

North's Duthie is Observer coach of year

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the 100 backstroke. He also qualified in three events at the state meet.

Tormina, a sophomore, was the league champion in the 100 IM and took third in the 100 breaststroke. He holds records in both events.

Morasky, a sophomore, won the 50 freestyle in the league (22.5) and fourth in the 100 butterfly. He holds two school records.

Ward, a junior, won the 100 freestyle in the league (49.4).

At a team, Stevenson won the Western Lakes meet and placed seventh in Class A. Their best time is 1:40.04.

Mike Beatti, Dan Mazzullo, Mike Tuma and Brian Golis, N. Farmington; 400 freestyle relay: The swimming exploits of these four are well known.

In the state Class A meet, this quartet finished overall with a time of 3:14.49. In a preliminary heat, the same foursome clocked an area best of 3:14.3.

North's 400 freestyle relay squad also won the league crown.

Mazzullo, an underclassman, was valuable in a number of events for the Raiders.

AT-LARGE BERTHS

Mark Pratt, Redford Thurston: A senior, Pratt won the state Class B championship in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:01.33.

He was undefeated this season in the breaststroke and won the Northwest Suburban League crown. Pratt also helped Thurston to a 15th-place finish (Class B) in the 200-medley relay.

A two-year captain, Pratt has been Thurston's team leader.

Matt Ford, Redford Union: A senior, Ford was a surprise in the Class A diving as he finished fourth overall with a total of 392.10 points (12 dives).

He was also NSL champion with a league-

all-area swimming

record points total of 416.4.

Scott Stinson, N. Farmington: A senior, Stinson excelled in the 200 IM (2:03.8) and the 100 breaststroke (1:03.46).

He was second behind teammate Turney in the 200 IM at the league meet and was a member of the league-champion 400-freestyle relay squad.

Eric Davis, Farmington: A senior, Davis was a state qualifier for three consecutive years. This season he qualified in 200-medley relay and 100 butterfly.

In the Western Lakes meet, Davis finished fourth in the 50 freestyle and tied for second in the 100 butterfly. He was also a member

of the league-champion 200-medley-relay squad.

Sean McDermott, Catholic Central: A junior, McDermott posted a best time of 5:46 in the 100 butterfly at the state meet.

He grabbed second in the 500 freestyle at the Catholic League meet with a time of 4:59.9, and posted a best time of 2:04.0 in the 200 IM. He was listed high in three different events in the Observerland rankings.

Lewis Ministrelli, Liv. Stevenson: A senior, Ministrelli's best events were in the freestyle swim.

He recorded clockings of 49.4, 1:50.3 and 5:04.8 in the 100, 200 and 500 freestyles, respectively.

One of the Spartans' inspirational leaders,

Ministrelli was also a member of league- and school-record 400-freestyle-relay squad.

Pat Duthie, N. Farmington, coach of year: His teams have dominated the Northwest Suburban League pools for the past 14 years. This past season, North was undefeated and ranked No. 1 in Observerland along with Livonia Stevenson. Duthie's program will be a welcome addition to the Western Lakes next season.

HONORABLE MENTION

North Farmington: Craig Burdick, Kevin Lee, Chris Hentzman, Craig Arnold and Dave Patterson; Livonia Stevenson: Jeff Albert, Roger Codere, Pete Favazza, Paul McAtee, Terry Hoell.

Jerrie York, Dave Azema, Ken Planet and Kevin Neff; Redford Catholic Central: Jim Burrows, Eric Fortin, Alex Alant, Jon Teal and Matt Heptburn; Plymouth Salem: Don Harwood, Mike Harwood, Rick Cummings, Jon Cain, Kevin Zarrow, Jim Burn and Tony Alant; Farmington: Jay Weaver, Doug Ricci, Chris Telenko, Chris Inch and Adam Kruze; Plymouth Canton: Jim Casler, John Alant, Dean Roberts, Steve Schwien, Jim Walker, Frank Wierwieski and Mickey Adamczak; Farmington Harrison: Scott Farabee, Tom Bayne, and Nickie, Brian Morgan and Andy King; Westland: John Olsen; John Jensen, Allen White, Tim Dumas, Don Kautz; Wayne Memorial: Kevin Martin, McCutcheon; Redford Thurston: Al Januska, Mike, Kevin, Bob Grayson, Ray Johnson, Jim Zimmerman, Jim Russell, Todd Hunt and Jon Burnett; Livonia Churchill: Vic Valente, Eric Bard.

