

Mercy cops crown

By TOM BAER

After three years of title-less frustration—having a good team and advancing all the way to the state finals only to lose the big games—Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's girls' basketball team shook off its second-best stigma in devastating fashion Saturday with a resounding 63-52 win over Detroit Mumford in the A final at Michigan State's Jenison Fieldhouse.

"There's three years of satisfaction," said Larry Baker, who has endured two of the last three tournament disappointments as Mercy's coach.

Last year, Marquette High spoiled Mercy's title dreams in the finals. In 1975, Detroit Northeastern played the spoiler. Detroit Dominican beat Mercy in the 1974 title game.

"I feel so good I can't believe it," said Baker, who guided Mercy to a perfect 25-0 season. "I think if we lost this game, I'd have crawled into a hole and died."

On paper, Mercy's victory over Mumford was one-two-three: Experience; good outside shooting; and a devastating full-court press, which turned things around for Mercy in the second quarter.

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

Monday, December 19, 1977

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Many Mercy players have been variety material for the last three years, so they weren't about to melt under tournament pressure. Mercy shot 59.3 per cent from the field, and 5-foot-8 forward Diane Dietz and 5-6 guard Suzanne Brown were especially effective at shooting over Mumford's defense.

As for the press, it "turned around the whole momentum of the game" in Baker's words in the second quarter when Mumford, leading 25-16, seemed ready to blow Mercy out.

"Our kids were really happy to go to the press," said Baker, whose girls became ballhaws, causing more than a few of Mumford's 23 turnovers.

Katie McNamara, Mercy's tallest player at 5-10 came up with a surprising five steals, four coming on

inbounds passes. Dietz and substitute Gretchen Larges each came up with four steals.

Mumford, running and gunning in true Detroit Public School League fashion, took a 16-10 lead after the first quarter, and upped the lead to nine (25-16) midway through the second quarter.

But Mercy turned things around on a McNamara 3-point play, and Dietz stole the ball on the next throw-in and passed to Brown for a layup.

Mumford led by just three points, 34-31 at the half.

Mercy finally took the lead 43-42, as Dietz hit a 15-foot jump shot in the third quarter. From then on, it was press hard on defense and shoot well on offense.

McNamara, who's sure to be a standout in college, led all scorers with 21 points. Brown and Dietz added 15 and 14 respectively. Larges, a junior, showed some fine ballhandling skills in addition to hustling on the press.

Michelle Grier, Mumford's outstanding guard, had 17 points for the losers. Debra Walker, who was playing very carefully with four fouls in the second half, scored 18 points and pulled down 16 rebounds.

Mumford controlled the boards, 36-33.

"We had a height advantage, but that's when they're all standing on the ground," Baker said. "As soon as the Mumford girls jumped, there goes our advantage."

Mumford finished at 19-2 on the year — both losses at the hands of Mercy.

Mercy beat a good Grand Blanc team, 61-55, in the semifinals last Friday at Lansing Eastern High School. Mumford beat Saginaw High, 66-60, in the other Class A semifinal last Friday.

MERCY 63 — MUMFORD 52

MERCY (19) — Katie McNamara 9, 3-4, 21; Diane Dietz 1, 4-6, 14; Debra Walker 9, 4-6, 18; Karen Yachuk 4, 0-1, 8; Suzanne Brown 8, 3-4, 15; Gretchen Larges 5, 1-3, 11. TOTALS: 63-52.

DETROIT MUMFORD (19) — Michelle Grier 7, 3-9, 17; Darlene Brown 3-0-8, Felicia Brown 4, 1-3, 9; Debra Johnson 6, 2-5, 13; Debra Walker 9, 5-10, 18; Rhonda Bedford 5, 0-6, 10. TOTALS: 52-63.

TOTAL FOULS — Mercy 16, Mumford 12.

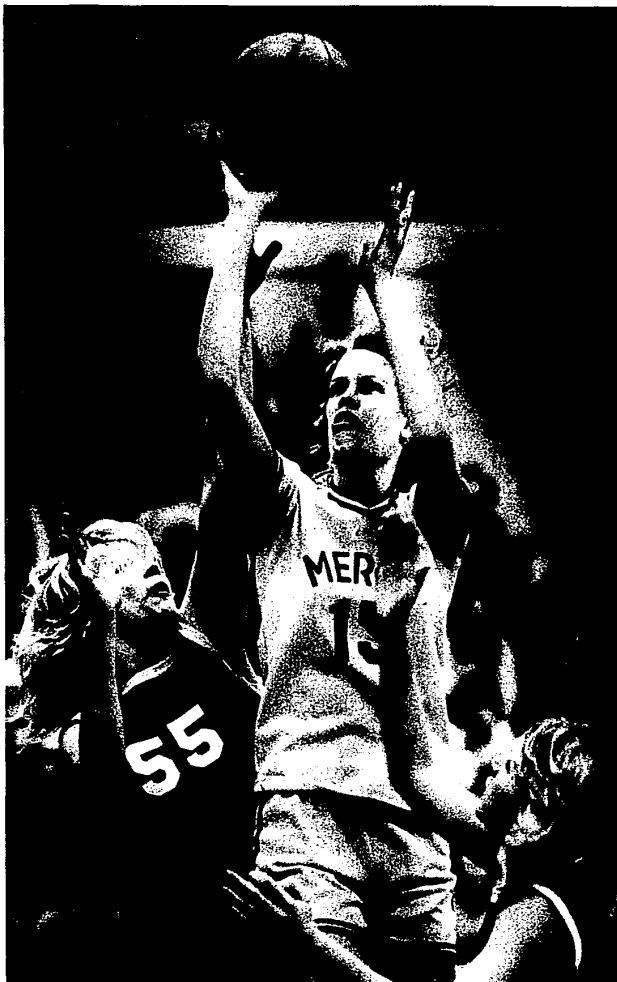
FOULED OUT: Walker 10th.

