

North snuffs rally for victory

By C.J. RISAK

North Farmington withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally by Redford Union to edge the Panthers, 63-61, last Thursday at North.

The victory enabled North to remain one game behind Livonia Franklin in the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) standings. The Raiders are 8-3 in the conference and 9-9 overall.

North can clinch a tie for the NSL crown by beating Franklin in both teams final regular season contest Friday at North. Game time is 8 p.m.

In the Redford Union game, North had a comfortable 14-point lead (48-34) going into the final quarter. But the Panthers' Glenn Roberts found the range in the final eight minutes, pumping in 15 of his game-high 21 points in the period.

Behind Roberts' hot hand, RU gradually caught the Raiders. He scored the team's first seven points of the quarter, but it wasn't until the last two minutes that the Panthers made a rush at North.

With 2:39 left, the Raiders' Rex Baker fouled out. Baker, a hard-working senior forward, had sparked the team during the first three periods while scoring 14 points.

North still had an eight-point advantage (59-51) when Baker was forced to the bench. But it didn't last long, as Roberts earned a pair of jumpers, the last coming after a steal, to bring RU to within four (59-55).

"IT HURT to lose Baker," North coach Ken Dean said after the victory. "They (North's players) just won't listen to me. I wanted them to milk some time off the clock."

The Raiders didn't, however. With 1:22 on the clock, Matt Rucinsk missed a short jumper from inside the key and Roberts rebounded for RU. Rocco Rucinsk popped in an 18-footer for RU 21 seconds later and the Panthers were within two (59-57).

Ruud was again the object of a controversial play when North tried to inbound the ball after Rucinsk's basket. With teammate Rich Nutter closely guarded, Ruud inbounded the ball by bouncing it off the back of an RU player. He then grabbed the ball and raced into the front court with it, beating the Panther's press.

However, the official whistled the play, calling Ruud for a double dribble and claiming the move was illegal.

"We've practiced it (the trick inbound pass) and did it four times against John Glenn," Dean said. "Nothing was ever called."

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"It's the same thing as if (calling it illegal) throw it off an opposing player while falling out of bounds."

RU got the ball back, however, and Roberts tied the score on a layup. However, the Panthers comeback efforts were crippled when Roberts fouled out with 44 seconds left.

Ruud converted both free throws in a one-on-one situation to give the Raiders a two-point advantage. On his next possession, RU threw the ball away.

NUTTER WAS FOULED immediately and he missed the first of a one-and-one chance. The Panthers called time out with 22 seconds left. However, Mike Lowmyer missed a jumper and RU fouled Pete Gosselin.

Gosselin caught two free throws to

insure North's win. Rucinsk hit a bucket with eight seconds remaining to make the final 63-61.

Gosselin led North with 15 points. Nutter finished with 14 and Ruud scored 10. Jerry Burk had 16 for RU, with Rucinsk scoring 13.

N. FARMINGTON 63 — REDFORD UNION 61

NORTH FARMINGTON (63) — Rex Baker 6, 2-3; 14; Rich Nutter 6, 2-3; 14; Brian Bowditch 4, 0-2; 8; Matt Ruud 4, 2-2; 10; Pete Gosselin 4, 7-9; 15; Jim Gosselin 1, 0-2; 2; TOTALS — 25, 13-19, 62.

REDFORD UNION (61) — Jerry Burk 8, 2-3; 18; Todd Hiltz 2, 1-1; 4; Glenn Roberts 8, 5-9; 21; Tom Sytkalski 1, 0-2; 2; Rocco Rucinsk 6, 1-4; 13; Tom Jekko 0, 1-2; 1; Bill Klats 0, 2-2; 2. TOTALS — 25, 11-17, 61.

TOTAL FOULS — Redford Union 19, North 15.

FOULED OUT: Baker (NF), Roberts (RU).

N. FARMINGTON 15 16 17 15 — 63

REDFORD UNION 8 12 14 27 — 61

Township trips Farmington '5'

By C.J. RISAK

Too little too late. Or so lamented Farmington basketball coach Rich Roy after witnessing a valiant comeback effort on the part of his Falcons fall short in a 55-52 loss to Waterford last Wednesday.

"You just can't spot a team a 12-point lead and expect to win," a disappointed Roy said after the loss.

Still, Farmington continues to make things interesting, even if it doesn't always result in victories. Only three times this season have the Falcons been blown out in the games they've lost. Their overall record is 6-13.

The Waterford contest started much the same way Farmington's game with Harrison did the previous night. The Skippers were red hot from the floor, connecting on 11 of 14 first-quarter shots enroute to a 22-12 advantage after one period.

