

# Hawks have young but experienced team

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

With only two seniors but five freshmen on its varsity, Farmington Harrison will be younger than most of its opponents in girls basketball. But that shouldn't be construed to mean the Hawks won't be as good. In fact, if they perform as past Harrison teams have, they'll be better than most.

"With six first-year varsity players, it's hard to get a real accurate feel for how we're going to do," coach Pete Mantyla said. "I think we've established we're going to play hard. We played good teams (during the summer) and learned to compete with them; hopefully,

we're going to carry that over into the year. Because of our youth, we have the opportunity to improve significantly."

The Hawks, who were 12-10 and second in the Western Lakes Activities Association, are minus their leading scorer of last year, All-Observer stand-out Ayanna Richmond.

Harrison returns six players, including 5-11 senior post Juggo Condeni, who was all-WLAA and all-area second team. She led the Hawks in rebounding with seven per game and averaged 11 points.

"Maggie can score from the high and low post," Mantyla said. "She rebounds well and is a great middle target against pressure. Maggie has taken charge of our team and become one of the best leaders we've

had at Harrison."

Sophomore Jessica Condeni (5-7) has a year of experience starting in the post, having averaged five points and six rebounds. "Jessica is a physical post player," Mantyla said.

"Her scoring, rebounding and offensive composure are improved, and she has become a much stronger defensive player, too."

Merrill DeRose, a 5-6 senior guard, is a returning starter, too, and team captain with Maggie Condeni. She averaged three points and two assists per game.

"Merrill is a good athlete and as experienced perimeter player," Mantyla said. "She played in many big games the past two seasons and understands our

system well."

The other returning players are 5-8 junior Catie Ross, 5-10 junior Stephanie Zak and 5-6 sophomore Kristen Kluka. All are guards who will see plenty of playing time in Mantyla's rotation system.

"Catie is a relentless defender whose enthusiasm and effort always provide a defensive spark," Mantyla said. "Kristen is the best when attacking the basket and getting to the free-throw line."

"Stephanic plays on the perimeter and in the post. She had some big games off the bench last season, and her versatility will be very important to our team."

Junior guard Britney Lacy (5-6) is new to the varsity, and the freshmen are 5-7 guard

Kayla Condeni, 5-9 post Jessica Vihtelic, 5-2 guards Kristen and Karen Terres and 5-7 post Ashley Avery.

Kayla Condeni is in contention for a starting job, too, and the Terres twins might rotate at the point guard position. "I think they are (that good)," Mantyla said of the Terres and Kayla Condeni. "The freshman class is as good as any we've ever had."

The Terres sisters continue a tradition of twins at Harrison, too. The others were Erin and Kelly LaCasse (1994) and Ari and Allie Ault (1999).

"They have the distinction of being the only set we can't tell apart, yet!" Mantyla said. The Hawks, who play Farmington in the opener

Tuesday in the Troy Athens tournament, are in Division II of the Oakland Activities Association.

"The biggest change is we don't know a lot about the teams we're playing," Mantyla said. "Hopefully, we'll get out and scout them early in the year."

"First and foremost we'll be competing against ourselves and our own potential. We have really improved as a team from the start of the summer to now."

"A concern when you have a real young team is them wearing down. It will be important to keep them fresh and not overplay them. I think we have the depth to play a lot of people."

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# Eccentric Girls Tip-Off Classic ready to crown new champion

BY JIM TOTH  
STAFF WRITER

There will be a new champion to the annual Eccentric Newspapers Girls Tip-Off Classic.

Detroit Country Day, winner of the first two, will not be a part of the third such event, which tips off Tuesday at Troy Athens High School. Instead, newcomers Farmington, Farmington Harrison and Auburn Hills Avondale will join host Athens in

a round-robin tournament crowning the 2002 champion.

"We've got two new Oakland County schools (Farmington and Harrison) in the OAA (Oakland Activities Association) and this is a good way to welcome them," Athens coach Joe Clinton said.

"And we also have a very good Avondale team with quite a few tips off Tuesday at Troy Athens High School. It should be some highly competitive basketball being played both nights."

The tourney's first game tips 6 p.m. start Tuesday. The Hawks are coming off a 12-10 season, which included a runner-up finish in the Western Lakes Tournament.

Coach Pete Mantyla's squad returns 5-11 senior center Maggie Condeni, an All-WLAA selectee who averaged 11 points and seven rebounds. The Hawks return six varsity players in all.

Farmington coach Greg Ambrose's squad will be looking to quickly turn around an 8-12 season of last year by getting

returning starters Britney Coleman and Deanna Gaer off on the right foot.

The other half of the bracket will see the Red Hawks squaring off against the Yellow Jackets in an 8 p.m. tip.

Clinton's squad returns three starters and a host of other players talented enough to exceed last year's 11-win mark.

Leading the list of returnees is senior point guard Angie

Shannon, who will look to rebound off a 2001 season that was severely shortened by a knee injury. Juniors Lyndsey Norman and Erin Mulligan will join Shannon in the starting lineup.

Senior Allie Bullard and junior Rachael Broker round out the first unit.

Other key contributions are expected to come from Bianca

Williams, Patty Solecki, Jenny Hsu and Angie Nakula.

"We had a good summer and the girls are looking forward to it (the start of the season)," Clinton said.

Included in the evening's activities will be freshman and junior varsity contests with the same opponents squaring off.

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## FARMINGTON

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and will rotate between a forward playing near the basket and a wing.

Ambrose had expected to use 5-5 junior Angie Palaian as a substitute for Coleman at the point, "but there was no way I could keep her off the floor," he said.

"My intent was not to have both on the floor at the same time to keep them fresh. But she's doing too many good things. She earned her spot."

Melissa Peterson is a 5-9 senior who will play the No. 3 position and is probably the best shooter on the team, according to Ambrose.

Those five players will likely be in the starting lineup with the 5-6 Stricker coming off the bench.

Another key reserve is 5-10 senior Allison Kahrmoff, also a returning player who can play forward or center.

The team also includes juniors Erin Kelly, 5-3 guard; Ashley Kandt, 5-5 small forward; Rachel Heinrich, 6-1 center; and Stephanie Peterson, 5-5 guard or forward; and sophomore Lindsey Hall, 5-7 forward. All five were on the JV last year.

Farmington will be in Division III of the Oakland Activities Association with Avondale, Berkeley, Ferndale, Groves, Lathrup, Seaholm and Pontiac Central.

"We played a lot of teams in Division III in the non-league season and were pretty successful," Ambrose said.

"We don't want to just be competitive. We want to win our division. We don't want to set the standard any lower than that. (The girls are) motivated to succeed."

Ambrose said the Falcons will be more competitive than they were in the Western Lakes Activities Association, and a psychological burden is lifted by playing schools of equal size.

"Attitude is everything and a chance to be successful is going to help us," Ambrose said.

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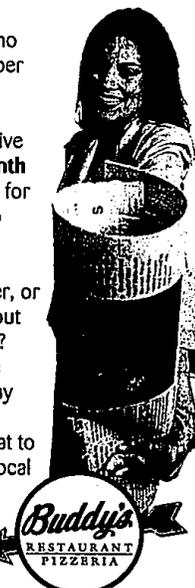
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