

Mercy cagers win season opener, 65-54

By C.J. RISAK

Our Lady of Mercy basketball coach Larry Baker is a very patient man.

Over the past few years, his cagers have fashioned a reputation as "Cardiac Kids" — always on the brink of defeat, but managing to come away with a win. It doesn't make Baker's job easy, but it does help that Mercy almost always comes away with the victory.

It doesn't look like this season will be much different from past years.

Mercy won its opening contest, beating Flint Powers at Flint 65-54. And, while the final margin may seem comfortable enough, the game wasn't decided until the final minutes.

Mercy led 45-43 after three periods, but Powers rallied and, midway through the fourth quarter, it held a 51-48 lead.

At that point, Baker put Lisa Borichian into the lineup to cover Powers' top gun, Margaret Uhlmyer. The move paid immediate dividends — Uhlmyer was limited to one field goal in the final eight minutes. From the midway point of the fourth quarter, Mercy outscored Powers, 17-3.

While Borichian was keying the defense, Kelly Fortesque, a 6-foot junior center, sparked the offense, scoring six of her 10 points in the last period and coming up with several important rebounds.

Mercy jumped out to a 14-8 lead after one quarter, but Powers pulled to within three, 30-27, at half. Uhlmyer was the game's top scorer with 25 points.

Sophomore guard Denise Basford led Mercy with 13 points, with senior captain Caroline Chapman and Junior Dianne Dietz netting 12 each and Fortesque scoring 10.

Mercy travels to Southfield for a contest Tuesday, then opens its home season against Southfield-Lathrup Thursday.

HARRISON 27 — NOVI 21

Farmington Harrison rallied from an 11-point halftime deficit and held Novi to only one point in the last two quarters en route to a 27-21 victory last Thursday.

Novi jumped out to a 10-9 lead after one period and held Harrison scoreless in the second quarter to take a com-

manding 20-9 lead at intermission.

But Harrison, behind senior co-captain Linda Bacho, rallied in the last half to shut out Novi in the third period and allow only one point in the final stanza.

Bacho was the only player for either side to score in double figures, as she

popped in 14 points for the Hawks.

Harrison, 1-0 on the season, travels to Redford Union for a Tuesday night contest starting at 7:30 p.m.

SALEM 97 — NORTH 9

Despite "playing better," North Farmington suffered through its sec-

ond straight rout, this time at the hands of Plymouth Salem by a 97-9 score.

Four Salem players hit for double figures, led by center Patty Weidman's 15 points. Cheryl Sobkow chipped in with 14.

Barrie Bailey led the Raiders with five points.

It was the second straight embar-

assment for North, which lost earlier in the week, 94-11, to West Bloomfield. But Raider coach Debbie Wochna noted improved play by her team, admitting that they still had a very long way to go.

North plays at Edsel Ford Tuesday before facing Farmington, at Farmington, Thursday.

G.C. East crushes Romulus

TOM BONNER ran for two touchdowns and returned an interception for a TD to spark Garden City East to a 40-13 football pasting of Romulus Friday.

Quarterback Billy Orr threw a pair of TD passes and ran for another touchdown as the Panthers scored during every quarter.

Borra started the parade with a two-yard scoring burst up the middle less than four minutes after the opening kickoff. East advanced the football 28 yards in three plays after blocking a punt.

Brian Belcher snared an 18-yard scoring pass from Orr with just less

than a minute remaining in the first quarter. The Panthers marched 60 yards in five plays for their second TD.

A big 20-point second period broke the game open.

Orr dove in from one yard out, Orr threw a 55-yard scoring strike to Ricardo Galan and Bonner returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown.

Dave Berger caught an 11-yard TD pass from Orr in the third quarter and Bonner plunged into the Eagles' endzone from one yard out late in the fourth period.

Romulus produced seven points during the first quarter and six in the second.

The Panthers turned in one of their more productive offensive efforts in recent seasons. Orr completed seven of nine passes for 113 yards and East's ball-carriers ground out 203 yards.

