

Sports

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Mercy's goal is clear: A state crown

By Chris McCosky staff writer

WHAT DO YOU feed a hungry Marlin? A state Class A girls basketball title - what else.

It's hard to believe that the 1984 Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy basketball team would have any appetite at all. After all, in the last two seasons the nucleus of the '84 team already has captured every prize available to them.

In 1983, a squad of Marlin sophomores captured the state title. Last year, a team of Juniors (and one ever-present senior) captured the Catholic League and city championships, as well as making it to the final four. In the last two years, Mercy has achieved an awesome 48-4 record.

Annette Huggiero, Mary Rosowski and Amy DeMatteis have started every one of those 52 games. They are seniors now, tri-captains, and back for their final shot.

"As a group, they've won every

championship available to them," said head coach Larry Baker, entering his 10th season at Mercy. "Whether or not the raw desire and interest is still there, well, that's their challenge. It's up to them to decide exactly how far they want to go."

AND, IF YOU ask the players, especially the three senior tri-captains, there is but one destination - a state championship.

"I don't even try to kid them," Baker said. "The nucleus of this team has been to the final four the last two years. I'm not going to tell them to start setting their sights on a lesser goal."

Yet, at the same time, the kids know from last year that they can come away blighted without being embarrassed.

Last year, the Marlin came within a whisker of advancing into the state championship game. They lost a heart-cruncher to Flint Northwestern, 44-41. Despite that "blemish," the Marlin earned a 24-4 record. "This group has become totally intolerant of defeat," Baker said. "They are not going to go into the season expecting to lose X amount of games. Their experience has told them that they are capable of beating the best teams

Marlins face stiff schedule

Mercy head basketball coach Larry Baker has compiled a 107-33 record in his 10-year career.

That record takes on greater significance when you consider the team plays one of the toughest - if not the toughest - schedules in the state.

They play in the always-competitive Catholic League. Just this last year's schedule, for example, they played Class B state champions Loyola (three times) and then two out of three) and Class A remnants of DePaul (twice) and St. Ignace (twice).

Opponents opponents last year included Holy, Eastern Michigan, and Flint Northwestern - all national teams. They also played, and defeated,

and the likes of Perdon, Mercy-Wright, Cass Tech and Plymouth State in tournament games.

This year will be no different. Baker says he'll lead his jobless, DeMatteis will be back to the Mercy Kings. Huggiero along with Rosowski and DeMatteis. Mercy will travel to Flint Northwestern this year. They will also play Catholic League and Class B power DePaul this year.

"The way they are playing the way's schedule," Baker said. "I don't know whether if you don't play against the best."

around. "They also know that they are scarcely invincible." Baker gets a little embarrassed at times talking about his team - he fears his words will be judged as arrogant. He cannot lie or downplay his team's talent - that would be a disservice to the players and himself.

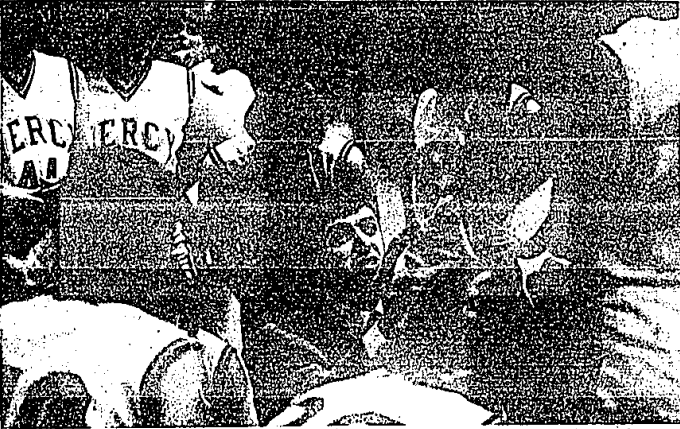
"I'm not going to lie about it," he said. "I'm not going to fool anybody anyhow."

INSTEAD, HE sets out the facts. They look something like this:

• Mary Rosowski. Mercy starting center for the past three years. (The Marlin are 69-7 in those three seasons.) She was an all-area, all-state performer last year. She is Mercy's all-time leading rebounder (351, 418 last year), second all-time in steals (188, 77 last year), and seventh all-time in scoring (593, 288 last year). She's big, strong, quick as a cat and intelligent both on and off the court. Grade point average - 3.57.

• Annette Huggiero. A starter the last two seasons. All-state and all-area last year. She ranks second among Mercy's career assist leaders (177, 103 last year) and eighth among steals leaders (101, 46 last year). She has always possessed a sweet jump shot and amazing court sense. Look for her to assert herself more offensively. She's the team's floor general. Baker calls her "the consummate high school point guard." Grade point - 3.97.

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Mercy coach Larry Baker, shown addressing his troops last season, has compiled an impressive 107-33 record in his nine years at Mercy.



Annette Huggiero, along with fellow seniors Amy DeMatteis and Mary Rosowski, are Mercy's talented, and brainy, tri-captains for the 1984 season.

On paper, it's year of the Hawk

By Chris McCosky staff writer

THE 1984 football campaign swings into gear this Friday. On Thursday, The Farmington Observer will publish a special section previewing the upcoming season. As a preview to that preview, let's dissect our three local teams and see what we have to look forward to.

