All-Observer

North's McComb leads list of top players

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

■ BASKETBALL

Tim Szakal and Patricia Rich were named co-coaches of the Redford St. Agatha girls basketball program this season.

Rich had one year of previous coaching experience to Szakal's seven.

But ask Szakal who learned the most and he'll say he did.

Szakal only coached boys basketball previously. He spent the last four seasons as the high school boys varsity assistant coach after coaching the St. Agatha fifth and sixth grade boys for three years.

Rich's experience included one season as an assistant varsity girls basketball coach at the high school and a season as the seventh and eighth grade girls coach.

When girls varsity coach/athletic director Dave Feldman left before the school year for similar positions at Centerline St. Clement, Szakal and Rich decided to combine titles.

Their first year with the girls varsity was a smashing success as the Aggies rolled to a 22-2 record, winning the Catholic League C-D Division and Class D district championships. The Aggies won a regional semifinal before losing in the regional final to Portland St. Patrick's, the eventual state champion.

They have been named Observerland Co-Coaches of the Year.

"I was a little apprehensive (about taking the job)," Szakal said. "But I couldn't think of a bigger mistake if I had turned it down. I learned a lot from the girls. We met our goals and exceeded them."

Szakal and Rich said the leadership of seniors Sonia Lousis, Kerry Shivers and Krystal Dennis, a transfer from Redford Bishop Borgess, eased the transition.

Rich and Szakal are 1993 graduates of St. Agatha, friends since grade school. Each excelled in sports at St. Agatha, not on the same teams, of course, and enjoy seeing the game from the coach's seat.

Rich also was a star thrower on the Central Michigan University track team. She earned a teacher's degree and is in her second year teaching seventh grade at St. Agatha.

"The big difference as coach is suddenly you're in the role of making decisions, the role of guidance," Rich said. "All the kids were excellent, especially the seniors."

Szakal, an excellent student of the game, is someone Rich turns to for help in X's and O's. Szakal has always looked up to John Fenbert, the varsity boys coach at St. Agatha, and Jim Murphy, his former boys varsity coach.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Samantha McComb, junior, North Farmington: *McComb became the all-time leading scorer at North Farmington this year, surpassing the 1,000-point plateau and finishing the season with 1,299. And she still has another year to go!*

McCombaveraged 25.9 points per game this year, making 165 of 199 free throws (83 percent), 47 of 144 three-point attempts (33 percent) and 132 of 258 shots inside the arc (51 percent).

She did it all for the Raiders (13-9), who were district tournament runners-up for the third year in a row. She also averaged 10.5 rebounds, 3.6 assists, 4.2 steals and 2.2 blocks.

McComb, who never fouled out of a game, was the second-leading scorer in Oakland County. She's an all-area shortstop in softball and a good student with a 3.9 GPA.

"She has incredible court wisdom, offensively and defensively," coach Linda Perkins said. "She's a great leader and great teammate. She has the ability to do everything, but she helps everybody else to be better.

"She's just a natural leader on the floor, because she sees the floor so well. Her intelligence shows up on the floor, because she's making the quick decisions you need to make in a fast-paced game like basketball."

Tiffany Grubaugh, senior, Ply. Salem: Sure, Grubaugh could have scored more — she did as a junior — but she was needed to do so much more for the *Rocks. Her success was evident in their* record: 22-2 and unbeaten in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"She is such a great passer," said her coach, Fred Thomenn. "The double-teams she saw made for easy baskets for others."

Was that her best ability? Not according to Thomenn.

"She loved to be in pressure situations," he said. "I think her teammates

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, C3

Samantha McComb
North Farmington

Tiffany Grubaugh
Plymouth Salem

Janine Guastella
Plymouth Canton

Kelly Grenan
Redford Thurston

Michelle Harakas
Livonia Ladywood

Tara Merrill
Livonia Franklin

Melissa Harakas
Livonia Ladywood

Carrie Brankiewicz
Farmington Hills Mercy

Kelly Taylor
Farmington Harrison

Joel Clyburn
Red. Bishop Borgess

Tim Szakal (coach)
Redford St. Agatha

Patricia Rich (coach)
Redford St. Agatha

CITY OF FARMINGTON
1999 WINTER TAX STATEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington Winter Tax Statements are payable December 1, 1999 through February 14, 2000. A 3% penalty will be added to delinquent taxes.

As of March 1, 2000, all 1999 taxes must be paid to C. Hugh Dohany, Oakland County Treasurer.

City Hall offices will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday except for the following:

Thursday – December 23, 1999
Friday – December 24, 1999
Thursday – December 30, 1999
Friday – December 31, 1999
Monday – January 17, 2000

For your convenience, a depository is located in the City Hall lobby.

PATSY K. CANTRELL
City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: December 9 and 12, 1999

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Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Central Services Department. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be the best interest of the City.

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[illegible] ... Ferndale
[illegible]

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[illegible]
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