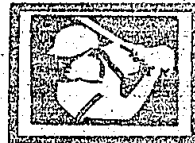


## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312

classified, crossword puzzle inside



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(B1C)

# Raiders to make best of bad situation

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

**G**REG GRODZICKI has a special knack — a knack all successful coaches possess. Grodzicki, now in his fifth year at the helm of the North Farmington girls basketball team, has every reason to look upon this season pessimistically. His Raiders had a banner year last year. They finished 12-4, co-champs of the Northwest Suburban League and runners-up to Our Lady of Mercy in their district.

But every component from last year's team is gone save one talented and feisty point guard. Amy Austin, the team's leading scorer and rebounder has graduated and is playing ball at the University of Detroit. Suzanne ("Suzanne") Howley has also graduated into the collegiate ranks. She's at Hillsdale. Mary Kosicki and Linda Renard, two scrappy, intelligent players, are gone. So, too, is last year's super sophomore Lalana Shaw who has moved to Pennsylvania. You bet Grodzicki has reasons to sing the blues. But he's not.

"YOU NEVER like to lose that much talent," Grodzicki said. "But I think it's going to have a positive effect on our team. You see, everybody out there now thinks they are capable of making the starting team. And they are working their tails off. They know if they work hard they have a chance to play." That attitude has made vastly improved players out of several Raiders. Isaly Butters, for one. Isaly, by the way, is an acronym for I Shall Always Love You. Butters, a senior forward, saw brief action last year, but has solidified her game and could be a major contributor this year.

Seniors Patli Kosicki and Sue Shiffra, along with Junior Mo Parada have

## Falcons, Hawks look to improve

come on and they, too, should be Raiders mainstays.

Sophomore Sandy Spahn, a strong, physical player, will help bolster North's inside game. But the guts and the glue of this year's Raider contingent will be supplied by senior point guard Lisa Mummert. Mummert is the lone starter back from last year's team. Her contributions, though overshadowed by her teammates, were vital to the Raiders.

"I've been very impressed with Lisa," said Grodzicki. "She's our leader. I wouldn't be surprised if she averages in double figures both in scoring and assists."

Grodzicki, though he possesses the ability to make something positive of a potentially bad situation, is realistic. He isn't about to claim that his team will win the NBL. But, he says, don't take them for granted.

"We could be the spoilers this year," he said. "We go into John Glenn the second game of the season. They better be ready or we'll spoil their season for them."

### FARMINGTON

One half of the dynamic duo is gone. Rhonda Lancaster, a tenacious competitor and talented performer, has taken her game to Schoolcraft College.

The other half, however, Alyse Fortune, is back and seemingly better than ever.

Fortune, who was the area's second leading scorer with an 18-point-per-game average last year, spent an educational summer playing AAU basketball.

"I think playing AAU was really good for Alyse," said Farmington coach Bruce Brown. "She seems to be playing with a lot more control. Hopefully, she won't get real frustrated this year. I don't see us exactly challenging for the Western Lakes title this year."

No, but Brown, in his third year, thinks his team will be better than last year's 5-13 club.

"The level of everyone else is up over what it was last year," he said. "Last year, we had two outstanding players, and that really was it."

BROWN IS an old-fashioned coach. While the modern trend is to weed unproductive seniors out of the program to make room for younger players, Brown sticks by his seniors.

"I never really got into cutting seniors," Brown said. "I like to reward the kids who have been loyal to the program and give them first shot at starting. How are you going to keep kids in the program if you constantly cut the seniors?"

Thus, Farmington will start five seniors opening night. Jenny Lindbert,

Jenny Wischmeyer, Laura Spence and Linda Spence (win sisters) will join Fortune in the starting line-up.

Off the bench will be juniors Lisa Edwards, Lynn Loozer, Lisa Spence, Tammy Smith, Pat Mathews and promising sophomore Mary Kay Orrison.

The key for the Falcons will be the backcourt. Replacing Lancaster is no easy task. If the Falcons can find people to get the ball inside to Fortune and Lindbert, they will improve over last year.

### FARMINGTON HARRISON

Oh, woe on Gary Sine. He had the misfortune of taking over the Harrison program after Alice Short and Sue Ferguson graduated. Since then, he's been lucky to get enough players out to floor a team.

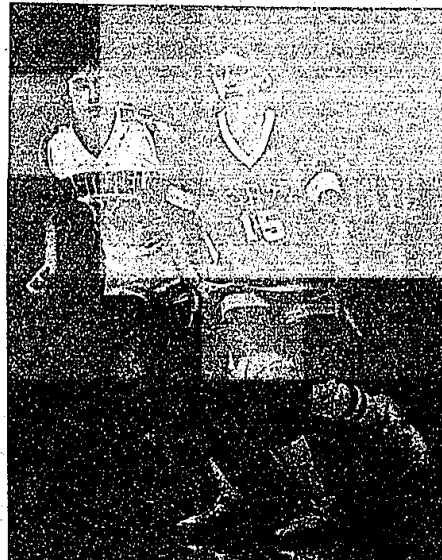
Playing with as few as six and seven people on the roster, finishing games with less than five, Sine endured a 0-12 season last year.