Tom Boomer led the Waterford explosion with 10 points in the opening quarter. The Skippers' superior quickness bothered Farmington throughout the game, and for the first half Waterford repeatedly broke down the floor and took the open shot before the Falcons' defense could set up.

Farmington started putting its game together in the second period, but Waterford's fast break still hurt the Falcons. The Skippers added two more points to their lead at halftime (36-24).

THE THIRD quarter was evenly played, each team scoring 12 points.

Farmington had shown no signs that a comeback would be possible during the period. After Waterford built up a 10-point lead midway through the first quarter, the Falcons never threatened, cutting into that double-digit margin only once.

Until the last quarter. Bill Lehman's basket with 5:40 left cut Waterford's lead to 50-42. The Falcon defense improved rapidly, as they knocked several balls loose and forced the Skippers into errors.

Jeff McGrath, who helped spur the comeback with six fourth-quarter points, scored on a layup after an excellent pass from Lehman to make it 52-46 with 3:51 left.

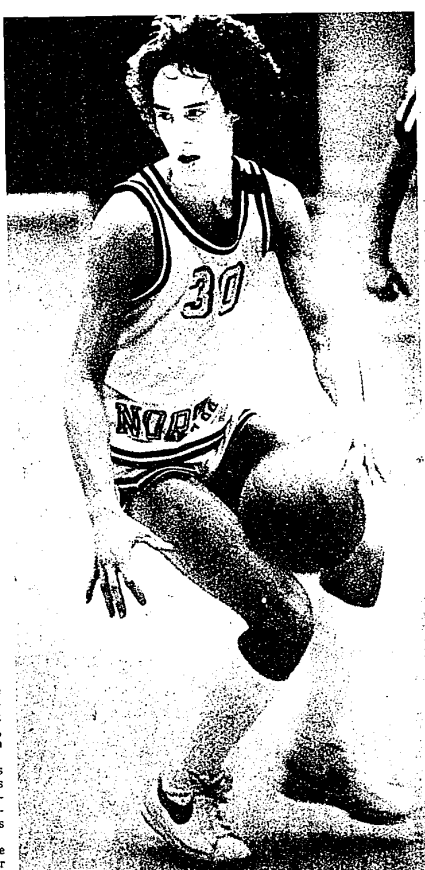
With 2:02 on the clock, Ron Sarevich scored on a rebound (after four Farmington shots bounced in and out) to cut it to 52-48. After a timeout, Waterford went into a delay offense in an attempt to run out the clock.

The move backfired when John Coe was called for an offensive foul. Lehman hit a driving layup to make it 52-50 with 59 seconds remaining.

But that was as close as Farmington could come. John Dunn was forced to foul Coe with 18 seconds left, and he hit both free throws for a 54-50 advantage. Sarevich scored 11 seconds later, but Coe hit one of two shots with four seconds left to clinch the victory.

Coe led all scorers with 17 points. Boomer added 16 for Waterford and Ken Hayward netted 10.

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Rex Baker sparked North Farmington for three quarters before fouling out of Thursday's game with Redford Union. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Mott clips HHS

Farmington Harrison basketball coach Mike Teachman had a simple explanation as to why Waterford Mott battered his Hawks 72-49 in the Western Six League last Wednesday.

"Mott had to have it," Teachman said. "They were fighting for first place in the league and it was a must win. We wanted to win, too, but their must overcome our want."

With the victory, Mott climbed to 7-2 and a first-place tie with Plymouth Canton in the Western Six League. Harrison dropped to 9-10 overall and 4-5 in

the conference.

Mott's Tom Schaefer, a 6-foot-2 senior forward, didn't start the game, but came off the bench shortly after the opening jump to score a game-high 24 points and pull down 16 rebounds. He made 11 field goals and two of six free throws.

"We put some good defense on him with (Brian) Burgess and (Mike) Tetreault," Teachman said. "But he would drive and shoot this fall-away

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Farmington outswims Hawks

Farmington was missing some key swimmers for last Thursday's meet with Farmington Harrison, but the Falcons prevailed anyway, 104-47, for their third victory in 12 starts.

Two Farmington swimmers, Senior Joan Ehrman and sophomore Mark Grover, didn't participate in the meet. Ehrman broke his foot in a pool-side accident and will miss the rest of the season. Grover is out with an illness.

Several other Farmington tankers are sick or injured, according to coach Jack Merritt.

"To show you how bad it is, we had a practice a couple of Saturdays ago, and three kids were in the water — including Ehrman with what turned out to be a broken foot," he said.

Against Harrison, Farmington's Dave Polus won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:18.4 and then took the 100-yard butterfly with a

1:00.5 clocking.

