

OCC cagers tumble

Things just can't get much worse. That must be how Oakland Community College basketball coach Tom McPhillips feels after witnessing his team's nose-dive during the past three weeks.

After rattling off seven straight wins in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association, the Raiders have plummeted, losing four straight contests.

The latest catastrophe came at the hands of St. Clair Community College, the last place team in the division. OCC let several chances to win the game slip away and eventually lost to St. Clair, 65-64, last Wednesday.

Free throws spelled the difference in the game. The Raiders scored 30 field goals to only 27 for St. Clair. But OCC was able to convert only four of 20 free throws to 11 of 15 for St. Clair.

The Raiders rallied from a 7-0 deficit at the beginning of the game and a 30-23 margin at the half to take a five-point lead with three minutes remaining. But St. Clair came back with the help of OCC's poor free throw shooting.

Jim Schirmer's jumper with 16 seconds left gave St. Clair a 65-64 lead. John James had a chance to give the Raiders the lead with seven seconds remaining when he stepped to the line for a pair of free throws. He failed to connect on either.

BUT ST. CLAIR responded by throwing the in-bounds pass away. OCC got the ball with one last chance for victory.

That opportunity also passed, as OCC couldn't get a shot away until the final buzzer. Mike Gollnick's desperation heave bounced off the rim and St. Clair had the victory.

The loss dropped OCC three games back of league-leading Saginaw Delta Community College. Highland Park is in second place with a 8-3 record.

Lew Wartley of St. Clair took game-high scoring honors with 18. He had plenty of help, however, as teammates Schirmer netted 17, Dan Mauslos had 11 and Craig Mader added 10.

Darryl Clausell led OCC with 18 points, while Anthony Barnard scored 17.

OCC's next home game is Wednesday against Henry Ford Community College at 8 p.m.

Area AAU tankers sparkle

Five swimmers from the West Bloomfield AAU swim club, all 8 years old and under, placed in a total of 12 events during the Dearborn Dolphins "mini-meet" Jan. 12 and 13.

The meet was restricted to swimmers 8 and under, with a total of 188 swimmers participating in four events in three age groups for both boys and girls.

In the 6 and under boys' event, Evan Evans took a third in the 25-yard breaststroke (28.40) and was

sixth in the 25-yard freestyle (24.54) and the 25-yard backstroke (32.05).

In the 7-year-old category, Ross Novack was third in the boys' 50-yard breaststroke (51.85), fourth in the 25-yard breast (23.97) and fifth in the 25-yard back (21.78) and 50-yard back (48.85).

David Notarius took a pair of sixths in the 7-year-old boys' competition in the 25-yard back (22.48) and the 50-yard backstroke (49.60).



Julie Tadrzynski serves for Farmington High.

FHS spikers rally to nip Waterford

Farmington's volleyballers rallied from a one-game deficit to nip Waterford, 13-15, 15-13, 15-12, in a match played at Farmington Thursday.

It was the fifth straight victory for the Falcons and gave them a 3-0 record in the Inter Lakes League (ILL). Farmington now figures to challenge defending league champion Livonia Stevenson for the conference title.

In the Waterford match, the Falcons led early in every game but saw the leads melt away under some blazing Waterford serves.

"They had two or three servers we just couldn't handle," Farmington coach Ron Shortt said. "They rattled off a few points and got right back in the game."

The serving prowess of the Skippers cost the Falcons a win in the match's opening game. Farmington had a 9-3 lead, but Waterford went on a 9-1 scoring streak to forge a 12-10 advantage.

After losing the opener, the Falcons started putting it together. Julie Tadrzynski and Isabelle Smith helped Farmington maintain control in the final two contests with solid serving and Chris Looser came off the bench to put away five spikes.

Smith had 12 unreturned serves in the contest and Tadrzynski managed to put every serve in play. Looser also collected three straight blocks on Waterford spike attempts.

"I'm very pleased with our ability to scramble and win," Shortt said. "We did it in the city meet and again last night."

"I never had a team like that before, but I'm happy to have it now." Farmington travels to Stevenson Monday for a 7 p.m. match, one that Shortt figures will go a long way in determining the ILL championship.

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