

Former Lions offer expertise

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 meaning to the state of Michigan.
 "I think it'll pump up the economy. I'll give us a little shot in the arm, something this area needs."


MEL FARR
 It's not that former Detroit Lion running back Mel Farr is partial to the National Football Conference. He just believes in the San Francisco 49ers.
 "I think the 49ers have proven they have the best team in the National Football League," said Farr, a Birmingham resident who is proprietor of a Ford dealership in Oak Park.
 "The 49ers had the best record in the NFL. They played a tough schedule. They beat the Bengals before. I just think the 49ers have a superior team."
 "I think the 49ers have a defensive backfield that will make it difficult for Ken Anderson to drop back and pass on them — even though they're rookies," he said.
 Farr believes having new teams playing for the world championship is good for football.
 "They are both teams that are coming off of losing seasons last year," said Farr, who played college football at UCLA. "I think it's good for other teams in the NFL to see that teams that had losing seasons the year before can come back and make it to the Super Bowl."
 "It's good for football because it breaks the monotony of seeing the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl every year," he said.
 "It's going to make the competition a hell of a lot tougher during the 1982 seasons because everybody realizes they have a chance to go to the Super Bowl."
 Farr agreed that staging the Super Bowl here will provide a much-needed boost.

RICK FORZANO
 Rick Forzano coached the Lions for two seasons before being replaced by Tommy Hudson in 1975. Although the Bloomfield Hills resident has not coached since, he still follows football closely.
 Forzano serves as a color analyst for ABC's regional college football telecasts. He also provided color commentary for NBC Radio's broadcast of this year's Rose Bowl.
 "Really, I'm not much on predicting who will win a football game," Forzano said. "I just wouldn't want to pick one (team) over another."
 Forzano has his reasons for not choosing a winner. He served as an assistant with Bill Walsh when both men coached for the Bengals.
 But Forzano did say the game would be a wide-open affair.
 "Both teams will have to do it through the ball," said Forzano. "It's a unique game because neither quarterback has been in a Super Bowl. And the key to any game is the quarterback."
 "Both (Anderson of Cincinnati and Joe Montana of San Francisco) have the ability. They have quick feet and fine throwing arms."
 "It'll be high scoring. A fluke — a fumble or blocked punt — could be the key."
 Forzano is happy the Detroit area is hosting the Super Bowl. He said, "Unlike past Super Bowls, the whole state is taking part. It's a great spirit."

Southfield tops cage poll

By virtue of Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher's 50-49 stunning upset over Birmingham Brother Rice on Jan. 12, a new leader has emerged in the Observer & Eccentric weekly basketball poll.
 Southfield High, which sports an 8-0 record after the Blue Jays destroyed Bloomfield Hills Andover, 75-30 last Friday, has unanimously been named the top team in the area, as voted by the three-man O&E sports staff.
 Orchard Lake St. Mary, 7-0 going into Tuesday night's action, has moved to No. 2 while Brother Rice dropped to third. The Warriors, 7-3 overall, have fallen one point short in each of their three losses.
 Auburn Heights Avondale (8-1) occupies the fourth spot, while Farmington Harrison, none, is ranked fifth. Detroit Country Day School is sixth with a 7-3 mark, and Southfield-Lathrup (5-4) is seventh.
 The O&E poll includes teams in the coverage areas of Birmingham-Bloomfield, Farmington, Rochester, Southfield, Troy and West Bloomfield.

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Raiders hold winning hand

By Jim Hughes
 staff writer

Gymnastics teams across the state lake notice: North Farmington is still the team to beat in Class A.
 Saturday, the defending state champion Raider gymnasts topped a 17-team field at the prestigious Dearborn Invitational — an early-season gauge which gives an indication as to which teams hold the high cards.
 North Farmington, which also won the Dearborn title last season, came up with four Aces Saturday — Dona Kehrle, Kim Edwards, Alyene Wolf and Sharon Shifra — to win the jackpot. The North Farmington four helped the Raiders accumulate 123.85 points to edge Ladington (123.35) for the top trophy.
 "I'm pleased," North Farmington coach Mary Johnesse said after the trophy presentation. "This is a young team. We don't have any seniors, so this was the first big meet for some of them."
 "WE HAVE a lot of potential. We got past a lot of good teams here today," she added, "but we still haven't

seen all the good ones. I hear East Kentwood is good this year."
 One of the teams North Farmington got past was Troy, another perennial gymnastics power. The Colts, also a young team, finished fifth overall with 119.70 points. Troy was led by Junior Kathy Temple, who placed third in all-around competition with a 33.20 score.
 "In the first two meets, I was way over 34," Michaels said. "Today I wasn't even close. I think Troy has a reputation of doing bad on the bars here. But, we did OK, it's a whole new team."
 One reason the Colts finished fifth was their lackluster performance on the uneven parallel bars. Michaels had the best mark — a 7.4 — but the rest of the scores dipped below 7.1.
 "It wasn't our best," Troy coach Sandy Smith reflected. "We've got a lot of things to work on. We're young, and the season is really well on the floor, but we were bad on the bars," Smith summarized.
 COMPARED TO the 1981 meet, Saturday's competition was a study in contrast. Whereas Raider gymnast Kathy Temple won three event titles and the all-around medal last year, four different girls came away with the five medals in this meet.
 Michaels recorded an 8.85 on the floor to claim top honors, and Shifra scored an 8.5 on the bars to top the competition. Leann Albeck from Adrian won the beam with an 8.7, and Lanelle Hill from East Lansing won the vault with an 8.8 score. Albeck was the all-around champion with a 33.25 mark.
 North Farmington's team effort came from Kehrle, sixth on the floor (8.5), second on the beam (8.6), 14th on the bars (7.5), and sixth all-around (31.65); Edwards, 12th on the beam (7.85), 18th on the bars (7.35) and 16th all-around (33.25); Wolf, seventh on the beam (8.05), 13th on the vault (8.2), and seventh on the bars (7.7); and Shifra, first on the bars (8.5), and third on the vault (8.5).
 In addition to Michaels' 8.85 score on the floor exercise, she was third on the beam (8.5), fifth on the vault (8.4), and 16th on the bars (7.4). Michele Sirna was eighth on the beam (8.0), 12th on the floor (8.1), 15th on the vault (8.15), and 11th all-around (31.25). Dana Watson finished 15th on the floor (8.05).
 Bloomfield Hills Andover, which placed 13th overall, was led by Amy Nadler, 16th on the floor (8.0), 16th on the vault (8.1), and 18th on the beam (7.45). Rochester, a 15th-place finisher, had one top-20 placer: Christy Machovec was 12th on the floor with an 8.1.
 IN TUESDAY action, Rochester improved its dual-meet record to 9-1 with a 195.5-96.15 victory over Romeo.
 Machovec took firsts in three events, while Dawn Bodrie was first with a 7.85 score on the bars.
 Machovec's first-place scores included: 6.75 on the beam, 8.05 on the vault, and an 8.15 on the floor.



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