## Marlins eye resurgence in girls hoop

Basketball is back at Farming-

Thursday, August 31, 1989 O&E

Basketball is back at Farmington Hillis Mercy.

The Marlins never left the sport,
but preseason forecasts have Mercy rebounding from a 9-13 season.

Some teams would be content
with that record, but it was considered a sub-par showing for the
Marlins, who have built a solid program and reputation for excellence
under veteran coach Larry Baker.

With three starters returning
and a host of talented underclassmen lending support, Mercy anticlpates a season more like it's accustomed to having.

"It was a tough year more than a
down year," sald Baker of 1988, recalling the Marlins began 0-6
against some of the best teams in
the state. "We had a big-time
schedule and played that schedule
with inexperienced players.

"We expect the juniors and sophomores we've got to provide a
foundation for us to move on to bigger and better things.

"THIS TEAM has the makings of

ger and better things.

"THIS TEAM has the makings of being a prototypical Mercy team," be added. "We can run and play defense and, if all goes well, we'll score a little, too."

The heart of this year's team will be seniors and returning starters Jenny Clinton, Joanne Stephens and Lee Albrecht. In addition, each one plays a different position, giving Mercy a veteran at guard, wing and post, respectively.

"Last year there was an awful lot of pressure on the juniors to produce," Baker said, "This year they won't have to play as many minutes, and we've upgraded the other positions so they can play within themselves and not feel they have to do as much."

The 5-foot-5 Clinton, selected one of the top 10 players at Western Michigan's summer camp, begins her third year as the starting point guard and is drawing attention from Division I schools. She averaged 8½ points, four assists and 2½ steels and has expanded her game, according to Baker.

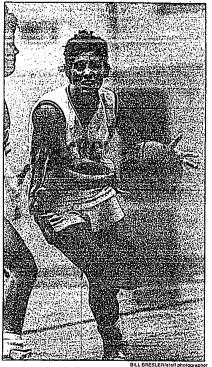
Clinton, who went from being a role player as a sophomore to the cone expected to do it all that year, is fourth among Mercy's all-time activity and the starting four the starting for the starting and statis America Roggierio (249), Denise Basford and Yvette Malson.

"She has become a consummate

"She has become a consummate ballplayer," Baker said. "She can score, she can pass and she's one of the best defensive players? I've ever, coached. She has developed her skill level in all phases of the game."

THE 5-9 STEPHENS was trying to determine where she fit in last year after transferring from Detroit Country Day, but she still led the Marlins in scoring (10.6 points per game) and averaged nearly six rebounds.

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Jenny Clinton brings two years of starting experience at point guard to her senior season with Mercy's basketball team.

# Braves' offer lures Karcher to pro ranks

By Steve Kowalski stalf writer

Rick Karcher might not make a better investment than the one he made this summer playing for the Detroit Adray Appliance baseball

Detroit Adray Appliance baseball team.

Karcher, who batted .328 and ted the Detroit Adray League with 35 RBI, signed a free-agent contract with the Adanta Braves Saturday night. Karcher, a 1987 North Parmigton graduate, will be assigned to Pulaski, Va., of the Rookle Appalachian League.

The 6-foot-5, 216-pound Karcher led Stu Ross's Henry Ford Community College team in home runs and RBI last spring but was passed by in June's Major League draft.

Braves socut Tony Stile didn't need anymore convincing after watching Karcher bai nearly 400 and bele two impressive home runs arriler this month at the All-American Amateur Baseball Foderation national tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

Pa.

KARCHER PLAYED outfield for
Henry Ford and Adray, but Atlanta
will try the Ich-hander at Irist base.

"Ho's an outstanding boy, besides
is ability to play," said Sitel, who
scouts Michigan, Indiana and Ohlo.
"I thought about signing him two
months ago (after the draft), but I
didn't want to interfere with them
playing in Johnstown. He hit some
termendous shois out there; he got
every bit of a couple of them. And
he's all for going to first base. We
think that's his best shot."

### baseball

Karcher liked the offer he got from Atlanta - a one-year contract, including a signing and incentive bonus. Contract terms also call for the Braves to pay for the rest of Karcher's college education, whether he stays with the team or not

not.

Karcher will attend Henry Ford
this fall, before reporting to Attan-ta's early camp in February in West
Palm Beach, Fla.

Palm Beach, Fia.

"Very few players get an opportunity like this, and I'm going to make the most of it," and Kareber, who turns 20 Saturday. "I felt the time was right for me for a lot of persons. I like Atlanta and I like the scout (Stiely, he seems to be interested in my personal self. They have a lot of good pitching but need power hitters.

"ATLANTA IS bringing up a lot of its players through the minor leagues, and that's why It's benefit-cial for me. It all just seemed to go into place."

