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A hose job?

North cries foul in loss

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The Redford Thurston basketball team has had phenomenal success on its home court. The Eagles beat North Farmington 50-44 Friday night, making it 20 straight victories on their home court, 30 of their last 31.

North coach Tom Negoshian offered an explanation for Thurston's home court advantage.

"Every time we come into this gym we get hosed. And we're not the only team. Everyone gets hosed in here," Negoshian said.

He was talking of course about the officiating. Negoshian felt his team got the short end of the stick on calls throughout the game.

"Next time Thurston comes into our gym, I'm going to have my brother and (North Farmington girls basketball coach) Greg Grodzicki ref the game. You have got to play just a great game to win at Thurston," he said.

NEGOSHIAN POINTED to the free throw stats to support his argument. Thurston went to the free throw line 17 times. North went three times. North was called for 15 fouls, Thurston eight.

But the call that brought Negoshian off the bench in protest happened in the final minute of the game. North trailed 47-42. Guard Rick Pennala made a steal, one of his four steals in the final three minutes of the game, and drove to the basket. His layup went in but the referee disallowed the hoop and called a charging foul on Pennala.

"Negoshian was furious. 'The guy (Thurston's Raffi Kostegian) turned his back on the play,' he pleaded with the officials. 'That's a foul. It's in the rule book. He can't turn his back.'"

"Welcome to Redford Thurston," he added in disgust. "Every year we come in here and get hosed."

Thurston's Lars Anderson, playing with a bad case of flu, hit three of six free throw attempts down the stretch, and 6-foot-7 center Dan Starinsky added two more to ice the win for Thurston.

"I'VE GOT TO say something about Lars Anderson," said Thurston coach Gary Fralick. "He had a 102-degree temperature and still played a gutsy ballgame inside for us. He's a tremendous competitor."

Anderson finished with eight points, all in the second half. He was a force

inside for Thurston. The Eagles got 18 points from speedy guard Scott Fillplak and 11 from Starinsky.

Starinsky, with his inside strength, swung the momentum around to Thurston's side in the second half.

North, thanks to the dead-eye shooting of guard Steve Bamback, took a 24-22 lead into the second half. Bamback hit six of seven shots, most from the corner, in the first half. He finished with 18 points, hitting nine of 15.

Thurston tied the game less than a minute into the third quarter. Twice Starinsky rebounded missed jumpers for easy hoops, and Anderson added a third sandwiched around another Bamback bomb, and the game was tied at 28.

"We were running too much in the first half," said Fralick. "We were trying to go one on four too many times. We learned a valuable lesson, I think. We made a commitment at halftime to kick the ball inside and it worked for us."

NORTH HIT a cold streak in the third quarter that contributed to Thurston's 14-8 advantage in the period. After shooting just under 50 percent (13 for 27) in the first half, North made just four of 13 in the third quarter.

The bad shooting continued in the fourth quarter. North could hit just five of 16 shots, while Thurston hit four of five and six of 10 free throws.

Negoshian, as angry as we was about the officiating, still gave Thurston credit for the win.

"They played hard and they played smart. They are an excellent ball club," the North coach said.

The Raiders, led by Pennala, made a furious run at the Eagles late in the game. Pennala made three consecutive steals, two resulting in hoops, to pull North with three, 45-42.

On the third steal, Pennala got the ball inside to Bob Chwalk who got tied up by Starinsky. No jump ball was called. No foul was called. Finally, the ball was wrestled free by Thurston. Pennala, who also dished out 11 assists, made a fourth steal later in the game which resulted in the disputed charging call.

"IT WAS a bad call," admitted Fralick. "We get the same thing when we go on the road. What we have to do is get a list of officials that would be eligible to work the games and have every team in the league agree on it. Then you won't have this kind of problem. Hell, I think the refs were great tonight. We'll take the win and run."

It was a big win for Thurston. The Eagles, 5-2, can control their destiny in the Northwest Suburban League. They are 11-3 overall. North, 5-3 in the NSL, must sit back and hope somebody can knock the Eagles off, North, the hottest team in Observerland since Christmas, is now 8-8 after a 1-6 start.

Sophomore Rick Anderson, despite a badly bruised thigh, scored 12 points for North. Chwalk added 10 before fouling out with 56 seconds left. Kostegian added nine points for Thurston.

Hawks — Falcons suffer cage defeats

Livonia Stevenson's cagers had a tough time with Farmington Harrison in the first quarter Friday, but outscored the Hawks 82-35 in the last three quarters on route to an 81-55 victory.

"They played well, especially in the first half," Stevenson coach George Van Wagoner said, praising the Hawks. "They execute, they do what they're asked and they never quit."