MERCY 19 21 18 14 — 63

MUMFORD 19 14 14 15 — 52



Mercy's Deanne Banfield (33) drives against Thurston.



Mercy's Katie McNamara (15) shoots against Thurston in last Thursday's quarterfinal game. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)

Northville beats HHS

Falcons lose in overtime

Livonia Stevenson nudged past Farmington High, 55-53, in overtime last Friday in an Iker-Lakes League game at Farmington. The defeat left coach Rich Roy's team with a 0-4 overall record.

Stevenson took a two point lead at halftime (27-25). The Farmington Falcon's good shooting in the third and fourth quarters with 12 points in each only tied the game. Stevenson clinched the victory in overtime, adding six points to Farmington's four.

Farmington outscored Stevenson from the field, 24 to 22. The Falcon's high scorer was Greg Kuhalinen with 12 points, all from the floor. Rick McKibben added 11.

Stevenson's Jeff Hall scored a game-high 12 points followed by teammates Jim Spala and Dave Hall with 11 and 10 respectively.

Farmington hosts North Farmington and Harrison high schools and Redford Union tonight (Dec. 19) and Tuesday in the Christmas tournament. Action begins at 7 p.m. with a second game at 8:30 p.m.

NORTHVILLE — HARRISON

Despite Harrison's Scott Hendries scoring a game-high 26 points, Northville defeated Harrison, 79-70, last Friday on Harrison's court in a Western Six League game. The loss brought Harrison's overall record to 0-4.

L. STEVENSON 15 — FARMINGTON 53

LIVONIA STEVENSON (15) — Jim Spala 5, 1-3, 11; Dave Hall 4, 2-5, 18; Larry Burdus 2, 0-0, 4; Jack Lang 1, 2-3, 5; Jeff Hall 6, 1-3, 13. TOTALS: 55-53.

FARMINGTON (15) — Jim Bobey 4, 1-3, 9; Mike Bob 3, 1-2, 7; Kevin Delp 1, 0-2, 2; Joe Houka 1, 0-0, 2; Dave Kuehl 1, 0-0, 2; Jerry Kent 3, 0-0, 6; Greg Kuhalinen 6, 3-1, 12; Rick McKibben 5, 1-3, 11. TOTALS: 53-55.

FARMINGTON (15) — Farmington 22, Stevenson 12. FOULED OUT: Bobey (7).

STEVENSON 15 16 10 12 — 55

FARMINGTON 7 18 12 12 — 53

NORTHVILLE 79 — HARRISON 70

NORTHVILLE (19) — Jon Horvath 10, 1-4, 21; Peter Wright 7, 5-10, Doug Harding 4, 1-4, 9; Joe Schilling 3, 1-3, 7; Jeff Norton 3, 1-3, 7; Mark Hood 2, 2-4, 7; Chris Campbell 1, 1-3, 3; M. Coomson 1, 0-0, 2; Greg Smith 1, 0-0, 2; Brian Brown 1, 0-0, 2; Brian Tomblin 1, 0-0, 2. TOTALS: 79-70.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (19) — Don Behringer 1, 0-0, 2; Pat Rutledge 3, 1-2, 7; John Oble 1, 0-0, 2; Tim O'Brien 1, 0-0, 2; Scott Hendries 10, 4-8, 26; Fred Lambert 1, 1-2, 3; Al Day 2, 2-2, 4; Scott Suterley 1, 0-0, 2; John Tomblin 1, 0-0, 2; Dave Tomblin 2, 1-2, 5. TOTALS: 70-79.

TOTAL FOULS — Harrison 28, Northville 17.

FOULED OUT: Tomblin (7th).

NORTHVILLE 19 21 21 18 — 79

HARRISON 19 18 20 13 — 70

Northville got off to a strong lead when it put 20 points on the scoreboard in the first quarter. It kept up its shooting tirade adding 21 points in both the third and fourth quarters.

The Harrison Hawks were never able to grab the lead, even with 21 points in the final quarter.

