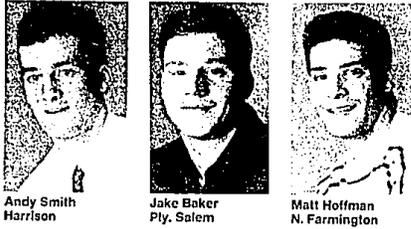


Observer names elite cage squad



All-Area basketball selections

Andy Smith Harrison

Jake Baker Ply, Salem

Matt Hoffman N. Farmington

Shawn Respert Bishop Borgess

Randy White Bishop Borgess

Ron Baran Stevenson

Kevin Hankerson Wayne Mem.

Bob Brodie Salem coach

Continued from Page 1

"Randy wore several different hats, and he stepped forward after Shawn got hurt and became more assertive," Borgess coach Mike Fusco said. "He plays within himself and is a coach's player with great intensity."

Shawn Respert, senior, Bishop Borgess: A knee injury during the Catholic League playoffs ended Respert's prep career prematurely, but by then the senior guard had already earned all of Fusco's respect. Respert, who signed early with Michigan State, averaged 22.1 points, 7.3 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game for Borgess.

Respert underwent reconstructive knee surgery last month and will be out up to eight months. Still, Fusco predicts a full recovery for Respert, a Dream Team selection by the Detroit News, who also carries a 3.2 grade-point average.

"I'm not going to back down, saying he may be the best ever to come out of Borgess," Fusco said. "He's only going to get better. One thing I noticed about him this year is he became more assertive and took over more."

"People know he can score, but he's quick and a good defender. He appears to be a quick heater and could be ready next season at MSU."

Kevin Hankerson, senior, Wayne Memorial: The 6-4 center named the Wolverine A Conference's Most Valuable Player award after averaging 16 points and 13 rebounds per game for the regular-season champion Zebras.

A three-year starter, Hankerson was a two-time All-WAC selection. Coach Chuck Henry said Wisconsin-Green Bay has shown interest in Hankerson, a 2.9 student.

"He's a great leader and captain," Henry said. "He has excellent athletic ability, is quick and can play defense. He's a good student and a very solid kid."

Matt Hoffman, senior, N. Farmington: Hoffman capped a record-setting career by leading North to a district title. A point guard, Hoffman averaged 20.5 points, 7.3 assists and 4.5 assists per game for the Raiders.

He shot 72 percent from the free throw line and 40 percent from the field, including 39 percent (39-100) from 3-point range. He averaged 18 points per game during his career.

As for school records, Hoffman's 452 points this year broke Rick Anderson's single-season scoring mark of 435, and Hoffman once scored 41 points in a game to establish a new North gym single-game scoring standard. A nifty passer, Hoffman also set a school record for assists in a career (325), season (121), season average (7.3) and game (15).

Hoffman is being recruited by several mid-sized Division I schools, including Siena College in New York, an NCAA qualifier last year.

"There's no question he's going to play college ball, but where and what level is hard for me to say," coach Tom Heggstad said.

"Including my college (coaching) days, he's one of the best point guards I've ever coached. His work ethic and competitiveness, his wanting to win, are just outstanding."

Andy Smith, junior, Harrison: Smith led Harrison with an 18.5 scoring average and was the team's high scorer in 26 of 21 games. Smith, a 6-2 forward, was second on the team in rebounding

(7.1) and third in assists (2.5). A 3.9 student, Smith shot 52 percent from the field and 69 percent at the free throw line. He also averaged two steals per game.

"We lost (former all-area player) Chad Burgess but I wasn't concerned because I knew we had someone who could replace him," coach Mike Teachman said. "He stepped into some big shoes, and there wasn't much room left in those shoes when he got done."

"He was our leading scorer, but he can't go out of his way to do that. The team got him the ball."

Jake Baker, junior, Salem: Already highly recruited, the 6-5 swingman led Salem to a berth in the Class A quarterfinals, where the Rocks lost to Battle Creek Central. A two-year starter, Baker averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds per game to lead Salem in both categories.

Baker made 53 percent (146-278) of his shots from the field and 71 percent (115-161) from the line. He made 37 percent (22-59) from 3-point range, including three triples in a regional win over Ann Arbor Huron.

