

# Sports

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(F)18

## Harrison whips favored Lakers in season debut

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

Farmington Harrison boys basketball coach Mike Teachman used a simple philosophy to lead his team to a season-opening 63-52 victory Tuesday over visiting West Bloomfield.

"We went by the KISS theory (Keep It Simple Stupid), because we didn't have that many days of practice as a full team," said Teachman, who began the practice season with just six varsity players on the court because the eight others were busy helping the Harrison football team win the Class BB state championship. "We basically went man-on-man the whole time, although we did zone a little on the inbound, and we just tried to play aggressively on offense."

**THE STRATEGY** worked well as the underdog Hawks took the lead in the first quarter and rode it to victory.

Senior Paul Gilyvda had the hot hand early for the Hawks. The 6-foot-8 senior scored 11 of his team-leading 17 points in the first quarter on a combination of inside dumps, outside jumpers and rebound returns. Gilyvda hit his first three shots from the floor and gave the Hawks the lead for good, 6-4, with a baseline jumper less than three minutes into the game. Gilyvda's triple midway through the quarter gave the Hawks a five-point lead, 11-6.

West Bloomfield closed to a basket, 11-9, on a three-pointer by Mike Roberts (11 points), but Harrison ran off five points at the end of the quarter to take a 16-11 lead into the second.

**HARLEY MARKS** (21 points) scored from inside to open the second.

### basketball

ond as West Bloomfield pulled to within 16-13 at the start of the quarter.

Greg Piscopink (10 points) came off the bench with five points to lead Harrison on a 17-4 run early in the second quarter. Dan Right (eight points) followed a pair of free throws with an easy layup off the fast break as Harrison rolled out to a 33-15 lead with just over two minutes remaining in the first half.

With Gilyvda resting on the bench after picking up two quick fouls, the Laker press began to take over.

West Bloomfield forced three turnovers in the final two minutes of the half and scored six-of-seven free throws as it cut the deficit to nine points by the break. Roberts added six points in the closing minute as the half ended with the Lakers trailing 35-26.

"**WE DIDN'T PLAY** well," said West Bloomfield coach Tim Domke. "We didn't play hard or smart or together. When you don't do those things you can't expect to win."

"Last year we went 20-4 and gave up 40 points a game, and what did we give up tonight? Sure, we miss (Josh) Koby (now playing at Eastern Michigan), but other than him we had the same kids on the floor as last year, and they didn't play defense tonight. We didn't play hard, we played scared to lose."

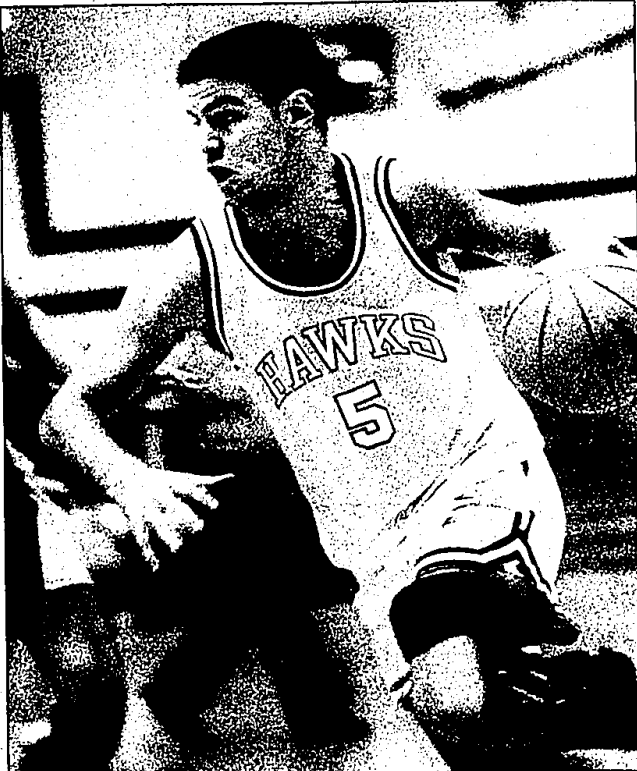
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Greg Piscopink scored 10 points Tuesday as the Hawks opened the boys basketball season with a win over highly-rated West Bloomfield.

## Falcons prevail in hoop

Farmington began a new season in boys basketball Tuesday by giving new coach Denny Mikel a 51-42 victory over Waterford Kettering in his varsity debut.

"I really feel good about it, and I especially feel good for the kids," Mikel said.

"The first win in a new program will always be something special. Hopefully, the kids gained some confidence, and it's going to carry over to the rest of the season."

Senior forward Steve Gallagher scored 23 points to lead the Falcons, and junior guard Matt April was next with nine.

"He played a very steady game," said Mikel of Gallagher. "I thought he did a good job for us. He took good shots and didn't try to force any. He stayed within the things we tried to do offensively."

In a non-scoring way, April and junior guard Brian Farr might have made the biggest contributions as they handled the ball against Kettering's pressure defense.

"That was a big factor in us being able to win," Mikel said.

Farmington also shot free throws well, making 14 of 27 while the Capitals were only 2-of-7. The Falcons sank seven of 11 free throws in the last quarter. Gallagher made six in the game, April five.

