

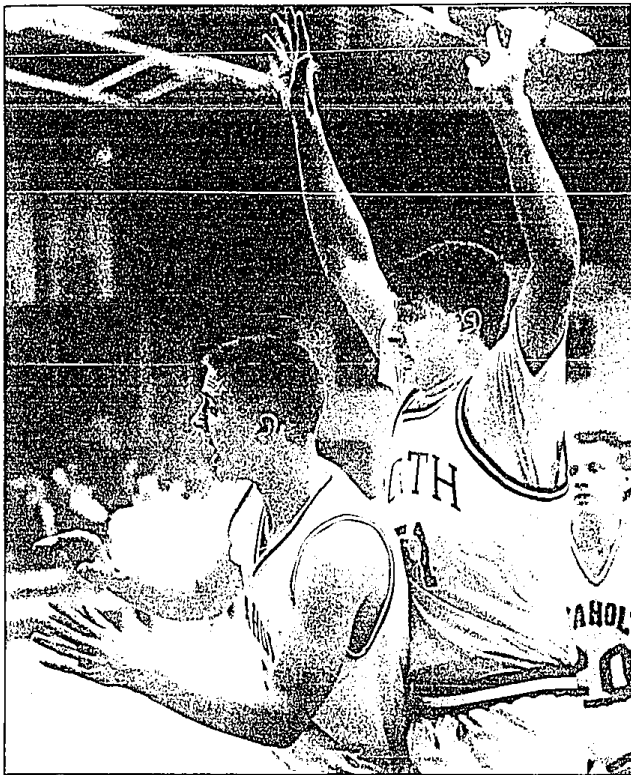
Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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North Farmington's Bill Chwalik (51) is serious about stopping Seaholm scoring machine Frank Zielinski. Zielinski finished with 29

points, but the unbeaten Raiders (2-0) ran away with the team victory, 81-62.

SHARON LEMUEK/staff photographer

Hoffman ignites Raiders

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Frank Zielinski has already earned a scholarship to Larry Bird's old school, Indiana State.

But Zielinski, a 6-foot-7 forward at Birmingham Seaholm, wasn't the only Division I player on the court Tuesday at Seaholm.

North Farmington point guard Matt Hoffman showed he may be just as worthy of a scholarship, scoring 16 straight third-quarter points and turning a close game into a rout, 81-62.

Hoffman, playing on a sprained right ankle he aggravated last week in practice, finished with 27 points to lead four North players in double figures. The non-conference win moved North to 2-0 overall, while Seaholm fell to 2-1.

"I THINK I am (a Division I player)," said Hoffman, who is being recruited by a handful of Division I schools in the Mid-American Conference. "I figure the better the team does, the better chance I have to go to college. I'm trying to do whatever it takes for the team to win."

"We wanted to win. In the locker room at halftime, the team was excited and ready to go."

North led only 40-39 when the Raiders scored 19 straight points to open up a commanding, 59-39 lead with 1:54 left in the third quarter.

A 3-point shot by guard Brian Temple started the onslaught and then Hoffman reeled off his 16 straight points, including three 3-pointers, to put the game out of reach.

Zielinski scored 18 of his game-high 29 points before intermission to keep the Maples close at halftime, 36-35. But the second-half show was reserved for Hoffman and Temple, who combined for 23 of North's 27 third-quarter points. Temple finished with 10 points and Chris White and Bill Chwalik contributed 10 apiece.

Seaholm made only four of 19 shots (21 percent) from

the field in the second half. Babuk Ghuman was the only other Maple close to double figures, finishing with eight points.

"NORTH STARTED hitting its shots, and we thought we had to get them back in a hurry," Seaholm coach Gary Chamberlain said. "We started losing our poise and control and that just buries yourself. Hoffman is a nice ball player. He's probably the best guard we'll see, that I know of, anyway."

Hoffman means a lot to North's offense, but so does the last man on North's bench, according to coach Tom Negoshian. North's depth showed when Hoffman went to the bench with 6:02 left before halftime with his third foul and didn't return until the second half.

