

Raider girl gymnasts tune up for tournament

By TOM BAER

The high school girls' gymnastics season has just begun, but North Farmington's girls will have a preview of state tournament competition next Saturday when they travel to Dearborn High for the Dearborn Invitational.

The 20-team Dearborn field includes state co-champions North Farmington and Ludington High, and North's girls are looking forward to competing against their outstate foe.

"Our girls are excited about it," said North coach Mary Johnesee, whose team kicked off its season with a 91-66 victory over Walled Lake Central last Monday.

"They want to make a good showing



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Kathy Temple is on the beam for North Farmington.

against Ludington and all the other good teams at the Dearborn tournament, and I think that this meet (against Central) boosted their confidence."

Junior Kathy Temple, North's strongest individual, had an outstanding meet, taking firsts in vaulting (8.35), balance beam (8.9), uneven parallel bars (a school record 9.3) and all-around (34.85). She scored 8.3 in floor exercise for third place.

"She didn't do one of her best floor routines, but overall she did a great job," Johnesee said. "It was the first meet and she was a little nervous. It was the first time I've ever seen Kathy nervous."

"I think it's because we're so late in starting our meets this year. We also lost one of our top three girls (Diane McLean) from last year and the girls weren't sure they could still win."

ANOTHER NORTH gymnast, Suanne Casillo, took second places in beam (8.2) and bars (8.3) and a third place in vaulting (7.9). North's Lale Akman finished fourth in floor exercise (7.3) and teammate Jody Schupbach took a fourth in vaulting (7.35).

Walled Lake Central's Kristie Carral topped the floor exercise competition with a score of 8.6. Barbara Burke, also of Central, placed second in floor exercise with 8.4.

Competition at the Dearborn Invitational starts at 10 a.m. Saturday. Some other area teams in the meet are Clarenceville, Bloomfield Hills Andover, Troy High and Troy Athens.

North Farmington's boys' gymnastics team raised its dual-meet record to 2-0 last Monday with a 121.25-108.62 win over Southfield-Lathrup.

North senior Jeff Dwyer made strong showing with four firsts. He won the floor exercise (8.5), side horse (8.2), parallel bars (7.6) and all-around (40.7). Lathrup's Andy Fogel won three events, the still rings (7.9), vaulting (8.7) and the high bar (6.15).

"We had some good performances from our underclassmen," said North coach Dennis Fitzgerald. "Rod Stabilein scored 34.15 in all-around, and David Gaines did a nice job for us on the bars with a 5.3."

North entertains St. John's High School at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28.

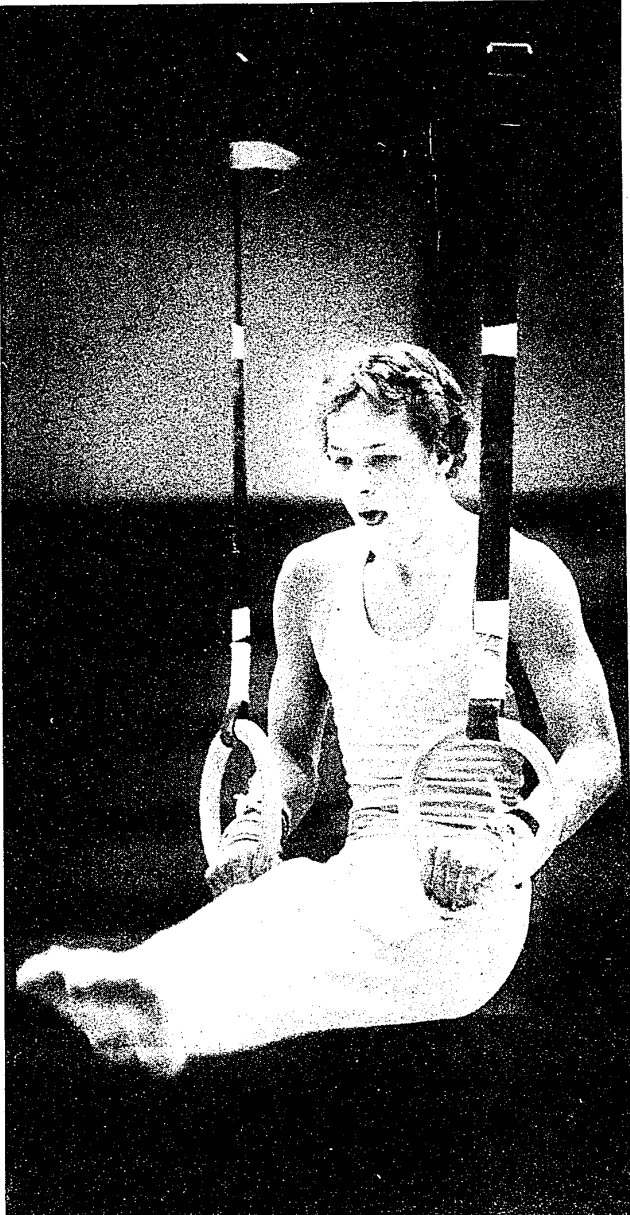
IN ANOTHER girls' gymnastics meet last Monday, Farmington Harrison won its third-straight with an 88.9-84.0 victory over Lathrup.

