## North cagers open district with easy victory



North's Brian Bowditch (50) and Rob Henderhan (12) battle for a rebound against Central. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

### By C.J. RISAK

BY LJ. KINAN Walled Lake Central van eeded. Medicine North Farmington needed. The Raiders season was falling apart; they had lost their last four reg-ular season contests. But Central, which had won only one game all sea-son, provided the cure for whatever was alling North, as the Raiders pound-ed out a 84-59 victory last Tuesday in the opening round of the state Class A district playoffs at Walled Lake West-ern.

district playoffs at Walled Lake West ern. "It did what we wanted it to do," North Coach Ken Dean said after-wards, "It got us out on the court and warrned us up for the game Thursday." That game will be no blowout. North goes up against Milford Lakeland, a team which won 15 of its 20 contests in the regular season. One of the deciding factors in last fueday's game against Central was North's size advantage. Although Mil-ford is really aot much bigger than Central, they are quicker and more content.

Farmington Observer

Thursday, March 8, 1979

talented. "They'll give us a real good test,"

Western tops Farmington

Farmington couldn't keep pace with a hot-shooting Walled Lake Western squad, as the Falcons lost their opening contest in the state Class A district playoffs 81-66, last Tuesday at West-

ern. The loss gave Farmington a 6-15 fi-nal record, ending what Coach Rich Roy termed as a "disappointing season"

seeson." It also overshadowed a great per-formance by senior guard Greg Kuhnlein, who scored 27 points, 19 coming in the second half. The game was close through most of the first two quarters. Western scored the last six points of the first quarter to break an 11-11 deadlock and lake a 11-11 lead. Green Scondock and lake a 11-



Thursday, March 8, 1999 Urice Dean said adding, "They aren't real big, but they are real quick, especially (Jeff) DeYoung and (Gary) Gleason "We'll have real quick, especially slow them down. I don't know if we can handle them defensively, butten again 1 don't know if they can handle our size with heir defense. "It could be a real shootout."

"Werl have to sup uten to the mean subscription of the second stars, and from there were subscription of the second stars, and subscription to score 15 for the Raiders, 11 coming in the second stars, and stars

Kuhnlein's 27 wasted The turning point care in the third quarter, as Western spurted out with a 22-3 scoring surge to all but put the balding the ofge in regular season play game away. Kuhnlein and Tom Harri-son ralled the Falcons late in the quar-ter, Kuhnlein scoring eight points and Harrison nine. But at the end of the Harrison nine. But at the end of the eriod, it was Western 57. Farmington

#### NORTH 84-CENTRAL 59

THE LAST STANZA was run and gun for both squads. Kuhnlein continue de to hit from long range, scott and the square state of the state of the square state of the squar

Quarter. TOTAL FOLLS- Coming is: Non by FOULED OLT. TOTAL FOLLS- Coming is: Non by FOULED OLT. TOTAL FOLLS- COMING TO A STREAM OF THE STREAM O 13 for Western, Both Meyer and Bryant had nine points in the third quarter Western scoring Spree. Western advances to the district's Smiffinal round against Farmington Harrison, Harrison, which had a bye in Harrison, Harrison, Barlish and Bryant Harrison, Barlish and Barlish and Barlish Harrison, Barlison, Barlish Harrison, Barlish Harrison, Barlish Harrison, Barlish Harrison, Barlish Harrison, Barlish Harrison, Barlison, Barlison, Barlison

# break an 11-11 deadlock and take a 17-11 lead. Greg Skonieczy scored eight points in the period for the Warriors. Western came out firing in the sec-ond quarter as well, outsoring Farm-ington 6-2 in the first three minutes of the period to take a 23-13 lead. But Bill Lemman came of the bench to rally the Falcons, as he scored the next six joints to jull Farmington to within 23-19 with 347 left in the half. The teams traded baskets, and at the half Western had a six-point lead, 23-23. NF's Cotter takes 4th at state mat tournament

### By C.J. RISAK

The endless hours working out, the starvation diets to lose weight before an event, the mental strain of trying to stay ready despite a minimal amount of support from fans... that is the wrestler's season. That season some the form

of support from fans... that is the wrestler's season. That season came to an end last weekend. The Class A state wrestling finals were held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazon. It was a for-tuous, two-day affair and, although not one of the five matmen from Parning-ton made it as far as the finals, the city was well represented. "You just menially have to be ready," Farmington Coach Don Detters add after the championships, Harrison Coach Dick Cook had echoed Detters' statement a week earlier.