Things looked hopeful for a while at the outset of this season. He had 10 or so players on the varsity. Then, suddenly, four girls quit. Here we go again.

Maybe not, though. Sine has a solid nucleus to work with this year. Jenine Whittemore, a 5-10 sophomore, is a multi-talented athlete. She could be a dominant player. She averaged better than eight points as a freshman last year. Seniors Michelle Wise and Jodi Bennett, along with Jennifer Hughes are experienced and could contribute. Heather Greit and Andrea Coardall will battle for the fifth starting spot.

"Hopefully, we can win four or five games this year," Sine said. "Our defense is good, but we'll need improved shooting to be effective."

You almost have to root for Sine.



Lisa Mummert was just a promising sophomore when this photo was shot. Now she is the senior leader of the 1984 North Farmington basketball team.

# Olympics behind her, Berube hits books

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

**M**ICHELLE BERUBE, fresh from a hiatus on "Futures Island," soon will step back to adolescent reality — a world which revolves around sitting in classrooms, reading textbooks and cramming for exams.

The pretty 18-year-old from Rochester, who played a bit role in an international prime-time television show



Michelle Berube

called the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad, has put everything behind her to concentrate on finishing school at Adams High.

Berube, a member of the United States Olympic Team as a rhythmic gymnast, placed 14th in the overall competition. No medals are awarded for 14th place. But even though she returned to Michigan without a gold, silver or bronze, she's still a medalist.

Really. How many young athletes can claim they're an Olympic athlete? With the return comes the transition from celebrity to common folk. And that's a change Berube says should come easy.

"I'm not like other people who accomplished more at the Olympics," Berube noted. "I mean, someone like (American gold medal gymnast) Mary Lou Retton has a right to get a big head. I don't think I deserve to get the attention people like her get."

"MY SPORT is not that well known, and I didn't get a gold medal, or any medal. I hope I don't get a big head, I don't want one," she laughed. "I think my friends will let me know if I do."

Berube, who missed portions of schooling the past three years as she prepared for Olympic competition, will be a senior this fall. She plans to graduate in the spring, and is aware of the consequences if she misses out on that goal.

## people in sports

"I plan on graduating in June," she said, again finding humor in her reaction to a question. "I'll be crushed if I don't. That would mean I'd graduate with my brother, and he's two years younger than me."

"My friends tease me, and I'll really get it bad if I don't graduate this June."

Although the road to the Olympics put her graduation party on hold, she certainly doesn't mind the slight delay. The experience alone was a party she'll never forget, nor one she'll be part of again.

The highlight was meeting all the other athletes," said Berube, who probably will not try out for the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea. "The United States athletes were all in one dorm — Webb Hall (on the campus of USC) — and we got to see and talk to them when they got back from competing. It was neat talking to the gold medal winners. It was fun making friends and getting to know everybody."

SHE SAID THE lowlight of the experience was her performance in the preliminaries. Although she qualified

for the finals and ultimately finished 14th out of 20, Berube said the end result could have been much better.

Canada's Lori Fung won the gold with a score of 57.95, followed by Dolna Stalmisen of Romania (57.90) and Regina Weber of the Federal Republic of Germany (57.70). Berube scored 55.80, while teammate Valerie Zimring was 11th with 54.35.

"Overall, I thought I did pretty good. I would have liked to have done better the first two days," she said. "I ended strong in all four events. The first two days (in preliminaries), I messed up every routine. I dropped the apparatus in all four. I was so bummed."

"I improved in every routine in the finals, so I'm happy with that. If I did that in the preliminaries, I could have finished fourth or fifth. I'm just happy I ended with a good performance."

In the preliminaries, Berube scored 9.25 with the ribbon, 9.1 with the ball, 8.55 with the clubs, and a 9.0 with the hoop. Her final scores improved to 9.4 (ribbon), 9.55 (ball), 9.45 (clubs) and 9.35 (hoop).

She attributed her lower scores to opening-day jitters and lack of interna-

tional experience.

"I just didn't have the experience or the confidence in myself," she explained. "I didn't have the feeling that I could win. The first two days when I got on the floor, I was oblivious to everything. The music started and I couldn't feel the floor and I didn't know what I was doing. I needed more international experience to give me confidence."

THE INTERNATIONAL experience she needed was competition with the Eastern-bloc countries which boycotted the Games. Countries like Russia, Bulgaria and East Germany excel in the sport of rhythmic, and she said their presence was sorely missed.

"We had a good showing of our sport, but Bulgaria and Russia are so much higher in level of competition," she said. "So many people in the Olympics were making mistakes, and the Eastern-bloc gymnasts are above that."