Kathy Purcell led Harrison, winning the uneven bars (8.0), floor exercise (7.9) and all-around (30.7). Harrison's Janel Thibodeau won the balance beam with a 7.4. Lathrup's Susan Bennet won the vaulting competition with a score of 8.0.

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SPORTS LINE 477-5450



Jeff Dwyer won four events for North Farmington in last Monday's dual meet against Southfield-Lathrup. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

North tops Rochester

By C.J. RISAK

Rich Nutter canned five free throws in the final two minutes of the game to help North Farmington to a 82-54 win over Rochester Tuesday at North.

The score was tied 45-45 at the start of the final quarter, but North took command, outscoring Rochester 10-2 in the first five minutes of the period. Chris Ribant scored a pair of baskets to get Rochester back to within three (57-54), but the Falcons could come no closer.

Nutter went to the line six times in the final two minutes and connected on five of those chances. His only miss was rebounded by teammate Rex Baker, and Baker turned it into a Raider basket. Nutter finished with nine points in the period and a game-high 21.

"I'm not disappointed with our performance," Rochester coach John Bailey said. "We hung in there. They just made the key baskets at the end of the game and we didn't."

"Nutter played a real fine game for them."

It was a game of scoring streaks and momentum all four quarters, as the teams took turns asserting themselves. Rochester easily broke North's full-court zone press defense at the beginning of the game to open a three-point lead after one quarter (17-14).

The Raiders dropped the press in the second quarter and went into a 2-3 zone defense. The move paid off, as Rochester had trouble penetrating and North managed a 10-4 scoring advantage in the final four minutes of the period.

"THEY DIDN'T HANDLE the zone as well as I thought they would," North coach Ken Dean said. "More importantly, it allowed us to get our break going."

"The kids are starting to do the things we've been working on. And we got some good mileage out of our sophomores (Tom) Renard and (Mark) Bowditch."

(Continued on page 4B)

Delta nips OCC, 65-64

Oakland Community College's second-half rally fell one point short as the Raiders lost their third straight conference game, 65-64, to Saginaw Delta Community College Saturday at OCC.

The setback, which left OCC with a 7-3 mark in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association, was decided on a disputed call in the final seconds of the contest.

With 16 seconds remaining, Delta clung to a one-point lead, 65-64. Anthony Barnard rebounded a missed Delta free throw and worked the ball up-court and into the hands of freshman forward Jack Dakesian. Dakesian's short shot circled the rim and fell out with three seconds still remaining on the clock.

OCC's Mike Gollnick picked off the rebound and put it up again, but once again the ball bounced off the rim. Gollnick again rebounded the miss, but in his try for the winning basket he was knocked to the floor by several Delta players who were going for the ball.

The referee ruled a jump ball as time ran out instead of calling Delta for a foul. It was a decision that did not sit well with the partisan OCC crowd.

The call also ruined a Raider second-half comeback. Delta had forged a 38-33 lead at the half and

led by 10 with five minutes left. But OCC, behind the shooting of Anthony Barnard and Darryl Clausell, stormed back.

The Raiders, who were undefeated in league play two weeks ago and held a one-game lead in the conference, are now two games back and in third place. Delta is first with a 9-1 record and Highland Park is second (8-2) at the midpoint of the season.

Barnard led all scorers, netting 16 for OCC. Clausell added 10 for the Raiders. Delta was led by Danny Sapp's 14 points and James Pitts and Greg Fifer with 12 each.

OCC travels to Highland Park for an important league contest Saturday. The Raiders were four-point winners in the two teams first meeting earlier this season.

DELTA 65 — OCC 64

DELTA (65) — James Pitts 4, 0-2, 8; Jeff Horn 4, 4-5, 12; Danny Sapp 4, 4-8, 14; Greg Fifer 4, 4-4, 12; Norbert McKenry 1, 0-0, 2; Chuck Thomas 3, 0-1, 6; Wayne Petty 2, 0-1, 4; David Bland 2, 1-1, 5; Mike Jasowicz 1, 0-0, 2. TOTALS — 25, 15-22, 65.

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (64) — Anthony Barnard 8, 0-1, 16; Darryl Clausell 9, 0-0, 19; John James 1, 5-7, 7; Mike Gollnick 3, 3-5, 9; Phil Booknight 2, 0-0, 4; Stu Ruffin 3, 1-1, 7; Kevin Treefolt 0, 0-4, 3; Jack Dakesian 2, 4-4, 8; Jeff DeYoung 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS — 24, 16-22, 64.

TOTAL FOULS — Delta 22, OCC 22. FOULED OUT: None.

HALFTIME — Delta 38, OCC 33.

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