



North's Matt Hoffman (left) and Harrison's Rob Karbowski are two sizable reasons why their teams entertain championship hopes.

Hoffman returns to lead Raiders

By Ray Setlock
staff writer

North Farmington's boys basketball team boasts one of the area's best players. Although North coach Tom Negoshian refuses to put pressure on senior Matt Hoffman, he admits the 5-foot-10 guard has the potential to carry the Raiders to a division championship.

Averaging 18 points last season, Hoffman earned all-league and All-Observers honors. He also averaged seven assists.

"He's our leader on the floor," Negoshian said. "He has the ability to run the show, both physically and emotionally. Hoffman is one of the best guards in the state, and I'm just happy to have him on our team."

Negoshian thinks it would be unfair to expect only great things from Hoffman despite the acclaim he has received.

"GIVING MATT added pressure would be unfair," Negoshian said. "I just want Matt to fulfill his role, and the team will be in good shape."

The Raiders managed to finish with a respectable 10-10 record last season and were 5-5 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

But the record says even more when you consider North's starting lineup consisted of all underclassmen. North's only notable loss was guard Joe Sturtz.

"We are in excellent shape," Negoshian said. "Almost all of our key guys this year were the main crop of talent last season."

At center for the Raiders is 6-foot-6 senior Eric Carlson. Out with mononucleosis much of last season, he made a strong showing late in the season.

Handling the chores at forward will be 6-5 junior Bill Chwalik and 6-2 junior Chris White. White, a gifted ath-

basketball

lete who made the All-Observers football team, was a starter last season, and Chwalik was one of the first off the bench.

TAKING SOME of the pressure off Hoffman at guard will be 6-1 senior Brian Temple.

"It's a little too early to tell who will be our big guns," Negoshian said. "Thankfully, we have a lot of good candidates."

Negoshian expects guards John Low and Jon Sturtz to play important reserve roles.

"These guys should be able to come off the bench and contribute," he said.

Heading into the campaign, Negoshian considers his team young but experienced.

"There is no doubt about it; we are young," he said. "But I feel these guys have experience from last season, and that should make up for their youth."

If one thing is certain, the Raiders are eager to get the season started. Negoshian said his players are getting tired of playing each other in practice.

"THE TEAM IS VERY excited to get things started," he said. "It gets boring and repetitious hanging on the same people every day in practice. These guys are looking forward to playing someone in a different uniform."

Negoshian sees tough opposition ahead for the Raiders but believes his team can see its way through. He says a Lakes Division title is not out of the question.

The whole league will be tough and our division will be very competitive," he said. "But I feel our team is strong enough to give everybody a run for their money."

Hawks ready to defend division crown

By Ray Setlock
staff writer

In athletic competition, winning back-to-back championships is something rarely seen. Few teams are able to maintain the winning edge.

Farmington Hills Harrison boys basketball coach Mike Teachman believes his team has a good chance of repeating as division champions despite a young crop of players.

The Hawks posted an 18-4 overall record last season. They finished 9-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Harrison bowed to Redford Bishop Borgess in the Class B district finals. With the loss came the end of two illustrious careers.

Forward Chad Burgess and guard Jason

Lichtman were the backbone of Harrison's success. Burgess accumulated 999 career points, and Lichtman averaged 10 points per game.

"THOSE WERE two important players for us to lose," Teachman said. "They were excellent athletes."

Bryan Wuldrup also was a key player during much of the season until he left the team during the week of the district tournament, and Harrison also lost center Marcus Mack to graduation.

The Hawks will look to seniors Mill Coleman and Rob Karbowski to be the team leaders this season.

Coleman, an all-state quarterback on the Harrison football team, will shift gears and direct the basketball team at point guard.

"Mill Coleman is just a great guy and an excellent athlete," Teachman said. "He enjoys competing and ranks as one of the all-time best competitors I've ever coached."

Karbowski, at 6-foot-4, will play center for the Hawks. According to Teachman, he has great leaping ability.

"Karbowski could jump right out of the building if he wanted to," Teachman said. "He should give us good stability on the boards."

THE HAWKS will also add two transfers to this season's roster. Andy Smith and Steve Singleton, both juniors, are expected to contribute.

Smith, a 6-2 forward, transferred from Waterford Kettering, and Singleton, a 6-1 guard, comes to the Hawks from Southfield.

"Both Smith and Singleton have good athletic ability," Teachman said. "They should be fine additions to our team."

Coming up from the junior varsity squad are 6-6 center Paul Gilyvdis and 6-3 forward Blazo Sarcevic.

"Gilyvdis has excellent work habits and is an extremely strong kid," Teachman said. "Sarcevic will help our rebounding. He is capable of many rebounds and proved it on the junior varsity level. There were times when he grabbed 20 or 21 in a game."

The Hawks will use their mixture of new players and seasoned veterans to chip away at opponents.

Harrison used no more than seven players in a game last season, but Teachman says

fans can expect to see 11 or 12 players in every game this year.

