

Farmington coach gets win in debut

Farmington's first game as girls basketball coach wasn't pretty, but that didn't matter as the Falcons began the season Tuesday with a 28-19 drubbing of Clawson in the first round of the Troy Athens Tournament.

The Falcons play the Troy Athens-Warren Lincoln winner in the final tonight.

"It feels nice to get the first win, but we have a lot of work to do," Verdura said. "I'm proud of the girls and they deserve a lot of credit. The game got close at the end, and they got over the hump and handled the pressure well."

Farmington led 16-14 entering the third quarter. The Falcons held the Trojans scoreless for the next 10 minutes, mustering two points of their own.

Clawson narrowed the gap to 19-16, but Farmington ran off nine consecutive points to put the game out of reach. The rally was spurred by two free throws and a layup from Andrea Salyer.

Sophomore center Kim Washnock led all scorers with 15 points. Verdura was pleased with the all-around play of freshman guard Amanda Fort.

She ran the offense well and handled their trap well," he said. "Defensively, she gave

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Dave Bolog, first season.
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Western Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7 at home vs. Dearborn.
Last year's overall record: 7-14.
Notable losses to graduation: Kristy Day (second-team All-Area guard); Cheryl Lewis, Dayna Landry, Nancy Graziano.
Leading returnees: Mary Day, 5-4 junior guard; Jenny Jenkins, 6-0 senior center; Rachel Miller, 5-9 senior forward; Melissa Sochacki, 5-7 junior forward; Adri Harkoski, 5-7 junior guard; Alicia Decker, 5-4 sophomore center; Kelly Johnson, 5-10 sophomore center.
Promising newcomers: Anne Rios, junior guard; Sarah Blech, junior guard; Kelly Rowan, junior guard.
Bolog's '93 outlook: "I know the league (WLA) will be tough. We're hoping to make some type of impact."
"We're pretty young and inexperienced. As they work and learn my system, we'll get better and maybe we'll surprise some people."
"We have speed and will have to use that to press. We can shoot. If we get openings, we will score. It depends on the confidence of the team, and that will grow with time."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Mary Jarvis, second season.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville.
Last year's overall record: 7-13.
Notable losses to graduation: Lisa Craven (transferred to Plymouth Salem); Tammy Smith, Dearborn.
Leading returnees: Mary Bagatzinski, 5-7 junior forward; Sarah Camp, 5-5 junior guard; Sarah Decker, 5-5 sophomore guard; Jacyn Deane, 6-0 junior center; Ann Bagatzinski, 5-5 junior guard; Shari Heston, 5-10 junior forward; Lisa Schaefer, 5-9 senior forward.
Promising newcomers: Asha Bai, 5-5 junior guard; Nicole Johnson, 5-10 sophomore forward; Alana Heston, 5-6 sophomore guard.
Jarvis' '93 outlook: "We're still a young team. But we've had a year under our belt. We're very nervous. The team gets along well and they play together as a team."
"We have a lot of speed and we're fast. I'm positive we'll be better this year and have a better record. They're working hard."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Wayne Henry, second season (first overall).
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Thursday at home vs. Southfield-Lathrup.
Last year's overall record: 19-2.
Notable losses to graduation: Lori Shap-Necker (second-team All-Area guard); Karen Grout (first-team All-Area forward); Julie Martin, Patty Diamond, Jen Tardiff, 5-6 senior point guard (first-team All-Area/15 points, five steals and five assists per game); Jill Van Thien, 5-10 junior guard; Kim Olszewski, 5-10 senior forward; Stacy Nichols, 5-11 sophomore center; Ann Marie Aguiar, 5-9 junior forward; Lori Arney, 5-10 senior forward.
Promising newcomers: Claire Schroder, 5-9 junior forward; Kette Grout, 5-7 junior forward; Katie Downarowski, 5-3 sophomore guard; Jenni Dutt, 5-10 sophomore center.
Henry's '93 outlook: "We're working hard defensively. We're also moving the ball well and hitting the open person. I feel we're jelling and we're playing well together as a team."
"We may not have the size we had last year for rebounding, but fundamentally we're sound on positioning. We hope to carry on the Bill Lambeur rebounding tradition."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Pat Demmitt, ninth season.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9 at South Lyon.
Last year's overall record: 3-17.
Notable losses to graduation: Jennifer Corbett, Nicole Johnson, Jill Lewis, Carmen McCullum, Renee Morrow, Michelle Molitor (moved across country team).
Leading returnees: Kelly Glone, 5-10 junior forward; Shawn Krause, 5-7 senior guard; Yolanda Johnson, 5-1 senior guard; Jenny Smith, 5-8 junior forward; Darci Walker, 5-8 senior forward.
Promising newcomers: Rochelle Harris, 5-1 sophomore point guard; Jennifer Smith, 5-5 sophomore guard; Jenni Grigel, 5-7 sophomore forward; Rosie Schwartz, 5-6 sophomore forward; Katy Duncan, 5-6 sophomore forward; Amy Falkman, 5-10 senior guard.
Demmitt's '93 outlook: "Last year we had older players, but we were inexperienced. This year we're younger and inexperienced. Last year we tried to pound the ball inside, but this year we'll run more."
"We have some athletes with skills and natural ability. Rochelle (Harris) can handle the ball