Baker finished with a career-high 32 points against Huron, as he took his game to a new level in post-season play when he averaged 25 points, a 6-2 forward. "He's an extremely concave, hard-

working and versatile player," coach Bob Brodie said. "He has the ability to go inside our outside, and he's definitely a force to be reckoned with on the floor."

"As a junior, he's already one of the best we've had at Salem. Being only a junior, he hasn't been recruited feel hard yet, but there are some schools interested in him."

Ron Baran, senior, Stevenson: The lute senior guard thrilled Spartans fans with his out-of-sight jump shot, making 68 shots from 3-point range to lead at Observerland bombers.

Baran averaged 18 points per game and made 80 percent (85-108) of his free throws. He scored a career-high 26 points against Westland John Glenn, pouring in 21 of the points before halftime.

Although known most for his explosive scoring, Baran also found time to average 4.5 assists per game.

"He's the kind of kid that gives you the element not every team has," Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre said. "He highlights the ballgame because of his ability to do so many things. At times, he's very explosive and can change the complexion of the game very quickly. He's so spontaneous, teams aren't sure what he's going to do."

North looks for improvement

By Mike Stewart staff writer

North Farmington girls track coach Ralph Temby was musing about the league titles his Raiders won in 1986 and 1987.

"That was when we first joined the league," he said. "We had some really good girls."

Since then, the North Farmington squad has seen rougher times. While Temby isn't suggesting his team will compete for another Lakes Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association, he does think the Raiders will improve upon last year's 2-6 record.

"We'll be strong in the distance and middle distance events," Temby said. "I think our chemistry is excellent. We're looking to have more of a competitive season this year."

The Raiders lost five seniors from last year's squad. The most notable of the missing veterans is Jennifer Stoe, the Raiders' leading point scorer last year. Stoe also excelled in the shot put and middle distance events, so her versatility will be missed.

TEMBY IS hoping the returning Lisa Rives can help fill Stoe's big shoes. Rives, a senior, will compete in the middle and long distance events.



Lisa Rives veteran distance runner

The individual state champion in cross country last year, Rives clocked an 11:40.3 in the 3200-meter event in 1989 and was third in the league in the 1600.

Rives joins sophomores Jennifer Web and Lisa Wantuck, as well as returning junior Tracy Mitchell to form the nucleus of the middle distance relays. Other returning middle distance runners are juniors Heather Armstead and Karl Pavelich and sophomore Teri Wolf.

girls track

Julie Ewing will be one of the squad's top sprinters. Ewing finished seventh in the league last year as a freshman. Temby is also looking to returning senior Kara Hieley.

In the field events, returning senior Adrienne Mocoello will be looked to for leadership. Mocoello threw the discus 108-7 last year. Hieley and sophomore Lisa Handiak will be the team's top long jumpers.

As of yet, said Temby, the Raiders haven't solved the holes they have in the high jump and shot put.

"WE STARTED out with fewer numbers this year," Temby said, said that 37 people turned out for this year's team, about 10 less than the norm. Still, he likes what he sees on this year's North Farmington squad.

"We hope to move up a couple of steps," he said. "I think we'll be a better team."

Grid supporters have fund-raiser

The Farmington Football Backers want you to bag it.

The Farmington High community support group is, again, holding its annual garbage bag sale to raise money for extras for the school's football program.

The two-ply, heavy-duty garbage bags are being sold in boxes of 100 for \$15 per box, and can be ordered in advance. A member of the Football Backers or the school's football team will deliver them in the spring.

Organizer Bill Dixon said the group had good luck going door-to-door and selling to residents last year, and he wants to also encourage business participation in this year's fund-raiser.

Football players will again go out in May selling the bags door-to-door. Any business or resident wanting to place advance orders should contact Dixon at 476-8459, or see any member of the Football Backers or the football team.

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Marlins open with win, tie

Farmington Hills Mercy kicked off its 1990 soccer season with a win and tie in the last week.

The Marlins fired 36 shots at Trenton and managed a 9-0 victory Saturday at Mercy.

Sophomore Tanya Macoece and juniors Dana Lehmkuhl and Kathryn Dudley scored two goals apiece. Kathy McDonald, Laurie Chapp and Carrie Daizdox each added one goal.

Mercy squared off with perennial Class A power Livonia Churchill on Monday and came away with a 0-0 tie.

Mercy goalkeeper Renee Larabell fought off 15 Churchill shots, 13 in the first half.

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