

## Sports

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## Raider netters stunned

Experts say that in volleyball, emotion and enthusiasm are as important, if not more important, than pure ability.

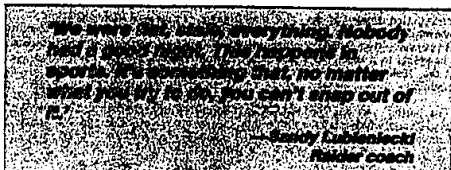
Skeptics of that theory should have been at the North Farmington-Redford Thurston match last Wednesday. Thurston, the long-time patsy of the Northwest Suburban League, up and beat league power North Farmington in three games, 15-12, 14-16, 15-8.

The shock waves are still being felt throughout the area.

"We were flat, state, everything," said North coach Sandy Lubieniecki. "Nobody had a good night. This happens in sports. It's something that, no matter what you try to do, you can't snap out of it."

THE RAIDERS were without potential all-star Amy Austin. Austin sprained her ankle early in Monday's match at Brighton. Lubieniecki said she may be out as long as two to three weeks.

There is a possibility of a bone chip, too. She will wear a cast for a couple of days. We'll see what happens after



that," she said.

The loss of Austin may have been part of the reason for North's lack of spark. But, as Lubieniecki said, "We have played flat before when Amy was in the line-up."

Give Thurston credit. They were a hungry team, and when they sensed the victory, they went after it with a fury.

"Thurston is a vastly improved team from a year ago," Lubieniecki said. They are going to be a tough force in this league. Every one of their girls hustled. They wear after every ball. When they saw that we were down,

they got so fired up."

One statistic, more than the others, told the tale of North's defeat — service reception. The Raiders had been receiving opponents' serves with a 92 percent proficiency entering the Thurston game. They received just 81 percent against the Eagles. Unreceived serves mean automatic points for the opponents.

THURSTON'S SERVERS, thus, had a big night. Helen Carano was successful on all 16 of her serves, while teammate Lisa Poy made 19 of 20.

"I love it," said an ecstatic Thurston coach Chris Wandys. "The whole team played outstanding. North didn't seem to really fight back and our girls really wanted it. They played their hearts out."

For North, the lone bright spot was sophomore Lalina Shaw.

"Lalina came off the bench and really shined," Lubieniecki said. "She really came on — our brightest star. Our only star."

Shaw didn't miss a ball, playing mostly in the back row, and she caught everyone's attention with a thunderous spike in the final game. Lubieniecki said Shaw's performance earned her a starting spot in the Raider line-up.

North (2-1) wasn't the only NSL power to get knocked off in the first week of league competition. Westland John Glenn surprised Livonia Franklin in a two-game sweep, 15-4, 15-13.

Thurston attempted to defend its title in the Andover-Lahar Invitational over the weekend. The Raiders had won the tourney the past two years. Details will be in Thursday's Farmington Observer.

## Falcons regain winning touch

The Farmington High volleyball team got itself back on the winning track Wednesday night, but not in a fashion entirely suitable to coach Kim O'Neill.

The Falcons destroyed Plymouth Canton, 15-2, 15-5, but the match was, according to O'Neill, a sleeper.

"I'm happy we won, but it was real dead, quiet. I don't like games like that. I like more action. Everyone was kind of standing around, and not everyone was putting out their maximum effort," she said.

To live things up, O'Neill brought in three juniors off the bench. The substitutes came through.

Ann Malone, Jenny Lindberg and Judy Baranay played strong games both in the backcourt and at the net for the Falcons.

"Those three girls did a super job for us."

The Falcons (3-1) have an important week ahead of them. They travel to Walpole Lake Central on Monday and

## volleyball

then to Plymouth Salem on Wednesday. The matches are crucial league games for the Falcons.

FARMINGTON HARRISON didn't win its war with Livonia Bentley Wednesday, but they did win a very important battle, coach Ron Shortt said.

In their first game of the season, the Hawks were routed by Salem. They were a listless, lackadaisical contingent, and Shortt was not pleased.

"We had a little talk about our intensity," Shortt said.

His team responded against Bentley. The Bulldogs won in three games, 15-9, 14-16, 16-14, but the Hawks played well.

"We finally started to play. I'm happy with the team. I'm not happy with the score, but, the improvement we made and the intensity we showed were encouraging."

