

Krisniski named cage coach at St. Mary's

By Marty Budner
staff writer

If Rick Krisniski can achieve team goals as well as he can personal goals, St. Mary's should continue to be successful in boys' basketball.

Krisniski, only 23 years old, was named head varsity basketball coach last week at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory High School. Krisniski was formerly employed as an Eaglet assistant coach under Bob Shoemaker, who resigned in mid-April to seek new challenges.

"You bet I'm excited to get this job. I've been on cloud nine all week," said the curly-haired Krisniski over the

phone last week. "Being a basketball coach has been one of my goals ever since I was a freshman in high school."

Krisniski attended St. Andrew High School, where he played under Shoemaker for three seasons. He arrived at St. Mary's, not so coincidentally, when Shoemaker was high six years ago. "I was a gym rat in high school — but I knew my playing days were numbered," said Krisniski. "But, I loved the sport of basketball, and I've always admired people who are coaches — especially Bob."

"I could go to clinics for the next 50 years and not learn as much as Bob has taught me. His knowledge of the game

is immense — not only the X's and O's but the philosophy, treatment of kids and the learning to handle players as well."

"I think the No. 1 thing he taught me was that if you want to win you have to work hard," he said. "You can't expect players to win for you if you don't show them hard work yourself. I think that's one of the secrets to being successful."

During Shoemaker's six years as head coach, the Eaglets compiled a 184-25 won-lost record. He guided St. Mary's to the state class D championship in 1978 and the state class C championship in 1982.

St. Mary's had won 10 Catholic League Division titles before last winter, when the Eaglets finished with a

sub-par 10-11 record. Despite that tradition, Krisniski says the pressure this coming season will be minimal.

"I've been around pressure so much that I think I'm already acclimated to it," said Krisniski, who led the 1979-80 Eaglet junior varsity to its only league title over the past 30 years.

"I'D LIKE to make my own mark around here now. I'd like to have our teams be as successful as we have been in the past — but under my regime. You can't ride on past accomplishments."

There won't be any drastic changes in the program — the only change is that there's a new man in charge," he

said. "I might make a different impression on people because I'm a different personality."

Krisniski attended both University of Detroit and Wayne State University. He currently is the Director of Admissions at the all-boys Catholic school.

Krisniski has been a division staff director at numerous summer camps, including St. Mary's College Basketball Unlimited, the Dick Vitale-Bob Lanier camp and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Detroit Camp.

Krisniski, who has also coached cross country and baseball at St. Mary's, says his immediate needs are to assemble a staff and organize the various summer basketball programs.



Rick Krisniski
OLSM coach

Harrison gains 1st track victories over Northville

Farmington Harrison recorded its first boys' and girls' track and field victories Thursday night as both teams topped Northville.

The boys' team defeated Northville, 70-62, with a first-place finish in the mile relay. Jerry Holcomb, Don Lacey, Dave Dickson and Andy Morin won the mile relay in 3:41.7.

The Hawks also won the two other relays. Eric Gayer, Bill Wood, John Sepelya and Mike Roseanu were first in the 800 (1:39.3) while Dickson, Gayer, Wood and Roseanu won the 400 (47.5). Individually, Lacey placed first in

800 (2:12.0). Gayer won the long jump (18-3), and Dickson won the pole vault (9-0). Mike Eaker was first in the mile (4:57.0). Kevin Mitchell won the high jump (5-8) and Paul Riggo was first in the discus (116-5).

The girls' team won 63%-59%. Alice Short was a double winner for the Hawks with firsts in the shot put (42-4) and discus (116-34). Carla Primo won the 100 (12.3) and Lynda Gilydyis was first in the high jump (4-8).

Harrison's 800 relay team of Carol Koppo, Jamie Lyons, Jill Birsa and Primo was first in 2:00.1, while the mile

track

relay team of Koppo, Lyons, Marlene Sanders and Traci Brod was first in 4:40.8.

Tuesday, the teams compete in the Farmington City Meet at North Farmington.

NORTH FARMINGTON jumped to 2-0 in the Northwest Suburban League

Thursday as the girls humbled Redford Thurston, 81-42.

