

Farmington cagers learn lesson in loss

The Farmington girls basketball team ran out of gas after three torrid quarters of play and dropped a 48-35 decision to Walled Lake Western Tuesday.

"But, the game may have been an important learning experience for the Falcons.

"We have to play Western again in the Western Lakes playoffs," said Falcon coach Bruce Brown. "I think we have learned a lot from this game. We handled their pressure early and Alyse (Fortune) played an outstanding game." Not only did Fortune lead all scorers with 25 points, but she played a mean defensive game on Western's all-state center Val Hall.

"She stole the ball from her a couple of times and really her a lot of problems," Brown said.

"Farmington fell behind 27-17 after a half, but put on a 13-8 spurt in the third quarter to get back into the game.

"We were down 35-30 going into the final quarter," Brown said. "I think we just ran out of gas."

"Carol Croll led Western with 15 and Hall added 13.

Western (15-1 overall, 11-1 in the

Raiders roll in NSL; Mercy marches on

league) are the champions of the Western Division. They will meet Farmington (7-9, 7-5 in the league) in the first round of the Western Lakes playoffs.

"I think we can give them a battle, especially in our gym," Brown said.

N. FARMINGTON 40, RED. THURSTON 28: The Raiders, still very much in the thick of the Northwest Suburban League title hunt, took it to Redford Thurston early and never let up.

"They shot better, rebounded better, and we shot poor," said Thurston coach Van Kostegian. "But, North is a solid ball club."

North jumped ahead 11-4 after one quarter and 26-12 by halftime.

Heather McPhillips led the way with 13 points and Patti Kozicki added 10.

Julie Engel scored 12 for Thurston (1-6 in the NSL, 4-10 overall).

North (6-2 in the NSL and 10-4 overall) is one game behind league-leading Livonia Franklin.

MERCY 63, GALLAGHER 29: Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy, playing on its home court for the final time this season, had its machine running smoothly.

"We played a real fine team game tonight," said coach Larry Baker. "I told the girls afterward that I had never seen a full squad. I'm talking about all 11 players, play a better game team wise from the opening tip to the buzzer."

The Roland Brigade had it rolling again tonight.

And with Livonia Ladywood waiting in the wings Friday night, it couldn't have come at a better time.

Mary Rosowski led a balanced Martin attack with 11 points. She also con-

tributed six rebounds and six steals. Annette Ruggiero, Terri Ford and Bev White each scored 10 points.

Defensively, Amy DeMatia put the clamps on Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher's big gun, 6-2 center Joan Rieger. Rieger scored eight points, none of which came while DeMatia was on the floor.

Mercy is now 13-1 on the season, 8-0 in the Catholic League. Gallagher, 4-4 in the conference, falls to 9-5 on the season.

LIV. STEVENSON 60, F. HARRISON 36: The Hawks gave Livonia Stevenson a battle — for a half.

Harrison trailed 29-23 after a half, but the too-tough Spartans ended all hopes of an upset with a 14-5 outburst in the third quarter.

Michelle Wise scored 13 and Jennifer Hughes 10 for the Hawks.

Lisa Bokovoy scored 22 for Stevenson (11-4 overall, 8-4 in the Western Lakes). Joan Frysinger added 16. The loss is Harrison's 15th this season and 37th straight.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Heather McPhillips led North Farmington to an easy win over Thurston Tuesday.

Mercy-Ladywood: Round 2

It's kind of like experiencing deja vu in a mirror.

Last year, the Livonia Ladywood girls basketball team captured the first round of what proved to be a three-game series with Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy.

At the time, the loss put Mercy in a must-win situation in the formidable Catholic League Central Division. But, Mercy got a break when Harper Woods Regina upset Ladywood and then the

Marlins dusted off the Blazers in their two last meetings.

A similar-but-different scenario is unfolding this year. Mercy drew first blood Oct. 16. The Marlins, behind the strong play of Terri Ford, Mary Rosowski and Annelle Ruggiero, knocked off Ladywood 55-48 before 1,000 fans at Birmingham Brother Rice.

