Glenn cage coach returns to post

Dan Henry will coach the varsity basket-ball team at Westland John Glenn this winter

oan team at westiand John Gienn this whiter after all. Henry, who was fired as coach by Glember, Principal Thomas Svitkovich in September, has won an arbitration case which was initi-ated on his behalf by the Wayne-Westland Education Association.

Education Association.

Henry takes over from Gerald Szukaitas, who has been working with the team in preseason. Szukaitas 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 de-

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

the kids."
Svikovich 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 rul-

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

Bill Reese, president of the Wayne-West-land Education Association, said that arbitra-tor Nathan Lipson ruled there was no just cause for the firing.

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

that's what it comes down to."
Bill Taylor, assistant superintendent for employe relations for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, said the issue was "insubordination and acting in an unprofessional and uncooperative manner."

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 we (administration) did provide union representation."

The arbitration decision called for lowing three things:

• A written reprimand for Henry,
• A commitment from Henry, w • 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," enry added. "The parents have been fight-g hard for me. We think we're a pretty good am. We had a good summer (practicing)."





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Panthers battle North Farmington

RU, Borgess hoopsters optimistic

If there's one constant theme that all coaches harp 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 in the property of the Parthers Leading this year's version of the Parthers Leading this year's version of the Parthers

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.

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 asys 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.

"Arch 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 Croteau 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 Croteau.

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

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 steadying 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 Eaglets' three-year-old streak of 30 consecutive league victories will need an arsenal of razor-sharp offensive and

an areanal of rators sharp offensive and defensive skills:

"People look at us as the team to beat," said St. Mary's coach Bob Shoemaker, whose 1979 squad finished at 18-1 and qualified for the Class C-D Catholic Leegue 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.

eran coach.

Shoemaker's veterans include 6-foot4 junior forward Chris Sass — a twoyear letterman; senior guard Ed Bonk
— a three-year varsity player; 5-7 senior forward Ed Okuniewski; junior guard
Hiram Harris — who last year made
the ail-Catholic team; 6-2 senior guard
Phil Kozicki and senior Martin Vuelor
— an ail-county tight end on the
Eaglets' football team this fall.

PRESSURE OFFENSE and defense

will form the cornerstone of the Eaglet's attack. "We like the fast break and will go primarily with mantonan," said Shoemaker.

"Plus we've got about 12 variations of pressing defenses. Form anyone this seem of the care. If there's trouble the care. If there's trouble the care. 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 raith in the Eaglets.

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

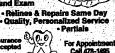
"We've got a smart, talented squad."

anded.
"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
shpemaker.
"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
ciol — the season will depend, upon
how well each player executes."

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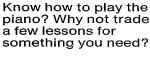




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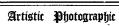
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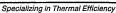
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