

SPORTS

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MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1992

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Mercy starts with win

Farmington Hills Mercy coach Larry Baker felt better about his basketball team after the Marlinas opened their season Thursday with a 72-61 victory over visiting Walled Lake Central.

"I had been unhappy with the team's work habits," Baker said. "We played with better intensity than I expected from this group."

Mercy started fast and outscored Central 17-10 in the first quarter. The Marlinas extended their lead to 39-28 at halftime and never looked back.

"We got off to a real nice start in the first half," Baker said. "We had good court spacing."

The Marlinas, who shot 50 percent (29-for-58) from the field, were led by senior forward Marshelle Brooks' 23 points and nine rebounds.

"Marshelle picked up a lot of weakside rebounds and loose balls," Baker said. "She played near to my heart."

Sophomore center Julie Angell netted 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Mercy. The Marlinas also received 12 points from sophomore forward Dana Wade and six points and eight assists from freshman guard Liz Weber.

Junior guard Kerri Kobus and senior center Bridgette Norris paced the Vikings with 18 and 14 points, respectively.

DCD golfers repeat

The Seventh Annual Farmington Invitational produced a deja vu experience for the 12 teams competing Wednesday at Kensington Golf Course.

In a repeat of last year's finish, the top three teams again were Detroit Country Club (385), Lake Orion (394) and West Bloomfield (395).

DCD's Harry Louison won broke his own tournament record, shooting a five-under-par 66 to capture medalist honors.

Louison, who was the top golfer last year when he shot 71, outdistanced Farmington senior Jason Buha, who finished second with 69.

DCD teammates Sazan Bardha (75) and Scott Haylen (79) placed fourth and eighth, also contributing to the DCD score were Steve Myers (81) and John Puczek (84).

The West Bloomfield trip of Bill Marudas (76), Ron Hanefee (77) and Brian Finney (79) also placed in the top 10. The Lakers also got 81 from Sean Lutwin and 82 from Ben Hultbert.

The other teams scores were Milford Lakeland (409), North Farmington (417), Milford (417), Farmington (422), Novi (437), Walled Lake Central (446), South Lyon (449), Farmington Hills Central (482) and Southfield-Lathrup (506).

Other golfers in the top 10 were Darren Burrell (73), Lake Orion; Scott Steinlauf (76), North Farmington; and Matt Kern (79), Lake Orion.

Farmington's other scores came from Peter True (84), Dan Hryczek (88), Derek Nelson (88) and Mike Kuvach (93). In addition to Steinlauf, scoring for the Raiders were Eric Wilson (80), Drew Sophia (83), Ben Reinko (87) and Jason Horvitz (89). Playing for Harrison were Sean Frith (65), Ryan Forth (93), Mike La-Crosse (96), Jeff Moscow (97) and Randy Hall.

North secondary 'green'

The following information regarding the defensive backfield was missing from the North Farmington football preview Thursday.

The biggest concern on defense is the secondary where North lost all four starters — Lee-Jack Wilks, Jehle and Jason Horvitz. Chuba has some experience at the Raider position, but "the others greener than green," according to O'Leary.

Freshman Richard Bell (6-2, 161), a transfer from Redford St. Mary, could be the weakside back, Lord or junior Evan Ellis (6-6, 190) the free safety and senior Mike Corridore (5-8, 165), who will start at swingback on offense, or junior Dan Greenhalgh (5-9, 150) the strongside back.

Lord, who won all awards for distance and accuracy at the Kent State University camp this summer, is expected to continue a North tradition for excellence as the punter and placekicker.

Blazers win hoop opener

As expected, host Livonia Ladywood and Saginaw won opening-round games Thursday in the Blazers' girls basketball tournament.

Saginnaw, the state's preseason No. 1-ranked team, crushed Southgate Aquinas behind senior guard Erin Reed's game-high 34 points.

The Blazers jumped out to a 12-2 first quarter lead and never looked back.

Senior center Trena Cook had 12 in a losing cause. Saginnaw, the state's preseason No. 1-ranked team, crushed Southgate Aquinas behind senior guard Erin Reed's game-high 34 points.

The 5-foot-6 Reed was rated the No. 1 player in the state by the Detroit Free Press.

Tanisha Johnson and Jessica Perkins each added 13 for the Trojans. Carol Purcell had 16 for Aquinas.

CC boots Northville

Ben Rost and Jamie Heitert scored at the 32- and 36-minute marks of the first half Wednesday, giving Redford Catholic Central a season-opening 2-0 boys soccer victory over Northville at Bell Creek Park.

Harrison faces uphill battle in '92

The Hawks must start anew after losing all 22 starters from a football team that won the Class BB championship.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



The Farmington Hills Harrison football program is treading on unfamiliar turf as it prepares for the 1992 season.

