

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL Friday, Sept. 3 Liv. Stevenson at Redford Union, 7 p.m. Dearborn at Liv. Chubb, 7:30 p.m. Murray-Wright at Wad. Glen, 7:30 p.m. Wayne Memorial at Adlan, 7:30 p.m. Belleville at Pk. Salem, 7:30 p.m. Pk. Canton at Monroe, 7:30 p.m. Farmington at W. Bloomfield, 7:30 p.m. D.H. Crestwood at Garden City, 7:30 p.m. St. Clement at Clarendonville, 7:30 p.m.	
Saturday, Sept. 4 S.H. Stevenson at Liv. Franklin, 1 p.m. N. Farmington at Pontiac Northern, 1 p.m. Liv. Westland at Cardinal Meyer, 1 p.m. Borgess at Tiffin (DHS) Calvert, 1 p.m. Redford CC vs. Detroit Henry Ford at Pontiac Silverdome, 7 p.m. St. Agatha vs. Red. Thurston at 70th Kent field, 7:30 p.m. Farm. Harrison vs. Don. Divine Chd at Don. Heights Crestwood, 7:30 p.m.	
GIRLS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Aug. 31 Liv. Franklin at Clarendonville, 7 p.m. Inkar at Garden City, 7 p.m. Wad. Kettering at Pk. Canton, 7 p.m. N. Farmington at W. Bloomfield, 7 p.m. Farm. Harrison at Farmdale, 7 p.m. Dearborn at Liv. Dearborn, 7:30 p.m. Dearborn at Liv. Dearborn, 7:30 p.m. Dearborn at Liv. Dearborn, 7:30 p.m. Dearborn at Liv. Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.	
BOYS SOCCER Monday, Aug. 30 Garden City at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m. Redford CC at Dearborn High, 4 p.m. Redford Union at N. Farmington, 5:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Sept. 1 Liv. Stevenson at Troy High, 5:30 p.m. Liv. Westland at Pk. Canton, 5:30 p.m. Liv. Westland at Pk. Canton, 5:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Sept. 1 Don. Fordson at Garden City, 4 p.m. Liv. Westland at Cardinal Meyer, 4 p.m. Taylor Kennedy at Red. Thurston, 4 p.m. Redford CC at Northville, 7 p.m.	
Thursday, Sept. 2 Huron Valley at Oak. Christian, 4:30 p.m. Pk. Canton vs. Farmdale, 4:30 p.m. Liv. Westland at Pk. Canton, 4:30 p.m. B.H. Lahar at N. Farmington, 5:30 p.m. Farm. Harrison at Redford Union, 5:30 p.m. Troy High at Pk. Salem, 7 p.m.	
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER Saturday, Sept. 4 Schoolcraft at Southern (OHIO), 1 p.m.	
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER Saturday, Sept. 4 Schoolcraft vs. Darington at Monroe CC (N.Y.), 1 p.m.	
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Tuesday, Aug. 31 Madonna vs. Nova (P.R.), 8 p.m. Madonna vs. Warner Southern at Warner Southern (P.R.), 8 p.m.	
Wednesday, Sept. 1 Madonna at North Florida, 7 p.m.	
Thursday, Sept. 2 Madonna at Florida Tech, 8 p.m.	
Friday, Sept. 3 Madonna at Palm Beach Atlantic, 8 p.m. Madonna vs. Clearwater Christian, 8 p.m.	

Overaitis, Drabicki among area best

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When he was playing in New York, Reggie Jackson, never at a loss for words, defined his value with the Yankees: "I'm the straw that stirs the drink."

The same could be said about two area girls basketball players, even though Livonia Ladywood's Tara Overaitis and Livonia Stevenson's Mo Drabicki are much too modest to conjure those thoughts.

Overaitis and Drabicki are the heavy hitters for their respective teams this season, and will determine how far their teams go this season.

The 5-foot-10 Overaitis, only a junior, made first-team All-Observer a year ago, leading Ladywood to an 18-6 overall record and a spot in the Class A quarterfinals before Charlotte ended the Blazers' run, 75-71.

With an uncanny knack for being in the right spot at the right time, the multi-dimensional Overaitis averaged 16 points and seven rebounds as a sophomore. And not to be outdone in the classroom, Overaitis carried a 4.0 grade-point average.

Blazers look strong

Once again, Ladywood should be a Catholic League and a championship contending team by the end of the year.

But the key to Ladywood's title aspirations may rest with 6-foot-4 junior center Anne Pogitis, who

PREVIEW

saw plenty of action a year ago as a non-starter.

"She's relaxed and playing with more confidence," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh. "She's improved her shooting range. She's added a variety of moves around the basket and has increased her mobility."