BUT, THE scenario changed. Mercy survived where the 1983 Blazers got

knocked off. Last Thursday, the Marlins went to two overtime periods before edging Regina, 59-57.

Now, if the Blazers are to stay in the hunt for a division title, they must even the series with Mercy.

The two state powers will square off in round two Friday at Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia. Schoolcraft, you'll remember, was the site of Ladywood's only win against Mercy a year ago.

Mercy will carry an 8-0 league mark and a 13-1 overall record into the game. Ladywood comes in at 7-1 in the league, 13-1 overall. Mercy and Ladywood are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively in Observational.

It doesn't get any better.

More than 2,000 people are expected to jam the S'craft gym. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

— Chris McCosky

OU kickers eye tourney berth

With its midfielders supplying a big chunk of the offense, Oakland University's soccer team won a pair of key games last weekend to cement its berth in the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional playoffs.

OU finished first in the Wisconsin Parkside tournament by ripping Northern Kentucky 5-0 Saturday and Indiana State at Evansville (ISE) 4-1 Sunday.

The win over ISE was particularly pleasing, since that was one of the teams vying with the Pioneers for a spot in the playoffs.

Midfielder Mike Vigh excelled for OU, scoring twice against Northern

Kentucky and once more against ISE. Meally Freeman, Mark Christian and midfielder Don Gemmill also contributed scores against Northern.

Gemmill joined Vigh in scoring against ISE, giving the pair of midfielders five of OU's nine goals. Freeman and Tag Graham also contributed goals and Marty Hagen collected three assists.

Paul Larkin earned the shutout against Northern, his eighth of the season. He has a 0.41 goals-against average.

Freeman continues to top the Pioneers in scoring with 16 goals and

nine assists for 41 points. Hagen, from Troy, is second with seven goals and a team-leading 10 assists for 34 points.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak and boosted OU to 14-3 for the season. The team travels to Fairborn, Ohio, for a 2 p.m. contest Saturday against Wright State. An OU win could clinch the region's No. 1 position. The top seed in each region earns a first-round bye in the Division II tournament.

Wright State and Davis and Elkins (Elkins, W. Va.) are top contenders for post-season honors.

SPIKERS SET WIN MARK

OU's volleyball team set a new team record for wins in a season by sweeping Michigan Tech 15-10, 15-13, 15-11 Saturday at OU.

The net play of Becca Wyatt and Mary Pike keyed the triumph, the Pioneers scored in 32 matches. The win came after a disappointing loss to Northwood Institute 15-9, 15-11, 15-8

last Tuesday (Oct. 23).

OU hosts Lake Superior State in its final Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) match Thursday. The Pioneers will then defend their Can-Am Tournament title Friday and Saturday at the University of Windsor before travelling to Houghton for the LLIAC tournament Nov. 9-10.

RUNNERS ON THE ROAD

OU will send six runners — its largest representation ever — to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Saturday at Southern Illinois in Edwardsville, Ill.

Mike Karl, who finished 13th in the GLIAC championships, has the best chance of advancing to the national finals Nov. 17 at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. He will be joined at the regionals by teammates Dave McCauley, Karl Zubal, Rick Shaple, Steve Knoffner, Sean Kirschat and John Brabbs.

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Ex-Falcons win golf title

It was quite a rewarding reunion for two graduates of Farmington High School.

Bill Conroy and Mill Knight, who were classmates at Farmington in the early 1940s, reunited Oct. 17 for a friendly round of golf.

In so doing, Conroy, Knight and partners Ron Stuben and Al Pawlaczky

captured the top prize at the second annual Best Ball Tournament at Twin Beach Country Club in West Bloomfield.

The foursome combined on an 11-under par 59.

Conroy, who runs the Farmington Insurance Co., and Knight still reside in the Farmington community.

Farmington Hills man gets ace

Farmington Hills native Art Tibbits recently knocked in his first ever hole-in-one when he hit an 8-iron on the 120-

yard eighth hole at El Dorado Country Club in Walled Lake.

Tibbits, 65, has a 20 handicap.



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