The Hawks face a future that is more uncertain than any since the school opened and began playing football without a senior class in 1970.

In the course of 21 seasons since then, Harrison has become accustomed to high expectations and corresponding results. But many believe — opponents even hope — the Hawks have finally gone into a tailspin.

Harrison won its fourth consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association championship last year, rolled through the Class BB playoffs to win a fifth state title and finished 13-0 for the third time in four years.

Twenty-three seniors, which included starters at every position, were lost from that team, however. Nine are playing college football this year.

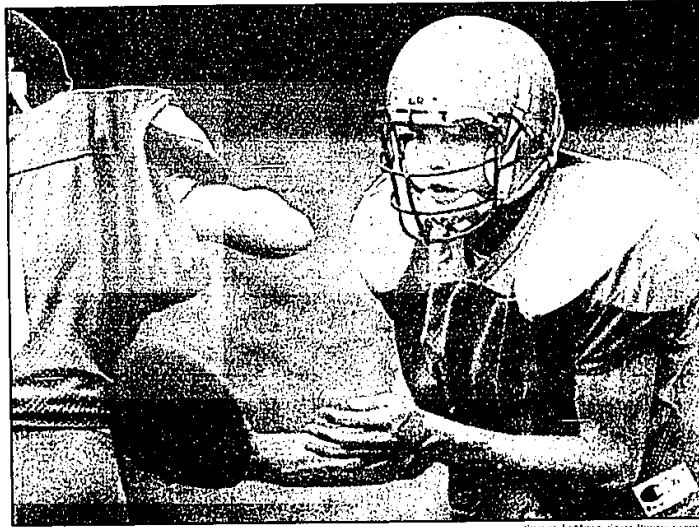
"We've been in this position where we've graduated a lot of starters," coach John Herrington said. "The difference is we usually had 20 to 25 seniors who backed us up, and this year we have our smallest senior class ever with 10 — and not all of them will be starters."

"This is the first year I remember that we will rely mostly on JV players. Usually, they have a year to season, but they don't have that luxury this year."

Look back helps

Before anyone writes off the Hawks, there are examples from Harrison's storied past when it exceeded less-than-favorable preseason circumstances.

"In 1981 we graduated every starter but Dave Blackmer (after winning the Class B title), and we still came back and won the (Class A) state championship," Herrington said. "That year we



Field general: Senior Jeff Ciso played some defense last year and adds the role of starting quarterback to his resume this fall for the Hawks.

were thinking 'Maybe we can win the division.'

Herrington, who is 189-42-1 during his 23 years at Harrison and 49-2 in the last four, doesn't want this team to be burdened by past glories.

"Sometimes I think they're worried about the ghosts of the past and, really, we want to do the best job this team can do," Herrington said. "If you're worried about things like that, you can't play all out."

"Coach (Bob) Sutter told them he wants them to be themselves and play as hard as they can. Our goal this year is to improve from week to week."

"It's a big challenge for the coaches, but it's been a lot of fun trying to put

the puzzle together."

Harrison won't be as big a team as last year when it had Mike Story, Leon Jefferson and Jason Gletner, but size doesn't concern Herrington. However, the Hawks could be a little meeker — a trait that characterized last year's team.

"We weren't physical enough and didn't attack at the line of scrimmage (against Ulica and Troy), but we realize with young players it's going to take some time," Herrington said.

"We're not big but we've been in that situation. At this point, we just have to play with a little more reckless abandon and develop a more physical personality."

Ciso and Smith return

Two players who did get playing time last year on defense and will be two-way starters are seniors Jeff Ciso and Kye Smith.

Both started in the secondary when injuries forced them into service, and that will benefit them this year. Ciso (6-0, 165) also will be the quarterback and Smith (5-10, 150) a wide receiver.

"(Ciso) does have a strong arm. He can throw the ball and is working hard to improve his reads. Kye Smith is outstanding. He's the fastest player on the team and has excellent hands."

See HAWKS, 3C

North girls hope to repeat as champions

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington turned around an eighth-place finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association two years ago to win the girls cross country title last season.

And if they stay healthy, the Raiders are on pace to repeat.

North finished 4-1 in the WLAA and 8-1 overall on their way to the championship. They missed qualifying for the state meet by one spot, capturing fourth in the regional meet.

But with North's top three runners returning, plus an impressive transfer, coach Bill Pinnell believes his squad has a good chance to repeat.

"Right now, we don't have the proven talent in our depth," Pinnell said. "Depth affords you the opportunity to rest someone who may be hurt or allows you to substitute someone for a runner you know may not have a good race."