Farmington won both relays. The 200 medley team (Dave Krause, Dave Tupper, Kevin Gentry and Doug Antishin) won in 1:57.9, and the 400 freestyle crew (Klesty, Mike Gilker, Polus and John Uzelac) won in 3:49.1.

Uzelac won the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.9, and Gilker took the 100 freestyle in 54.1.

Harrison senior John Rudel, who is having an excellent season in the long freestyle events, won the 200 (1:59.1) and the 500 (4:53.8). Dan Dellamora of Harrison won the 50 free (25.4). Jeff Lukomski won diving (162.70 points), and Al Babcock won the 100 backstroke (1:01.0).

Earlier last week, Livonia Churchill nipped Farmington, 85-84.

Uzelac won the 50 (24.5) and the 100 (53.9). Tupper won the breaststroke (1:09.8), and Ehrman won the 100 free

(5:38.2).

In another meet last Thursday, North Farmington overcame Westland John Glenn, 106-65, in the Northwest Suburban League. The win boosted North to 4-0 in the league and 10-2 overall.

North had double winners in Jim Gasser, Kirk Knock and Phil Holcomb. Gasser won the 200 IM (2:12.5) and the 100 breast (1:05.5).

N. FARMINGTON 106 — JOHN GLENN 66

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — North Farmington (Kirk Knock, Jim Gasser, John Gundersen, Scott Moore) 1:50.1; North Farmington, Westland John Glenn.

200-YARD FREESTYLE — Phil Holcomb (NF) 1:05.8; Doug White (WG), Carl Gundersen (NF).

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — Jim Gasser (NF) 2:12.5; Brian Manderville (NF), John Gundersen (NF).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — Kirk Knock (NF) 54.1; Rob Emerson (WG), Mike Becker (NF).

DIVING — Rob Emerson (WG) 227.70 points; Scott Whetter (NF), Leigh Hagen (NF).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Greg Dawkins (WG) 1:02.6; John Gundersen (NF), Carl Osterhout (WG).

100-YARD FREESTYLE — Phil Holcomb (NF) 1:05.8; Scott Moore (NF), Rob Emerson (WG).

500-YARD FREESTYLE — Brian Manderville (NF) 2:18.4; Al Babcock (NF), Doug White (WG).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — Kirk Knock (NF) 1:09.1; Greg Dawkins (WG), Doug Lakett (WG).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — Jim Gasser (NF) 1:05.5; Dave Wilcox (WG), Bill Semmerfield (NF).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — Westland John Glenn (Greg Dawkins, Rob Emerson, Doug White, Carl Osterhout) 3:59.1; North Farmington, North Farmington.

FARMINGTON 104 — HARRISON 67

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — Farmington High (Dave Krause, Dave Tupper, Kevin Gentry, Doug Antishin) 1:57.9; Farmington Harrison, Farmington High.

200-YARD FREESTYLE — John Rudel (H) 1:02.1; John Uzelac (F), Mike Gilker (F).

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — Dave Polus (F) 2:18.4; Al Babcock (H), Dave Tupper (F).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — Dan Dellamora (H) 25.4; Kevin Gentry (F), Dave Klesty (F).

DIVING — Jeff Lukomski (H) 162.7 points; Randy Gerscher (F), Tim Angott (F).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Dave Polus (F) 1:01.0; Doug Antishin (F), Tom Hoch (H).

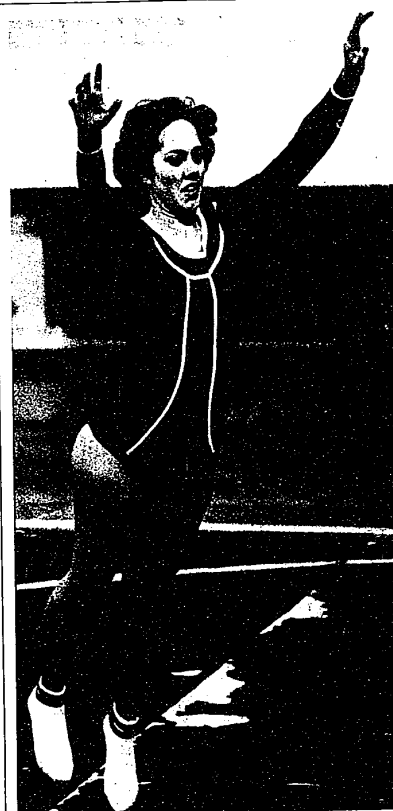
100-YARD FREESTYLE — Mike Gilker (F) 54.1; Kevin Gentry (F), Mark Bearden (H).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — John Rudel (H) 48.8; Paul Enslin (F), Jim Kontny (F).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — Al Babcock (H) 1:09.1; Dave Krause (F), Dave Klesty (F).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — John Uzelac (F) 1:05.9; Dave Tuer (F), Dan Dellamora (H).

