

Harper steps down as coach

By Bill Parker
STAFF WRITER
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The signature at the bottom of the letter reads: "Darrell Harper, Head Football Coach, Walled Lake Central High School." Sadly, it's the last time the veteran coach will sign his name in such a manner.

The Darrell Harper era at Walled Lake Central has come to an end. After seven years at the helm of the Viking football program, the veteran coach has decided to step down, which was the reason for the recent letter to the Eccentric's sports staff.

"You can't go on forever," said Harper, who will turn 61 in June and has been coaching, either as an assistant or a head coach, for 38 years. "We have a lot of kids returning (nine on defense and six on offense) and we should have a pretty good team next year. I wanted to leave with a good team coming back for the next coach. Also, for the first time in the seven years I've been

FOOTBALL

at Central there will be large number of teaching positions available to not only hire a head coach, but possibly a couple of assistants.

The decision wasn't an easy one for the veteran coach, who spent 17 as a football coach and athletic director at Southfield-Lathrup before taking the job at Central in 1992. Making that decision even tougher is that fact that the Michigan High School Athletic Association has restructured the state football playoff format, which will be expanded to include 266 teams next year instead of the current 128.

"I wrestled with the decision because I think Central will have a good chance of making the (state) playoffs next year," Harper said. "It wasn't an easy decision, but I felt the time was right."

Harper hopes to continue coaching as an assistant, preferably an offensive coordinator.

With a wide-open, no-huddle offense, Harper-coached teams were always considered a threat to put points on the board. The seasoned coach - who played his college football at the University of Michigan and enjoyed a short stint in the NFL - will surely be an asset to some high school football program.

"When I took the job at Central I figured it would be a four or five year deal and I stretched it to seven," he said. "Class AA football is a year-around program now. I'm at the point in my life where I'd still like to coach, but I think the head coaching position is a younger man's position. I still have an interest in coaching, I just don't like the administrative end of it any more. I'd rather spend my time on the field with the kids."

Those kids are the reason Harper began coaching in the first place. "When I realized I couldn't make it as a professional (football player) I decided I wanted to do something for the kids. Over the 38 years as a coach, I guess I've gone through about 1,000 seniors. That's a lot of people that have had an effect in your life and you have an effect on theirs," Harper said.

Although Harper hopes to continue coaching as an assistant, it likely won't be at Central. Not because he's displeased with the Viking program, far from it. His dedication to the Viking football

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Darrell Harper
—former WLC football coach

program is evident in the fact that he and two of his assistant coaches continue to run an off-season weight program so when the new coach arrives the players and the program will be in decent shape.

"I still want to coach, but probably not a Central. If I stay here I will always be in the shadow and I don't think that would be fair to the new coach," Harper said. "I have always enjoyed the relationship I've had with Central very much. The players, coaches, staff and administration have been very supportive."

Although Harper is stepping down, he still considers himself a football coach.

"It's always been more than a job to me. It's a lifestyle. That's what I am, a football coach. I see kids in the community today, even kids that didn't play for me, and they still call me 'coach.' That's kind of nice."

The position and the school may change, but the signature will always be the same: Darrell Harper, football coach.

WRESTLING RESULTS

PLYMOUTH SALEM
WRESTLING INVITATIONAL
Dec. 30 at Plymouth Salem

TEAM STANDINGS
1. Trenton, 174.5; 2. Belleville, 140; 3. Novi, 128; 4. Adrian, 116.5; 5. Brighton, 116; 6. Ypsilanti, 112.5; 7. Plymouth Salem, 110.5; 8. Traverse City Central, 110; 9. Monroe Jefferson, 100; 10. Greenville, 95.5; 11. (tie) Garden City and Mount Pleasant, 85.5; 13. Howell, 73; 14. Melvindale, 72; 15. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 63.5; 16. Monroe, 61; 17. Livonia Churchill, 54; 18. Livonia Stevenson, 44; 19. Portage Northern, 42.5; 20. Westland John Glenn, 38.5; 21. Farmington, 17; 22. North Farmington, 14.

Rowdatus (Novi) dec. Trevor Clarke (North Farmington), 7-1.
15B: Pete Bordenkircher (Brighton) dec. Ted Pridemore (Monroe Jefferson), 9-7; third: Matt Quinn (Pioneer) dec. Josh Henderson (Salem), 10-2; fifth: Jason LaFramboise (Greenville) technical fall over Phil Redmond (Trenton), 5:00; seventh: Justin Weisensel (Ypsilanti) dec. Kevin Fortin (Belleville), 7-5.
140: Jason Sainaghi (Trenton) dec. Adam Hopkins (Greenville), 10-8; third: Scott Lambert (Brighton) by default over Jon Travis (Ypsilanti); fifth: Munassar (Melvindale) dec. Joe Curaba (Belleville), 8-6; seventh: Kris LaCross (Traverse City) def. Rusty French (Pioneer).
148: Mike Carter (Churchill) dec. Derrick McCarter (Belleville), 4-2; third: Joe Herter (Monroe Jefferson) dec. Will Orr (Trenton), 8-1; fifth: Dan Farnberger (Brighton) dec. Nick Caver (Howell), 7-4; seventh: Josh Fee (Garden City) technical fall over Greg Smith (Salem), 3:57.
152: Keith Scott (Trenton) pinned Brandon LaPointe (Churchill), 1:10; third: Travis Doolittle (Greenville) dec. Eddie Traynor (Garden City), 8-7; fifth: Justin Paskason (Belleville) dec. Nick Schneider (Ypsilanti), 8-6; seventh: Matt Barrett (Adrian) def. Steve Bliss (Portage Northern).