Karcher won't attend the Instructional League of propsects in the fall, but be and other Atlanta minor-league players from the Detroit area (including pitcher Steve Avery) are; expected to work out in Lincoln Park and Henry Ford, Stiel sald.

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## Defending champion Falcons not without concerns in '89

The Farmington boys cross country team enters the 1989 season in a peculiar position.

Sure, the Falcons are fresh off the heels of winning their fifth straight Western Lakes Activities Association meet. And, yes, they return seven elettermen in hopes of duplicating last year's \$-0, dual-meet record.

But coach berry Young last without worry. He is concerned about depth after losing Brad Moore, an Ali-Observer, first-team selection, to graduation. Also missing are Gene Tokraks, who moved to Arizona with his family, and Mark Mitchell, who will miss the season with double knee surgery.

will miss the season knee surgery.
According to Young, Tokraks would have been the No. 2 or 3 runner this year for Farmington, and Mitchell was one of Farmington's top five runners a year ago.

"OUR DEPTH is limited," said Young, in his 23rd year, "We should be OK for dual meets, but in invitationals we'll be very average. We lest two pretity key kids (unexpectedly in Tokraks and Mitchell). "We're trying to get a second opinion on Mitchell's knees, but he won't be able to run this fail. I heard the rumors of Tokraks moving in the summer, and I heard he might stay far his senior year but he decided not to,"

of an season year our religion of the individual headlines last year in the WLAA, but Farmington enloyed a banner year as a team. The Falcens won the Schoolcraft Invitational, finished third at the West Bloomfield Invitational and were fourth at the Class A regional.

regional.
With Grosso graduated, the spotlight in the WLAA might turn to
Farmington's top returnee, junior
Ben Goba. A first-team, All-Obseryer honorce, Goba was 12th at the
state meet and fourth in the WLAA
meet.

"He's a real solid performer,"
Young said. "Ben should be one of
the top three or four in our league,
and one of the better runners in the

"HE RAN A lot of miles over the summer, about 30 or 40 a week. He also ran three or four road races and that will pay off during the season." Young looks for leadership from his seven seniors, including oc-cap-tains Greg Eodres and Matt Lang-



Ben Goba is one of the area's top returning runners.

don. The other seniors are Darius Mehraban, Kevin Van Ord, Eric Crawlord, Don Sweeney and Chris Lane.

Young said if Endres can avoid in-juries, he might enjoy a fine senior

Juries, no linguistic to this, season.

"He seems to be allergic to this, that and the other thing, but if he can overcome that and stay away from injuries he can help us," Young said.
"Three seniors — Crawford, Mchraban and Endres — have got some excelence."

ban and Endres — have got some ex-perience."
Young would like to win a sixth-straight WLAA meet, but he doesn't want to look beyond the Lakes Divi-sion race, which has as many as four contenders.
"I think our division is going to be real tough," Young sald. "Livenia Stevenson will have a real good team. Plymouth Salem, we went to summer camp with them and they'll be tough, (Westland) John Glenn will be improved. It's not going to be casy for us at all. It will be very dif-

ficult to make six in a row. We'll be lucky."

#### **FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON**

The Hawks stumbled to an 0-7 ial-meet record and placed 10th at

aual-meet record and placed 10th at the WLAA meet.
Second-year coach John Reed welcomes back four experienced runners and is optimistic about the future with a beyr of freshmen and sophomores to work with.

"With several new runners, we are expecting to improve our record from last year? Reed said. "Because this team is composed of 10 to 12 freshmen and sophomores, our potential is untilmited and we're working toward being the area's top team in the next two years. Maybe not this year but very soon."

As for this year's prospects, the

year but very soon."

As for this year's prospects, the No. 1 and 2 runners figure to be sophomores John Bowen and Mike some the sound of the sophomores John Bowen and Mike John State of the sound of

### NORTH FARMINGTON

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Four seniors return for the Raidcra, including No. 1 runner Jason
Biederman.

North finished the '86 campaign at
5-4 in duals and seventh in the
league meet.

Raiders coach Paul Welch expects
to get a boost from junion newcomer
Craig Stoe, who already has carned
the No. 2 ppol. Stoe competed on the
track team last year, running a 2.02
in the 800 meters and taking fifth in
the WLAA meet.

The No. 3 runner is senior Scott
Simpson, but Welch said he is looking for better times out of the rest of
his roster.

Junior Josh Chinitz will run in the
fourth spot. Occupying the No. 5 potimes and senior spot of
the rest of the rest of
his roster.

"Wo're a reduitely incapertured
team. Time will tell," Welch said,
"We are looking for a fourth and
fifth runner. We have a pretty strong
one, two and three."

