

# Glenn cage coach returns to post

By DOUNE FUNKIE  
and SANDRA ARMSTRONG

Den Henry will coach the varsity basketball team at Westland John Glenn this winter after all.

Henry, who was fired as coach by Glenn Principal Thomas Svitekovich in September, has won an arbitration case which was initiated on his behalf by the Wayne-Westland Education Association.

Henry takes over from Gerald Szukailas, who has been working with the team in preseason. Szukailas had signed a coaching contract with the understanding that Henry would return if he won his arbitration case.

Glenn opens its season Friday at Taylor Center. Henry, who coached the varsity last season and the JV team before that, said he felt his name had been cleared by the arbitrator's decision.

"If I felt the firing was justified, I wouldn't have fought it," Henry said. "I felt I would win all along. I'm just happy to be back with the kids."

Svitekovich said he was surprised with the arbitrator's decision, but would not comment on the matter other than to say he and the school administration will abide by the ruling.

Svitekovich refused to go into specifics when he dismissed Henry from his coaching position. Henry maintained it was a personality conflict between Svitekovich and himself.

Bill Reese, president of the Wayne-Westland Education Association, said that arbitrator Nathan Lipson ruled there was no just cause for the firing.

"There was a meeting (between Henry and Svitekovich) in which there was a heated discussion," Reese said. "Based on comments made by Henry, they fired him. Basically,

that's what it comes down to."

Bill Taylor, assistant superintendent for employee relations for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, said the issue was "insubordination and acting in an unprofessional and uncooperative manner."

Two different issues were cited in the arbitrator's decision, Taylor said.

"One, did the district have a right to discipline (Henry), and two, did he (Henry) have the right for union representation and was it provided?" Taylor said.

"The arbitrator ruled that we did have the right to discipline him, but, in essence — and these are my words — he (Lipson) said that the discipline was too excessive or too harsh," Taylor continued.

"He ruled that the firing be reduced to a written reprimand," Taylor said. "He (Lipson) also ruled that the (administration) did provide union representation."

The arbitration decision called for the following three things:

- A written reprimand for Henry.
- A commitment from Henry, which was received, according to Taylor, that Henry "would work in a cooperative manner with the high school administration," Taylor said.
- Henry be reinstated as coach on a 30-day trial basis.

"Very frankly, I think Henry will coach for the rest of the year," Taylor said. "The main thing is that the issue has been resolved."

Henry said that he does not feel any added pressure now that he is back as coach. "I just want to go in there and do the job," he said. "I just hope we can work out our differences."

"The kids are really excited I'm back," Henry added. "The parents have been fighting hard for me. We think we're a pretty good team. We had a good summer (practicing)."

## Panthers battle North Farmington

### RU, Borgess hoopsters optimistic

If there's one constant theme that all coaches have on it's "Give me the tools, and I'll get the job done."

Well, right now is the time of year when basketball coaches search for those tools in practices after school, in shooting scrimmages and in full-court scrimmages.

And more than a few area coaches feel that they have the tools for a successful season.

REDFORD Union coach Bill Foley has a veteran team returning to challenge for the title in the Northwest Suburban League. "It's a senior ball club," said Foley. "We're just missing one player from last year."

Leading this year's version of the Panthers

is Jerry Burk, a 6-foot-2 senior center. Burk was all-league last year as a junior.

And he has the ability, according to Foley, to play in the center despite his comparative lack of size.

"He rebounds like he's 6-7," said the Union coach.

Joining Burk on the front line are Todd Hillis, a 6-2 senior forward, and Mike Lowney, a 6-0 senior forward.

Lowney was an all-league quarterback earlier this year during football season.

The starting guards for Union are Rocco Rucinski, a 5-9 senior, and Bill Klotz, a 5-10 senior.

Mark Baugherty, another 5-9 senior guard, will see plenty of action coming in off the

bench according to Foley.

Andy Szabo, a 6-1 junior, will perform a similar function, coming in to spell the frontcourt players.

The Panthers do have a lack of height with a front line that goes 6-2, 6-2, 6-0, but Foley says they won't let that bother them.

"We're not real tall," said Foley, "but we've got good speed and experience."

Union should be one of the teams to beat in the NSL this year.

But the Panthers won't be alone.

"North Farmington won it last year," said Foley. "I think John Glenn will be one of the better teams too."

Redford Union starts its regular season Dec. 5 with a non-league game at Livonia

Stevenson.

BISHOP BORGESS coach Bill Creteau makes no bones about the kind of team he expects the Spartans to be this year.

"We are going to have an awfully young ball club," said Creteau.

Much of that youth will be supplied by a pair of talented sophomores — 6-4 Lewis Scott, and 6-2 Darius Walker.

Of course the Spartans do have some experience, and they have that experience where it will do the most good — at point guard in the person of 5-10 senior Larry Mulka, and at center in 6-3 senior Paul Bialowicz.

Mulka particularly should be a steady influence on the court.

## St. Mary's cagers favored in league

By M.B. DILLON

A preseason peek at the Orchard Lake St. Mary's cagers reveals that any team intending to sever the Eagles' three-year-old streak of 30 consecutive league victories will need an arsenal of razor-sharp offensive and defensive skills.

"People look at us as the team to beat," said St. Mary's coach Bob Shoemaker, whose 1979 season finished at 18-4 and qualified for the Class C-D Catholic League playoffs.

"We had a down year last season that we're going to improve upon," he said. "We were 22-3 the year before and 27-0 the year before that."

"Seven returning lettermen will be a big factor — plus the fact we didn't lose anyone," added the four-year veteran coach.

Shoemaker's veterans include 6-foot-4 junior forward Chris Szabo — a two-year letterman; senior guard Ed Bonk — a three-year varsity player; 6-7 senior forward Ed Okuniewski; junior forward Carl Pellegrini; 6-5 junior guard Hiram Harris — who last year made the all-Catholic team; 6-2 senior guard Phil Kozicki and senior Martin Vucinaj — an all-county tight end on the Eagles' football team this fall.

PRESSURE OFFENSE and defense

will form the cornerstone of the Eagles' attack. "We like the fast break and will go primarily with man-to-man," said Shoemaker.

"Plus we've got about 12 variations of pressing defenses."

If there's trouble from anyone this season, Shoemaker expects Wyandotte Mt. Carmel to be the cause.

"They beat us in the Catholic tournament last year," he said.

"We always expect a strong challenge from them and this year, four of their seven starters are back. We're pinpointing towards them."

"That's not to say Shoemaker lacks faith in the Eagles."

"These players are hard workers and they play hard the whole game," he added.

"We've got a smart, talented squad with an aggressive style of play. I'm excited about the season."

Isn't there even one weak link in the chain?

"Obviously we're not as strong in every area as we'd like to be," said Shoemaker.

"Traditionally, we're really weak shooting from the foul line. I must be a poor free throw-shooting coach."

"Hopefully my team will have better coaching this year. Each kid knows his role — the season will depend upon how well each player executes."

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