

Marlins stave off late Regina rally

Reserve guard Michelle Fryatt probably won't get her name in the headlines too often this season for the Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy basketball team.

But on Tuesday, Fryatt was thrown into the fire in a crucial moment and responded like a seasoned veteran, helping the Marlins to a 43-38 win against Catholic League rival Harper Woods Regina.

Mercy had controlled the flow of the game for three quarters. Mary Rosowski, with her 11 rebounds and seven steals, helped Mercy set and maintain the tempo of play.

Sue Scott's eight third-quarter points helped Mercy to build a 36-25 lead entering the final quarter.

But Regina, led by Janice Scherer's 12 points, mounted a furious rally. They pulled within three points with just over a minute to play.

THAT'S WHEN coach Larry Baker called on Fryatt. The Marlins had been unsuccessful in holding onto the basketball in the final quarter. Fryatt was inserted to help matters.

basketball

The Marlins worked the ball around the perimeter. Fryatt caught the Regina defense napping, and hit Rosowski with a pretty pass inside. Rosowski converted to put Mercy up by five and out of reach.

"When it came time in the fourth quarter for us to play smart and just sail away from them, we made some extremely dumb mistakes," Baker said. But, he didn't expect to blow Regina out. After all, they are ranked among the top 10 in the state, were a state finalist a year ago and have a potential all-star in Scherer.

Annette Ruggerio, Scott and Terri Ford led the Marlins scorers with 10 points each.

The win ups Mercy's record to 7-1 overall, 2-0 in the Catholic League. Regina falls to 6-2, 1-1 in the league.

Falcons fall to RU; Chiefs outlast Hawks

Junior center Julie Marchand connected on 7 of 8 free throws in the second half Tuesday to lead visiting Redford Union past Farmington in a non-league girls basketball encounter, 39-36.

Marchand, who finished with nine points, made her charity tosses when the Panthers needed them most.

"We won it at the foul line," coach Terri Anthony said. "We're starting to show poise. We're starting to come together."

Kelley Kennedy pumped in 14 points and Marie Becker added 12 for the Panthers.

Redford Union trailed by one after the first period, 11-10, but took the lead at intermission, 22-21.

Alyse Fortune led the Falcons with 17 points.

RU up its record to 3-5. Farmington dropped to 5-5.

CANTON V. HARRISON 31: Canton used a 16-2 burst in the third period Tuesday to hand the Hawks their 32nd loss in a row.

Canton led 18-16 at the half and put the game away in the third stanza by scoring the first 11 points.

Coach John Mulroy moved Diana Knickerbocker to point guard to offset Harrison's defense and Knickerbocker made Mulroy look like a prophet.

Knickerbocker finished the game with 10 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

"They had us bound-and-gagged at the end of the first half," Mulroy said. "We moved Knickerbocker to point and that broke up their defense."

Lori Scherard grabbed nine rebounds for Canton, now 5-4.

Janine Whittemore paced Harrison, now 6-10, with 12 points.

LADYWOOD 97, MARIAN 47: Host Livonia Ladywood exploded in the first quarter for 32 points and coasted to its eighth straight win, a 97-47 thrashing of Birmingham's Marian.

All-Star Emily Wagner led Tuesday evening assault on the Mustangs with 27 points and four steals. Char Gowan pumped in 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Sue Laiberte scored 17 points and had 8 rebounds.

Ladywood, 8-0 overall and 2-0 in league play, led 48-30 at the half.

"The kids were running, we were pumped up and we played good defense in the second half," Ladywood coach Ed Kavanagh said.

Noelle Nagy had 17 points for Marian, 0-2 in league play.

BISHOP GALLAGHER 68, BISHOP BORGESS 21: Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher combined a stingy defense with a potent offense Tuesday to send Redford Bishop Borgess, the home team, to its eighth straight defeat.

Gallagher led 33-8 at intermission and never let up.

Wood: Quiet man, key Hawk

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

When you think about all the great running backs in football, they all were blessed by the presence of an unheralded blocking back.

Gale Sayers had Brian Piccolo. Walter Payton had Roland Harper. Billy Sims had Dexter Bussey and now James Jones. Lyndell Mitchell had Franco Harris at Penn State. Franco Harris had Rocky Bleier at Pittsburgh. John Miller has Bill Wood.

Pardon? That's right. Bill Wood. He has been opening holes for Farmington Harrison All-American John Miller since the two were in the fifth grade.

Like Sayers, Payton, Sims and Harris, Miller has gotten most of the headlines — and quite deservedly.

Like Piccolo, Harper, Bussey, Jones and Bleier, Wood's recognition comes from coaches and teammates.

"Bill is a very unselfish player," said Harrison head coach John Herrington. "He's been up on the varsity for three years now. He came from a good football family (his brother Bob was Harrison's quarterback in 1981). You just never have to worry about him."

PLAYERS LIKE Wood have been the underlying key to the longstanding success of the Harrison football program. Dave Blackmer preceded Wood. Bill and Jim Miller, John's older brothers, performed the same roles.

