

## FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE D1

## FARMINGTON

The Falcons practiced in the afternoon and evening, which gave the players a break from the heat for the second session.

"The afternoon was warm, but it was fine. It wasn't as much of a problem (as other years), although that's me talking," Bechtel said. "I didn't do a lot of running today."

The players were issued helmets at 8 a.m. and were in meetings until the first practice at 2:45 p.m.

"We prepared videos and technique tapes; we introduced drills and schemes. That's before we hit the practice field," Bechtel said.

"We went full speed. The pace of practice was awful quick. We weren't in one spot very long."

When the season starts Thursday, Aug. 29, the Falcons will have a new look. Their uniforms will be similar to those worn by the Denver Broncos.

"The kids are excited about that," Bechtel said. "We're looking forward to breaking them out in the opener."

Farmington was 0-9 last year but is starting anew, and Bechtel said the attitude of the players reflects their high expectations.

"We've been talking about a championship effort," Bechtel said. "I'm not suggesting we're there yet, but we're certainly better."

"Now we have to use that as a building block. It's going to get harder as the week goes on. We're going to get sore and tired. We have to fight through those obstacles. But Day One - we were OK."

The Falcons expect to be successful, not because of the move to the OAA, but because of their 18 returning starters,

according to Bechtel.

"If we were in the Western Lakes, we'd be in the same boat as we are now," he said. "Our kids are stronger, faster. We're better in every phase of the game."

"We don't talk to the kids about the OAA. We're preparing the same as if we were in the other league. The kids don't know anything about the teams we're playing."

## NORTH FARMINGTON

The large turnout has two benefits for the Raiders. The first is increased competition for starting positions and playing time.

In the past, key players were often missing in August due to vacations. Coach Kirk Burrell and his staff had no choice but to wait until they returned.

"Now, we tell the kids, 'If you go away, go away, but somebody else will have your job,'" Burrell said. "This year with the high

numbers, nobody can afford to take a day off, and it's close at every position. I think it's great."

The second advantage is the Raiders plan to two-plateau, meaning they'll have one set of offensive players and a separate set for defense.

"We had two offensive and two defensive practices," Burrell said. "We doubled the work in those areas."

"We're progressing at a much faster rate than we have in the past. I think that will really help our chances for success in the fall."

Like their counterparts at the other schools, the Raiders hit the ground running Monday.

"The kids did a lot of off-season work at our skills camp and other activities," Burrell said. "The coaching staff worked hard getting ready. We were very organized and ready to go."

We couldn't have been more pleased for the first day."

As for the heat, the key number, according to Burrell, is "when the heat index reaches 96. It did Monday afternoon, and the Raiders had water breaks every 10 minutes."

"It was hotter than we would have liked, but there was a nice little breeze blowing," Burrell said. "After all the training we've had from (FPS athletic director) Mr. (Brian) Swinehart about heat-related illness, we take our precautions. We're making smart decisions in the best interest of the kids."

The Raiders also are preparing just as they would if they were still in the Western Lakes, Burrell said.

"But moving to the OAA definitely will be a new challenge," he added. "They have some great teams over there, but we look forward to playing teams equal to our enrollment. That gives the coaches and kids some encouragement."

domera@oe.home.com.net | (734) 953-2141

## OAA DIVISIONS

Here is a list of the divisional assignments in the Oakland Activities Association for the 2002 fall sports season.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Division I: West Bloomfield, Troy, Waterford Kettering, Clarkston, Troy, Athens, Rochester, Rochester Adams, Lake Orion.

Division II: Farmington Harrison, Bloomfield Hills, Lathrup, Waterford, Pontiac, North, Oak Park, Southfield, North Farmington.

Division III: Auburn Hills, Avondale, Berkley, Ferndale, Farmington, Birmingham Groves, Southfield, Lathrup, Birmingham, Seasholm, Pontiac Central.

Division IV: Bloomfield Hills, Andover, Clawson, Royal Oak, Doro, Hazel Park, Royal Oak Kimball, Madison Heights, Lamphre, Madison, Rochester, Stoney Creek.

## GIRLS SWIMMING

Division I: Lathrup, Adams, Troy, Seasholm, North Farmington, Groves, Division II: Rochester, Athens, West Bloomfield, Berkley, Andover, Lake Orion.

Division III: Clarkston, Farmington, Harrison, Kimball, Ferndale, Stoney Creek, Doro.

Division IV: Southfield, Hazel Park, Avondale, Lamphre, Central, Northern.

## FOOTBALL

Division I: Harrison, Clarkston, Lake Orion, Adams, Athens, Mott, Troy, Rochester.

