

Falcons thwart Central rally in 58-51 win

By C.J. RISAK

Ron Sarceovich, Jeff McGrath and Jerry Liphardt combined for 47 points to lead Farmington to a 58-51 triumph over Walled Lake Central Friday at Farmington.

The victory avenged an earlier setback the Falcons suffered to Central. That came on Dec. 14 at Central, and it

was the last time the Vikings won. Friday's loss to Farmington was their eighth straight.

The game was decided in the second quarter. Farmington edged out to an 11-10 lead after one quarter, then outscored Central, 11-4, in the opening 5:15 of the second period.

The Viking guards had their problems bringing the ball upcourt in the

second quarter. Turnovers proved to be costly, as the Falcons finished the period with a 21-10 scoring advantage and a 12-point halftime lead, 32-20.

Liphardt led the Farmington surge with eight points in the quarter, with McGrath contributing six and Sarceovich four. Central's efforts were further hindered when forward Tom Phelps drew his third personal foul.

CENTRAL RALLIED, however, in the final quarter. The Vikings scored the first six points to pull to within five (47-42). Forward Erin Hill hit a pair of jumpers, and Rick Wheeler scored on a rebound to lead the Central comeback. Farmington scored its first point of the fourth quarter with 3:08 remaining. McGrath hit the first of two free throws. He missed the second, but Sarceovich rebounded, put in a short shot and was fouled. He converted the three-point play to put the Falcons back in command, 51-42.

"It got a little tight there at the end," Farmington coach Rich Roy said after the game. "I thought they played some good defense. But other than that 31 (Hill), they didn't have many good shooters."

Hill led Central with 18 points, 14 coming in the second half. Sophomore forward Jeff Sewell contributed 10. Central coach Steve Emert was satisfied with his team's defensive play, but not with the offense.

"WE'RE NOT going to scrap it," Emert said about the motion offense his team has been using. "Our defense is there. We played a good man-to-man. It hurt to lose Phelps with his 15.9 scoring average."

Phelps was called for his fourth personal foul 38 seconds into the third period. He sat out the rest of the quarter and part of the fourth. He fouled out with 3:08 left in the contest.

Free throws played a key part in the game. After hitting 11 of their first 13 foul shots, the Falcons missed their first four chances in the final quarter. Still, they converted on 16 of 25 attempts to seven of 16 for Central.

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Sarceovich led Farmington with 19 points, seven coming in the third quarter. He also snared 16 rebounds. McGrath and Liphardt each scored 14 points.

Farmington, now 5-8 overall and 3-3 in the Inter Lakes League, hosts Dearborn Tuesday and travels to Milford Lakeland Friday. Central is now 2-10. The Vikings host Milford Tuesday and Waterford Friday. All games start at 8 p.m.

NORTH FARMINGTON 64
JOHN GLENN 55

North Farmington outscored Westland John Glenn, 37-25, in the second and third quarters to win its second straight game, 64-55, Friday at Glenn.

The Raiders trailed by two (12-10) after one period but rallied for a 19-13 advantage in the second quarter and a 29-25 halftime lead.

North again outpointed Glenn by six (18-12) in the third quarter to open up a 10-point lead (47-37) going into the final eight minutes.

"We've put two good ones together," North coach Ken Dean said. "Hopeful-

ly, we've turned the corner and we'll keep it up. We're shooting much better now, especially from the line."

Brian Bowditch, a 6-foot-5 pivotman, led North with 18 points. Guard Rich Nutter contributed 17 and Matt Rued pitched in with 12. Ken Liedel had 18 points for Glenn.

North evened its record at 6-6 on the season. The Raiders travel to Ferndale Tuesday for an 8 p.m. contest.

