

Livedoti returning to alma mater as coach

SUCCESS HAS MANY definitions, especially in sports. Which best explains Dominic Livedoti. Examine only the statistics and you're left wondering how a guy who had just two winning seasons in his last seven of coaching high school football could land a job as head coach of a college team?

Connections would be the probable assumption. Livedoti pulled some strings, brown-nosed the right people, and — presto! — snagged himself a job coaching football at his alma mater, Olivet College.

All that is surface stuff, however, mere fantasy. Because if you know Dominic Livedoti, you know he is a winner — whatever the win-loss record indicates.

"I feel I was successful as a high school coach," Livedoti says. "I know coaches are judged by their record, but at West Bloomfield I thought we got the maximum from our kids. We worked hard to be what we are."

That didn't show up so much in the win column. West Bloomfield was 4-5 this season, 5-4 in 1986. And that, comparatively

speaking, was an improvement. The Lakers won just nine of 36 games from 1982 to 1985.

SO WHAT GOT Livedoti the position? Not politicking. "I never applied for any college jobs," he remarked Tuesday. "I did not seek this job out. They called me."

The answer lies in attitude. Sure, it helped that Livedoti was a former Fighting Comet, a wide receiver who graduated in 1965. But there's something else, something more.

"If you've ever watched Chicago Bears' coach Mike Ditka on the sideline, you may, to an extent, understand Livedoti. He is an intense competitor. And his competitiveness is not submerged; rather, it is close to the surface, more controlled than Ditka's but always seemingly on the brink of eruption."

Livedoti also has great pride. "I don't regret anything I've done here," he said. "There have been some tremendous moments."

HE DIDN'T really want to single out a particular moment in his 14-year career at West Bloomfield. "If I do, I'll leave some-



C.J. Risak

thing else out," he said. But his first game as the Lakers' coach stuck in his mind.

It was against Waterford Township. On the opening kickoff, Waterford's return man raced 90 yards for a touchdown.

West Bloomfield battled back to win that game, but it taught Livedoti a valuable lesson. "It showed me that even when you think you've got things covered, you have to keep working and never take anything for granted."

When Livedoti arrived at West Bloomfield, he immediately began upgrading the program. He still takes pride in the school's weight room, located behind the gym. When he arrived, the school's weightlifting equip-

ment was contained in one small room. Livedoti's office was adjacent to that room. It has since expanded, annexing his office and spilling out into the hallway behind the gym. He now teaches a weightlifting class, an elective that is filled each semester.

He'll be facing a similar task at Olivet, which can't match West Bloomfield's extensive weight area.

THE OLIVET PROGRAM is in disarray. Under Glen Stevenson's direction the past six seasons, the Fighting Comets annually battled Kalamazoo College for the dubious distinction as doormat of the NCAA Division III Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Stevenson resigned after Olivet went 2-4-1 last season. His record at Olivet was 10-43-1.

Livedoti is promising nothing, other than hard work. "Let's change some attitudes, let's change some work habits, and let's win some games," he outlined.

Upgrading the weight room, establishing an athletic study table and recruiting the Detroit area more intensely are his initial

plans. Only about one-quarter of the nearly 50 Fighting Comets on the '87 roster were from the three-county, metro-Detroit area.

"I will come back to Oakland County and recruit," promised Livedoti. "I'm going to recruit the state of Michigan. I'm going to call on every coach I know, and if I don't know them I'll introduce myself."

He wouldn't say so, but it was obvious Livedoti relished the chance to bring in talent instead of trying to mold what was handed him.

"I'm going to miss this type of kid," he said about leaving West Bloomfield. "Now I'm going to recruit the kids I want. (At West Bloomfield), it was fun to watch where a kid ends up after four years of football."

"I think the challenge to do something else," answered Livedoti. "I want to see if I can go to the college level and be successful. As a coach, I have an intense desire to be successful."

And it was Livedoti's ability to communicate that desire to his players that got him the Olivet job.

Falcon netters eye improvement

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

If the Falcons continue to improve and overcome a lack of height, better times could be ahead for Farmington's volleyball team.

The Falcons won only one match all last season, but there were encouraging signs when they opened a new season Saturday, Dec. 12, in Farmington Hills Harrison's Invitational.

Farmington came close to beating Waterford Mott and had close games with West Bloomfield and a good Warren Woods-Tower ballclub.

The Falcons will be greatly outdistanced at times, as they were in the latter match. But coach Maureen McNabb's squad still managed to test the taller Vikings.

