Mercy coach replays cage upset



half (during which Northern outscored Mercy, 35-22).

"Our kids were executing on offense, but Northern was playing exceptionally well, boarding and hitting those outside shots."

of the state of th

me."
MORE THAN ONE fan has remarked that Mercy's youngsters —
Carolyn Burt is the only senior starter

'. . . that crowd has been like a sixth player for us in this tournament. Our kids seemed to be inspired knowing so many people from the school community were behind them. I sensed the enormous swing in momentum in the fourth quarter, and I thought our crowd helped cause it.'

--Larry Baker Mercy coach

somehow play older.
"That's attributable to their families

That's attributable to their families and their character more than any coaching technique." Baker said. "I'm truly happy for this group of young ladies because they're nice kids.

"Where ever we play, people remark on how feminie our players are. They manage to remain feminine while still being aggressive and physical on the basketball court. I mean, we were matching Flint blow for blow in the finals."

Baker said he feit the popularity of

finals.*

Baker said he feit the popularity of girls' basketball was increasing despite the relatively small turnout of 2,100 for the Class A and C finals at Callhan. By comparison, more than 21,000 watched

But you meet your fans in the strang-

est places.

I ran into a guy who runs a discount
pop and beer store on Grand River in
Farmington. It was just after the (Detroit) Cass Tech (quarterfinal) game
and I was buying Heineken for the (assistant) coaches.

the spur of the moment to go to make the spur of the moment to go to make the was telling me how he was overwhelmed. He said he had no idea that girls were playing at that level. He was sold on it, and it was really nice to

hear that."

Baker was one of many people who liked the way the University of Detroit handled the tournament.

"I thought Callhan was a dandy place to have it," he said. "Let's do it again some time."

With four starters back next year, it's just likely that Baker will get his wish.



Mercy's Carolyn Burt drives against Flint Northern's Yvonne Thompson.





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