BASKETBALL

real well. She has some speed and she sees the floor real well."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Ed Kavanagh, third season (12th overall).
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Season opener: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at home vs. Dearborn.
Last year's overall record: 18-6.
Titles won last year: Class A district and regional champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Mary Jo Kelly (second-team All-Area guard); Tracy Pihlyk, Kacie Wright, Tracey Moon.
Leading returnees: Tara Ovenshine, 5-10 junior forward (first-team All-Area/10 points and seven rebounds per game); Melissa Campbell, 5-9 junior guard; Ann Pogita, 6-4 junior center; Kelli Rensington, 5-6 senior forward; Katie McDonough, 5-7 senior point guard; Erin Lucas, 5-7 senior guard; Suzi Muskalowski, 5-7 senior guard.
Promising newcomers: Tara Wasick, 5-11 senior forward (missed last season with knee surgery); Kerry Duggan, 5-10 sophomore point guard; Becky Dicks, 5-7 1/2 junior guard; Kathy Dankart, 5-10 freshman forward; Erin Jeffrey, 5-7 junior guard (returning from recent knee surgery).
Kavanagh's '93 outlook: "I plan to play more players this year. There's no drop-off after our starting unit. Right now the roles have been defined. There's a chemistry of teamwork."
"We'll press a lot. Our main goal is to create offense out of our defense."
"We're more relaxed this year and we're having more fun."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Chuck Henry, fourth season.
League affiliation: MCLA (Big Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Tuesday at Ypsilanti.
Last year's overall record: 11-12.
Titles won last year: Class A district champion.
Notable losses to graduation: Latesha Moore (first-team All-Area forward/17 points and 16 rebounds per game); Cindy Potter, Maggy Colgan, Zenobia Davis, Mwanvane Bell (transferred).
Leading returnees: Tanisha Dixon, 5-6 senior guard.
Promising newcomers: Rica Garcia, 5-6 freshman guard; Teri Cowan, 5-7 senior forward; Jessica Sharon, 5-6 junior forward; Natalie Home, 5-9 junior center.

Henry's '93 outlook: "We hope each kid will improve and see this season as a good, positive experience. Our goal is to improve each and every game out this year."
"We're a good team and can shoot the three-pointer. She can put the ball on the floor and can score inside."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Bob Wolf, second season.
League affiliation: Metro Conference (West Division).
Season opener: 7 p.m. Tuesday at home vs. Livonia Franklin.
Last year's overall record: 7-14.
Notable losses to graduation: Jodi Graham (six points/10 rebounds per game); Bree Lyons, Stacy Churtonson, Jenny Adams.
Leading returnees: Wendy Roy, 5-11 junior center (13 points/10 rebounds per game); Pam Inzano, 5-9 junior forward; Kelli Dean, 5-2 junior guard; Rebecca Vanderhook, 5-8 senior forward.
Wolf's '93 outlook: "I'm optimistic with the number of juniors on the team. I hope they end up jelling and playing together."
"The core group will be good, but it depends on the support they get. We hope to improve on last year's record. We have the ability and talent to do it."
"Right now I'm concerned with the number of girls. We may not have a JV squad. We have some good players, but it will take awhile because they're juniors."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND

Head coach: Ron Gertz, DHD season.
League affiliation: Metro Conference (West Division).
Season opener: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Westmore Lake Tournament vs. First Valley.
Last year's overall record: 10-11.
Notable losses to graduation: Leslie Turgeon, Sarah Pfeiffer, forward (six points/six rebounds per game); Wendy Harty, center (seven points/seven rebounds); Lori Mackay (9.5 points/5.5 rebounds).
Leading returnees: Amy Gertz, junior guard (six points/4.5 assists per game); Katie Olinger, sophomore guard (six points/4.5 assists); Erin Ciano, 5-7 senior forward (six rebounds per game); Stephanie McGhee, senior guard; Jenny Drauer, 5-10 senior center; Jenny Puchala, 6-0 junior center; Emily Schroeder, 5-7 junior guard forward.
Promising newcomers: Lauren Horton, 5-10 junior forward (returning from Plymouth Christian who averaged 11 points/10 rebounds); Aimee Wetzelmyer, 5-9 junior forward (transfer from Ann Arbor Union).

