

# Will it be City of Champs again?



AH! To relive those precious moments of 1982. What grand days they were. When the city of Farmington Hills was being regaled as the City of Champions. Remember the Farmington Harrison football team's thrilling 17-14 win against Fordson to capture the Class A state title? (See photo at right for a flashback.) Or how about Our Lady of Mercy's miraculous comeback against Flint Northern to win the Class A girls basketball title? (See flashback at left.) But, this is 1983. Can our heroes come through again?



—Flashbacks courtesy of staff photographer Randy Borst.

## Hawks hungry for third straight title and Class A win-streak mark

By Chris McCoy  
staff writer

You would think that after two consecutive state championships, four league championships and 23 consecutive victories, a team might have trouble motivating itself. Let's face it, what else is there to conquer?

Try the record for consecutive wins and the record for consecutive state championships.

Those are just a couple of the goals the 1983 Farmington Harrison football have set for themselves. "Our primary goal this year is to win the league," said coach John Herrington, who is entering his 14th year as the Hawks' head coach. "Second, we would like to break the state Class-A record for consecutive wins, which I think is 26. After that we will think about the state playoffs."

IF THINGS GO according to plan, Harrison will win its 26th straight game Sept. 23 at Northville. The following Saturday, Oct. 1, the Hawks will be at home hoping to establish a new mark against Walled Lake Central.

But, it will not be an easy task for Herrington's Hawks. All but three starters off last year's squad graduated — an occurrence that would leave most programs devastated.

Harrison, however, offset graduation losses with transfer gains. Bob Wasznski, an All-Western-Lakes performer last year with Plymouth Canton, and Geoff Bissell, a standout from Ohio, both will figure strongly in the Hawks' scheme.

Wasznski will add a new dimension to the Hawks' attack — a deep threat. He caught 30 passes for Canton last year, good for 614 yards and 10 touchdowns. He is 6-foot-3, 185 pounds and runs the 40 in 4.5 seconds.

"He's Big-10 material all the way," Herrington said.

IN ADDITION to his offensive skills, Wasznski will start in the defensive

secondary along with Bissell, both thunderous hitters.

Also helping to ease the pain of the 1982 graduation is the return of All-State halfback John Miller. Miller gained 1,461 yards as a sophomore last year. He scored 14 touchdowns, picked off nine passes and had a seasonal punting average of 36.9 yards.

Also returning from last year are Steve Orsini, an All-Division defensive end, and tackle Jerry Eitzen.

Not returning to the fold this year are quarterback Ken Kish and All-State kicker-linebacker-fullback Dave Blackmer. The key to the Hawks' success in 1983 might be the performance of their replacements.

SCOTT GLINSKI, a left-handed thrower with good speed, will be the Hawks' quarterback. For the third year in a row, Harrison will begin the season

with an untried, untested quarterback.

"Scott is a different kind of quarterback than Kish. Kish was more of a drop-back-style quarterback. Scott will sprint out. He has real quick feet. His speed will add another dimension to our offense — the quarterback keepers," Herrington said.

Harrison will not have the type of field-goal threat they had last year. Bill Wood will be the placekicker, as well as the starting fullback. Herrington said he is consistent from about 35 yards and in.

Despite the obvious question mark at a quarterback, the Hawks will field a formidable offensive attack. They have a strong running game with Miller and a deep passing threat, Wasznski, to complement it.

On the line, Rob Smigielski, Tim Nelson, Scott Sullivan, Eizen, and Orsini, all seniors, average more than 180 pounds as a unit. There is a three-way dog-fight for the center position. Junior

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The left arm of senior quarterback Scott Glinski may hold the key to Harrison's fortunes in 1983. He replaces Ken Kish who graduated last year.



Mary Rosowski, just 6-foot tall, may be the best defensive center in the state, according to her coach Larry Baker.

## Opposition may ask for Mercy in '83

By Chris McCoy  
staff writer

Larry Baker's situation is paradoxical.