Division II: West Bloomfield, Southfield, Kimball, Groves, Northern, Lathrup, Seasholm, Kettering.

Division III: Ferndale, Central, Oak Park, North Farmington, Berkley, Farmington, Stoney Creek.

Division IV: Avondale, Hazel Park, Andover, Lathrup, Lamphre, Doro, Madison, Clawson.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Division I: Clarkston, Adams, Troy, Lake Orion, Rochester, Athens, Seasholm, Division II: Groves, Mott, West Bloomfield, Berkley, North Farmington, Andover, Lathrup, Farmington.

Division III: Harrison, Kimball, Lamphre, Clawson, Doro, Kettering, Stoney Creek, Avondale.

Division IV: Ferndale, Northern, Hazel Park, Southfield, Lathrup, Oak Park, Central, Madison.

## BOYS GOLF

Division I: Adams, Clarkston, Lathrup, Lake Orion, Mott, Rochester, Troy, Division II: Andover, Athens, Harrison, Groves, Kettering, Seasholm, West Bloomfield.

Division III: Berkley, Doro, Farmington, Ferndale, Kimball, North Farmington, Stoney Creek.

Division IV: Avondale, Clawson, Hazel Park, Lathrup, Oak Park, Central, Northern, Southfield.

## GIRLS TENNIS

Division I: Adams, Athens, Clarkston, Groves, Lathrup, North Farmington, Seasholm, Troy.

Division II: Andover, Berkley, Farmington, Harrison, Lake Orion, Rochester, West Bloomfield.

Division III: Avondale, Clawson, Kettering, Kimball, Mott, Southfield, Stoney Creek.

Division IV: Doro, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Lamphre, Lathrup, Northern, Oak Park.

## BOYS SOCCER

Division I: Troy, Athens, Adams, Rochester, Kimball, Farmington, Clarkston.

Division II: Mott, Lathrup, Groves, Seasholm, Andover, Kettering, Lake Orion, North Farmington.

Division III: Lamphre, Doro, Berkley, West Bloomfield, Avondale, Stoney Creek, Harrison.

Division IV: Ferndale, Southfield, Lathrup, Central, Clawson, Hazel Park, Northern, Madison.

## HAWKS

FROM PAGE 1

same offense. We'll just have a little more emphasis on the running game."

"If (tailback Kevin) Zorbo is as strong a runner as we think, we'll give him the ball and take some pressure off (tailback) Marcus (Woods)."

Herrington said the Hawks are still looking for team leaders with so many players gone from last year's 14-0 team, including 10 starters on offense.

He echoed Farmington coach John Bechtel's comment about the players being unfamiliar with their new opponents in the OAA.

"A lot of our kids don't really know who those teams are," Herrington said. "They're really thinking about Brother Rice right now. That's all I've heard them talking about. It will probably take a couple years to develop a rivalry in the OAA."

In the short term, the Hawks were looking forward to putting on the pads for the first day of contact drills today.

"Oh, yeah, that's when you really get excited," Herrington said.

domera@oe.home.com.net | (734) 953-2141



Veteran football coach John Herrington begins his 33rd season at Harrison with 299 victories.

## COACH

FROM PAGE D1

Ambrose, 43, had been with the Falcons this summer, taking them to summer camp and coaching them in summer league games.

He coached freshman girls basketball at North Farmington the last two years, and he has coached the Farmington boys JV team for seven years.

Before taking the basketball job at North, Ambrose had coached freshman and JV football at Farmington for nearly a decade.

"When this opportunity came up, my wife (Bonnie) said I should go for it," he said. "She and my daughter (Caroline) have been very supportive of me. I'm happy to be where I am. I have support at home, so that makes it even better."

Ambrose's association with Farmington began when former varsity football coach Lauri Niskinen put him on the coaching staff when he was a substitute teacher.

He was later hired to teach elementary physical education, and he recently had been the district department chair for PE.

Ambrose assumes a new job with the 2002-03 school year, becoming the building athletic director at Farmington High with part-time PE teaching duties.

Ambrose said he doesn't miss football, although he still checks the weekend scores to see how teams are doing.

"For the most part, I've been enjoying basketball and enjoying not having to deal with the (outdoor) elements," he said.

Farmington High basketball coach Greg Ambrose demonstrates a technique for playing offense while Lindsay Hall supplies the defense Monday.

DAL BRESLER/OBSERVER

Farmington graduated six seniors and has only two players with substantial varsity experience - senior Deanna Gauer and junior Brittany Coleman.

But the Falcons played well in July during team camp at Northwood University in Midland, according to Ambrose.