"They're so perfect in the routines. I think if they were here, people would have caught on to the sport. The general audience would have appreciated it much more. I mean, I can't even believe it when I'm watching them."

"It's so sad because I know them. I lived in Bulgaria for a month and a half in 1981, and they were already preparing for the Olympics. Their govern-

ment wanted them to train hard to win, then they tell them they can't go. It's really sad."

Berube's friendship with athletes from Eastern bloc countries may never be rekindled since she said her final competition will be in Indianapolis, Ind., this October with non-European countries.

"I think that will be my last competition," she said. "I have to continue with schooling. If the sport was one that had scholarships, it might be a different story, but there aren't any scholarships for rhythmic."

"MAYBE I'll DO something where I can make money without ruining my amateur status so later I could get back into it."

One possibility is modeling, since Berube's natural good looks and shimmering eyes had themselves to a cover girl image.

"I'd like to model," she said. "Maybe I could get an agent and people could call me. A lot of corporations are gymnastics sponsors, like Vidal Sassoon. We'll see."

In the meantime, it's back to the classroom, where she'll join the masses with similar goals — grabbing that diploma.

For Michelle Berube, that'll be as good as gold.

# O'Shea lassoes a job with soccer's Stampedeers

By C.A. Rieak  
staff writer

Adjustment is a part of life. It's just that for Nick O'Shea, there's been a lot of adjusting in a short time.

Only last fall, O'Shea was roaming the midfield for Oakland University's soccer team, helping the Pioneers to the NCAA Division II semifinals. Since then, the Livonia native has:

- opened a soccer store;
  - joined a pro soccer team;
  - moved to Oklahoma;
  - successfully switched playing positions; and
  - become a celebrity in a city he's lived in for just five months.
- That's fast work. And O'Shea is enjoying every bit of his new lifestyle.

"We're doing great," he said in a telephone interview hours before his team, the Oklahoma City Stampedeers, were to meet Houston in a playoff battle.

BOTH THE STAMPEDEERS and O'Shea have benefited from the season. The Stampedeers signed O'Shea as a midfielder after a trial and a tryout in April. A rookie, he sat through most of the first two games before getting in against Houston — at left fullback.

"We have a real good midfield," O'Shea explained. "But our left fullback wasn't playing real well. I went with the team to Houston as a sub, but got in in the second half when they pulled him."

O'Shea's been at fullback ever since. Indeed, although O'Shea said it hasn't been an easy transition (he's never played fullback before), he's being touted around the United Soccer League (USL) as a candidate for Rookie of the Year honors.

"It's tough," he admitted. "It depends on the type of person I have to mark. I can come out of one game feeling I played really well, but then out of the next feeling just the opposite."

"At this level, if you let up at all, the ball will be in the net. You really have to stay on your toes."

IF A PLAYER can be measured by his team's success, then O'Shea is a star. He helped an OU team twice make it to the NCAA Division II semifinals. And Oklahoma City enjoyed a 12-9 season (127 points), best in the USL. Fort Lauderdale was second (123 points).

The Stampedeers lost their first playoff contest to Houston 3-1 in overtime Wednesday. Both of Houston's overtime goals came on penalty kicks. That put Oklahoma City in a hole in the best-of-three series, with home games scheduled for last Friday and Sunday.

On the professional level, there are so many good players," O'Shea said. "One game you can dominate them, then they can come back and dominate you. O'Shea still needs work on his new



position — he has scored once and collected five assists — even though he hopes "to play midfield once I adjust to the level of play."

"The ball comes to the fullback first, so it isn't like I don't get to handle it. But I still like midfield."

"From being a midfielder, I'm used to creating more chances. If something is lacking in my play, it's my defense. But I'm good with the ball."

had no trouble adjusting to O'Shea.

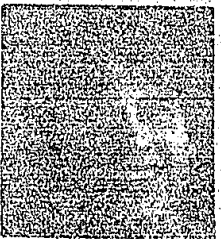
The O'Shea flip — a throw-in stunt in which O'Shea does a complete flip as he launches the ball — has captured a good deal of attention. "They show it on TV here all the time," he said.

O'Shea has always promoted his sport through youth clinics and programs. He has no endorsed himself to the Stampedeers fans that they voted him Most Popular Player.

AFTER THE USL playoffs and Sunday, O'Shea will start shopping for an indoor soccer team. While both the North American Soccer League and the USL have had problems attracting fans (the Stampedeers averaged 3,600 per game), indoor soccer has been turning a profit.

O'Shea also has his share to run — the Soccer Store and More, located on Farmington Road in Livonia. His brothers, Dan and Brian, are helping out for now, but both will be returning

to college this fall. Should O'Shea catch on with an indoor team, he'll have to find someone to manage his store.



Nick O'Shea finds time to run the store