The 5-6 Drabicki, meanwhile, is a first-team All-Observer pick who led the Spartans to 19 straight victories in 1992 before season-ending losses to Plymouth Canton (in the Western Lakes championship game) and Ladywood (a heartbreaking 55-51 setback in the opening round of the Class A district).

The cat-quik Drabicki, who averaged 15 points, five steals and five assists per game a year ago, may take on added responsibility this season with the graduation losses to three starters — Lori Shingledacker, Karen Groulx and Julie Martin.

Mo knows hoops

"Mo will make things happen in transition and she can play defense," Stevenson coach Wayne Henry said. "This year she's added a perimeter shot to her game that she didn't have or use last year. She'll pull up for the jump shot on the break."

The Spartans' 1993 hopes, though, may rest on the performance of several newcomers.

Sophomore Stacey Nichols, a 5-11 center who played on the varsity as a ninth grader, showed flashes of promise last year.

"She's got good hands and is smooth around the basket," Henry said. "She can score inside with either hand."

Jill Van Tiem, a 5-10 junior, can play inside and outside. She may be able to take the pressure off Drabicki and Nichols.

Another WLAAC team, Livonia Franklin (7-13 in 1992), went through some growing pains last year after the departure of Miss Basketball runnerup Dawn Warner (now a sophomore at Western Kentucky).

Patriots like center

The Patriots will rely on 6-foot junior center Jaclyn Deane.

"We hope she is the key," Franklin coach Mary Jarvis said. "She's made improvement in basketball, as well as improvement in the other sports (softball and volleyball). She can get the rebound and put it in. We'd like to see her as the high scorer."

Two other WLAAC squads, Westland John Glenn (3-17 in '92) and Livonia Churchill (7-14 in '92), are rebuilding. Churchill's new coach is Dave Bolog, who formerly spent six seasons at Bloomfield Hills Andover. He takes over for Gary Fulks.

Wayne Memorial, which joins the new MEGA circuit, was hard hit by graduation, losing first-team All-Area player Lateefa

Moore. She led the Zebras (11-12 in '92) to its first-ever district championship.

Fresh at Wayne

Waiting in the wings is 5-6 freshman Rica Barge, a baby-Barkley type, who could fill the void for coach Chuck Henry.

In the Metro Conference, Lutheran High Westland (10-11 in '92) coach Ron Gentz is brimming with optimism.

Two transfers, Lauren Horton (from Plymouth Christian Academy) and Julie Twietmeyer (from Ann Arbor Huron) add depth to an already veteran team.

Livonia Clarendonville has a pair of inside threats to build its program around in 5-11 junior Wendy Roy and 5-8 Pam Inzane, but the Trojans (7-13 in '92) lack depth.

Remaining ballclubs

As for the rest of Overland, WLAAC champion Plymouth Canton will miss center Stephanie Gray, while Plymouth Salem tries to replace Cynid Platter.

Both were first-team All-Area choices.

Redford Bishop Borgess (20-3 in '92) is another team to watch.

The Spartans, led by super sophomore Maxann Reese, once again should be a big factor in the Catholic League playoffs, as well as the Class C state tournament.

See capsule summaries.

Raiders from page 1C

"I think we'll be in the upper half of the conference, and I'd be disappointed if we didn't make the playoffs," Davis said. "Our fate is in our own hands. If we can play at our own pace, we will fare well."

The starting five is led by junior Allisha Gordon, who begins her third year as a regular and averaged eight points last season, will switch between guard and forward.

Also returning are sophomore guards Shannon McCoy and Carrie May. Both spent the summer improving their games through extra work and by going to the Michigan All-State Camp.

May was a surprise as a freshman and turned into one of the team's top rebounders and a leader on defense.

"Carrie was probably the only freshman I ever coached on varsity that was consistently productive throughout the entire year," Davis said. "She does the intangibles that all teams need to be successful."

Seniors Danielle Laborde and Allison Stein will also start guard. Laborde will be counted on for her three-point shooting and her leadership. Stein filled the role of the sixth player last season.

Falcons from page 1C

starter will probably be speedy senior guard Alicia Sobel.

Junior Britney Bockelman will see a lot of time off the bench playing in the post. Other reserves on the inside are sophomores Melissa McDonald, Erica Gwynn and Stephanie Timocok. Sophomore Beth Hawald and juniors Jennie Neu and Melanie Kroh will help on the perimeter.

Verdura believes he must take a patient approach and be more of a teacher than a coach at first because of the youth and inexperience on the team.

"She can come in and give us that added spark and up tempo the game with her speed and defense," Davis said. "She has made the adjustment to start and that will help the team."

Davis is happy with the effort of the starters — all of whom are capable of having a big game for the Raiders, who open the season Tuesday at West Bloomfield. "Any of the five could be our leading scorer on any night, which is fun to watch and fun to coach," Davis said. "Each girl has sacrificed her game and stepped up her game."