Marla Thompson was a double winner for the Raiders, with firsts in the discus (95-7) and high jump (4-6).

All three relay teams came across in first place. Audrey Niskar, Sharon Shifra, Chris Depalos and Laina Shaw were first on the mile 400 relay team

(58.0), while Niskar, Laurie Wright, Sue Hedfield and Kim Mandell won with a 2:01.9 in the 800 relay.

The mile relay team of Sara Cline, Wright, Hedfield and Mandell won with a time of 4:49.9.

Mary Manderfield was first in the shot put (28-1). Hedfield won the 100 hurdles (16.8). Emmi Yoshida was first in the mile (6:08.7), and Cline finished first in the 800 (2:48.4).

In the boys' meet, four competitors combined to win nine events as the Raiders clobbered Thurston, 104-28. Brian Hood won the shot (40-7) and disc (125-10). Dan Schaffer was first in the 100 (11.2), 200 (24.8) and 400 (53.0).

Chris Walker won the mile (4:48.9) and two mile (10:24.0) and Rob Griffin was first in the 120 high hurdles (15.7) and 330 low hurdles (42.8).

Mike Mahon, Vic Shaw, Dan Kramer and Mickey Ruel teamed to win the 400 (47.1) and 800 (1:38.8) re-

lays, while Ken Weise, Tim Lessau, Eric Zuckerman won the mile relay (3:47.0).

Zuckerman won the 800 (2:07.8). Dan Salinas was first in the pole vault (9-6) and Eric Collier won the long jump (19-10).

North Farmington, which hosts the city meet Tuesday, is 3-1 overall.

FARMINGTON HIGH evened its record to 2-2 Thursday as the girls were soundly beaten by Walled Lake Western, 83-34.

Lynn Looser, Linda Kietly, Traci Hule and Laura Spence won the mile relay in 4:41.5 for the Falcons.

Beth Sherman was first in the discus (105-3), Rhonda Lancaster won the 110 hurdles (17.1) and Annette Sulick ran a first-place mile time of 5:54.3.

Farmington will join North and Harrison in the city meet Tuesday at North Farmington.

Farmington evens baseball mark

Farmington High School evens its baseball record to 3-3 Thursday when the Falcons topped Walled Lake Central, 5-2.

Dan Zang went the distance to earn the win for Farmington, as he allowed four hits, walked two and struck out two.

The eventual winning run was scored in the bottom of the sixth when freshman Joe Bob Wenson singled home Brian Ledford.

Ledford, a senior catcher, also had two hits — a single and a double — and threw out four baserunners who attempted to steal.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST'S Brooks Rouseau hit a seventh-inning single to score Mike Aumann which gave the Farmington-based team a 6-5 victory — its first of the season over Baptist Academy.

Rich Hubble was the winning pitcher, striking out five, walking one and getting four hits. Aumann and Hubble each had three hits for the winners.

Lutheran Northwest plays tomorrow at Plymouth Christian.

Harrison High School remained winless Friday in a game against Walled

Lake Western. The Hawks lost, 6-3. It was a lack of hitting that hurt the Hawks, who managed just a pair of hits by Karen Sklar and Chris Ambrose. Kris Witte allowed just six Western hits in taking the loss.

The Hawks play at Walled Lake Central this afternoon.

Walled Lake Central this afternoon.

Get on the phone with spring stats

The Observer & Eccentric will begin its weekly feature listing the top performers in four high school sports this spring. Coaches are reminded to call in the statistics for inclusion in Thursday publications.

Troy High coach John Bancroft will continue to provide a list of the boys' top track times. Bancroft will take calls from 8-11 a.m. Monday at 689-0844, and 5-9 p.m. Sunday at 398-6177.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser coach John Hansen will compile the girls' track

listing. He requests phone calls from coaches only on week nights at 334-1622. Friday is Hansen's deadline for the following Thursday newspaper.

Birmingham Groves baseball coach Jim Crosby will compile boys' pitching and hitting leaders. Crosby will take calls Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at 589-3287.

West Bloomfield coach Bill Mason will keep tabs on girls' softball pitching and batting leaders. Mason can be reached from 8-10 p.m. Monday at 585-2889.

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