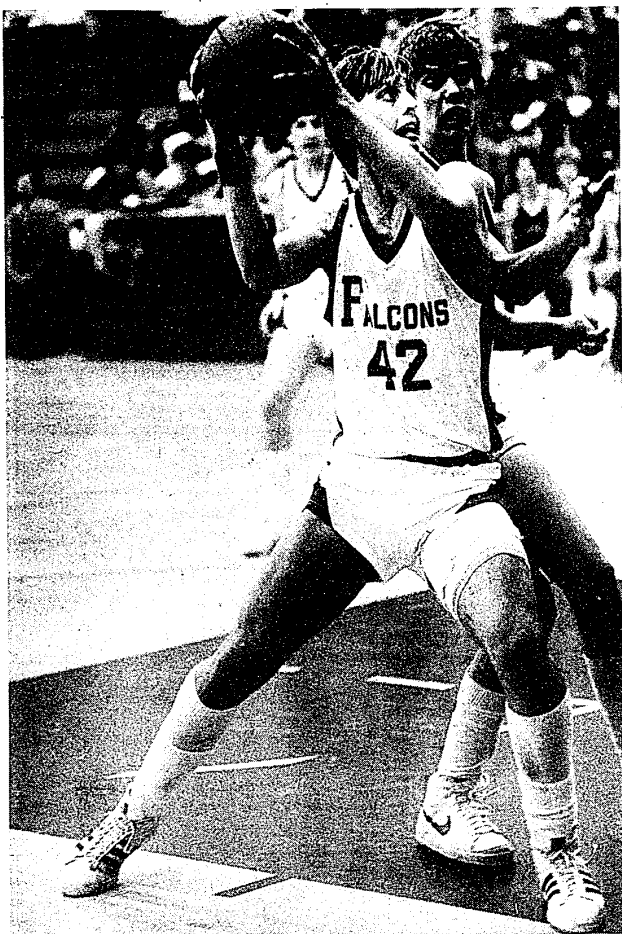
FARMINGTON HARRISON 74
WALLED LAKE WESTERN 67

Farmington Harrison fought to a nine-point lead after three quarters, then had to hang on to defeat Walled Lake Western, 74-67, Friday at Harrison.

The win was the fourth straight for the Hawks, who now boast a 8-6 overall record and a 4-2 mark in the Western Six League. Western fell to 2-16 overall and 0-6 in the WSL.

After building its lead to 48-39 after three quarters, Harrison started to waver in the final period but Western

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Farmington's Ron Sarceovich (with ball) battles Central's Jeff Sewell for position. (Staff photo by Randy Bost)

Farmington pins key win; Hawk voids mean mat defeat

Farmington's wrestlers won 10 of 13 matches, eight on pins, to overwhelm Livonia Stevenson, 57-11, Thursday at Farmington.

It was the Falcons' fifth win in six Inter Lakes League matches, and it improved their overall record to 11-3. Farmington, the defending conference champions, has a shot at a share of the ILL title when it hosts the league meet Saturday.

Stevenson had little hope of beating the Falcons. Dave Denny (105-pound weight class) got things started when he pinned Stevenson's Troy Cowden in 1:59.

Farmington's David Locklear (112) topped Rob Cabrera, 13-3, and then the next four Falcon wrestlers each recorded wins on pins.

John Murphy (119) won on a fall in just 50 seconds over Scott Usiodok; Mark Denny (126) was even faster, accomplishing the feat in 25 seconds over Dave Resater; Mike MacKinnon (132) won in 5:19 over John Kalajan; and Dave Hall (138) pinned Ted Canty in 1:49.

Farmington's Mark Bartram (145) won a narrow decision over Tom Mancini, 14-12, before the Falcons' Ted

Moore (155) was beaten by Stevenson's Wade Hoppe, 4-2.

But the Falcons got back on the pin streak after that, taking three of the last four matches on falls.

JIM STEINER (167) nailed Mike Petchouff in 2:57, and Gregg Lemanski (185) did in Scott Lowes in 5:38. Farmington's Dave Schultz (198) and Stevenson's Alex Rahill fought to an 8-8 draw before the Falcons' Doug Pilling (heavyweight) finished the meet by pinning Kevin Niedwiecki (141).

The Falcons go into the league meet with high hopes of a repeat victory. The conference championship is decided half on dual meet results and half on the league meet. Pontiac Northwestern was the only league team to top Farmington dual meets this season.

"It could go any way between Waterford, Pontiac Northern and us," Falcon coach Don Detters said.

"If we wrestle like we did last night (against Stevenson), we can win it."

Detters will be counting heavily on some of his veteran wrestlers. Dave Denny has run up a 29-6 match record

this year. Teammates Murphy (30-3), Mark Denny (19-13), Hall (23-5), Lemanski (27-1) and Schultz (19-8-2) are all being counted in the conference championships.

In other wrestling last week, Farmington Harrison couldn't overcome four voids as the Hawks dropped a 33-32 decision to Livonia Churchill Thursday.