"They have taken up the slack when Carey transferred and worked harder in the off-season. It's gratifying to see the players able to cope with adversity and maintain their dedication to try to keep the program going where it was headed."

Senior Kate Mackie is considered the leader of the Vegas Bunch because of her calming effect on the others, according to Davis. The team includes junior Christina Olvok, sophomore Candice Perkins and freshmen Michelle Sklar and Kathy Collins. "We have no size, but we will try to use what we have to our advantage," Davis said.

"We're spending a lot of time on fundamentals right now," he said. "We're doing things like just catching and passing the ball. We have to develop a look on defense, and that will help us prepare on offense. We have to become more aggressive in practice and that hasn't happened yet."

Verdura has compiled an impressive, 90-49 record at Richard but realizes he's in a different situation now.

SPORTS SHORTS

Items for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for the Monday edition).

STINGRAYS SIGN-UP

The Michigan Stingrays Swim Association will begin its 1993-94 season with group placement sessions from 7-8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 30 and 31, at Harrison High School.

The Stingrays are a United States Swimming team with opportunities for swimmers of all abilities ages 4 to 18. New to the Stingrays this year will be the MiniRays, a developmental swim program for children ages 4-8.

The Stingrays are coached by Jeff Cooper and Dave Mack. For more information call 474-5238 or 647-1308.

MARATHONS NEEDED

Do you have a big heart and the desire to run a marathon? The Leukemia Team in Training needs you. The Leukemia Society of America Michigan Chapter has hooked up with highly esteemed running coach Kevin Hanson.

Together, they're pairing runners training for their first marathon with leukemia patients. The idea is to help raise money for leukemia research, while forming special friendships and getting into marathon shape in preparation for October's Free Press/Mazda International Marathon. For more information, call (800) 456-5413 or (313) 778-6800.

OCC STARTING TENNIS

Oakland Community College is starting a women's tennis team this fall. Women who currently attend OCC or wish to enroll in classes at OCC are eligible.

If you think you have the ability to compete at the college level, call Don Roehl at 340-6801. Practice starts today. Scholarships are available.

Golfers from page 1C

Also battling for one of the final spots on the course is junior Andy Barnard and freshmen Mark Bloom and Chris Reading. Rounding out the roster are freshmen Tom Isari and Ian Woodhouse, and sophomore Mark Yanachik.

"I feel secure with the top three golfers, and our No. 4 will be solid," Case said. "We don't have a lot of experience after that. You need six good golfers to do well; if not, then you have trouble."

Farmington

So coach Jim Miner: How is life after Jason Buhu?

"Bleat," said the fourth-year coach. Buhu, a three-time all-star, pulled off the triple crown last year by winning the WLAAC, regional and state titles. He was a medalist at the state meet with a three-over-par 148.

"Obviously, Jason made a big difference with the team," Miner said. "It will definitely be a development year, but I have hope for the future."

In addition to losing Buhu, who is playing for Duke University, the Falcons lost three other top golfers to graduation. If Farmington hopes to be as competitive as last year when it won the Lakes Division and finished second in the WLAAC, it will have to depend on a host of underclassmen.

Miner has 21 golfers on the roster but only one senior. The popularity of golf at Farmington can be attributed to Buhu, according to Miner.

"A lot of people think golf is a easy sport and doesn't take much talent," he said, "but when Jason was named the top male athlete of the year at Farmington last year it did a lot for the sport."

"I believe, if Jason keeps golfing with his same intensity and

desire, we will be reading about him in the future."

Farmington will rely heavily on two golfers who have completely different styles — junior Derek Nelson and senior Mike Kovach, who averaged 38 and 40 strokes, respectively.

"Derek is a long, lanky, talkative kid and is one of those type of characters that comes along once in awhile," Miner said. "Derek has an unorthodox swing, with a left-to-right fade. It's not a classic swing."

"Mike is a very serious golfer and student. He works very hard at his game and is a sweet swinger."

A third golfer Farmington will rely on is sophomore Kris King, who shoots around 40. He struggled as a freshman, but Miner believes he can turn it around.

Battling for the remaining spots in the top six are sophomores Nader Kharsa, Mike Kharsa, Chris Smedley, Mitch Barrett and Michael Carolan and freshman Ryan Middlekauff.

Miner expects the Falcons to finish in the middle of the pack in the WLAAC, but Farmington might be back on top next season since it will be Miner's fifth season.

In his first year, the Falcons won the conference. In his third year, they won their division. If his every-other-year luck holds, Farmington could be back in 1994?

"I'm looking forward to next year," Miner said. "With 21 golfers, I'm going to try to get as much work for all of them as I can."

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