"WE ARE A much deeper team," he said. "Although most of the players are young, they are talented."

Teachman believes Harrison's chances of repeating as division champion depends on the progress of the younger players.

"If those players get better and better with each game, we have as good a chance as anyone," he said. "I believe we will improve and mold together as a team with each game. We'll be in the hunt come March."

Harrison begins the season Tuesday when it plays host to West Bloomfield.

Falcon cagers eye new season

By Ray Setlock
staff writer

The late Paul "Bear" Bryant, former football coaching legend at Alabama, said: "Losing is bad but failing to rebound with victory is horrible."

After suffering through a losing season a year ago, the Farmington boys basketball team hopes it's ready to start racking up some victories.

The Falcons settled for a 5-16 overall record and 2-8 mark in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

But the start of a new year always brings renewed optimism.

"The team attitude is real good," Farmington coach Bob Kaump said.

"We anticipate a better season than a year ago."

OFFENSIVELY, Farmington will have to deal with the loss of Mike Moyers and Jason Brown, both of whom averaged nine points per game last season and were the team's top rebounders.

"We will really miss their height," Kaump said. "They were both 6-foot-5 and could control the boards."

Senior center Greg Bjedov will be asked to step in and handle the rebounding this season.

At 6-foot-2, Bjedov doesn't give the Falcons a lot of height, but according to Kaump, should make up for that through determination.

Bjedov averaged seven points last season.

Senior forward Eric Miller also will be counted on for rebounds. Kaump says the 6-foot-1 Miller has the ability to grab a lot of them.

"He's a good inside player,"

Kaump said. "He will get his share of rebounds."

THE FALCONS will rotate three guards in their offensive scheme. Five-foot-10 Brian Browne, 5-8 P.J. Green and 5-10 Chris Schmid are expected to work the perimeter for Farmington.

Kaump is confident his guards are capable of shooting the basketball and handling much of the scoring load.

"They are all great shooters," he said. "All three can run the floor for us and do it well."

Forward Wes Brockman and center Derek Mehraban are expected to help the Falcons off the bench. Kaump says he expects to use just seven players per game.

"We are not a deep team," he said. "We will probably go with the same seven guys each game."

Kaump's expectations are high for the upcoming campaign. He believes improvements have been made since last season.

"I THINK we've turned the program up a couple of notches," he said. "I am looking to upbeat the program. Nobody likes to lose."

With a relatively short team, Kaump says fans can expect to see a running action-oriented team this year.

"We will not be afraid to control the tempo and fast break every now and then," he said.

Kaump added the players display a positive attitude and are eager to get things done on the court.

"The team's attitude is good, and that's very important," Kaump said. "Many of the guys suffered through last season's drought, and it's nice to see they rebound so well."



One player Farmington is hoping to get some perimeter scoring from is guard Brian Browne.

Effort earns runner award in her name

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

Mike Krafchak figures he's coached about 800 runners since he began his career at Redford Union High School in 1973. This year, his first as girls cross country coach at Plymouth Salem High School, he established the team's most prestigious award in honor of one of those athletes — Joanne Crippen.

He says picking her out was easy. "She deserves it," Krafchak said.

A season of suspense ended with Krafchak's presentation of the award to senior Jennifer Harris at the Rocks' recent awards banquet.

"When I first started coaching at Redford Union, my first team had this lady, Joanne Crippen, on it," said Krafchak, introducing the guest at the head table in Salem's cafeteria.

"She defined my formula for success."

It was 1974 — shortly after schools, forced into action by Title IX, offered women's sports. Just three women at RU were interested in running competitively. So Crippen ran cross country with the boys' team and became one of a handful of women competing in the state.

"It was the first year girls were allowed to run. I was the girls coach and really didn't want the job," Krafchak recalled. "Two people — Joanne and a burlier — decided what the program at RU would be. Joanne established a work ethic."

CRIPPEN, NOW Joanne Crippen Piasceki, trained in cut-off jeans and shoes that cut make

people in sports

her shudder today. She was determined to be a sprinter, asthma notwithstanding.

"I decided to try out as a sprinter, because I was pretty fast," said Crippen Piasceki, now a Farmington Hills resident. "But I wasn't competitive."

Krafchak suggested she give distance running a try.

"I remember when he told us to go out and do five miles. I looked at him like he was nuts," she said with a laugh.

Before long, the would-be sprinter fell in love with distance running. While at RU, Crippen Piasceki was All-Invitational in almost every invitational meet she entered. Her second year running track, the 514 meter was good enough to travel to the state meet.

In the fall of 1974, she ran a 19:38 three mile in a cross country meet at Grand Ledge. To compare her performance to that of his 1989 team, Krafchak translates Crippen Piasceki's three-mile time of 19:38 to a 20:15 5K, which would rank second on Salem's all-time list of fastest 5-kilometer runs. Harris, with a 20:24, is the only member of this year's squad to crack the top 10.

Crippen Piasceki went on to compete at Eastern Michigan University with such standouts as Sue Parks, still among Michigan's elite

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