

# District pairings offer key match-ups

By C.J.RISAK

is host team Southfield, Bloomfield Hills Andover and Detroit Henry Ford. The pairings in both districts should make for some interesting confrontations. Here's a preview of the upcoming competition in the opening rounds of the state tournament.

## SOUTHFIELD DISTRICT

It's not hard to pick the favorites in this district.

The Observer & Eccentric's two top teams in its area cage poll throughout the season has been West Bloomfield and Mercy. The Lakers sport an 18-1 season record, while Mercy is 14-3.

Southfield has lost its opening round games. In fact, since both are in opposite brackets, neither should be challenged until the district final.

West Bloomfield faces Andover Monday night, a team the Lakers have twice already beaten this year during the Greater Oakland Athletic League season.

But Andover is more than capable of an upset. The Barons have been bothered by injuries throughout the season, the worst being to star Peggy Bortfield. The senior forward has been in and out of the lineup all year.

Andover's major scoring threat is Lauren Marakas, who has led the Lakers in the point column most of the season.

But it won't be that easy this year.

Southfield should prove to be no real threat to Mercy, and neither should Mercy's round opponent Harrison. The Hawks, led by Linda Baché, haven't the firepower to stay with Mercy despite three season-ending wins that raised their record to 6-12.

BARRING UPSETS, it should be Mercy vs. West Bloomfield in the district championship next Friday.

The Lakers have a good tournament team — all seniors, all experienced. Guard Carolyn Barcewicz is the team leader, but the scoring comes from frontliners Sandy DeSilvio, Lynn Gerber and Katie Odena.

Mercy has more depth, but during

tournament play depth is not important. Several players can carry a team.

West Bloomfield has experience, the Marlinas are a young group. At times during the season, Mercer started two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore. But they are a talented lot.

West Bloomfield has the muscle and

is most effective offensively working

inside or on short jumpers. Mercy is a

good outside shooting team and can get

into trouble if that shot isn't falling.

Both teams use full-court press de-

fenses effectively. Mercy may be

smaller, but the Marlinas are quicker.

This will be a classic matchup. Al-

though West Bloomfield has the better

record, Mercy played at far tougher

schedule.

The Marlinas have also been involved

in many close contests, and their

record in these games is good. They're

a good clutch team.

Since I think this will be a close con-

test, I figure Mercy to win the district.

But it'll be very, very close.

## FARMINGTON DISTRICT

Neither Farmington nor North Farmington figure to make it past their first game in the district.

Farmington goes up against the team that has to be the district favorite in the opening round — Livonia Bently.

Bentley has lost only once all season in 19 games and was the undefeated champion of the Suburban Eight league.

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West Bloomfield's Ann Claverilla (in white) will see plenty of playing time for the Lakers in the district tournament. (Photo by Santa Pablo)

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