



Mercy's Carolyn Chapman struggles for position against Regina last Friday in the Pontiac Silverdome. (Staff photos by Randall Bors)

Top Regina in Silverdome

Mercy girls get even

By TOM BAER

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy settled a girls' basketball score with Harper Woods Regina last Friday afternoon.

Mercy, using a game-long press and a late stall, upended Regina, 51-46, in the Catholic League cage showdown, which was played in the Pontiac Silverdome as a preliminary to the Detroit Pistons — San Antonio Spurs professional game.

In winning, coach Larry Baker's Mercy club avenged its only defeat of the season — a 51-49 loss to the Harper Woods squad back on Oct. 4.

"I think this win is indicative of how much we've progressed since our last game against Regina," said Baker, whose Marlins own a 12-1 overall record. "This is a young team, and they tend to be a little nervous at times. But they've developed a lot of poise since the last meeting with Regina."

Lisa Morris, a five-foot-five guard and the only senior to start against Regina, was one key to the victory. Late in the game she displayed some adroit ballhandling on the stall, drawing three crucial fouls.

She dropped in four of five free throws during the last 90 seconds of the game. Her last two free throws, made with just seven seconds left, were the final points of the game.

DESPITE ITS exciting finish, the game started out as a rout — for Regina. The east sisters, taller and more physical than Mercy, raced to a 14-0 lead after the first quarter, and then boosted the lead to 10 points early in the second.

But Mercy came roaring back to out-point Regina, 12-8, in the second quarter and trail by just two points, 22-20, at halftime. Seniors Kelly Walsh and Carolyn Chapman came off the bench to lead the rally. Walsh scored six of her 12 points in the second quarter, and Chapman added two key baskets in the stanza.

"We were in big trouble early in the game," Baker said. "They were going down and they knew it. I could see it in

MERCY 51 — REGINA 46

LADY OF MERCY (31) — Lisa Morris 1, 4, 5, 6, Suzanne Dera 4, 0, 1, 8, Denise Basford 5, 4, 16, Lisa Borchan 1, 5, 4, 2, Kelly Fortness 0, 0, 0, Kelly Walsh 5, 0, 12, Carolyn Chapman 5, 4, 4, TOTALS: 18, 19-28, 51.

REGINA (Woods) (40) — Karin Kossok 5, 3, 13, Lori Spencer 6, 0, 0, 12, Janet Fisher 3, 0, 1, 6, Lisa Geary 1, 0, 5, 6, Monica Obran 1, 0, 2, Ada Valentin 3, 1, 2, 3, Kelly Jones 2, 1, 2, 3, Pam Verbeke 0, 0, 0, 0, TOTALS: 21, 4-15, 46.

TOTAL FOULS — Regina 21, Mercy 13. FOULED OUT: Obran (3), Dera (3).

LADY OF MERCY REGINA 8 12 17 14 — 51 14 8 13 11 — 46

Farmington Observer

sports

Monday, October 29, 1979

(F)1D

their faces. But Kelly and Carolyn came in and led us back."

From the second period on, Mercy used a full-court press which forced Regina into 17 turnovers. Strangely, the

more-aggressive Mercy squad was getting the steals and the Regina club was logging the fouls. Regina had 21 fouls to Mercy's 13.

Denise Basford, a 5-8 sophomore guard, led the winners with 14 points on five field goals and four of eight free throws. Karin Kossok, Regina's big center, scored 13 points. Teammate Lori Spencer added 12 points, eight coming in the first period.

Mercy, which shot only 26 percent from the field, held a 50-32 rebounding advantage with Kelly Fortness hauling down seven rebounds and Walsh grabbing six.

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, Mercy entertains Birmingham Marian at 7:30 p.m.



Denise Basford lofts a shot over Regina's Monica Obran.



Prep sports in the '80s

For years, talent and coaching have been the determining factors in a successful prep sports program.

But in recent times, another ingredient has been added to the recipe — the millage.

Millage defeats have caused high schools to cut sports entirely, leaving the student athlete asking the question, "Where do I go from here?"