"I saw a lot of good things," he said. "It'll be a lot more demanding than I was early in the year. We did a lot of teaching; now the pressure is on."

"Our legs were a little bit rusty (Monday), but we loosened up the cobwebs and are hoping to come back stronger (Tuesday)."

Ambrose, who said practice went much smoother the second day, looks forward to leading the Falcons into the Oakland Activities Association.

The change of leagues and better opportunity in the OAA Division III wasn't a factor in Ambrose taking the Farmington varsity job.

"I would have taken it either way," he said, "but it certainly does help because I think we can be very competitive going in."

"In the non-league season last year, the teams we played - Berkley, Groves, Royal Oak - our girls beat them. We're feeling pretty confident."

"It's a fresh start for us. We're in a new league and playing teams we know we can compete with. We're playing to win."

Ambrose played football, basketball and baseball at Rochester High School, and he received his degree from Alma College.

He worked for the YMCA for 10 years before returning to school to update his teaching certificate and plan a career change.

domera@oe.home.com.net | (734) 953-2141



# COMPUTER SHOW

**NEW AND USED** **AUGUST 16-17-18** **BUY TRADE SELL**

FRI 12-9 • SAT 10-8 • SUN 10-6

**SOFTWARE**  
**HARDWARE**  
**ACCESSORIES**

INCLUDING

1,000'S OF C.D.'S  
SHAREWARE  
GAMES • BOOKS  
SCANNERS  
MONITORS  
MODEMS  
KEYBOARDS  
& MORE!

**OVER**  
**180**  
**TABLES**

**SAVE UP**  
**TO 70%**  
**ON NEW AND**  
**USED PRODUCTS**

Prices in select dept. not all qualify.

**SAVE 50% - BUILD YOUR OWN COMPUTER**

Senior 3rd Grade Girls  
"THE COMPUTER GURU" OF PC  
TROUBLE (1994) - \$149.95 Buy Up, Upgrade  
what system is better. Purchase hardware  
BATTLEBOX (Chase from 1994) - \$149.95  
BATTLEBOX (Chase from 1994) - \$149.95  
OTHER CLASSES AVAILABLE:  
UPGRADING, REPAIR, SERVICE  
DESIGN, ETC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CALL 800-400-0000

**TAYLOR**  
175 & FUJI K A RD  
LEX 11 361  
734-287-2000  
www.taylor.com

**Gibraltar**  
TRADE CENTER, INC.

**FREE**  
FRIDAY ADMISSION  
With This Coupon  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH ONLY

## Country Lanes of Farmington

### LEAGUES WITH OPENINGS

MEN		
Monday Men	5 Man	6:15 pm
Wednesday Knights	4 Man	9:30 pm
Wednesday Keglers	5 Man	6:15 pm
Loon Lake	5 Man	8:30 pm
Thursday JR House Trio	3 Man	8:30 pm
University Men	5 Man	6:15 pm

LADIES		
Friday Morning	Ladies Forum	9:15 am
Monday-Friday	Daytime Ladies	9:30 am
Wednesday	5 Person	6:15 pm

MIXED		
Every Friday Swingin	90's Mixed 3 Man	9:00 pm
Every Other Saturday	Country Couples	4:45 pm
Every Other Saturday	Country Rowdies (4 Teams)	7:30 pm
Every Other Saturday	Hits & Miss	8:00 pm
Every Other Sunday	Farmington Odd Couples	7:30 pm
Every Other Saturday	Saturday Mixers	7:30 pm

SENIORS		
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday	Seniors	12:30 pm

**ATTENTION LADIES!**

Join a Ladies Morning League!

Highlights:

- Free Babysitting
- Trophies
- Monday-Friday
- Beginners Experienced
- Start at 9:30 am
- Affordable Entertainment
- Make New Friends
- Clean, Well Maintained Establishment
- Friendly Atmosphere
- Instructor Available
- Leagues Start After Labor Day

Why Stay Home And Do Housework?

**YOUTH LEAGUES '02-'03**

**Saturdays**

**Two-17 Week Sessions**

**JUNIORS**

Boys & Girls in 7th-9th Grade

**10:00...\$8...3 Games**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Scholarship League**

Boys & Girls 9th-12th Grade

**10:00...\$9...3 Games**

**PREPS**

Experienced Boys & Girls thru the 7th Grade. Some Exceptions

**12:15...\$8...3 Games**

**BUMPERS**

Ages 4 thru 6

**12:30...\$5...1 Game**

30250 W. Nine Mile Rd., Farmington Hills  
(1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt Road)  
**248.476.3201**