"We feel depth is one of our advantages," Negoshian said. "Our players feel comfortable with other kids playing. I've got eight players who started at one time or another last year, and there's no animosity among them."

"That's a credit to them. They play as hard as they can for as long as they can."

ALTHOUGH NEGOSHIAN points to depth as a key, he was worried about having enough players suit up against Seaholm.

Hoffman and White both have ankle sprains; center Eric Carlson is just getting over the flu; and Chwalik had tonsillitis last week.

To make matters worse, the Raiders picked up 25 team fouls, with Carlson saddled with four and Hoffman three.

"We expect that," Negoshian said. "If you play hard you're going to get fouls. We let the chips fall where they may."

The injuries, however, worry him.

"I'm worried about Matt's ankle, Chris White's ankle, Carlson's flu and Chwalik's tonsillitis," he said. "That's part of being a coach."

points were ultimately the deciding factor after three quarters of even play that followed.

Brian Browne led the Falcons with 21 points; teammate P.J. Green added 10. Derek Barkhold and Darren Spiece finished with 26 points and 20 points, respectively, for the Corsairs.

Mott jumped out to a seven-point lead in the first quarter, and the teams played fairly even until the third, outscoring the Corsairs by five and stepping up the tempo with some fast breaks.

The Corsairs had a fruitful evening at the free throw line. Farmington kept the game close until the last four minutes when the Corsairs put the game away with free throws.

Mott was 15-of-19 at the line, the Falcons 3-of-6.

basketball

spectively. RU dropped to 2-1 overall.

RU coach Tip Smathers praised Harrison's team effort.

"Their press hurt us and they were quicker to the ball," he said, adding the Hawks also beat his team on offensive rebounds.

WATER, MOTT 50, FARMINGTON 53: The Corsairs edged Farmington in three of four quarters Tuesday night, handing the Falcons (1-2) their second loss this season.

Mott outscored Farmington 15-8 in the first quarter, and those seven

points were ultimately the deciding factor after three quarters of even play that followed.

Brian Browne led the Falcons with 21 points; teammate P.J. Green added 10. Derek Barkhold and Darren Spiece finished with 26 points and 20 points, respectively, for the Corsairs.

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Raiders anticipate continued success

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington achieved its first undefeated season in boys swimming last season, winning 11 dual meets and a division championship.

The Raiders, of course, would like to repeat that success, and they just might have the ability to pull it off.

North coach Sue Gendron expects big-time competition from defending Western Lakes Activities Association champ Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson again, but the Raiders, who return the majority of their team, will be a talented bunch, too.

"We're expecting a real good year," an enthusiastic Gendron said. "We want to swim everybody real hard and beat them. We're going to have good days in every meet."

The Raiders, who were third in the WLA, lost Steve Turney, the league champion in the butterfly, and diver Rob Kunzelman to graduation, but they return two outstanding swimmers in senior captains Dan Kruppner and Chuck Chuba.

Kruppner was second in the breaststroke and third in the 200-yard freestyle at the league meet, and Chuba was runner-up in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle.

A solid freshman class helped North considerably last year, and the leading sophomores are Keith Lee, Chris Knoche, Mike Drelles and David Adams.

Knoche was sixth in the 200 and 500 freestyle, but Gendron expects to use him in the breaststroke and individual medley, too. Lee is a freestyler, Drelles and Adams backstrokers. Drelles also swims the IM.

Others expected to contribute are senior captain Jerry Jehle, junior Jamie Greenstein and junior John Juliano.

Jehle swims freestyle, and Juliano is a diver whom Gendron expects will be among the top six in the league. She believes Greenstein could be a sleeper.

"I think he's really going to be a surprise for us this year," she said.

Junior Grant Shively, a transfer from Redford Catholic Central, will be eligible in the second semester and help in the freestyle events, and Itai Zohar, formerly of Israel where he swam competitively, will help in the IM.

swimming

Shamrocks top Fordson

Redford Catholic Central won eight of 11 events Tuesday on its way to a season-opening, 55-28 win over visiting Dearborn Fordson in boys swimming action.