Kettering's Don Fellows scored 15 points, but the Falcons shut him down in the second half. He had eight in the first quarter and 13 by halftime.

"We made an effort to knock where he was in the second half," Mikel said. "We did a nice job taking him out of his game."

The Falcons, who had only nine players on their bench because five

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## M-W coach should have been banned, not Pilots

**THE NEXT TIME** I take vacation time, somebody hit me with a hammer and give me an airline ticket to Florida.

When you're out of town, you tend to forget about newspapers, but when I was around home, I saw nothing but newspaper, radio, and William Kennedy Smith on CNN.

I didn't even get my Christmas shopping done, although I got my cards out earlier than usual.

Speaking of holiday greetings, it's time to relay a few personal messages of my own.

**TO MHSAA'S AD HOC COMMITTEE.** Don't be bullied by overzealous parents, soccer clubs, swim clubs, recreation departments, or AAU groups.

Never in my 14 years on the job have I gotten such a response to the proposal submitted by the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Non-School Athletic Programs. I get calls from people who are suddenly my friends, pleading their cause.

It seems that all the special interest groups (mentioned above) are outraged by a proposed rule submitted to the MHSAA's Representative Council that would limit high school athletes to a maximum of four out-of-season individual meets or contests during the school year.

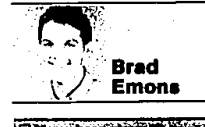
Although we all know that Dec. 7 is a day that will live in infamy, many of the special interest groups thought they were going to be "Pearl Harbor'd" last Wednesday (Dec. 4) when the Ad Hoc people met to discuss the matter.

After talking to MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts about the issue while at the Silverdome during the state football finals (Nov. 30), he assured me that there would be no sneak attack. He also said it wouldn't be decided upon until May when the Representative Council discusses all rules changes and proposals.

My view is that the current proposal is too drastic, but we need some control.

What should happen?

Maybe the special interest groups, athletic administrators, principals, coaches and athletes (which are not represented on the Representative



Brad Emons

Council) should all sit down with the Ad Hoc people and come up with something reasonable that will satisfy both parties.

I think it's ridiculous for high school athletes, the ones committed to their school programs, to be flying around the country, missing practices and disrupting their respective teams, to attend meets or tryouts.

Some argue that we're butting into the parenting business, but looking at the current generation, a sense of loyalty and commitment (except to oneself) has gone right out the window. I don't like seeing athletes caught in a tug-a-war between school and club teams.

The Ad Hoc Committee is trying to provide well-rounded individuals, but more importantly, well-rounded parents. I have no problem with specialization, but at the expense of your school team?

By the way, I wonder if I'll get Christmas cards from the following lobbyists? Ron Reinke, Jim Kearney, Mick Green, Wally Barrett, Lee Cagle, Dave Segraves and Mark Mason.

**TO MURRAY-WRIGHT COACH VIRGINIA LAWRENCE.** I knew there was something fishy going on when I got over to Dearborn Edsel Ford for the girls basketball regional and saw a few names missing from the program roster.

Detroit Murray-Wright, the state's top-ranked team, got what it had coming, and that was being barred from the state tournament.

But there was another problem. They also tried to disrupt the state tournament by getting a court injunction, keeping the Class A portion in limbo, leaving the decision in doubt only 15 minutes prior to the first semifinal game Friday in Battle Creek.

Lawrence, who had three transfers, has become the girls equivalent of Perry Watson in the Public School League. Instead of punishing the Murray-Wright team, why not punish the head coach, who omitted the names on the district eligibility list?

And why was the PSL's investigation over the eligibility of one of the Murray-Wright players (Eugenia Warren) cleared up right before the regional? Ironically, Warren was the deciding factor in the 49-46 win over against Dearborn Fordson in the regional final.

Mercy coach Larry Baker coined it right calling them "the Murray-Wright All-Stars."

I also found the comment amusing coming from a coach whose school has no boundaries either, along with the likes of area teams Livonia Ladywood, Redford Catholic Central, Lutheran High Westland, Redford St. Agatha, Redford Bishop Borgess, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran and Plymouth Christian.

**TO PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL:** This wasn't a great season for state and area girls basketball, despite the individual efforts of a Dawn Warner (Livonia Franklin), and the state semifinal and final berths of Plymouth Canton and Farmington Hills Mercy, respectively.

I'm sorry, those old Mercy teams (with Annette Ruggiero and Mary Roosevelt) were far superior, not to mention the efforts of this year's club, which made a great tournament run.

**TO MORE GOOD PLAYERS:** There are some other hoopers this season in Observerland boys basketball worth mentioning. This is my sleeper list: Rick Barnes (Wayne Memorial), Ken Taylor (Westland Glenn), Milton Stodumire (Huron Valley), Matt Grodzicki (Livonia Stevenson), Perry Robinson (Gallagher Borgess) and Steve Gallagher (Farmington). Also, watch for Salem transfer Bobby Schneider (from CCJ), when he becomes eligible in January.

**TO SHAWN RESPERT:** The (Injury) red-shirt season may have done

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