He is probably the state's most enviable girls' basketball coach, yet he is very much on the hot seat.

His Our Lady of Mercy girls' basketball team won, in miraculous fashion, the Class A State Basketball Championship a year ago. And who could forget that final game against Flint Northern? Mercy's marvelous fourth-quarter comeback, in which they erased a 19-point deficit, has become legendary.

Baker has four starters back from last year's team. Thus, his enviable position.

BUT, SHOULD his team not win, Baker's seemingly cushy situation could turn very ugly. Thus, the hot seat.

"These kids know that everyone will be going after the queen of the mountain this year," Baker said. "Fortunately, though, the nucleus of this team is made up of some really special people who thrive on competition."

Baker said that last season's state tournament had a profound impact on his team. "They know now why they work so hard in practice. They know now what it takes to become champions, and they are working very hard this year," he said.

The one thing Baker worries about, and will not tolerate, is complacency.

And his way of avoiding it is to play the toughest schedule in the school's history.

Ladywood, a Class B power, has been added to the Catholic League Central Division. Mercy will play them twice along with other league powerhouses like Regina, Marian and Bishop Gallagher. In non-league games, Mercy will do battle with Temperance Bedford, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ann Arbor Huron, and Flint Northwestern.

"AN UNDEFEATED season is very unlikely," Baker said. "We look at the regular season as preparation for the state tournament. Our goal is to do well in the state tournament."

In the last 10 years, Mercy has won more state regional championships than any other team in the state. It has won the region eight times; the district nine times and has been state champ twice in the last 10 years.

But 1983 is a new season. Lost from the 1982 team was Carolyn Burt, second leading scorer and team leader, who graduated. The team also lost their sixth man from last year, Kathy Kerwan, who opted not to play her senior year. Four other would-be seniors also decided not to play this year.

"The kids could see that they weren't going to get a lot of playing time, so they decided to pursue other things. There were no hard feelings at all," Baker said.

SIMILARITIES DO EXIST between the 1982 and 1983 Mercy teams. The tough, aggressive defense, the tenacious press, the speed, and the overall lack of size are carryovers into the new year.

What will change, Baker hopes, is the offense. If there possibly could have been a weakness in a 24-1, state championship team, it was Mercy's offense. Their leading scorer, Sarah Basford, averaged 12.3 points per game. The team itself averaged under 50 points per game on the season.

"We are looking to play a more consistent offense. And we are looking for players other than Sarah to score for us," Baker said.

Mercy got the chance to play without Basford this summer. Basford contracted mononucleosis shortly after school let out last year and missed most of the summer sessions.

"It's never good to play without her, but it forced the other players to pick up the slack," Baker said.

BASFORD WILL be the only senior on the team. Annetta Ruggiero, Mary Rosowski and Amy DeMatia, all sophomore starters last year, are returning. Ruggiero led the team in assists last year with 74 in 25 games. DeMatia, a hero in the championship victory against Northern, was the team's second-leading rebounder.

But the strength of the Mercy defense is Rosowski. At just 6 feet, Rosowski pulled down 161 rebounds last year.

"You can ask anybody. I don't hype my players," Baker said. "But Rosowski has to be one of the best defensive centers in the state."

BATTLING IT out for the other forward spot are junior Bev White, a spot starter last year, and sophomore Terri Ford. Guard Sue Scott, the most valuable player on the junior varsity team last year, and Terri Nalodka, a 5-foot-10 sophomore, both are likely to see action.

"In the past, the way to beat Mercy was to take our outside shooters out of the game and be patient on offense, causing us to get into foul trouble. Those are the areas I've had to address this year," Baker said.

Beginning with a road game at Temperance Bedford, through the grueling Detroit Catholic League Central Division, and into the state tournament, Mercy will take on an unrelenting string of powerful opponents.

"We are willing to take it on," Baker said. "We have younger players, maybe even better players. Practices have been more competitive. We are going to put up our state championship banners around the gym, and when we start to let down I'm just going to point to them and remind them of who we are."