throws, to provide Lathrup with its final margin of victory.

"We played in spurts," Kourtakis said. "We played good, then we played sloppy. But the kids kept control when they came back. I told them during the fourth quarter time-outs to keep their poise, to show their class. I think they did."

Taylor led all scorers with 25 points. Gold pumped in 17 and Ackerman added 10 for Lathrup.

Lonik managed 11 for Berkley, while McMellen and Greg Anderson scored 10 points apiece.

Lathrup is now 4-1 on the season. The Chargers host Metro Suburban Association rival Rochester Adams on Friday, Jan. 5.

LATHRUP 66—BERKLEY 56

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP (66)—Ron Gold 6, 5-7, 17; Karl Ackerman 4, 2-4, 10; Jack Dakesian 2, 0-1, 4; Karl Taylor 10, 5-5, 25; Phil Conry 2, 0-0, 4; Steve Scharg 1, 0-0, 2; Jim McKnight 1, 0-2, 2; Craig Rowley 1, 0-1, 2. TOTALS: 27, 12-20, 66

BERKLEY (56)—Tom Hammett 3, 1-2, 7; Jay McMellen 5, 0-0, 10; Greg Anderson 5, 0-0, 10; Barry Lonik 3, 5-6, 11; Fred Watts 1, 2-2 4; Chris Anderson 2, 1-2, 5; Mike Reinsel 1, 4-6, 6; John Jordan 1, 0-0, 2 TOTALS: 21, 14-18, 56

TOTAL FOULS— Berkley 18, Lathrup 16. FOULED OUT: None.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP	18	12	15	21	—66
BERKLEY	6	17	14	21	—56

Rice tops Creston for seventh victory

By BOB GROSS

Number two rated Birmingham Brother Rice cooled off the Grand Rapids Creston Polar Bears Thursday night, picking up an easy 67-50 victory.

The anticipated showdown between Tim Andree of the Warriors and Creston's Melvin McLaughlin never materialized. Andree was the dominant force in the game, hauling down 20 rebounds, canning 12 of 17 field goal attempts, and hitting one free throw for 25 points. McLaughlin, who came into the contest averaging 42 points a game, hit on only 5 of 15 field goal attempts.

In fact, McLaughlin did most of his scoring from the charity stripe, hitting 12 of 13 free throws to finish with 22 points.

McLaughlin's dismal field goal percentage of 33 per cent was due largely to the efforts of Brother Rice guards Steve Ameli and Brian Brennan. As Coach Bill Norton explained, "Ameli and Brennan were assigned to guard him when they were on the floor. We were conscious of where he was at all times and we wated someone to be there immediately should he get open".

Both teams started the game slowly. Creston scored first after more than a minute-and-a-half had expired. But Tim Andree countered with two buckets of his own, before sitting down with three fouls, and Rice never trailed. Don Piotrowski came off the bench for Andree and responded with six points, staking the Warriors to a 12-9 first quarter lead.

Creston threatened once in the early going. With the score 8-4 in favor of Rice, Melvin McLaughlin made a shot, from an impossible angle—he was behind the backboard when he released the ball which somehow found the hoop. McLaughlin drew a foul and calmly converted the free throw for a three point play, cutting the Rice lead to one.

But that was as close as it got. Andree came off the bench in the second quarter and established himself quickly with a slam dunk. The second stanza belonged to Brother Rice as the Warriors outscored their opponents 15-6 to take a 27-15 lead at the half.

The Warriors used their superior height effectively in the third quarter, getting chance after chance with offensive rebounds. Although Andree was the obvious "big man" under the bucket, forwards Rob Manilla and George Duncan were also effective, finishing with 11 and 10 points respectively. They helped make a trip down the lane a walk in the "land of the giants" for the smaller Creston players.

By the end of the third quarter the Warriors had rolled to their biggest lead, 48-26.

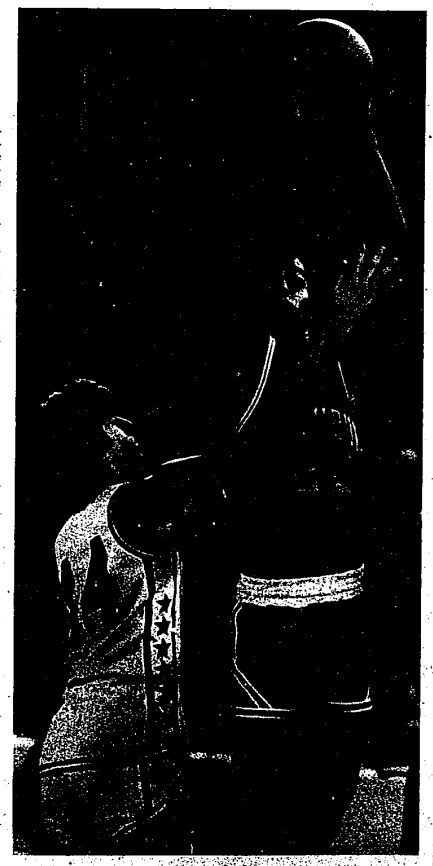
Creston broke out of its scoring slump in the fourth quarter, outpointing Rice 24-15, but it was a case of too little, too late.

The victory can be attributed mainly to Rice's height advantage and strong inside game. These two factors are nowhere more apparent than in the differences between the two teams' rebounding statistics and their field goal percentages. Brother Rice pulled down 49 rebounds compared to 21 for Creston, and the Warriors hit on 31 of 62 from the floor for a respectable 50 per cent, while the Polar Bears lived up to their name, hitting only 17 of 54 shots, a frigid 33 per cent.

Noting his team's strong inside game, Rice's Norton said, "When they're concentrating on Andree, it leaves our other forwards free to go to the boards and pick up those offensive rebounds."

Andree was the leading scorer for the game and for the Warriors with 25 points, followed by Marilla and Duncan with 11 and 10. McLaughlin was the only player in double figures for Creston with 22 points.

Brother Rice, 7-0 for the season, will be idle until Jan. 5.



Lathrup's Karl Taylor drives through Berkley's Jay McMellen enroute to scoring two of his game high 25 points Friday at the Pontiac Silverdome. (Photos by Allen Schlossberg)

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