

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gaines has big game

Sophomore Trevor Gaines recorded a season-high 19 rebounds — 10 on the offensive glass — for the University of Vermont men's basketball team in its 71-69 victory over Lehigh Saturday.

The total tied Gaines, a former Farmington High standout, for 10th place in the school's single-season record book and is the most in one game since Craig Paper had 20 against St. Michael's in December, 1998.

Coupled with a 10-rebound effort at Albany Dec. 2, Gaines has moved into the America East Conference lead in rebounds with an average of nine per game.

An AEC all-rookie selection last season, Gaines also tied his career best with three blocked shots in each of Vermont's two wins and ranks seventh in the AEC with 1.33 per game.

Gaines is third in scoring for his team with 8.6 points a game. Vermont is 2-4, losing to Connecticut, Yale, Boston College and Ohio State.

Fire wins in five OTs

The Farmington Hills Fire Mite AA hockey team won the Falcons Thanksgiving Turkey Time Tournament Nov. 29-30 in Chicago, Ill.

The Fire defeated Winnetka (Ill.), 6-0, the host Falcons, 4-3 and Wilmette (Ill.), 6-2, to reach the championship game.

In the final game, the Fire defeated the Flames from Illinois in five overtimes, 5-4. The teams played a five-minute overtime, one minute of 4-on-4, one minute of 3-on-3, one minute of 2-on-2 and another 2-on-2 overtime until D.J. Vandercook scored the winning goal for the Fire.

The Fire is undefeated with three league games remaining before the playoffs start.

The team is coached by John VanAntwerp, Britt Ponte and Steve Krueger. The team members include Austin Accettura, Nickolas Gatt, Court Murland, Justin Hoomala, Joe Fazio, Griffen Hodges, Kyle Betz, Matt Krueger, Steven Schumacher, Matt Wasiko, Vandercook, Cameron Fowler, Joe VanAntwerp and Jon Ponte.

Midwest skating event

The Midwestern Sectional Championships, one of three qualifying events for the 2000 National Figure Skating Championships, will take place at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills Dec. 9-11.

The competitors advanced to the sectional championships by qualifying at one of three regional events in October and November.

More than 140 skaters qualified from 65 United States Figure Skating Clubs throughout the Midwest for the opportunity to compete at the national championships next February in Cleveland, Ohio.

All events tickets are \$25; daily passes are \$10. Both may be purchased through the skating club by calling (248) 332-3000, ext. 100. A schedule of events can be found at the Detroit Skating Club's website: dsc-club.com.

Holiday hockey clinics

Suburban Hockey Schools will conduct its four-day Christmas Clinics for ages 6 through 14 during Christmas break in two sessions Dec. 20 and 27 at six metro Detroit locations.

The cost of the clinics is \$130 per player. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Call (248) 478-1600 for more information.

The schedule for Dec. 27-30 clinics at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills is as follows: Power skating and puck handling — Mites session 1, 9:10-10:20 a.m.; Mites session 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Squirts, noon to 1:30 p.m.; Checking and scoring — Pee Wees and Bantams, 1:30-2:50 p.m.; Goaltending — all ages, 10 a.m. to noon.

Redford Unified hockey coach Pete Mazzoni will conduct a Christmas Clinic for youths Monday, Dec. 28, and Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Redford Ice Arena. The time each day is 3 p.m. The cost is \$12 per session and includes ice time and T-shirt for each participant. If interested call Mazzoni at (248) 990-0273 or (313) 692-3408.

(Readers can submit items for the Sports Scene by fax at 734-691-7379.)

Falcons veteran ballclub

Farmington has a lot of experienced players on its boys basketball team, and the Falcons anticipate a successful season.

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The seasons and the sports change, but it's hoped success will be the one constant between the fall and winter campaigns at Farmington High School. The boys basketball team hopes to continue blazing the trail begun by the football team, and no one doubts the Falcons have the potential to do it.

BASKETBALL

Farmington returns nearly its entire team, certainly the majority of its principal players, and anticipates a good, if not big, year indoors on the hardwood.

"All the boys are very optimistic and excited about the season," coach Denny Mikel said. "We were very competitive in the summer program, and the kids had a lot of wins."

"They came together and played well. They saw they can play with some of the better teams, and I think that has given them confidence."

"We are expecting to have a very successful season. If we can stay healthy and have good chemistry and not get too concerned about individual statistics, I think it will be a nice group."

Farmington's only graduation loss was Charlie Avery, but senior Todd Anthony, looking ahead to track season, decided to rest following the long football season, as did several others from a year ago.

The top returning players are senior Justin Mills and junior Matt Mikel, both of whom have played varsity ball since they were freshmen. The Falcons also return six others and have added four newcomers.

Mills, however, will likely be sidelined for the entire month of December while he recovers from hip and foot injuries that plagued him during football season.

The 6-foot-5, 246-pound post player averaged 11.4 points, which was second only to Mikel's 11.5, and led the Falcons in rebounding with 7.3 per game.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRAD LAMORE

Role reversal: Rebounding won't be Matt Mikel's primary role on the Farmington basketball team. Shooting and dribbling will be.

cone in rebounding with 7.3 per game.