The first game looked like a repeat of the Salem debacle. In the second game, Shortt went to his bench. It turned out to be the right move.

Junior Kim George came off the bench and lit a fire under the Hawks.

"She really got us going. Both Bentley and I subbed at the same time, and we took control of the second game. Then they put their starters back in and they couldn't beat our second-string."

George and company stayed in for the third game and fought to the end before losing.

Karen Sklar, a Hawk starter, has

been the most consistent player this season. She has yet to miss a serve. Against Bentley, she was 11 for 11.

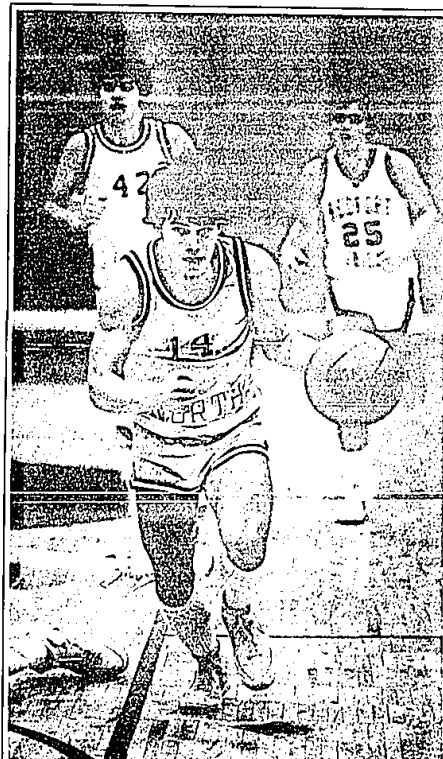
The Hawks (0-2), travel to Livonia Churchill tonight.

FARMINGTON MERCY'S Laurie Huston did a little bit of everything for the Marlins Thursday, and it paid off in a 15-13, 15-6 victory at Livonia Ladywood.

Huston's offensive net performance in the opening game sparked the Mercy win. Sue Scott chipped in by serving seven straight points, including a pair of aces.

In the second game, it was Huston's serving that helped turn the trick. Mercy led, 10-6, when she stepped into the server's box and finished out the game and the match.

The win kept the Marlins undefeated for the season. They are 2-0 for both the season and in the Catholic League. Mercy hosts Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher Monday.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Rick Pennala of North Farmington (with ball) looks for an opening down the lane during Friday night's Northwest Suburban League basketball clash with Redford Union. Pennala and his teammates held on for their second straight NSL victory, 60-58.

## North extends RU loss string

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

The result was a 20-6 North scoring edge and a 34-22 halftime lead.

"The kids have gained a little more confidence in the things we are doing," said North coach Tom Negoshian. "You can see it in Anderson, our sophomore, and Rick Pennala, our junior point-guard, who runs our offense."

Anderson, a 6-foot-6 forward, led all scorers with 19 points. Bamback added 13 and 6-4 junior workhorse Bob Chawlik contributed 11 points and 12 rebounds. Scott Draper, a senior, chipped in with 10 points in his best outing of the season.

"Draper, the last three games, has played exceptionally well," Negoshian said. "He's staying within his role and is working into the system."

Ruloff, who sparked RU's late rally, scored 17 points in a losing cause. Richard Williams added 12 and the persistent John Copley contributed 10.

"THESE kids never quit," Björke said. "They're hard-working, and they work their tail off. It will come."

"What's hurt us is that the school system didn't provide us underneath. The school system has to rectify that if we're to be competitive. For the first time we have a freshman team."

North, at 2-2, is by no means out of the NSL picture.

"We felt the next four (league) games and because we're young — would tell more about us," said the North Farmington coach. "The four Fridays in a row was the push. Now we have two more to go."

RU suffered a big blow in the opening quarter when point-guard Dennis Bushart went out with a sprained ankle. He never returned.

"IF WE lose him it will be very serious," Björke said. "In my opinion he's the best sophomore guard in the area. He's averaging 15 points and five assists a game. We had to go away from our original game plan because of it, but we did a great job coming back in the second half. What killed us was our free-throw shooting."

RU hit 10-of-21. North, meanwhile, was a little more proficient at 14-of-21, including two key free throws by Dean Temple with 37 seconds to play. That gave North a 59-55 advantage.