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
275 pounds: Brett Faulkner (Novi) pinned Charlie Hamblin (Salem), 5:50; third: Will McCoughlin (Adrian) dec. Alexander Calab (Howell), 3-0; fifth: Ed Sawicki (Trenton) def. Peter Stewart (Traverse City); seventh: Ryan Jones (Brighton) def. Josh City (Ypsilanti).
103: Dan Duncan (Adrian) dec. Joe Moreau (Stovenson), 6-1; third: Phil Schorfer (Mount Pleasant) pinned Roger Patti (Melvindale), 4:48; fifth: Scott Rohatgi (Novi) dec. Pat Roberts (Trenton), 18-3; seventh: Craig Zuba (Howell) dec. Corey Nowitzke (Monroe), 8-3.

112: Ryan Nowitzko (Monroe) dec. Ryan Churillo (Novi), 4-3; third: Pat Sayn (Garden City) dec. B.J. Wilson (Belleville), 1-0; fifth: Ron Thompson (Salem) dec. Josh Guterman (Stovenson), 11-6; seventh: Mike Stawski (Adrian) pinned Richard Patterson (Melvindale), 4:13.
149: Dan Jlig (Novi) dec. Ethan Smith (Traverse City), 7-5; third: Vinnie Zoccolli (Garden City) dec. Rob Ash (Salem), 3-1; fifth: Brooks Cozart (Howell) dec. Steve Vassili (Churchill), 4-1; seventh: Chris Mahar (Greenville) dec. Mike Sherman (Belleville).

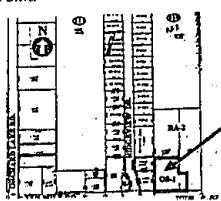
128: Lief Olson (Brighton) dec. Ken Dalley (Ypsilanti), 4-2; third: Kaly Champadeng (Traverse City) dec. Borry (Melvindale), 5-4; fifth: Ryan Heinaman (Trenton) dec. Ryan Richards (Portage Northern), 5-2; seventh: Zack Menting (Greenville) dec. Billy Maples (Belleville), 10-3.
130: Jason Borrolli (Mount Pleasant) dec. Demetrius King (Belleville), 8-4; third: Kyle Lesak (Monroe) dec. Zeb Brinner (Greenville), 8-5; fifth: Scott Westfall (Adrian) dec. James Blippus (Portage Northern), 18-6; seventh: Andy

Guerrero (Adrian) pinned Karl Brown (Pioneer), 2:09.
215: Kurt Kleison (Monroe Jefferson) dec. Andrew Korzyno (Ypsilanti), 8-4; third: Mike Griffen (Howell) pinned Nick Vanover (Adrian), 1:59; fifth: Jeff Newton (Belleville) def. Geoff Lockhart (Trenton), injury default; seventh: Martinez (Melvindale) dec. J.J. Engler (Mount Pleasant), 2-1 in overtime.

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

DATE: JANUARY 21, 1999
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
Resoning Request #11-98
ITEM: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed amendment to the official Zoning Map of the City of Farmington Hills by amending Section 34.32 of the City code by changing the zoning classification of the following parcel of property as follows:

Resone from OS-1, Office Service District classification to RA-2, Single-Family Residential District classification.
Part of Sidwell #23-23-352-004 & 005
A part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 23, T1N, R9E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan. The property concerned is located on the north side of Ten Mile Road, east of Ridgeview Drive.



The proponent in this matter is Steven J. Schafer, Phoenix Land Development.

Any person who is interested in this proposed zoning map amendment is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change at the public hearing above mentioned. Copies of the Zoning Text, Zoning Map, and Application for Rezoning may be reviewed at the Planning Office, Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director
Planning, Community & Economic Development
City of Farmington Hills

Item: ZR 9-11-998
Phone: (248) 479-0543
Publish: January 3, 1999

1999 DOG & CAT LICENSES CITY OF FARMINGTON

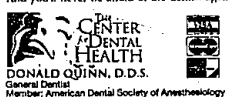
1999 Dog & Cat Licenses are available at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Licenses are issued through Wednesday, March 31, 1999, at a fee of \$2.00 for each Dog or Cat six months old or older. Beginning Thursday, April 1, 1999, the fee for Dog Licenses is \$10.00. The License fee for neutered Dogs and Cats is \$3.00 less.
A current, original Certificate of Vaccination for rabies Signed by an Accredited Veterinarian must be presented when applying for a License. To obtain a License by mail call 474-5500.

PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer
Publish: January 3, 1999



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