"We can't go up to the net and try to get the ball over (the opponent) has 6-foot-3 girls on the other side," McNabb said. "But we had the 15-17 game (with Tower), so we are able to compete with tall people."

FARMINGTON WILL obviously emphasize defense and adjust its own offense to compensate

for other team's height advantage.

"We are attacking the ball, but we have to do it a little differently," McNabb said. "Instead of setting the ball close to the net, in which case it would probably be blocked, we'll just pull the sets off the net."

Thus, the Falcons will set up their attack opportunities five to six feet back from the net to throw off the opposition's defensive timing and reduce the chances of the hit being blocked.

On the other side, Farmington had no blocks in the tournament and "will have to come through with our defensive passing" instead, McNabb said. Andrea Garbarino and Carrie Miller played well in that regard.

Garbarino, a 5-foot-7 senior, is one of three varsity returnees and one of the team's leading defensive specialists.

Kelli Koss, a 5-foot-4 senior, and junior Katie McDonald, the Falcons' tallest player at 5 feet 8, are the other veterans. Koss is the main setter, and McDonald will obviously be a key in Farmington's attack.

A group of four seniors includes Velinda Sten-

son, a setter who played on the junior varsity last year, and Elin Aunmo, a foreign exchange student from Norway.

Farmington will have its share of youth, too. McNabb will carry three sophomores — Margaret Martin, Miller and Dawn Montrose — on the varsity.

Martin is a setter, and Miller and Montrose are combination hitter/backrow players. Miller and Montrose came up for the district tournament last season.

"They have positive attitudes and are helping bring everybody around," McNabb said. "Actually, they're putting some pressure on the upperclassmen, being sophomores and playing so well."

Another varsity member and a newcomer is junior Lisa Rockefeller, a 5-foot-0 outside hitter. She hasn't played the sport since eighth grade, however.

"She has the natural ability to play," McNabb said. "She just has to refine some of her skills."

Farmington's next action occurs Saturday, Jan. 9, when the Falcons compete in the tournament at Bloomfield Hills Andover.

wrestling

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| FARMINGTON 24
LYONIA STEVENSON 31 | PLYMOUTH SALEM 18
NORTH FARMINGTON 22 |
| 98 pounds: Joe Goudcaque (F) pin. Tony Serrin, 2:38. | 98 pounds: Matt Kominaki (PS) won by forfeit. |
| 105 pounds: Dave Wojciechowski (LS) pin. Chris Phillips, 1:23. | 105 pounds: Ron Fontaine (PS) pin. Jeff Head. |
| 112 pounds: Chris Gardiner (F) pin. Randy Davis, 2:31. | 112 pounds: Jeff Deibeke (PS) pin. John Cassidy. |
| 119 pounds: Mike Schmoch (LS) pin. Matt Mullin, 2:46. | 119 pounds: Dave Mang (PS) pin. Adam Cook. |
| 126 pounds: Steve Lee (F) dec. Tony Fasani, 4:0. | 126 pounds: Scott Corliss (NF) dec. Dave Appel. |
| 133 pounds: Rob Woodbeck (F) dec. Atilla Omar, 13:0. | 133 pounds: Ed Barlage (PS) dec. Brian Feldman. |
| 140 pounds: Paul Gedelet (LS) dec. T.J. Armstrong, 6:2. | 140 pounds: Chris Svek (NF) pin. Mike Smith. |
| 147 pounds: Kurt Will (LS) dec. Todd Jarrow, 12:0. | 147 pounds: Brian Burison (PS) pin. John Lyden. |
| 154 pounds: Jarrod Wilkinson (LS) dec. Mike Kelly, 14:1. | 154 pounds: Steve Burison (PS) pin. John Lyden. |
| 161 pounds: Mike Farr (LS) pin. Brian Watter, 3:54. | 161 pounds: Brian Burison (PS) pin. Chris Servio. |
| 168 pounds: Bill Lundbert (F) pin. Matt Siedler, 1:28. | 168 pounds: Jeff Jacobs (NF) dec. Craig Power. |
| 198 pounds: Charles Wyatt (F) pin. Joe Skymanski, 1:12. | 198 pounds: Zaim Cummala (NF) pin. Chuck Greerick. |
| Heavyweight: Paul Daniels (F) pin. Bret Harvey, 0:30. | Heavyweight: Scott Breitbaup (PS) won by forfeit. |
| PLYMOUTH CANTON 54
LYONIA CHURCHILL 13 | NORTHVILLE 67
FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON 18 |
| 98 pounds: Joe Morrow (LC) pin. Jason Fortin, 2:38. | 98 pounds: Ray Pudlik (FH) pin. Kevin Kaaban. |
| 105 pounds: Tom Flores (PC) pin. Sean Wells, 1:49. | 105 pounds: Chad Boserker (N) won by forfeit. |
| 112 pounds: Darrin Dudek (LC) dec. Matt Keeler, 12:3. | 112 pounds: Mike Mathis (N) pin. Eric Parme. |
| 119 pounds: Casey Krause (LC) dec. Scott Swartzinski, 10:5. | 119 pounds: Krista Graham (N) pin. Ted Prustinski. |
| 126 pounds: Josh Barry (PC) pin. Dana Wood, 3:51. | 126 pounds: Andy Frey (N) pin. Kevin York. |
| 133 pounds: Tim Nardini (PC) won by injury default over Eric Schellberger. | 133 pounds: Dave Godmundson (N) pin. Ed Sower. |
| 140 pounds: Liam Rents (FC) pin. Chris Stroull, 4:3. | 140 pounds: Troy Soeder (FH) pin. Chris Harbeck. |
| 147 pounds: Craig Rinke (FC) dec. Tom Sarah, 8:0. | 147 pounds: Garret Potter dec. Jason Fox. |
| 154 pounds: Larry Pardi (PC) pin. Mark Pierce, 2:38. | 154 pounds: Darren Kehoe (N) pin. Leo Devine. |
| 161 pounds: Gary Goltschek (FC) won by forfeit. | 161 pounds: Mike Doovans (N) pin. Todd Lysytskiy. |
| 168 pounds: Ron Seal (FC) dec. Ryan Jackson, 5:0. | 168 pounds: Matt King (FH) pin. Mike Mazzola. |
| 198 pounds: Tony Sayers (PC) pin. Jack Narzumi, 1:02. | 198 pounds: Mike Hale (N) pin. Phillip Hong. |
| Heavyweight: Jerry French (FC) won by forfeit. | Heavyweight: Derrick Forbing (N) pin. Model Higower. |