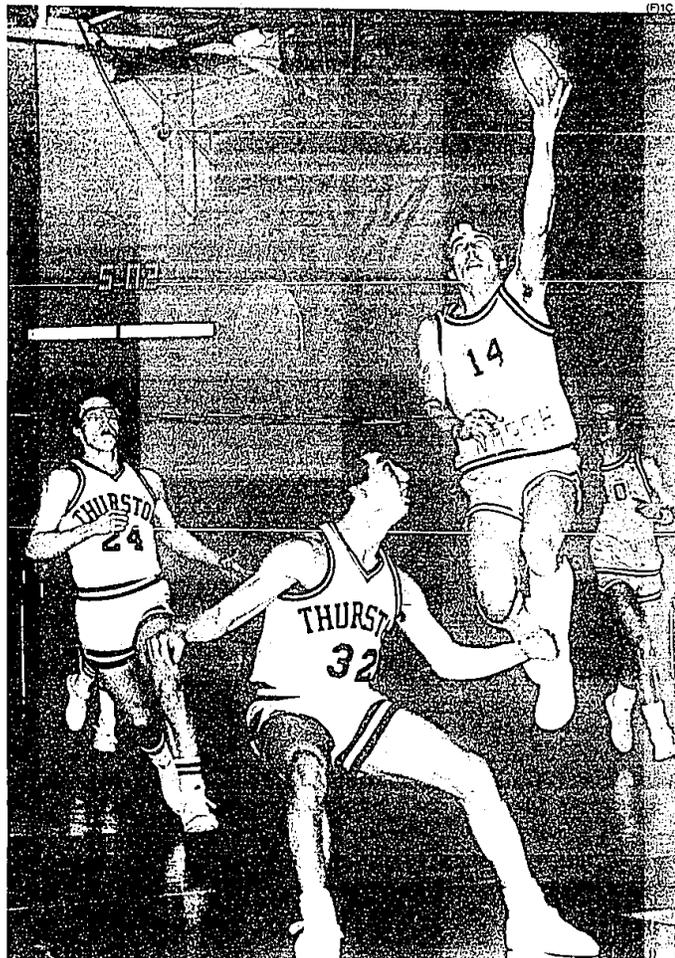
The Spartans trailed 20-19 at the end of the first period, but then exploded, scoring 20, 20 and 22 points in the final three quarters to nail down the victory.

Tom Domako poured in 23 points and hauled down 19 rebounds to lead Stevenson, which improved its Western Lakes Activities Association record to 8-4. The Spartans are 11-4 overall.

Teammate Dan Gilmartin also played well, adding 10 points and eight rebounds.

Dave Quarles, a 4.0 student who will attend Cornell University next fall, was Harrison's leading scorer with 15. Brian Hickey added 11.

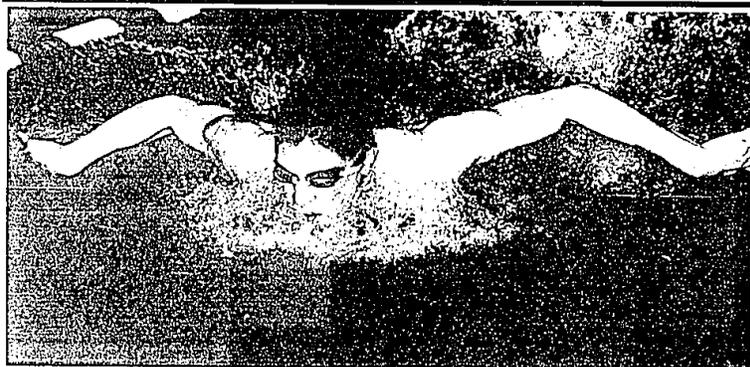
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Rick Pennala (No. 14) didn't score a point in North's 50-44 loss to Thurston Friday night, but his contributions were numerous. He dished out

11 assists and made four clutch steals during the Raiders' ill-fated comeback.

ART EMANUELE/Staff photographer



RANDY DORST/Staff photographer

Alec Campbell swam a 1:03.4 to win the 100- breaststroke in Farmington's easy win against Canton Thursday.

North, Falcon tankers roll

He's only a freshman. And that's a bit frightening.

Mike Turney, North Farmington's outstanding freshman swimmer continues to get better and better as his rookie season wears on.

He swam two personal best times leading North to a lopsided 120-51 victory against Northwest Suburban League foe Westland John Glenn Thursday night.

He won the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:50.6 and the 500 freestyle in an amazing 4:59.0. His previous best in the 500-free had been 5:06.1.

"Mike has just been a pleasure to coach," said North coach Pat Durbille. "He works hard and has a tremendous attitude."

Turney's achievements overshadowed another superb effort by North's Brian Goins.

Goins broke his own North pool record with a 52.7 in the 100 butterfly. That time is one second faster than the record he set last year, 53.7.

Goins also won the 200 individual medley in 2:07.9.

Other winners for the Raiders were: Rob Lynch (23.1 in the 50 free); Mike Buatti (51.2 in the 100 free); and Glenn Spence (1:03.4 in the 100 butterfly).

North also captured both relays. The 200 medley team of Spence, Chris Heintzman, Goins and Lynch won in 1:47.0. The 400 freestyle team of Bob Salisbury, Craig Burland, Turney and Buatti won in 3:31.7.

The Raiders, ranked No. 2 in Observerland, are 10-1 overall this season, 4-0 in the NSL. They swim at home Thursday against Garden City.

FARMINGTON, ranked No.5 in Observerland, had an easy time of it Thursday dunking Plymouth Canton, 113-59.

The Falcons got double wins from Eric Davis and Alec Campbell.

Davis won the 200 IM (2:11.71) and the 100 butterfly (57.8), while Campbell took the 100 freestyle (50.3) and the 100 breaststroke (1:08.4).

Farmington coach Greg Phill is not concerned about his team's third place standing in the Western Lakes Division. The Falcons are behind undefeated Livonia Stevenson and Plymouth Salem, the only two league teams to beat Farmington.

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