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Mercy gets free pass to Class A semis

But Pilots dispute MHSAA decision

Farmington Hills Mercy coach Larry Baker attended a quarterfinal game in the girls basketball tourna-ment Wednesday night as he had planned to do.

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But Baker thought he would be coaching and not socioling.

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Martina would play not drive hacomb County to see two other teams.

Mercy was to have faced No. 1-ranked Detroit Murray-Wright, but Baker's plans changed Tuesday when the Michigan High School Ath-elic Association removed the Pilots from the Class A state tournament for using ineligible players.

Thus, the Marlins got an automatic by to the semiflinals Friday, Mer-cy is scheduled to play Saginaw at 8-pm. in the Battle Creek Central Fieldhouse. The final will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Kellogg Arena, also in Battle Creek.

"WE HAD NO sellve and in the

"WE HAD NO active part in the whole proceeding of this eligibility matter," Baker said Tuesday night. "We were just bystanders and, for the last 24 hours, frustrated and annous bystanders. We were keyed up and ready to pilo our biggest game. The MHSAA disqualified Murray-Wright, the state runner-up last year, after it was learned Digenta Warren and Latricia Gunnelts were not on the eligibility roster submitted to the district tournament manager. Those resters cannot be amended once the tournament starts.

But there was a new development

Wednesday when Murray-Wright received a court restraining order in an attempt to re-enter the fournament. The Pilots showed up Wednesday night in an empty Southfield gym, claiming Mercy should forfeit since it didn't appear for the quarterfinal. The MHSAA had said there would be no game. A bearing today There was to have been the property of the pr

WARNER SCORED a career-high 7 points in the Murray-Wright

game.
Instead of coaching his team in a quarterfinal game for the first time since 1986, Baker went to scout the Detroit King-Rochestey Adams at Utica Ford High.

He had nlanned to be in Grand

Utics Ford High.

He had planned to be in Grand
Rapids for the Saginaw-Alpena quarterfinal game, but there was no need
to drive that far after Alpena forfelied the game because it didn't have



Farmington's new coach relies on veteran quintet



SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photograph
Brian Afflerbaugh (left) is one of the returning players at Farmington.

The experience of five seniors gives first-year coach Denny Mikel cause for optimism and a core around which to build his Farming-ton basketball team.

Mikel previously coached the junior varsity team at North Farming-ton and replaces Boh Kaump, who was released after coaching the Fai-cons for five years.

Farmington was 2-19 last season and Mikel, who naturally bopes to turn that around, said he is pleased by the team's progress. The Faicons begin their season Tuesday at home against Waterford Kettering. "Obviously, everything we're doing is new," he said. "It's been slow coming around because there's a lot of teaching involved, but I feel good about where we're at right now, against because the eventual the control of the production of th

State champion Hawks relish repeated success

The high school football season officially ended Saturday but not for
Farmington Hills Harrison coach
John Herrington Fran met with the
parents one more time Monday night
to watch film — as they did every
week during the season — of the
Hawka 34-7 velctor; over Cheboygain the Class Bit championship game.
On Tuesday night, Herrington was
on his way to Clare for a Football
Coaches Association meeting, still
enjoying the altergiow of Harrison
winning its fifth state title in 10:
"It leaves you with a real good
feeling, and I'm very proud of what
the kitds accomplished," Herrington
said.
The Hawks have comes long way

The Hawks have come a long way since 1970 when the school opened

football

and Herrington left North Farming-ton where he had been the JV coach to take charge of the Harrison var-sity.

HERRINGTON IS 188-43-1 in 22 seasons, including a 28-5 record in the playoffs, but never envisions that kind of extended success when he started, later to be joined by long-time assistants Bob Sutter and Bob Sallow.

"I thought we would be successful," Herrington sald, citing a 36-game winning streak with the North JV, "but we started here on such rocky roads."

The early 70s was a tough time to

coach because of societal attitudes and the fact so many players were allowed to stay at their old schools (Farmington or North), Herrington sald. In those days, the Hawks prac-ticed and played their games at Beechview Swim Club.

"It was a tough year, but we were 4-4-1 against varsity teams," Herr-ington said.

ington said.

Harrison had its first unbeaten regular season in 1976, qualified for the playoffs when only four teams did in each class and reached the state final, losing 36-27 to Midland Dow in the first Class A champion-ship game played in the Silverdome.

When he left the field that day, Herrington didn't think he would be back, believing it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to coach a team lifetime oppoint the Dome.