COACHES: The Farmington Public School District is lucky in this regard - all three schools have outstanding head football coaches. And, ironically, all three are cut from similar cloth. All three football coaches coached under Farmington Athletic Director Ron Holland at one time or another. There are few better teachers of the art of coaching than Ron Holland.

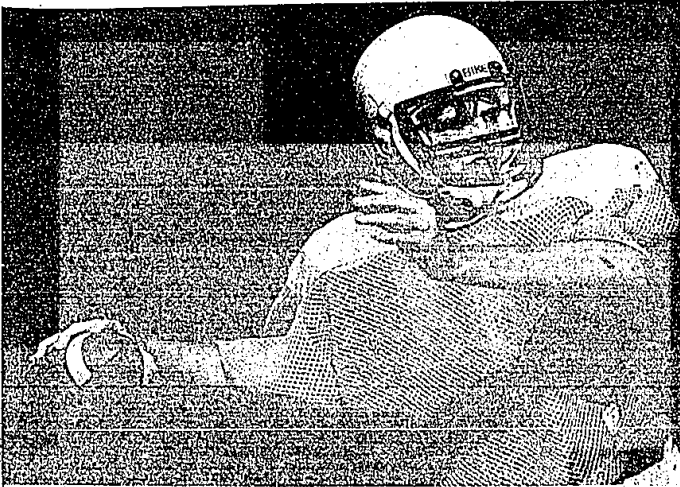
Farmington Harrison's John Herrington is considered the dean of

football

coaches in these parts. Herrington has compiled an outstanding 101-53-1 record in his 22 years at Harrison. Herrington also has the most experienced staff with Bob Satter, Bob Sallow

and Steve Dolloway. Farmington's Don Kuick has been coaching football for 33 years - though not always on a high school varsity level. His career record is a most impressive 131-49-10. He was 2-7 in his first year with the Falcons in 1983. Kuick's top assistants are Forrest Geary and Sam Shivers.

Jim O'Leary, a longtime Ron Holland assistant, is beginning his second year in charge of the North Farmington team. He was 6-3 last year and won a share of the Northwest Suburban League title. Mark Babcock and Dave Thorne are O'Leary's top assistants.



Vince Enright, Harrison's starting quarterback this season, managed to eat a pair of parsing records in shared-time duty in his junior year last season.

Zang, Bob Kaminski, Looser and Bruce Kratt will be playing the other end.

— Edge: Hawks

OFFENSE (line): There's some big boys playing in this city this season. The Hawks will put its biggest and quickest line over on the field. Dave Deleka, at 6-3, 210, will anchor it. He looks like major college material. Along with him will be George Sarcevic (6-4, 230), Ben Chen (6-11, 190), Mark Shapiro (6-11, 175), Ken Hixson (5-9, 155) and Jason Talbert (5-9, 173). Backing that up are the likes of Barry Wauldon (6-4, 250) and Paul Lacy (6-2, 205). Brian Sapota will start at tight end.

The Falcons are huge also. John Tureaud is 5-9, 200, and is a state karate champion. (They may have to renege the illegal use of hands penalty to lethal use of the hands.) Also on the line are Tom Mitchell, Lelf Higley, John Rutlis, Craig Petermark, Mike Pyoralis and Steve Moch. Hazen is the tight end.

The Raiders aren't real big, but you couldn't exactly call them tiny, either. Chris Reed (6-1, 190), Joe Sakozko (6-0, 205), Wes Fringle (6-4, 230) and Troy Hiler (5-9, 180) will be the mainstays. The Raiders' line lacks overall experience, however. Steve Goss is the tight end.

— Edge: Hawks

DEFENSE: It's hard to tell this early in the year which players will play both offense and defense. It is certain, however, that Miller, Sattiroff, Hixson, Chen, Sarcevic, Wood and Deleka will play both ways for the Hawks, making them very solid - Bob Satter's defense, traditionally, are among the state's most stingy.

North will be very strong defensively, especially at linebacker. Scott Knoll, Hood, Hiler and Mark Anders are promising hitters. Mark Seyburn, Sakozko and Greg Hook. The North's starting down linemen, Fjal Alani, Pat Gallina, Chris Christman and Buddy Pope will probably comprise the secondary. - a relatively inexperienced group.



Falcon coach Don Kuick instructs quarterback Joe Bob Wenyon.

Farmington's defensive strength is its front four - Kaminski, Hazen, Petermark and Pyoralis. Tureaud and Laird are experienced linebackers. Gucciarlo, Looser, Dwayne Kratt and Bruce Kelsey make up a potentially strong defensive backfield.

— Edge: Hawks, barely.

KICKING: Farmington junior Bruce Kratt is the best in the city, and one of the best in the area. Chad Davis of Bentley is perhaps the only kicker better right now. Kratt, though, has been hanging there through from 50 yards consistently in practice. Punting could be a problem for Farmington.

North's Mike Radin will handle the field goals and extra points. Steve Goss will kick off. An 115-acre Tom North. Harrison lost an outstanding kicker in Dave Quirk. The Wood and Chen. Mochlitzberg are battling for the job this year. Wood started the season.

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