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C.J. Risak

## This time it was Frederick who lost power play

**W**HAT COULD LEE Frederick possibly have done to deserve such a fate? Was he selling drugs to Girl Scouts? Embezzling money? Jaywalking? What was it that cost him his job as Oakland University's men's basketball coach? Don't look for the answer in his record. Going into tonight's game against Lake Superior State, the Pioneers are 8-6 overall and 2-2 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The record is not outstanding, but considering that two freshmen and two sophomores start, not bad, either. And two years ago, Frederick coached OU to its best season ever — 19-9. It seems like a solid foundation.

**NO, ELIMINATE** coaching record as a possible reason. OU athletic director Dr. Paul Hartman admitted that this season's record was not a reason that Frederick will not be rehired for next year. The decision was made after a three-month evaluation.

The personable, likable Frederick lost his job because of his personality. It clashed — not with his clothes or the interior of his office — with Hartman.

It didn't take long for the two to determine one would have to depart. As Frederick put it: "He told me in April that, basically, I'd have to go."

April, mind you, was Hartman's first month on the job.

That's pretty fast to figure one university athletic department wasn't big enough for the two of them. But then again, it wasn't the first time Frederick was in the middle of a power squeeze.

**THAT'S** WHAT this story is about, after all — power. Throw in a few rich cowboys sipping whiskey and relocate the set to somewhere in Texas and you got a great nighttime TV scenario. It wasn't that many years ago that Frederick came out on top in just such a struggle. That struggle started back in 1976, as a matter of history.

That's when Gene Bolden left his post as men's basketball coach and assistant athletic director. Corey Van Fleet, OU's athletic director at the time, formed a committee to search for a new basketball coach.

Local names cropped up, like Bill Norton at Birmingham Brother Rice, Ralph Grubb at Pontiac Central, Jim Mitchell, an assistant coach at University of Cincinnati, and Frederick. The committee decided on Mitchell, and he was hired.

**STRANGELY, THOUGH**, Frederick found himself employed when OU needed a tennis coach. Frederick had a background in that, so Van Fleet hired him as both tennis coach and assistant basketball coach.

Mitchell never had a say in who his assistant would be. Van Fleet just bypassed whatever ideas his head coach had on the subject and hired Frederick, a guy who had been competing for the No. 1 post.

A few months later, Van Fleet unloaded another surprise. He named Frederick as his new assistant athletic director.

This move, mind you, gave Frederick considerable say in the evaluation of the coaches. In effect, he had the power to evaluate what kind of job his boss was doing.

Mitchell lasted a season and a half before he was dumped. Frederick took command.

**IN THE NEXT** couple of years, things changed at OU. More money went into basketball and swimming (Van Fleet coached the swim team), while wrestling and other sports suffered. Baseball was dropped, despite its minimal cost to the university (\$5,000 a year, according to one source).

Several coaches followed Mitchell out the door. Max Haas left as wrestling coach. Dirk Dieters left before the baseball program was cut. Rose Swidzinski left as women's basketball coach.

One insider at the time pointed at Frederick as the reason for the departures, calling him "a real politician. He wasn't very deep as a person."

When Van Fleet resigned to take the athletic director job at Cal State-Fullerton, Frederick took over on an interim basis at OU. To become the full-time athletic director, some felt, was what he really wanted.

**FREDERICK SAID** it wasn't so. "I felt I didn't want to burn my candle out. It was too big a job. I wanted to coach basketball here."

Yet, when Hartman arrived, Frederick could read the handwriting: No interpreter needed.

Like a few years before, the squeeze was on. Only this time, Frederick was the victim. "I have no complaints, other than the way this was handled," the departing basketball coach said. "My desire was to get through the season."

**FREDERICK LISTED** several reasons for his dismissal: He was close to tenure; his style — he described himself as "a pirate" and, of course, that it was "just a personality clash."

Whatever the reasons, he was being broomed. Just like his predecessor, he got it in the middle of the season.

Did Frederick deserve such ignominy? Certainly not. It was bad form, and it can only hurt the team's chances for the remainder of the season. He deserved better.

Perhaps Jim Mitchell did, too.



photos by BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Farmington's Katie MacIntosh concentrates on her next move on the balance beam in the Falcons' loss to Salem Monday. MacIntosh took second in all four events.

## Rocks continue Falcons' slump

It appears the Plymouth Salem gymnastics team is out to shed its league play image.

Led by sophomore sensation Beth Raffal, the Rocks stunned Farmington 111.90 to 101.15 Monday night to win their second meet in a row.

Raffal amassed an all-around score of 30.45 en route to three first-place finishes. She also qualified for the state regional tournament in three events.

Rock teammates Suzanne Gibbons and Jackie Huff also qualified.

Raffal took first in the vault with a 8.15. She won the balance beam with a 7.45 and the floor exercise with a 6.9 — all three scores qualified her for regional competition. She placed fourth in the uneven parallel bars (6.85).

