

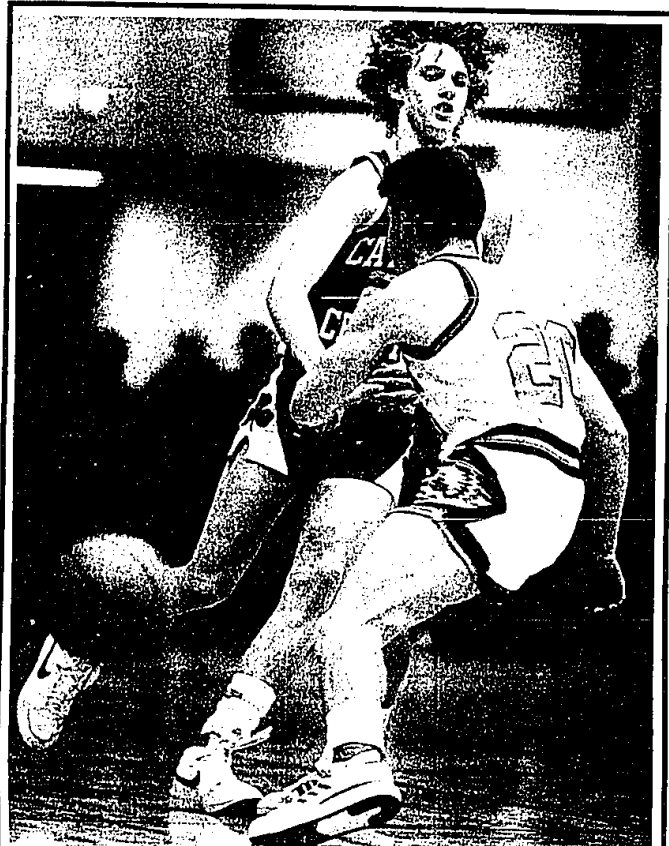
Sports

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CC's John McIntyre triggered a fourth-quarter comeback with 11 points, but it wasn't enough to overtake Brother Rice.

CC foiled

Mac-led comeback falls shy vs. Rice

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Birmingham Brother Rice put out the fire just in time Friday night to douse Central Division basketball foe Redford Catholic Central, 54-49, before an overflow crowd of 2,300 fans at Schoolcraft College.

Led by the playmaking and shooting of guard B.J. Armstrong, Rice opened up a 12-point lead during the later stages of the third quarter, only to have CC ace John McIntyre ignite a furious fourth quarter rally that nearly brought the house down.

The 6-foot-4 McIntyre, who had a game-high 27 points, opened the fourth period by scoring seven straight points, including a flying, breakaway dunk that left Rice smoldering.

A tough baseline shot by McIntyre and 2 free throws by Tom Goodwin brought the Shamrocks to within 2, 44-43, with 4:37 remaining.

But Rice regrouped, getting a clutch basket and 2 foul shots from Mike Flynn to make it 48-43. Chris

Plunkett then scored inside with 2:04 left, giving the Warriors an insurmountable 50-43 advantage and the game.

"WE GOT a little defensive at the offensive end," said Rice coach Nick Conti, explaining the turnaround. "We didn't take care of the ball, but we showed great poise and got reorganized."

The Iowa-bound Armstrong, who played a near flawless first half, finished with 20 points to lead the Warriors, now 6-1 overall and 3-0 in the Catholic League.

The 6-4 Plunkett, meanwhile, added 12 points, picking up the slack for 6-8 center Jeff Herberholz, who was saddled with foul trouble most of the night.

"We did a nice workman-like job of building a 12-point lead," Conti said. "Then we started to breathe easy."

CC used a box-and-one defense, hoping to stop Armstrong.

Rice, meanwhile, put 5-8 sophomore ballhawk Bill Fitzpatrick on the University of Detroit-bound McIntyre

most of the night.

"He (Fitzpatrick) is a great competitor for a 19th grader," said the Rice coach. "He kind of gets into people."

"WE WERE prepared to play five or six kids on McIntyre. You can't hold him down. You try to break his rhythm and try to tire him out."

Despite the constant hounding, McIntyre and his teammates caught a second wind which put them within striking distance.

"Rice played tough and played good defense," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki. "We played hard and made a great comeback. We never quit. We were just a shade off. We had them reeling."

"A deflected pass here and maybe a step there. That's how close we were. John was double- and triple-teamed and played one of his finest games."

The loss dropped CC to 5-3 overall, 1-2 in the Central.

Rice and CC get thrown back into the fire Tuesday when league action resumes.

Lisa Brundie also scored big for North, winning the beam (7.85), scoring fourth on vault (8.35), fifth on bars (8.75) and fifth on floor (7.35).

Kara Karhu placed second on vault (8.55), third on bars (7.45), third on beam (7.8) and third on floor (8.3).

Cindy Tjian also scored in three events, fifth on vault (7.75), fourth on bars (8.95) and fifth on beam (7.3).

Chris Carrier placed fourth for North on beam (7.6).

Clarencenville's Julie Jacobs scored a 7.85 on beam, tying Brundie. She also placed fourth on floor (7.7).