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ton likes his athletic ability and compares Pesci to former Harrison all-state quarterback Vince Enright (1984).

"He's worked hard and is going to surprise a lot of people," Herrington said. "I converted him because of the athletic background in his family, and I think it was a good move. He has leadership qualities and is the type of athlete you like as a quarterback."

The all-senior receiving corps is tight end Nick Burgess (6-2, 187), swingback Brendan Cotter (6-0, 170) and split end Dave Butcher (6-1, 170). Burgess, another college prospect, has the best hands on a knack for getting to the football, Herrington said.

"If we get the protection, the passing game will be strong," he said, "but we will be more of a ground-oriented team. In most years, we haven't used the upback much, and with Nick we'd like to do that more."

The Hawks have more experience in the offensive line but still not a lot of size.

Senior Gary Lesperance (6-10, 225) moves to tackle, and senior Jason Blumberg (6-0, 195) becomes the center. Senior Tim Barcs (6-10, 195) and junior Steve Shaleb (6-9, 185) — the hardest worker in the weight room, according to Herrington — are the guards. Senior Ed Kennedy (6-3, 190) and Matt Zimmerman (6-2, 190) will rotate at the other tackle.

The strength of the defense is the secondary where three starters return. Bryant led the team with three interceptions while junior Dave Hensel (6-9, 155) had two and Cotter one. Burgess will replace all-area player Keys Smith, who plays for Hilldale College.

"They're very fast, and they get to the football," Herrington said.

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tailback Nigel Whitt (6-6, 145). Both are varsity veterans. Senior Mike Prough (5-8, 161) will share playing time with Whitt.

"We have a lot of speed (Lewis) an offensive guard and realized we need him at fullback," Niskanen said. "He knows one speed and that's all out. You don't have to tell him it's full go."

Juniors Curt Katsis (5-7, 182) and Corey Noble (5-10, 242) return at right guard and tackle, respectively. The other starting linemen are senior center Bryan Pasi (6-1, 180), senior guard Mike Apostolovski (6-1, 268), junior tackle Pete Mocerri (6-4, 192) and senior tight end Dan Bojicic (6-0, 182), a converted tackle and co-captain along with Tokar.

Other line prospects are junior center Mark Mason (5-9 1/2, 153), junior guards Mark Beveridge (6-3, 200) and Tim Jarvis (5-10, 173), senior tackle Mike Enberg (6-3, 196) and sophomore guards Dave Dilworth (6-2, 167) and Adam Tanelian (6-2, 217).

"What we have to do is diversify our offense so people can't take off on us," Niskanen said. "We have to take the pressure off. That's why it might be difficult if you just run the football or pass the football."

"We can run inside, run outside, run off tackle, run screens and draws. People have to defend us. We have the ability to sprint pass, drop back and run play-action."

■ 'What we have to do is diversify our offense so people can't take off on us. We have to take the pressure off.'

Lauri Niskanen
Falcons coach

lay it on the ground enough times. I tell them that they'll be a lineman."

The Falcons will play the same 52 defense and have returning starters in Stan Lewis at free safety, Ryan Lewis at inside linebacker and junior monster back John Economy (5-9 1/2, 145).

"John is not a big kid, but he'll hit you," Niskanen said. "When we practice, he's just plays defense. We want him to perfect his skills, and the more reps he can get on defense the better player he'll be."

The defensive front will have junior Vernon Bronner (5-9 1/2, 193) at nose guard, Noble and Enberg at tackles, sophomore Jake Siskosky (6-4, 173) and junior Corey Minous (6-0, 180) at inside linebackers.

Bojicic is the other inside linebacker, and the cornerbacks are Prough and senior Robert Lhamon (5-8, 155). Whitt and junior Eric Rotenheiser (6-10, 155) also can play in the secondary.

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