Tom Negoshian

## Pioneers destroy Ferris State

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

The giveaway wasn't supposed to start until next week.

But if Oakland University's athletic department, which is trying to attract fans with a promotion that would earn a winner \$1 million dollars, wants to keep those fans in their seats all it has to do is schedule a couple more games like last Thursday's.

OU won the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) battle, holding off visiting Ferris State 75-69.

IT WAS A VICTORY the Pioneers "really needed," according to coach Lee Frederick. "We've lost some tough ones the last few times out."

The win boosted OU's record to 8-5 overall and 2-1 in the GLIAC going into Saturday's battle at Wayne State.

And the Pioneers were the superior team from the beginning until — well, almost — the end.

They piled up a 13-point bulge with 7:32 to go and still had a seemingly safe eight-point edge with 2:01 left. But then OU got a little careless.

In the final 1:34, the Pioneers committed a turnover and missed a pair of layups and the first free throw in a one-and-one situation.

FORTUNATELY, FERRIS was just as inept down the stretch. Following Oakland's turnover, guard William Wheat, who had earned some long outside jumpers, missed a layup with 45 seconds left that would have cut Ferris' deficit to four.

Instead, OU rebounded Wheat's miss and got the ball downcourt in a hurry, with Mike Mohn laying it in to restore his team's eight-point advantage.

Ferris wasn't finished. Delaine Rimmer, who bagged 20 points, hit a pair of jumpers to cut the OU lead in half. But the second Rimmer basket came with just three seconds left. Rob Skinner hit a pair of free throws with a second remaining to give OU its final margin of victory.

## OU sports

"They were shooting them from outdoors — not outside, outdoors," Frederick said of Ferris' outside shooting.

OF COURSE, the OU coach wouldn't have wanted it any other way. He put his team into a 2-3 zone most of the game to force Ferris outside, and it paid off. The Bulldogs often looked confused, spending a lot of time looking for a good shot and then settling for a 20-foot jumper.

"We knew they could hurt us inside," Frederick said. "They're stronger and quicker than we are."

"We thought we could get what we wanted offensively. But we had to hold them on defense."

What OU got offensively was some hot shooting from Mohn in the first half (17 of his 21 points) and strong work off the bench from Chris Howze and Craig Mitchell.

HOWZE, Normally a starter, had been struggling lately, mainly because of a virus that hit him last month. He looked fairly sharp Thursday, hitting six of 11 from the floor, scoring 14 points and playing 32 minutes.

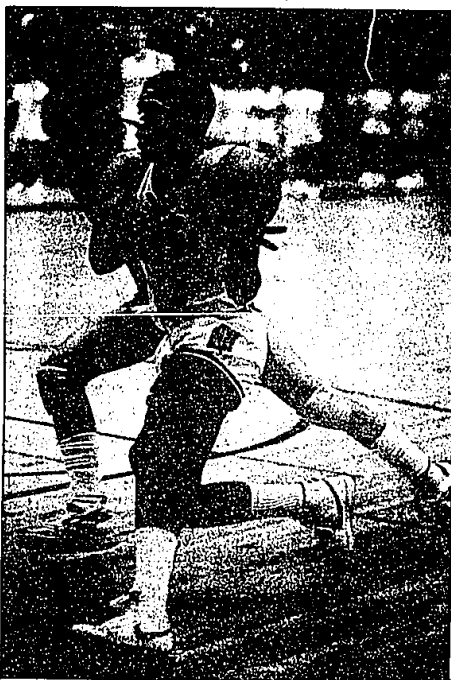
"We're missing a cylinder with him out of there," Frederick said of his sophomore guard.

Mitchell added 10 points and four assists off the bench. Skinner scored 11 points, was credited with six assists and made a pair of steals for OU, while Mohn topped the rebounders with nine.

Joining Rimmer in double figures for Ferris was Wheat with 15, George Davis with 14 and Mike Thomas with 12.

OU took the lead for good with a 10-2 blitz just before the midway point of the first half. The spurt gave the Pioneers an eight-point lead, and the closest Ferris could come the rest of the way was six until the final seconds.

The Pioneers host Lake Superior State at 8 p.m. Thursday.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Chris Howze, an Orchard Lake St. Mary's graduate, dishes off while driving against Ferris State College Thursday night.