Bill Wood not only blocks from his upback (full-back) position. He also kicks extra points, he's missed just one this season. And, he's a hard-hitting end on defense.

He does all those things and yet if you aren't a close follower of Harrison football, you probably have never heard of him.

"No, it doesn't really bother me," said Wood of the lack of recognition. "Sure, I think about it sometimes. But, I know that that's just how it's going to be."

A few more people found out who that "other guy in the backfield with Miller" was last Saturday. With 4:27 left in the first half in Harrison's 42-0

route of Northville, Wood carried the ball for the first time. He hustled up the middle for 11 yards. That started the Hawks onto their fourth scoring drive.

In the second half, Wood carried for 6, 28, 16 and 4 yards. When the stats were compiled, Wood rambled for 67 yards in just five carries — an average of more than 13 yards a carry.

"WHEN I DO get the ball, it's a lot easier," said Wood. "If John Miller runs to the right, half the other team follows him. That makes it easier for me."

Wood, in turn, makes life easier for Miller by clearing a linebacker or a defensive end out of Miller's way.

"Bill is almost always blocking at the point of attack," Herrington said. "He's usually blocking on the other team's best athletes."

"I know John Miller appreciates what Bill does."

Indeed, Miller has appreciated Wood for a long time. The two began playing in the same backfield when they were fifth graders. They teamed up for the Farmington Rockets and have been helping each other out since.

Amazingly, Wood harbors no tinge of jealousy or even envy toward his All-American running mate.

"I don't expect to get any attention when he's (Miller) around. I just feel honored to be able to play with him," Wood said.

SAID HERRINGTON: "Most upbacks know they aren't going to be carrying the ball much for us. They have to be willing to take pride in their ability to block. Bill has really done that for us. The standing joke is, we call Bill our deep guard because he blocks so well and so often."

Herrington also points out that Wood has excelled in other areas of the sport. Like strength. He is easily the strongest Hawk in terms of leg strength and one of the strongest overall — quite a feat for one who is but 5 foot 11, 180 pounds.



Bill Wood is a valuable, though unnoticed Hawk.

"He holds most of our weightlifting records," Herrington said.

Thus far, only one college has shown an interest in Wood's abilities. Hillsdale has contacted him.

"I'm going to pick my school first. Then I'll decide if I can play football or not," Wood said.

When Herrington reassembles his Hawks next season, 21 seniors from the 1984 team will be gone, including 12 starters. There will be a lot of talk about losing Miller and some of the other better-publicized Hawks. But, perhaps one of the toughest players to replace — in terms of ability, desire and leadership — will be Bill Wood.

the week ahead

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday, Oct. 12

Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Bentley, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Churchill at Northville, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.

Wald. John Glenn at Red. Thurston, 4 p.m.

W.L. Central at Pky. Salem, 7:30 p.m.

Farm. Harrison vs. W.L. Western at Walled Lake Central, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13

Clarencerville at Harper Woods, 1 p.m.

Pky. Canton at Farmington, 1 p.m.

Liv. Franklin at N. Farmington, 1 p.m.

St. Agatha vs. Waterford Our Lady, 1 p.m.

at R.R. Kraft Field, 7:30 p.m.

Bishop Borgess vs. Bishop Gallagher at S.C.S. South Lake, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Oct. 11

Bishop Borgess at Birmingham, 7:30 p.m.

Farmington at Liv. Bentley, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Churchill at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.

Lutheran East at Clarencerville, 7:30 p.m.

N. Farmington at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.

Red. Thurston at Wald. John Glenn, 7:30 p.m.

W.L. Western at Pky. Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Pky. Salem at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.

Farm. Harrison at Northville, 7:30 p.m.

St. Agatha at A.P. Cabrini, 7:30 p.m.

Farm. Mercy at Bish. Gallagher, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Ladywood at H.W. Regina, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday, Oct. 11

N. Farmington at Liv. Bentley, 7:30 p.m.

(Class A pre-regional game)

Friday, Oct. 12

Liv. Stevenson at Farmington, 4 p.m.

Oak Park at Garden City (West), 4 p.m.

Country Day at Farm. Harrison, 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13

Liv. Bentley at Pky. Canton, 11 a.m.

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CC wins OT thriller

Redford Catholic Central can now concentrate on the next task at hand — Saturday's Boys Bowl football clash with Birmingham Brother Rice.

It wasn't really a case of taking Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher lightly, but CC had to go into double overtime to beat the formidable Lancers, 23-20, thanks to Tom Rice's 23-yard field goal. (The game was played Saturday night at Clarencerville High School.)

CC is 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the Catholic League's Central Division. Brother Rice, a 23-20 overtime loser to Warren DeSalle, is 4-1 and 1-1.

To beat Rice, CC needs more clutch plays like the 14-yard TD Tim Thomas pass to Ron Wandzell in the first overtime. After Rice's field goal, CC defensive end Jeff Schwartz recovered a Gallagher fumble to seal the victory.

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