There are several reasons for optimism at North. Those reasons are senior Emily Shively and juniors Keegan Keefover and Alicia Crossland. All three qualified for the state meet, and Shively and Keefover were named all-state.

CROSS COUNTRY

"All three of them look stronger than they did last year," Pinnell said. "They know their limits as runners and are very smart."

Last year was the first year of cross country for Shively and Keefover, who ran cross country and played basketball last season but will concentrate solely on the former.

North lost five girls — four to graduation and one to transfer. The most sorely missed will be Lisa Wantuck and Jenny Webb, who were the fourth and fifth runners.

Transferring from Canada and filling one of the voids is senior Eli Krenz, who has kept up with North's "big three" in practice but will be out a couple weeks due to shin splints.

Seniors Erin Jansen, Lisa Biederman, Leah Bernholt and sophomore Elaine Wolff give the Raiders experience.

"Last year, we were very inexperienced," Pinnell said. "Most of the girls had one or two years experience, but this year most of the girls have two or three years behind them."

Fighting it out for the remaining spots on the team are freshmen Kerrie Simpson and Amanda Hough and juniors Nora Curiel, Manali Shah, Becca Ketzman and Robyn Beresh.

FARM. MERCY

The only hurdle the Marlinas couldn't pass last year was at the regional meet.

Mercy won the Catholic League title before finishing sixth in a region that saw three of the top seven Class A teams emerge from it.

"I believe we should repeat as Catholic League champs and, hopefully, we can get out of our regional this year," said fifth-year coach Gary Servalis. "We are a little stronger as a team and have a little more depth."

Mercy lost Heather Noll and Cara McDonagh to graduation. The Marlinas were dealt their biggest blow when it was announced sophomore Eileen O'Connell will miss the season because of mononucleosis. She was named to the all-league team as a freshman.

The Marlinas do have all-area, all-league member Sharmila Prasad returning. The senior finished 22nd at the Class A meet last year.

"She is looking stronger than she did last season," Servalis said. "She looks real fit and, with the losses we had, we'll need a strong season from her."

Also returning is junior Amy Freund, who missed qualifying for the state meet by one place last year.

Senior Stephanie Johnson, another all-league member, and junior Mary Phewes will be strong contributors. Junior Ann Seymour will compete for one of the top five running spots.

Senior Dawn DiPonio has defected from the basketball program and will try cross country for the first time.

"I had Dawn in track and it will be interesting to see how fast she can pick up on cross country," Servalis said.

Junior Sarah Podorske is a promising newcomer, according to Servalis.

"We have 20 girls on the team and some have no experience or cross country background at all," Servalis said. "Maybe I can find a diamond in the rough out of them."

"We have some experience on the team and some inexperienced runners who have track experience. We will have to see how fast they can pick up cross country."

See GOLFERS, 3C

Farmington's Buha among elite golfers

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

Farmington high school golf teams will be taking different approaches to find success on the links this year.

Farmington will try to regain the Western Lakes Activities Association crown by riding the driver of one of the top junior amateurs in the country.

North Farmington will try to chip into contention behind the nucleus of a strong trio of golfers.

Harrison hopes to win a meet for the first time in two years and reach the leader board by finding a group of competitive golfers among a 20-man roster.

FARMINGTON

Farmington coach Jim Miner admits he was lucky in his first season as coach two years ago.

The Falcons won the WLAA Lakes Division, con-

ference and regional titles and finished sixth in the Class A finals in 1990.

But after five seniors graduated they fell to 5-4 last year, an average season.

"My first year was a miracle season for a rookie coach," Miner said. "Last year was reality."

Miner may have restored some of that luck as he now coaches the seventh-ranked junior amateur in the country in senior Jason Buha.

"Jason is a quality person and a rare find," Miner said. "He works real hard. He spent most of August traveling and playing in tournaments. He has become a national high school golf figure."

Miner believes Buha's commitment to playing golf has produced his success.

"I remember I was eating dinner with Jason and the rest of the team last year," Miner recalled. "I asked him what his goals were and what he wanted to do after high school. He told me he wanted to become a

professional golfer but had the understanding it would be hard. He also wanted to go to college and be a pre-med student so he had something to fall back on."

At the Brighton Invitational last week, the Falcons finished a disappointing 23rd out of 24 teams without Buha. With Buha at the Farmington Invitational, the Falcons finished a disappointing seventh, out of 12 teams Wednesday.

"I was unhappy with the team's performance as a group," Miner said. "We had a long team meeting, and Jason stood up and talked about what the team has to do to get better, as well as saying what he has to do."

Miner is impressed with the early golfing of sophomore Derek Nelson, who is shooting in the mid 80s.

"I didn't expect him to grow as much as a golfer as he has over the past year," Miner said. "Last year he