Hawk volleyball team in transition

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The start of every sports season brings new challenges.

It's just that volleyball coach Ron Short has a few more of them at Farmington Hills Harrison this year.

Beginning his fifth season as coach of the Hawks, he has only three players with much experience back a team that was 23-14. Major losses were Janine Whitmore, an All-Western Lakes selection now playing for Oakland University, and Heidi Reys, an all-division player.

"It's like a brand new year," Short said. "Most of our players were on the varsity and didn't play or were on the JV team."

In years past, the Hawks usually had returning players with a couple of seasons of varsity experience behind them, but that isn't the case this time.

"THE REST of the kids are just

starting to play varsity, so it will be an interesting year," Short said. "We're playing a lot of inexperienced kids; we'll have to see how they all pull together."

The Hawks are 2-2 after opening the season Dec. 12 with their own invitational, and Short was pleased with that given Harrison's shortage of veteran players.

Katie Doll, a 5-foot-8 senior, started a year ago and has moved to middle hitter this season. She led the Hawks in number of kills in the tournament.

Heather Miller, a 5-7 senior, will be an outside hitter, and senior Almee Katz moves into a full-time role as Harrison's primary setter.

Developing a solid front row is the chief task facing Short. It's an area where graduation seems to have tak-

en its toll, and the Hawks, not being as strong physically, aren't the attacking team they were in previous years.

"IN THE PAST, we've played well at the net, hitting and blocking," Short said, "and I don't think we have those kids this year."

"We're working on making smart plays, setting the ball up. We have to develop some quickness and be a defensive team."

A lack of height could pose a problem defensively, too. Harrison's tallest players are senior Michelle Grell and sophomore Lanell Shoemaker. Both are 5-11 and were on the varsity last year.

"If we're going to be successful, it will have to come from the back row," Short said. "I haven't given

up our hitters, but if you don't have the height it's hard to block."

The Hawks also return Darcy Fintel, a 5-10 junior, who has a year of varsity experience and will be a middle hitter.

JUNIORS LISA Donovan, Corky Sharpe and Robyn Cohen have progressed from the junior varsity team. Donovan can play anywhere on the court, and Sharpe and Cohen specialize as backrow players, though Sharpe will be used as a hitter, too.

Harrison's roster includes junior Kelly Murany, who has a strong swimming background and has never played volleyball.

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