"It's a battle of nerves," Cook had said after the regional tournament. "Whoever is toughest mentally will win

"Whoever is toghest mentally will win to". Note of the Farmington wrestlers were up to the task. But they did not retire without a fight. All of therm post-ent of the start of the start of the start and bewing out of the tournsmenting and bewing out of the tournsment. North Farmington's Jim Cptiter (145-pound weight class) was the top finish-er from the area, placing fourth. Cotter wrestied six times in the double-elimin-nation tournament, but only one wres-ther managed to beat him. Unfortunate-ly, he did it twice.

AFTER THE SENIOR grappler edged Flint Northwestern's Dunell Chaney, 6-4, in his opening match, he came up against David Hoyt of Trav-erse City. Hoyt proved to be more than Cotter could handle, as Hoyt outpointed

Lotter colini name, as noy conjointee Cotter, 3-2. Cotter, 3-2. Description of a cochester Adams, Kip Plaggemars of Holland West Kitowa, and Matt Funsch of Cilo, all on one-point desizione. He made it to the con-solation finals, where he faced Hoyt again, and was beaten by him for the second time in the tourney. Farmington wrestlers Luigi Milani (138) and Scott Hazen (heavyweight) also ran into some rough competition and had a few had breaks. Milani, who had von his weight class

and had a few bad breaks. Milani, who had won his weight class in the regionals, started out with a 6-3 win over Dennis O'Brien of Schwartz O'Creek. However, his second match

wasn't so easy, as he was thrashed by Jerry Trainor of Lansing Sexton, 10-3. Trainor went on to win the division, up-setting defending champion Lex Roy in the finals, 11-0.

The Farmington senior grappler was still alive in the consolations, however. He beat Adams' David Walsh, 3-1, and then faced Kevin Owens of Pontiae Northern, whom Milani had wrestled and beaten in two previous meetings.

But it was not to be this time. Milani scored the only wrestling point of the match, but Owens was awarded two points when Milani was penalized for stalling. The loss eliminated Milani from further competition.

The senior heavyweight won his first match on a pin of Adrian's John Baron in 4:20. His next match was against Derrek Williams of Finit Northwest-ern. It was a close match until the final 30 seconds, when Hazen made a mis-take that cost him the win.

The score was tied, 4-4, when Hazen tried to roll away from Williams. But Williams caught him and managed to put him on his back, scoring three

### Area gymnast stars for 'M'

Michigan sophomore Darreil Yee of Parmington will be one of the top still rings competitors for the Wolverines March 9-11 when they host the Big 10 Championships at Crister Arena. Yee warmed up for the conference climax by earning his highest score of the season, a 845, on the rings in Michi-gan's 200,55-106.45 win over fowa. The Wolverines' victory puts their record at 5-3 as they head into the 71st-annual conference championships. Michigan should get some stilf compe-sota, last-segson's host Illinois and upstart Ohio State. upstart Ohio State. Yee is a graduate of Farmington Harrison High School.

next year.

points for the win. Williams went on to win the division. Win Inte Grussion, Hazen was still alive in the consola-tion rounds. He clobbered Alonzo Don-nigan of Ann Arbor Pioneer, 11-1, then pinned Fred Blickensdorf of Warren in 1-42. But his next match was against an old Nemesis — Gannon of Ypsilanti.

The two had met on four previous occasions. Hazen had won the first two on narrow decisions, but Gannon had captured the next two, topping Hazen in both the districts and the regionals.

moon, but Owens was awarded two points when Milani was penaized for stalling. The loss eliminated Milani from further competition. HAZEN'S PROBLEM WAS the same as it has been for the past two weeks-Chuck Gannon of Ypsilanti. The series teament.

Hazen hinshed lith in the tournament. Harrison's Jeff Bernia (122) and Pat Palajac (126) weren't as successful as either North's or Farmington's. Bernia won his first outling against Mike Stuart of Clio, 1-0, but lost his final two matches. John Resse of Kalamazoo Loy Norris tooka 9-7 decision over Bernia, and Junior Mitchell of Secton was also a two-point victor, shutting out Bernia by a 2-0 score.

PALAJAC WAS NO more successful, PARAGAC tracks into how successing, as he, too, won his opening event, but lost his next two. Palajac had a win without stepping on the mat in his first match, as Waterford Kettering's Randy Olean was forced to default. Olsen was forced to default

The rest weren't so easy. Mike Kerr of Lansing Everett pounded out a 7-4 win over Palajac, and Keith Russell of Grandville followed that with a 6-1 vic-tory, eliminating Palajac from the field.

In team scoring, Temperance Bed-ford was an easy winner with 105 points. Hazel Park was a distant second with 59%, and Belleville was third with 58.

"Temperance Bedford is so, so far ahead of everyone else," Detters said. "They had the whole town there cheer-ing for them. "On a scale of one to 10, they would be at 10 and everyone else would be at five or six."

Maybe, someday, a Farmington school will catch them. Just wait till



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