100-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — Farmington (Dave Klesty, Mike Gilker, Dave Polus, John Uzelac) 2:44.1; Farmington Harrison, Farmington High.



Debby Page of Farmington won the vaulting event against Oak Park High.

Falcon gymnasts triumph

Farmington High's girls' gymnastics team, with Sue Purdy winning two events, defeated Oak Park, 72-34, last Wednesday. The win lifted coach Judy Caplia's Farmington team to 2-7 this season.

Purdy won the uneven parallel bars with a score of 6.5 and then topped the balance beam competition with a 6.25. Teammate Tina Bona won the floor exercise (7.45) and all-around and took seconds in vaulting (6.5) and bars (5.4).

Kirsten Goodman of Farmington finished second on beam (5.8), third on bars (5.3) and floor exercise (6.9). Farmington's Jill Rossen landed third in vaulting with a 5.8.

Farmington entertained Pennine Northern at 7 p.m. on Monday (Feb. 25) at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas.

In another girls' gymnastics meet last week, North Farmington bested Northville, 92.85-79.95.

North Farmington standout Kathy Temple won vaulting (8.85), bars (8.75), floor exercise (8.75) and all-around (34.55). She also finished second on the beam with a 8.20.

North's Suzanne Castillo won the beam (8.5) and finished second on vaulting (8.05), bars (8.45) and all-around (32.85).

North Farmington plays next on Wednesday (Feb. 27) at Clarenceville High. The meet begins at 7 p.m.

Clarenceville whipped Farmington Harrison, 82.10-77.65, in another meet. The loss put coach Kim Dennis' Harrison squad at 8-5.

Janel Thibodeau of Harrison won bars (7.0), beam (8.1), floor exercise (8.3) and all-around (30.8). Teammate Dorene Keenan finished second on beam (7.4) and floor exercise (7.75).

Clarenceville's Liz Hunter won vaulting with a score of 8.1, and teammates May DeWolf and Ann Desjarlais tied for second place with 7.45.

Delta downs OCC eagers

Oakland Community College missed its first 12 free throws of the game and could never recoup in an 87-70 loss to Delta Community College last Wednesday at Delta.

The loss ended OCC's regular season schedule, as the Raiders finished with a 12-13 overall mark and a 10-10 record in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

OCC will participate in the state tournament, which will get under way Wednesday. The Raiders' first contest is against St. Clair Community College at 2 p.m. at Jackson Community College. If OCC wins, it will meet the winner of the Grand Rapids-Alpena game.

OCC's state tourney contests will be broadcast in Farmington by the school's student radio station, WORF-FM (80.3). Greg Raymond will handle the play-by-play, with OCC sports information director Steve Balcon doing the commentary.

The loss to Delta overshadowed a superlative effort by OCC's Darrell Claussell. Claussell poured in a career-high 34 points to lead all scorers.

However, only one other Raider reached double figures in the scoring column. Anthony Barnard netted 13

points before leaving the game in the second half after reinjuring his ankle. The injury was not believed to be serious and Barnard should be ready for the playoffs.

After OCC's horrible start from the free throw line, Delta jumped to a 47-37 halftime advantage. The Raiders converted 18 of 32 foul shots in the game.

Delta's balanced scoring hurt OCC. Danby Sapp led the way with 23 points, with James Pitts adding 15, Norbert McKenny 13 and Greg Fifer and David Bland 10 each.

The loss finished a dismal conference season for the Raiders. The team won only twice this season on their league opponents' floors.

DELTA OCC 87 — OCC 70

DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (87) — James Pitts 7, 1-2, 15; David Bland 4, 2-2, 10; Danby Sapp 10, 2-4, 22; Greg Fifer 5, 0-0, 10; Norbert McKenny 13, 4-11, 25; Wayne Petty 1, 2-2, 4; Kevin Quire 2, 0-0, 4; Chuck Thomas 3, 0-4, 6; Mike Menefee 1, 0-2, 2. TOTALS — 39, 9-17, 87.

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (70) — Anthony Barnard 6, 1-2, 13; Darrell Claussell 11, 12, 14, 34; James 1, 1-4, 3; Jack Dakstein 2, 0-2, 4; Mike Gellish 1, 0-2, 2; Phil Bunknigh 1, 0-2, 2; Ron Ruffin 1, 0-2, 4; Kevin Mullin 1, 2-4, 5; Kevin Threlkoff 1, 2-3, 5. TOTALS — 26, 18-32, 70.

TOTAL FOULS — Delta 25, OCC 19. FOULED OUT: James (OCC).

HALFTIME SCORE: Delta 47, OCC 37.