**GIBBONS WON** bars with a 7.35, qualifying her for the regionals. Huff qualified with her third-place score of 7.7 in the vault.

"In our first meet we scored 112 points. This time we got 111.90. From here, it looks like we are going to be pretty consistent," said Rock coach Kathi Kin-

sell. "I didn't want to say it until we had a couple meets. We did very well with five qualifying scores."

Katie MacIntosh finished second in all four events for the Falcons. She scored 8.0 in the vault, 7.15 in the bars, 7.0 in the beam, and 7.85 in the floor exercise. Her all-around score of 30.00 was just .45 behind Raffal.

Unfortunately for the Falcons, MacIntosh didn't get much help. The next highest Falcon finish was a fourth by Karen Devine in the floor exercise. Devine's score was 6.9.

**Salem's Huff** was the third best all-around performer, scoring 27.25. She took third in the floor exercise (7.35) and in the vault.

The Rocks also got thirds from Debbie Hanna (7.05 in the bars), and Dieder Flynn (6.8 in the beam).

The Rocks (2-0) will travel to Northville Monday, while the Falcons (2-3) will try to regroup tonight at home against Grosse Pointe North.

## Raiders nip Hawks by 1

So close but, yet, oh so far.

That was Farmington Harrison gymnastics coach Kim Dennis' lament following the Hawks' 121.15 to 119.95 loss to North Farmington Monday.

"This is the closest we've come to beating North in our school's history," Dennis said.

The vault, and Eileen Murtaugh, did the Hawks in. North bested Harrison by 1.2 points in the vault. The two teams were even in the other three events.

Murtaugh, the Raiders' talented junior, placed first in both the vault (8.35) and the balance beam (8.35).

**RIGHT BEHIND** Murtaugh in those two events was Harrison's Tracey Solomon, a freshman. Solomon scored 8.30 in the vault and 8.0 in the beam.

That was hardly the extent of the freshman's contribution, however. Solomon also won two events: the uneven parallel bars (7.75) and the floor exercise (8.35). In both events, North's Murtaugh placed second.

You might say it was the Solomon-Murtaugh show.

Solomon bested Murtaugh in the all-around score, 32.85-32.60.

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Staci Decker works out on the beam for the Falcons.

## Resilient Raiders rebound to win Andover Invite

Like a rubber ball, the North Farmington volleyball team bounced back from a stunning defeat against Redford Thurston and won its third straight Andover-Lahser Invitational tournament last Saturday.

The Raiders survived the 10-team field, winning four matches and tying two. They beat Waterford Kettering, 15-5, 8-15, 15-7, to advance to the finals against Bloomfield Hills Lahser. The Raiders knocked off the Knights in three games, 15-9, 8-15, 15-7.

"I was real happy with our play," said North coach Sandy Lubieniecki. "The teams were all evenly matched, there weren't any real weak teams. We had to really play each game. It was a nice journey."

**NORTH CAPTURED** the title playing without Amy Austin, leading hitter and potential all-star, who has been sidelined with an ankle injury. Lubieniecki said Austin will have her cast removed Monday.

"Patti Kozicki was just outstanding," Lubieniecki said. "She did a great job setting for us, the best I've seen."

In 14 games Saturday, Kozicki made 280 sets. She also led the team in service aces with nine.

Lubieniecki also praised the efforts of Mary Kozicki and Linda Renard.

"They played excellent, all the way around. They really gave the team some leadership," said the coach.

Donna Konjarschik contributed greatly to the Raider victory with numerous point-saving digs.

North began its day with a convincing 15-8, 15-6 triumph against Bloomfield Hills Andover. Then the Raiders split games with Clarkston (15-7, 13-15) and Grosse Pointe South (13-15, 15-7).

They got into the semifinals by taking Farmington, 15-3, 15-13.

Farmington, on the day, was 2-6. Farmington Harrison was also 2-6.

Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy finished the day at 3-5.

## Big win for Falcons

The Farmington volleyball team continues to make believers out of its Western Lakes foes.

The Falcons traveled to Walled Lake Central Monday to take on the highly touted Vikings led by the Fitzgerald sisters, Patti and Pam.

They came away winners, in dramatic fashion, 15-14, 15-15, 15-14.

"This was a very big win for us," said Falcon coach Kim O'Neill. "I don't think Central expected us to win. They are a very tough team, very tall. I think we caught them by surprise."

All three games were close and hard fought, with the lead changing hands numerous times.

"This was by far our most exciting

match of the year. We had all the parents at the match. It was a great one to see," said O'Neill.

The third game was a nail-biter. Farmington went up 9-0. Then it was 10-3. Suddenly the very tall and hard-hitting Vikings spiked their way to a 10-10 tie. Finally, Farmington prevailed.

Junior Jenny Lindbert keyed the win with her all-around outstanding play.

"I NEVER saw her play as well as she did there. She hit, she set, she blocked, everything," O'Neill said.

Jill Waterman, Tara Twomey, Jenny

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