CLSM bows out of tourney

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

Tim Domke said it best.

"We caused our own demise," the Orchard Lake St. Mary's basketball coach summarized after the Eagles were ousted in the National Little College Athletic Association (NLCAA) tournament semifinals by Bluefield (Va.) College 81-74 Thursday in Norfolk, Neb.

Two factors caused St. Mary's defeat: First, an opening half stretch in which they couldn't find the basket, and second, a hot-shooting streak by Blue-

field that lasted the entire game.

THE EAGLES led 16-8 when they suddenly went ice cold. Bluefield outscored them 20-2 in one run and eventually built a 38-25 halftime bulge.

St. Mary's battled back behind the scoring of Bobby Wade, Erich Hartnett and Steve Kopicki, narrowing the gap to 4 points in the second half but never drawing closer. Wade finished with 18 points while Hartnett and Kopicki bagged 14 each.

In the state Class A meet, this quartet finished fourth in the 500 freestyle and tied for second in the 100 butterfly. He was also a member

ed on 38 of 49 free throws. Guard Gene Stovall topped Bluefield with 30 points, including 11-of-13 shooting from the field.

The loss dropped St. Mary's to 15-16 going into Friday's consolation final against Sue Bennett College of Kentucky.

LAST WEDNESDAY, the Eagles advanced to the semifinals by holding off Platte (Neb.) Community College 61-58.

"We were better than them," said Domke, "but (Platte) played really well. And it was like a homecourt game for them, so I was really proud of our kids."

St. Mary's made few mistakes in marching to the victory. There were only 11 Eagle turnovers and they hit 10-of-12 free throws down the stretch to frustrate Platte.

Platte, which trailed 35-34 at the half, took a 51-50 lead with 3:57 to play. A Lance Davis jumper put St. Mary's back on top. After Platte got a free throw to tie it at 52, the Eagles took the lead for good on 2 Bobby Wade free throws. Hartnett followed a Platte mix with 2 more free throws to give St. Mary's a 4-point advantage.

Wade netted 15 points for the Eagles, Hartnett had 12 and Kopicki collected 9 points and 10 rebounds.

The loss dropped Platte to 28-6.

Below-average night dooms Warrior cagers

By Marty Budner
staff writer

The law of averages caught up with everyone Friday evening at Ferndale High School in a class A regional championship game.

That meant good news for Ferndale and bad news for Birmingham Brother Rice. Ferndale, playing a tenacious zone defense, branded the Warriors, 45-40, before a screaming throng of some 2,500 persons jammed inside its home court. The final buzzer had barely sounded as the fans rushed to the Ferndale bench to mob coach Gary Sophia and jubilant team members like a buzzing swarm of bees.

Rice's coaches and players left the crush of brown-and-white hoopla practically unnoticed as fans celebrated a long-awaited class A regional title.

It only figured Ferndale had to defeat Rice sooner or later. Consider the following:

● Brother Rice had never lost to Ferndale in 9 previous meetings, according to coach Nick Conti.

● Ferndale hadn't won a regional title since its state-championship season of 1985.

● And, Sophia personally lost to Rice in 2 previous regional title games before Friday night.

"I'M TAKING this one . . . no one can take it away now," said Sophia, who has been the Eagles' head coach for the past 5 seasons. "My first game against Rice we lost a thriller at Southfield-Lathrup, then last year we got blown out."

"It's a special feeling to beat them," he said.

The game was exciting and emotional right from the opening jump.

Ferndale rallied behind its vociferous home crowd and roared to a 6-0 lead. Rice eventually came back to take a 21-20 halftime advantage.

It stayed close throughout the second half.

Rice took its biggest lead of the game — 3 points — in the third quarter when Matt Cjaska canned a pair of free throws for a 27-32 lead. The Eagles continually clawed their way back, finally forging ahead 37-35 on a five-footer by senior forward Tony Terrell with 2:52 remaining in the game.

