

Forzano comes on enthused

By TOM SCHRAM
Rick Forzano is as much a part of the late-summer Cranbrook campus as the ivy on the walls of the science institute.

The 45-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident has assumed a stature and professionalism which belies the fact he is still in his first month as coach of the Detroit Lions.

Forzano is a man who has accomplished his lifetime dream.

"I'm happy. I've always wanted to be the head coach of a professional team," he said.

FORZANO HAS ALSO attained a separate peace in his community relations.

"I hate my neighbors," he deadpanned.

"Actually, I get along very well with everyone in the neighborhood. I don't try to be a celebrity. If my neighbors start to treat me as a celebrity now that I'm head coach, that's their problem, not mine," he said of his fellow Bloomfield Hills residents.

Forzano took the reins of the Lions the day following the tragic death of former head coach Don McCafferty on July 28.

"That is not the way I wanted to get the job," said Forzano, who was a close friend of the late coach.

McCafferty's UNTIMELY death did put Forzano in a position shared by few rookie coaches, however.

"We have a definite advantage in that we did not have to suffer through the rigors of a changeover in offense and defense," said Forzano, who uses the same formations that McCafferty did.

As might be expected, Forzano displays the optimism of his relative youth by professional coaching standards.

He claims two outstanding quarterbacks and an "improving" defensive line as the main strengths of the Lions.

"I plan to win and I plan to stay in Detroit. I think that there is no question that we can go to the Super Bowl this year," he said.

TAKING THE LIONS. A team off a 67-1 record in 1973, anywhere south of Cincinnati this year is a prospect most observers might term a bit more than optimistic. A trip to the season-ending Super Bowl classic in New Orleans might be more aptly termed as extremely wishful and bordering on hallucinatory.

Still, the first year coach exudes confidence and a winning attitude. He speaks compassionately of the injuries and illnesses of his veterans and praises the strengths of his rookies.

He has, in essence, that one invaluable quality for any coach of any team.

Rick Forzano has hope for the future.



Lion head coach Rick Forzano discusses strategy with an assistant at his Cranbrook desk. (Photographed by Art Emanuel)

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HCMA hires nature expert

A 1973 graduate of Michigan State University has been hired as a park naturalist with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) system.

He is Stephen E. Horn, who has a bachelor of science degree in parks and recreation resources.

Horn has been assigned to Kensington Metropark near Milford. He will work at the Nature Center, take care of nature trails, provide lectures to school groups and perform other duties relating to plant and animal life in the area.

Earlier this year he worked as a seasonal naturalist at Lower Huron Metropark near Belleville. Horn also attended Grand Rapids Junior College for two years before entering MSU. He worked for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) where he was assigned to Waterloo State Recreation Area near Chelsea and Yankee Springs Recreation Area near Middleville.

Horn is a member of the Association of Interpretive Naturalists and the Michigan Audubon Society. He resides in Westland, but expects to move to Oakland County in the near future.

Area women lead WMGA

A Southfield woman finished first and a Birmingham woman finished second in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association match play title match last week.

Mrs. Max Evans of Southfield defeated Mrs. William Hammett of Birmingham one-up in the championship flight finals at Shady Hollow Golf Club.

In first flight competition, Mrs. Kenneth Daniels of Birmingham defeated Mrs. Richard Rogers of Farmington Hills 4-3 and in the third flight, low gross honors went to Mrs. Perry Brunk of Birmingham who shot 54-54-108.

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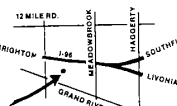
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