John Brogan won the 50-yard freestyle (24.24) and swam a leg on a pair of victorious relay teams to lead the Shamrocks, who will hold their home meets at Farmington Hills Mercy High School again.

Brogan teamed with Mike Hoefler, Bandy Teeters and Brian Dynda to win the 200 medley relay (1:50.60) and with Alan Afsari, Troy Shumate and Hoefler to triumph in the 400 freestyle relay (3:31.69).

Teeters, Shumate, Afsari and Dynda also each won an individual event for CC.

Teeters touched first in the 100 butterfly (1:03.30), Shumate in the 200 freestyle (1:49.84), Afsari in the 200 individual medley (2:14.95) and Dynda in the 100 freestyle (53.27).

Additionally, Joe Wing won the 500 freestyle (5:47.43) for the Shamrocks. Fordson won the diving, backstroke and breaststroke.

FARMINGTON

Coach Ross Bandy is relishing the numbers that turned out for swimming this year. With 24 on the team — including eight returnees — he has the largest team he's ever had at Farmington.

"I'm elated," Bandy said. "It's great to have a nice group of kids who want to work."

Heading the list of veteran swimmers is senior G.T. Meil, who was fifth in the 500 freestyle at the WLA meet and has even improved a great deal since last year, according to Bandy.

The other returnees from a team that placed seventh in the league are seniors Gary Kurzer, Brian Riley,

Pat Inch and Eric Crawford, juniors Matt Moore and Tom Bonner and sophomore Mark Scario.

Kurzer swims backstroke and sprint freestyle, Riley and Crawford sprint freestyle and Inch breaststroke. The Falcons, however, will have to get along without Scott Hawkins, who graduated after winning the league title in the 50 freestyle.

Moore is an outstanding breaststroke, according to Bandy. Bonner swims the butterfly and IM, and Scario is the team's "utility man" who can help in any event.

"I think Riley and Bonner will have big years, too," Bandy said. "I think they all will. I have faith in them. How big is up to them."

The Falcons also have a lot of young hopefuls, including a number of first-year swimmers, and one of the top prospects is sophomore Rob Stauffer, who specializes in the backstroke.

Bandy is optimistic about Farmington's diving corps, which is led by senior Jim Trifillin and sophomores Brandon Richards and Chris Martinling.

Despite a more positive outlook, the Falcons still must compete against the likes of Plymouth Salem, North Farmington, Livonia Stevenson and Northville.

"If we finish in the top six, we'll be doing well," Bandy said. "We have the toughest league in the state. I think some of our weakest teams could be first in other leagues."

"All I expect out of this swimmers is their best. If they do their best, I feel I've done my job and they should feel some gratification."

HARRISON

Don't look for the Hawks to make waves during the dual-meet season, but Harrison could have the makings of a Class B contender, according to coach Peter Leonhardt.

The Hawks have 28 swimmers and divers on the team, but 18 are first-year swimmers and 17 are freshmen. Leonhardt said it's the most experienced team he's had in seven years.

Harrison, therefore, lacks the depth to be a strong dual-meet team. But the 10 returnees are of sufficient quality Leonhardt believes the Hawks, who were eighth in the

Please turn to Page 2

Hawks remain undefeated

Farmington Hills Harrison overwhelmed visiting Redford Union in the second half Tuesday to register an 81-52 victory in boys basketball.

The Panthers outscored Harrison in the first quarter 15-13, but it was all Harrison after that. The unbeaten Hawks, who improved to 3-0, held a 55-27 advantage in the second half.

Harrison outscored RU by seven points in the second quarter, 18 in the third and 10 in the finale.

Junior forward Andy Smith led the Hawks with 23 points, 15 rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Sophomore center Paul Gillies came off the bench to score 15 points and grab eight rebounds, and senior guard Mill Coleman had 10 points and six assists.

Senior forward Steve Nowak and senior guard Dan Lazotte led the Panthers with 15 and 10 points, re-

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