Tom Bonner picked up 96 yards in 17 carries and Tracey Bonner ran for 86 yards in 17 rushes.

East, now with a 2-0 record, will host

North Farmington 8 p.m. Friday in its first Northwest Suburban League test of the season.

DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL coach Tom Mach expected a hard-hitting duel when his Shamrocks visited Ypsilanti and that's exactly what happened.

Fortunately for Mach, CC was on the long end of a 14-8 score at game's end.

John Utter got the Shamrocks on the scoreboard first with a three-yard scoring sprint up the middle on a counter play. CC rolled 76 yards in 13 plays for its first-quarter points. Rick Micunek kicked the point after.

The Shamrocks expanded their advantage to 14-0 early in the fourth quarter when Aaron Roberts scored on a 40-yard sweep around right end. Micunek again converted.

Ypsilanti cut into CC's lead on its next possession when Fred Cofield hooked up with Darryl Holmes for a 14-yard touchdown pass. Buddy Powell

carried the ball into the endzone for the two-point conversion.

CC had to punt on its next possession, but Mike Lewis intercepted a pass to shut down Ypsilanti's last threat.

Roberts finished with 116 yards in 22 carries. Utter gained 68 yards on 16 carries.

CC tallied 200 yards — 179 rushing and 21 passing.

"I thought the kids played a tremendous game," said Mach. "They faced some tremendous adversity. We had a lot of kids sick with the flu and a couple of kids were playing new positions."

"Ypsilanti hit hard, but we hit very well, too," Mach continued. "I think it was an excellent overall football game."

"Lewis played a great game. He completed a couple of clutch passes to keep drives going, he intercepted a pass and he had great leadership on the field," said Mach. "Roberts is a very tough runner inside and outside as well."

Andover blanks Berkley

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Bloomfield Hills Andover turned two Berkley specialty team errors into touchdowns en route to an easy 26-0 blanking of the Bears Friday night.

The Bears, 1-1 overall after an opening-season loss to Detroit Catholic Central, raced to a 20-0 first-half lead and were never threatened by the smaller Berkley squad.

"It was a good game because it was a turning point for us," said Andover assistant coach Gary Tuz. "We beat them off the ball. We were bigger than them, but they were a scrappy team. They never stopped coming at us."

The only score in the second half came when Andover quarterback Mark Vestevich, a 5-11, 165-pound senior, hit tight end Greg Jarzynski with a 10-yard pass in the fourth quarter. The

Barons drove only 30 yards in four plays after a fumble recovery for the score.

The Bears didn't give up, however. Inspired by last week's 13-7 victory over Troy, a triumph which ended Berkley's 18-game losing streak covering two full seasons, the Bears tried desperately to ruin Andover's shutout, by moving within the Barons' 10-yard line with 38 seconds left in the game — only to be stifled by the stronger Andover defense.

ALTHOUGH THE Barons failed to score on their first two possessions after driving to Berkley's 18-yard line and six-yard line, it was clear from the onset that Andover was controlling both lines of scrimmage.

Andover continued to pound off tackle and up the middle in the first two

quarters, amassing 154 total yards rushing in the first half alone.

It wasn't until the first play of the second quarter, though, that Andover received its first opportunity to score — thanks to a Berkley miscue.

Andover's defense forced the Bears to punt deep in their own end, and punter Rich Medina fielded a bounce snap from center on one knee. The ball was whistled dead on the two-yard line, and Baron running back Steve Mazur powered into the endzone off right tackle on the very next play for the six-point. Kicker Mike Silverstone converted his first of two extra points in four tries to give the Barons a 7-0 lead.

Andover's second touchdown came as a result of poor Berkley punt coverage, as Baron George Hanney broke up the middle for a 33-yard punt returning down to Berkley's nine-yard line. Two plays later, quarterback Vestevich scored on a three-yard run around left end for a 13-0 score.

The Barons made it 20 points in the second stanza on their next series of downs. Once again, it was Mazur off right tackle from one yard out, capping a 51-yard drive in nine plays.

Andover travels to Charleston Friday to open Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) play starting at 8 p.m.

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