

Groves topples Andover

By DAVID SAUNDERS

It was a nip-and-tuck battle all the way, but the Groves Falcons edged the Andover Barons, 65-61.

The lead changed hands 16 times throughout the grueling, physical game underneath the boards before Groves took the lead for good with 4:50 left in the game.

Groves' 6-6 Dave Wottawa hit a 10-foot jump shot to give the Falcons a 58-57 lead. Lance Baylis, Ali Ucar and Dan Bertelson added the final points for Groves.

"Baylis had a nice night," said Groves coach Jay Schwalm. "Ucar and Wottawa played well. But the key to tonight's game was our bench strength. Bertelson and Rusty Liebetrau made the difference."

Wottawa was the game's high scorer, hitting on 10 of 19 from the field and three free throws for 23 points. Wottawa pulled down 14 rebounds and had five blocked shots to lead the Falcons in that category.

"They're a good team," said Andover coach Hal Henderson, who saw his team drop to 6-5 overall. "They complimented each other with their passing. But I'm proud of the way my kids played tonight. They played a good game."

Groves upped their overall record to 8-1, in the non-league game played Tuesday. The Falcons take on North Farmington Thursday in another non-league game while Andover goes to Waterford Kettering as they face the undefeated Greater Oakland Athletic League leaders.

The run-and-tumble game saw the officiating being called very loosely in the first half with only 14 personal fouls being called. But the officials came out in the second half trying to regain control of the game and called 23 fouls.

"It was a very physical game," said Schwalm. "All the fouls we committed were half of what should've been called. They were all over each others backs out there. The officials didn't take charge early enough."

AN INTENSE BATTLE between Groves' Craig Maass and Andover's John Perles ended in the fourth quarter when Perles fouled out and Maass followed suit 20 seconds later with 6:29 remaining. Perles held Maass to 12 points and Perles scored 10 points.

"Perles and Maass were going at it pretty good," said Schwalm. "They both fouled out too. The officials

should've set the tempo, but Andover has a good ball club."

Both teams shot a good percentage for high school ball. Groves hit on 27 out of 57 from the field for 45 per cent, while Andover hit 27 out of 61 shots for 44 per cent. Many of Andover's points came on hard base-line drives and some fast breaks and Groves ran the ball in underneath the basket with great success.

Tim Moore opened up the scoring for Andover with 15 seconds knocked off the clock to lead 2-0. The topsy-turvy first quarter saw the lead change hands as the Barons led, 18-15, at the end of the quarter.

LARRY FELDMAN and Moore supplied the first quarter scoring punch for Andover as they clipped in for a combined 12 of their 18 first quarter points. Feldman and Moore both reached double figures on the night with 12 points apiece. Two other players reached double figures for the Barons. Perles and David Blood each scored 10 points apiece.

The Groves guns loaded and re-loaded in the second quarter for 21 points and a 35-32 halftime lead. Baylis led the charge, hitting on the first shots from the field in the quarter but still trailed the Barons 24-21. Baskets by Moore, Bill Hertle and Jim Breaugh kept the lead for Andover.

The Falcons kept chipping away at Andover until Maass drove baseline to give them their first lead since early in the first quarter. 29-28. Then Maass, Ucar and Baylis each scored to give the Falcons a 38-30 lead before Blood put in a 15-footer with five seconds left in the half.

Both teams came out clanking in the second half as they were called for 23 fouls in the half. They were cold at the line though. Groves hit on 11 of 22 at the line and Andover converted on seven of 14. Andover failed to hit the first end of a one-and-one four times and Groves missed twice as both teams were off at the line but hot on the court.

The game was tied up twice in the third quarter, but Andover took over with a one-point lead in the end to lead, 51-50. The Barons outscored the Falcons 19-14 but the Falcons came back in the fourth quarter to outscore Andover, 15-10.

Ali Ucar gave the Falcons a few key steals in the fourth quarter. One of them came with nine seconds left in the game with Groves winning 64-

61 to hold the victory for Groves. Birmingham Groves 65: Lance Baylis 10, 2-1, 2-2; Ali Ucar 10, 2-1, 1-1; Craig Maass 9, 2-3, 1-2; Dan Bertelson 2, 2-2, 0-2; Rusty Liebetrau 2, 2-2, 0-2; Dave Wottawa 2, 2-2, 0-2. Totals: 27-57, 45-100.

Andover Barons 61: John Perles 12, 2-4, 1-2; Tim Moore 12, 2-3, 1-1; Larry Feldman 6, 2-2, 0-2; David Blood 10, 2-2, 0-2; Bill Hertle 4, 1-2, 0-2. Totals: 27-61, 44-100.

Total Fouls: Birmingham Groves 18, Bloomfield Hills Andover 18. Fouled Out: Craig Maass (G), John Perles (A). Birmingham Groves 15 21 14 15 — 45 Bloomfield Hills Andover 18 14 19 10 — 61

ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY outscored Clarenceville by 10 points in the third quarter and hung on for a 62-61 victory Tuesday at Livonia.

Orchard Lake was led by Jim Paciorek's 25 points and 20 rebounds. The Eagles out-rebounded Clarenceville by a 58-27 margin. Paciorek also had five steals, two blocked shots and three assists in the game.

Gregg Williamson and Barry Bugaj also hit double figures with 11 and 10 points respectively for Orchard Lake. Clarenceville's Bill Peterson led all scorers with 31 points.

Clarenceville's Trojans scored the first nine points of the game. The Eagles fought back, outscoring Clarenceville 16-5 to create a 34-34 tie at halftime.

That comeback effort was expensive, however, as starter Williamson left the game with a sprained ankle and did not return in the second half. All his 11 points were in the first quarter.

Despite being minus one starter, the Eagles scored the first six points and the last eight points of the third quarter to gain a 55-44 advantage.

The Trojans kept inching toward the Eagles and with 31 seconds left had an opportunity to tie the game. Jim McPhail was at the foul line but could only connect on the front end of a one-and-one situation.

Orchard Lake is 8-2 on the season after that non-league encounter, while Clarenceville falls to a 5-7 mark. The Eagles connected on 43 per cent of their field goal attempts, making 27 of 62, while Clarenceville players made only 21 of 54 for 39 per cent.

Orchard Lake travels to Wyandotte for a Catholic League contest against Mt. Carmel, Friday.

Grant, Lasser win gold medals

Jim Grant of Birmingham and Scott Lasser of Bloomfield Hills won gold medals for first-place finishes in Junior Alpine Ski races at Wall-on Hills, Jan. 8 and 9.

Both boys are in the Expert group, Central Division, of the United States Ski Association. Jim won two golds for the giant slalom Jan. 8 and the slalom on Jan. 9. Scott won gold for the Jan. 8 slalom.

Susan Atkins of Birmingham is a member of the Advanced group, Central Division, United States Ski Association. She participated in races at Wall-on Hills Jan. 15 and 16, and won a gold medal for first place in the slalom Jan. 16.

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