Winners for Harrison included Mark Alcantara (112), who topped Churchill's Al Clemons, 12-1; Bob Cushing (145), who pinned Dennis Helwig in 3:23; Mark Kureja (167), a 6-0 winner over Mike Halagian; Ken Kopko (185), who defeated Frank Kenny, 14-3; and Eric Kerastas (200), a winner by a 4-1 margin over Churchill's Bruce Smith.

The Hawks were forced to compete without one of their top wrestlers, Phil Palajac. Palajac, who has split time between 126 and 132 pound weight classes, has compiled a 29-2 match record. However, he was sidelined against Churchill with a sprained ankle.

Harrison finished its season with a 2-10 dual meet record. The Western Six League meet will be Saturday.

North gymnasts top coed Western

For the past 10 years, female high school athletes have reaped the benefits of Title IX, which, simply stated, provides "equal opportunity for both male and female in sports."

But now boys are taking advantage of the federal guidelines. North Farmington's gymnasts, the defending state co-champions, had little trouble winning its fifth dual meet of the season Wednesday. The Raiders outpointed Walled Lake Western, 91-25-77.05.

Enroute to the victory, however, North's team was faced with a strange situation — competing against a man. In a turnabout of Title IX, a ruling was made allowing boys to compete on a girls' team if the school didn't have a boys' team in that sport. So Western's Joe Cohen took advantage of that and competed against North in last Wednesday's meet.

"I wasn't surprised because I judged one of their meets last week," said North coach Mary Johnasse. "When he came up to me (last week) to tell me what he was doing in the vault, I was shocked."

Cohen made little difference in the meet's outcome. He placed third in the vault (6.55 points), which was his best performance.

But that ruling did leave the door open for other males to take advantage. It's conceivable that an individual state title in girls' gymnastics could be won by a man.

DESPITE COHEN'S presence, North's Kathy Temple and Suzanne Casillo dominated the meet. Casillo became the first person to beat Temple in any event in a dual meet this season, as she won the balance beam (8.2) while Temple finished second (7.45).

However, Temple did win every other event. The defending state champion in the all-around, she scored 8.7 points in the vault, 9.05 in the uneven parallel bars, 8.65 in the floor exercise and 33.85 in the all-around.

Casillo was second to Temple in each event other than the beam. Her point totals were 8.1 in the vault, 7.55 in the

bars, 8.15 in the floor exercise and 32.0 in the all-around.

North's Jody Schupbach finished third in the beam (7.2) and placed third in the all-around (25.4).

Western's Margaret Grubb was third in the bars (6.9) and teammate Gina Muscio grabbed a third in the floor exercise (7.65).

The win improved North's dual meet record to 5-1. In another gymnastic meet, Farmington Harrison qualified for the state regionals by scoring more than 84 points for the fourth time this season. The Hawks topped Northville, 85-78.4, Wednesday.

The victory, which boosted Harrison's record to 8-1 overall and 2-0 in the Western Six League, was overshadowed by an injury to the Hawks' Kathy Purcell, which could sideline her for the season.

PURCELL REINJURED her knee during her balance beam routine against Northville. Tests were run last week to see if surgery would be needed.

"We're hoping she'll be able to come back in a couple of weeks," Harrison coach Kim Dennis said. "I'm not very optimistic right now."

"Kathy's loss really hurts — especially on bars."

Before injuring her knee, Purcell won the vault (8.2 points) and tied with teammate Janet Thibodeau for second in the bars (7.2). She was third in the beam (7.4).

Thibodeau won the floor exercise (8.6) and was second in both the vault (7.7) and the beam (7.6). Harrison's Suzanne Keenan placed second in the floor exercise (7.9).

Northville's Paula Broderick won the all-around competition, placing first in the bars (8.1) and beam (8.7) and third in both the floor exercise (7.9) and vault (7.6). Thibodeau was second in the all-around and Keenan was third.

Harrison meets Walled Lake Central Monday and Bloomfield Hills Andover Wednesday. North travels to Bloomfield Hills Lahser Tuesday and hosts Troy Thursday.

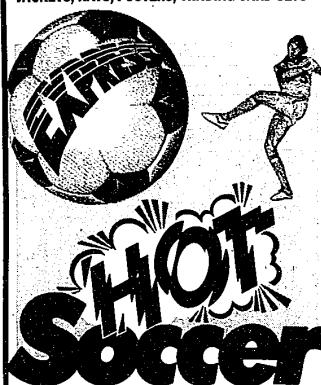


Suzanne Casillo of North Farmington won the balance beam and became the first competitor this season to beat teammate Kathy Temple. (Staff photo by Randy Bost)

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