Ferndale, which finished third in the Southeastern Michigan Association behind Southfield and Berkley, outscored Rice, 6-4, over the final minutes to advance to the state quarterfinals 8 p.m. Wednesday at the University of Detroit's Callahan Hall against Mount Clemens High School.

Conti, whose team finished the season as the Catholic League and district champions, analyzed the defeat afterwards in a solemn Rice locker room. He pointed to Ferndale's defense and a possible case of Warrior weariness as the keys to Rice's season-ending encounter with the Eagles.

"PROBABLY SINCE the tournament started we

basketball

really haven't seen what I like to term a 'straight-up defense,' said Conti, whose team finishes with a 19-4 overall record. "Usually teams like to play gimmick defenses to stop B.J. They executed very well defensively."

"Maybe fatigue was more of a factor with B.J. than what we had realized. We've asked a lot of him all season and I suspect he's somewhat of a tired man. He was getting good shots and pretty good penetration, but they weren't falling for him like they had been in previous games."

"It's no great mystery to anybody we play that we pretty much ride the rapids with (B.J.)," he said. "When you keep doing what he does over the course of a season, it takes its toll."

Armstrong, an Iowa-bound senior who averages 27 points per game, was held to 18 points. He scored 9 baskets on 28 shots, including a 4-12 performance in the final fourth quarter.

Senior center Jeff Herberholz added 14 points for Rice.

Ferndale's high scorers were Terrell with 14 and Delsano Harris with 12.

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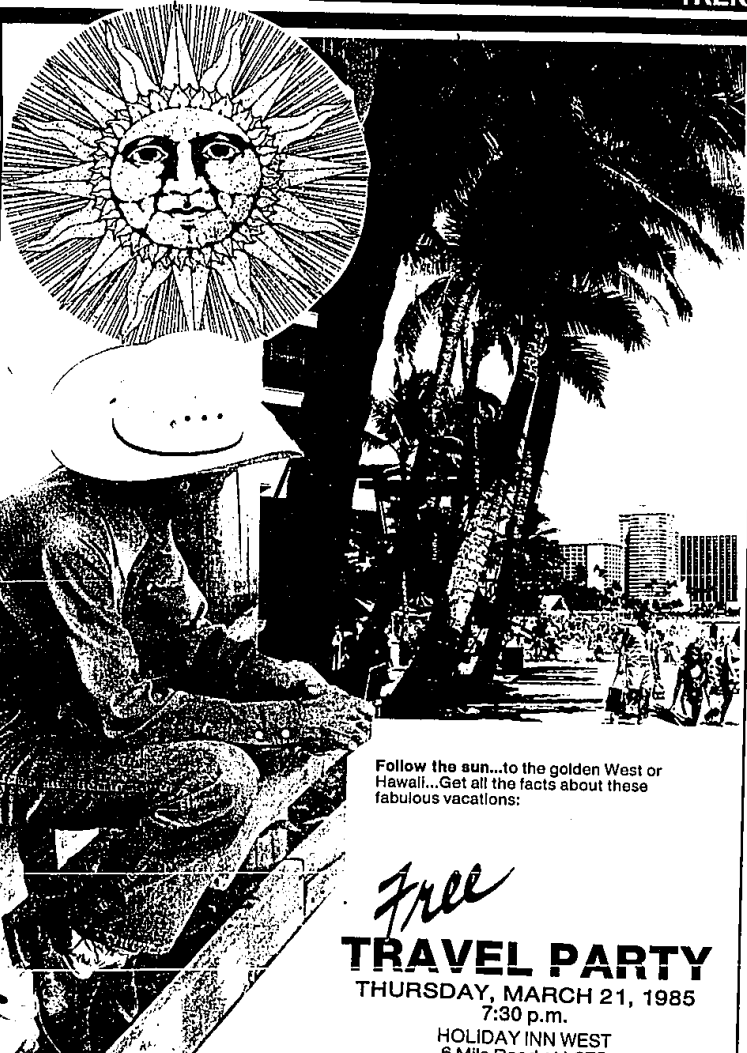
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