Seven Pontiac student athletes answered that by transferring to Bloomfield Hills Lahser. The move not only allowed them to showcase their talent but turned a Lahser team that was mediocre into a powerhouse.

The question that arises is: Should this practice be allowed to continue? Judge Hilda Gage ruled last Friday to allow the seven athletes to stay at Lahser, basing her decision on the fact that since the school board had allowed admittance to the students, they could not now take it away.

Some coaches may say that a prep athlete, especially one that may have a chance at a college scholarship, should not be robbed of that opportunity because of a millage failure. But should prep athletes be allowed to transfer to other school districts at will?

With this, the final prep football season of the '70s, is the following what we can expect in the '80s?

By C.J. RISAK

The weather was still warm and muggy. The sun remained in the sky into the early evening, but Johnny could feel it inside him — summer was nearing its end, and in a couple of weeks he would be back in school.

Johnny didn't feel too badly about it, though. He was going into the eighth grade, and he was looking forward to the new challenges the school year would bring. That's what his father, John Back, Sr. had always told him — "Look forward to that challenge."

John Sr. was especially pounding that point home before this school year. It was to be Johnny's last at Central Junior High, so he was going to have to be at his best. The upcoming school year, John Sr. had said, could be the most important in Johnny's 13-year life.

After all, this year he was to be the starting quarterback at Central Junior High.

A distant call intruded into Johnny's thoughts, and a voice he recognized as his mother's drew his attention. "Johnny, come quick. Your father's home," she yelled.

So soon? Johnny thought. John Sr. had been working with him every afternoon since spring on improving his option pitchouts and deciphering zone pass defenses, among other things. That was in addition to the morning workouts.

JOHNNY RACED to the back patio of his home and into the house, where he came face-to-face with John Sr., his white shirt sleeves rolled up and striped tie loosened at the neck.

"Sorry, pop, didn't know it was so late," Johnny apologized. "I'll get my gear and meet ya in the back yard." He started for his room, but was stopped short by his father.

"No, son, that's not why I called for you. There's a man here who wants to talk to you."

He gave his father a puzzled look. "Who is he pop? What's he want? Did I do somethin' wrong?" Johnny asked, trying to remember the last time he had even thought about anything but football.

"No, son, he wants to talk to you about your future," his father tried to explain. "It's something you have to start thinking about, you know."

"My future? What about it?"

John Sr. took his son over to the divan and sat next to him.

"Johnny, next season? — I mean, year — you'll be in high school, and you'll have to be making many important decisions, like what to call on third-and-eight, or what stocks to invest in."

"You'll be an important man, Johnny, but to be successful you'll have to start making these decisions yourself. I won't be around all the time to help you, you know."

Johnny nodded. "Who is he, pop?"

"HE'S COACH Peppers, from East High School. He wants to talk to you about where you'll go to school next season — or, year."

"But, pop, I thought I had to go to Central. Why does the East coach want to talk to me?"

"Let me explain that, boy," a voice boomed from just outside the room. A hulking figure of a man, clipboard in hand, baseball bat on his head and stomach protruding through a nylon jacket sauntered into the room.

John Sr. stood up but was dwarfed by the giant coach. "So this here is the little quarterback?" the coach asked.

"Yeah," the father said proudly. "His full name is Starlington John Back, Jr. It'll make it good in the newspapers, don't you think? When they ask what position he plays, we can say, 'Just like his name — Star Back.'"

The coach chuckled. "Yeah, that's pretty good. Course, I don't suppose there'll ever be another Joe Theismann — you know, they changed the pronunciation so that it rhymed with 'Theismann'."

"Now, boy," the coach said sternly, looking squarely at the 13-year-old. "I want you to consider attending East High. There are a lot of advantages for you — I'll get you into the good classes, guarantee you a spot on the varsity for your first two years, and I know a lot of college scouts, so you'll be well recognized."

"But —" Johnny started to say but was cut off by the coach.

"Don't 'but' me, boy. Think of it — starting your freshman

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