"We don't know when exactly we're going to get him back," coach Mikel said, "but we've targeted, at the very latest, the first of January."

"With a healthy Justin, we're a much stronger rebounding team. We're going to look to get a lot of scoring on the inside from Justin, too. That's where we're going to be hurting a little bit until we get him back."

Matt Mikel had been the point guard but will play more at the No. 2 position to take advantage of his perimeter shooting.

The move is made possible because of

the development of senior C.J. Whitfield as the point guard, a role he played at the end of last season.

"C.J. has really improved his game," Mikel said. "He had a lot of success at summer camps and has been looking good in practice."

"Others teams are going to be a little surprised at C.J.'s game this year."

Mikel made 42.5 percent of his three-point attempts (17-of-40) and 47 percent of his total field goals (85-of-180). He also sank 80.5 percent of his free throws (66-of-82). Whitfield averaged

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Teachman resigns as Harrison's head coach

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison will start a new season in boys basketball with a new coach for the first time in 22 years Friday night.

Mike Teachman, who coached the Hawks since 1977-78, made a stunning decision Monday to step down from his longtime role as varsity head coach.

Teachman, 54, also teaches math at the school and is the building athletic coordinator. He said he is physically and mentally drained and didn't think he could devote the necessary energy to coaching the varsity.

BASKETBALL

Instead, he will coach the Harrison JV team for this season with the intention of retiring from coaching basketball at its conclusion. Dave Turnquist, who has been the JV coach for 11 years, is now the varsity coach.

"I hit a wall, physically and mentally wise," Teachman said. "I didn't think it was fair to this varsity team that has put in all the freshman, JV and summer time to have a guy who was really, really weary."

"I figured the best thing is for them to have someone who has the adrenaline going and that's Dave. My job this year is to turn out players for next year's varsity team. It's really no different at practice, but I won't be scouting, preparing scouting reports, preparing practices for special teams, state and that kind of stuff."

"If this is my last year and I'm already tired, then I don't think I'd be doing a good job. I've always been critical of people who stayed too long. Willie Mays was one of my favorite (baseball) players and watching him play for the Mets at the end was depressing. He wasn't the same Willie Mays, and it was obvious he wasn't enjoying himself. In the case of being a high school coach, players know if you're not enjoying yourself."

Teachman said the timing of his decision, coming just days before the season opener, was right. It wouldn't have been fair to the players to start the season and make a switch later, he said.

Teachman, who has coached basketball for 33 years, also wants to spend more time with his wife, Tat.

"This is also my 33rd year of being married to the same lady, and she deserves more than somebody who just comes home at night and falls asleep in the chair and wakes up and looks at videotape," he said.

Teachman will remain the Harrison athletic coordinator and will continue as the girls varsity softball coach.

"If I don't recover my zeal, I might think a little differently (about softball)," he said. "There's certainly less scouting in that. Right now I'll be out there in shorts again."

Teachman also said he was under no pressure from players or parents. Such a thing was not a contributing factor in his decision.

"I had some tight relationships with people on the team," he said. "I have to ask 'Am I going to be selfish, because I do get a lot out of being with the players?' They might not get a whole lot from being under the guidance and leadership of someone who's not full-bore for them."

"I can still support the guys on a different level, not being the boss, so to speak, but the guy who's there to give them a pat on the back and a suggestion once in a while."

There's a chance Teachman might remain JV coach after this season, and he said Turnquist has asked him to leave the door open on that subject.

"If it works out well and I get back to tip-top physical shape, then maybe this could be a good marriage this way," he said. "Turnquist has been my support and development (for the varsity) for years. Now I owe it to him this year and maybe more."

Teachman said the lasting memories of his career are not of wins and losses but of the players he has coached and the people he has known.

"I can still flash back to moments, but they all revolve around people," he said. "There's probably just as many on a bus, in a restaurant or at team camp as there are games."

Raiders debut with near-miss

Renaissance nips North in opener

BY DAN O'MEARA
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North Farmington almost accomplished the impossible, certainly the unlikely, in its boys basketball season opener Tuesday.

The Raiders nearly beat visiting Detroit Renaissance without two of their best players, losing 44-42 when a last-second shot didn't fall.

North was minus senior post players Emir Medunjanin and Adrian Bridges, the team's tallest players who missed the game for disciplinary reasons.

BASKETBALL

But the other players did an impressive job, rising to the occasion and playing well as a team to break Renaissance's trapping, pressing defense while playing good defense themselves.

"I told the kids I'm not worried about who's not here; I'm worried about who is here, and they need to play," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

"I think the other kids know they can play. We have a saying: 'Farts are parts. Whoever is here plays.'"

Senior Phil Watha scored a game-high 14 points to lead the Raiders, who were in the lead most of the game. Senior Brian Shulman accounted for 11 points, junior Mike Patterson nine and senior Mike Millat six.

North limited Renaissance star Rick-Paulding to 12 points, less than half



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEEBEN

Season opener: North Farmington senior Mike Millat battles a pair of Renaissance players for the basketball Tuesday night.

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