

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1993

# SPORTS

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## FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

### Harrison grid awards

Senior Nick Burgess was named the most valuable player on the Farmington Hills Harrison football team Sunday at the annual post-season banquet at Vladimir's of Farmington Hills.

Burgess was a two-year starter who played tight end and defensive back. He caught 26 passes for 473 yards and four touchdowns, and he was one of the leading tacklers with 67.

Other awards went to senior quarterback Joe Pesci, outstanding back; junior noseguard Marc Lesperance, outstanding lineman; senior tackle Tim Bares, Block of Granite; senior defensive end/kicker Brock Gove, most improved; senior guard Chad Cumiskey, Hawk Spirit Award; senior tackle Matt Zimmerman, scholar athlete; senior defensive back Brendan Cotter, Slick (best hitter) Award; and senior lineman Tim Dargo, BOTR (best of the rest).

Senior players also read letters of congratulations to coach John Herrington for winning 200-plus games from Lou Holtz, Gary Moeller, George Perles, Wayne Ponder, Gov. John Engler and sportscasters Ray Lane and Don Shans.

The Hawks were 11-2 and won the Western Lakes Activities Association and Class A state championships.

### OCC cagers lose pair

Oakland Community College slumped to 2-6 in men's basketball Saturday after losing two games in the Macomb Tournament.

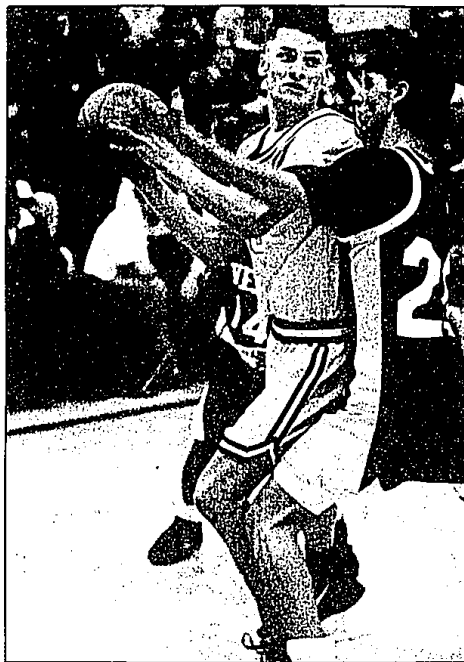
The Raiders lost 84-82 in the first round when a Michigan Christian player hit a three-point shot at the buzzer. OCC had a 40-26 advantage on the boards but committed 25 turnovers.

Harold Golsen scored 25 points (13 rebounds) and Craig Martin 20 for the Raiders. Brian Clark led Michigan Christian (4-1) with 19.

OCC lost the consolation game 79-56 to host Macomb Community College. Golsen had another 25-point game, and Martin tallied 15. Quincy Bowens scored 18 to lead MCC (3-1).

The Raiders played their first Eastern Conference game Wednesday against Alpena at the Highland Lakes campus.

## Falcons, Hawks win hoop debuts



JOHN STORME/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tight defense: Harrison senior Rick Smith looks for an opening to pass over the top of defender Jeremy Dershon.

Close and exciting describes the first night of the boys basketball season for Farmington's three teams.

A total of seven points separated them from victory or defeat at home Tuesday, with Farmington and Harrison winning cliffhangers.

The Falcons edged Waterford Kettering 77-76 in overtime, and the Hawks, despite a late start because of a long football season, opened with a 47-44 win over West Bloomfield.

North Farmington was not as fortunate, losing its season opener to Berkley 53-50.

Senior forward Kevin Afflerbaugh sank two free throws with 10 seconds left in overtime to give Farmington a one-point victory.

The Falcons trailed 33-31 at halftime and faced a nine-point deficit after being outscored 26-19 in the third period.

But Farmington rallied with a 17-8 advantage in the finale and outscored the Captains 10-9 in an active overtime.

"We picked up the intensity and caused some turnovers in the fourth quarter," Farmington coach Danny Mikal said. "It was kinda crazy for awhile. Whoever had the ball at the end was going to win."

"The bottom line is we hung on to win. There are some things we need to work on, but we'll take the win. We needed that for our program."

Farmington had four seniors score in double figures: Mike Tokar 16, Steve Juneaj 15, Scott Mensar 14 and Afflerbaugh 12.

Brian Baroky scored 23 points for Kettering, Mike Postle 19, Aaron Brown 14 and John Petruska 10.

The Falcons shot only 50 percent from the free-throw line but made 17 of 34 for their winning margin. The Captains sank 15 of 24.

HARRISON 47, W. BLOOMFIELD 44: Senior center Jeremy Pruitt played well for the Hawks as expected, and senior wings Charles Bambenek and

### BASKETBALL

Rick Smith shined in their starting debuts Tuesday.

Pruitt had an all-round solid game with 11 points, 12 rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Bambenek and Smith led the Hawks in scoring with 16 and 12 points, respectively. Junior point guard Kevin Bryant had five assists.

Harrison won the game with free throws and rebounding. The Hawks sank 13 of their 25 free shots (compared to two of five by the Lakers) and held a 50-23 advantage on the boards.