Coach Mike Teachman's team showed their strength from the floor, shooting 46 per cent, but Northville topped them with 55 per cent.

Harrison's Scott Hendries scored his 26 points with 10 field goals and six of eight free throws. Dave Turnquist followed with 11 points, 10 from the floor.

Top scorer for Northville was John Jorvath with 21 points. Teammate Peter Wright added 19.

Harrison travels to Farmington High School tonight (Dec. 19) and Tuesday

to play in the Christmas Tournament. The first game begins at 7 p.m. followed by a second game at 8:30 p.m.

FRANKLIN — N. FARMINGTON

Livonia Franklin was unable to get an effective offense going against North Farmington Friday and fell in a Northwest Suburban League basketball contest, 79-60.

North Farmington held leads of 19-8, at the end of the first quarter, 38-24 at the intermission, and 58-39 at the end of the third period.

John Zannis with 18 points, Jim Wilson with 12, and Chris Baker with 10 led the Patriots' offensive attack in the defeat.

Fouls hurt the Patriots during the game, as they collected 27, while North Farmington was charged with 20.

Hawk wrestlers pin loss on Mott

Farmington Harrison's wrestling team evened its overall record at 4-4 with a 52-32 victory over Waterford Mott last Wednesday in the Western Six League opener for both teams.

Coach Dick Cook's Harrison team, which won 10 of the 12 weight classes, has two unbeaten wrestlers in Kevin Suterlin (105 pounds) and Pat Palajac (119). Suterlin, a senior, went 9-0 with a pin over Eric Pelton in 1:32. Palajac is 11-0 with a 1:32 decision over Craig Allen.

Fred Blackmer, Harrison's 178-pounder, lifted his record to 10-1 by pinning Rick Henderson in 1:25. Harrison's Jeff Bernia had been undefeated until he lost a 6-2 decision to Mott's Charlie Wyatt.

In another meet, Westland John Glenn heavyweight Jerome Robinson pinned North Farmington's Mark Greenbury in 5:04 to break a 29-all tie and give Glenn a 35-29 victory last Thursday in the Northwest Suburban League. North is 2-1 overall and 0-1 in the NSL.

North's Cotter brothers, John and Jim, both have perfect records this season. John, a senior, is 7-0 after his

pinning of Scott Swain in 5:57. Jim, a junior, also recorded his seventh- with a 6-3 decision over Mickey Bauer.

North senior Jim Suddkamp has a 6-0-1 individual record, drawing with Glenn's Jerry Cook, 2-2.

HARRISON 12 — MOTT 12

IN POUNDS—Ed Naccarato (Harrison) pinned Eric Lockard, 1:22; 185—Kevin Suterlin (H) pinned Eric Pelton, 1:32; 119—Pat Palajac (H) pinned Terry Rudolph, 1:44; 118—Pat Palajac (H) defeated John Allen, 1:25; 116—Charlie Wyatt (Waterford Mott) defeated Jeff Bernia, 6:12; 112—Mark Schwab (H) pinned Tom Bryant, 3:15; 108—Ottmar (H) defeated Fred Boyle, 1:44; 106—Mark Kurajewski (H) pinned Brian Roper, 1:35; 104—Terry Bishop (H) pinned Bernie Robinson, 2:15; 102—Bernie Casey (WM) defeated Eric Karasias, 6:27; 178—Fred Blackmer (H) pinned Rick Henderson, 1:25; 175—Scott Schell (WM) defeated Rob Fawcett on default, 2:46; HEAVYWEIGHT—Bill Klein (H) defeated Mark Vane, 4:42.

GLENN 12 — N. FARMINGTON 19

IN POUNDS—Paul Demers (John Glenn) won on wild, 100—Tim O'Neill (H) pinned Tim Sheehan, 1:02; 118—Terry O'Neill (H) defeated John Duovac, 1:14; 116—Ed Scotty (North Farmington) pinned Steve Suterlin, 1:12; 112—Earl Gliss (H) defeated Bill Chera, 1:44; 108—Bob Petroff (H) defeated Greg Hamel, 1:03; 106—John Miller (H) pinned Scott Swain, 1:37; 104—Jim Cotter (H) defeated Mickey Bauer, 1:35; 102—Mark Schwab (H) pinned Chris Bernia, 3:40; 100—Jeff Doyle (H) pinned Don Treglow, 5:41; 178—Jim Suddkamp (H) drew with Jerry Cook, 2:33; 175—Mark Schell (H) defeated Greg Fawcett, 1:45; HEAVYWEIGHT — Jerome Robinson (H) pinned Mark Greenbury, 5:04.

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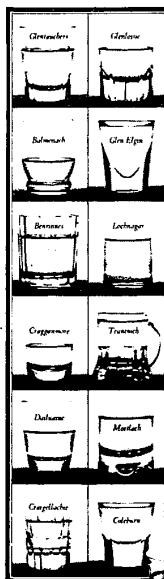
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