"The effort was there, but I hate to see what the shooting percentage was like," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "It was the type of game where you put both hands in your coat and try to walk out before anybody notices."

The score was tied 16-16 at halftime, but the Hawks forged a seven-point lead with a 15-8 margin in the third quarter. West Bloomfield won the fourth quarter to rally within three points in the final tally.

Senior Jerry Gibbs scored all 11 of his points in the fourth period to lead the Lakers, and senior teammate Doug Gaughan followed with 10.

BERKLEY 53, NORTH 50: This game also was won at the free-throw line as the visiting Bears sank 17 of 23 attempts, the Raiders eight of 13.

Kevin Deighton scored a game-high 22 points to lead Berkley, which broke a 23-23 halftime tie with a 14-10 third quarter. The Raiders tried to rally in the last period but fell short (17-16).

Senior center Evan Ellis finished with 14 points to lead North, and senior guards Doug Dolak and Jon Pennala had 12 and 11, respectively.

## Harrison outlook positive with return of mat veterans

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

The strength of the Farmington Hills Harrison wrestling team is at the lower weights where the Hawks return six boys with varsity experience.

One of the top returnees is junior Brian Atkinson, who was 26-14 and a regional qualifier at 103 pounds. He moves up to 112 after finishing fourth in the district.

"He should be competitive," coach Darrell Tharnish said. "I know he can handle (the higher weight) technically, but it will be a bigger challenge physically. He can handle (himself) pretty well."

The Hawks might have one of the area's best wrestlers and a potential state placer in junior Marc Lesperance, who hopes to cut 10 more pounds to reach 135. He was 26-15 at that weight last year and was sixth in Oakland County.

"If he can make (135), he's going to be pretty tough," Tharnish said. "I don't see too many kids beating him, not around here."

"He's too physical for them. He was the noseguard on the state championship football team, so he's gotta be tough."

### WRESTLING

Junior Brad Birkett and Derek Jaeger give the Hawks added experience at the lower weights.

Birkett was 13-19 at 112 last year and will compete at 119. Tharnish anticipates him reversing his record and being above .500.

"He won enough to help keep us decent as a team," Tharnish said. "I expect him to win close to 20 matches."

Jaeger will wrestle at 125 again after posting a 17-18 record and placing fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"He should place pretty much everywhere he goes," Tharnish said. "He's at the same weight and has improved quite a bit. He's developed physically and mentally added experience, according to Tharnish."

Senior Darrell Premier could wrestle anywhere from 135 to 145 and will probably end up at 140 or wherever Lesperance isn't. He was 22-12 and fifth in the county at 130.

"I expect him to be pretty tough, but it depends on his attitude and how much he wants to put into it," Tharnish said. "He has the ability. He's juggling a lot of responsibilities, and this happens to be one of them."

Junior Andrew Dzyngol was behind Premier at 130 and will battle sophomore Jeff Gutierrez for the starting spot this year. One of the two will move up to 135 if Lesperance doesn't make that weight.

Junior Joe Gutierrez, who wrestled up two weights at 171, gets a chance to compete at his natural weight of 162. Scott Hines, who wrestled there last year, will be eligible in the second semester.

Senior Jason Blumberg, the center on the football team, returns at 160 but separated a shoulder in the Silverdome and didn't practice until Monday. He was 13-14 and should do better with added experience, according to Tharnish.

"He'll place in a lot of tournaments because he's a senior and is going to have a better feel for everything," Tharnish said. "The kids he lost to last year are all pretty much gone."

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## State title always goal for CC

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central last won a Class A wrestling championship in 1988 and coach Mike Rodriguez is getting antsy.

"Too many years have passed," said Rodriguez, who is 535-169-6 in dual matches with seven state championships in 26 years at CC. "I am hungry. I just wish they would be. We just have to be patient. It takes time."

The Shamrocks, who won a Catholic League title for the 13th straight year and was 12-8-1 in duals, return only three seniors: Liam O'Donohue, Matt Moore and Christopher Pascoe.

O'Donohue, a 145-pounder, was impressive in a pre-season scrimmage after taking third in the Catholic League and advancing

ing to the Class A regional last year.

"Liam's good and strong, he was just a little 'green' last year," Rodriguez said.

The junior class seems to be the strongest for the Shamrocks. Bill Lamb, seventh in the state, returns at 112 and Dan Krueger, who was a regional champion, returns at 171.

Also back after a strong season is 125-pound sophomore Dave Gardner, who won the district.

"I'm sure Lamb and Krueger will place at state and Liam will go to state," Rodriguez said.

With heavyweight Todd Lachey graduated, an interesting matchup looms between sophomore John Spolsky and Moore. Spolsky wrestled only two matches

last year because of a broken collarbone.

"I should charge admission for this wrestle-off," Rodriguez said. "There's going to be a lot of sparks flying in the room. I wish I had more like that in the room."

Newcomers include sophomores Kevin Griffin (145), Tom Derubele (130), Lucian Harbar (171) and Dario Anni (103).

The Shamrocks are defending Observeland champions but Rodriguez says they won't be one of the favorites this year.

"I don't see too many wins off the bat," he said. "I just hope we can get through the season healthy, people mature so we can be competitive."

Editor's note: The Redford Union preview will appear in Thursday's editions.

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