The Raiders are now 4-0 on the season and host Dearborn tonight.

Toroyan placed third on vault (8.4), second on bars (8.1) and second on floor (8.45).

FARMINGTON HARRISON keeps

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Kratt duo unite to befuddle Canton

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Bruce Kratt was on the bench applauding, hands raised above his head. The applause was for his brother, Dwayne Kratt, who was just coming out of the game. The two brothers' eyes met, they smiled and slapped the old high five.

The two wanted to savor that particular moment for a long time — it was the culmination of some fine work on the basketball floor by the two Farmington High brothers, known in some circles as Mr. Offense (Bruce) and Mr. Defense (Dwayne).

The Kratts, with significant help from teammate Bill Robinson, led the Falcons to a surprising 47-33 triumph against Plymouth Canton Friday night. It was the first time in three years Farmington has beaten Canton.

It was a horrible night for the visiting Chiefs. They were never able to get untracked offensively. Part of the problem was their own inability to put the ball in the hole. Another problem was Farmington's confusing, aggressive defense triggered by Dwayne.

"DWAYNE REALLY does a lot for us on the defensive end," said Farmington coach Richard Roy. "He's our quarterback out there."

Farmington uses a blend of zone and man-to-man defenses and Dwayne Kratt is the one who takes the command from the bench and organizes the troops on the floor.

Bruce Kratt runs the offensive show. He scored 15 points to lead all scorers and dished off 5 assists. He also made 4 steals, two of which led directly to baskets.

'I don't think they outthrusted us. But, they played a heck of a lot smarter than we did. That's what did us in.'

— Dave Van Wagoner
Canton coach

But, perhaps more importantly, Bruce controlled the tempo of the game once Farmington got on top. He slowed down the fastbreak when the easy basket wasn't there. He pulled the ball out and ran the Falcons' half-court offense.

"I don't think they outthrusted us," said Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner. "But, they played a heck of a lot smarter than we did. That's what did us in."

That and some woeful shooting. In the first quarter, while Farmington was building a 16-8 lead, Canton hit just 3 of 11 shots from the floor. In the second quarter, while Farmington went on an ice cold 1 for 10, Canton hit just 2 of 9.

"We were executing offensively. We got good shots. They just didn't fall," Van Wagoner said.

THINGS GOT worse for the visitors in the third quarter. The Chiefs hit just 3 of 12 from the floor and Farmington pulled ahead 34-17. Robinson was a key man for Farmington in that quarter. He scored 4 of his 10 points and dominated the boards. He finished with 9 re-

bounds on the night.

The thing about good teams, and Canton is a good team, is that even on their most horrendous nights, they'll show you a glimpse of what they can do. Canton showed what it could do in the final quarter.

The Chiefs threw an all-out, bell-bent-for-leather press at Farmington and it forced 15 fourth-quarter turnovers. The Chiefs pulled within 11 points with just under 3 minutes left, but again, poor shooting prevented them from closing the gap any further.

"I didn't think their press would bother us as much as it did," Roy said. "That surprised me."

Still, it was too little too late for Canton.

KEVIN HAWKINS led Canton with 8 points. For Farmington, Kyle Muz threw in 10 points to go along with Bruce Kratt's 15 and Robinson's 10.

Bedlam reigned to spoil the final two minutes of the game. Canton's Jim Schlucker and Farmington's Matt Lundh traded swipes at each other. Two other players were ejected. Three technical fouls and 6 personal fouls were called in the final 1:50 of the game.

"We just have to learn from this," said Van Wagoner. "And, we can't ever let a thing like this happen again. We have to stay together as a team and keep working hard."

Canton falls to 3-3 overall, 2-2 in the Western Lakes. Farmington, 4-3 overall, is an impressive 3-1 in the conference.

Bentley cagers stun Hawks

Steve Carlit canned 5 free throws in the final 90 seconds to frustrate visiting Farmington Harrison Friday and lift Livonia Bentley to a 57-52 victory.

Carlit, a senior guard, scored 7 points in the final quarter, all from the free throw line. Bentley had just 1 basket in the fourth period as Harrison charged back from a 7-point deficit after three quarters to within 2.

That's when Carlit took charge, hitting 5 of 6 from the line down the stretch. Carlit finished with 16 points.

Ken George led the late Harrison surge, bagging 9 fourth-quarter points.

George paced the Hawk attack with 15 markers, hitting a variety of shots both outside and inside.

But it wasn't enough to overcome Bentley's early advantage. The Bulldogs, behind Dennis Patchett's 6 first-quarter points, sped to an 18-10 lead. They increased that lead to 9 at the half (29-20).

"WE SHOT real well from the outside in the first quarter, and we made a couple of steals," said Bentley coach Tom Niemi. "That gave us confidence."

Harrison had 4 more field goals than

Bentley, but the Bulldogs were deadly from the stripe, hitting 17 of 20 free throws to the Hawks 4 of 8.

Joining Carlit in double figures in the scoring column for Bentley were senior forwards Pat Schneider with 15 and Sal DeMillo with 12. Patchett finished with 9 points and 9 rebounds.

Mike Dempsey added 11 points for Harrison, which dipped to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA). Bentley evened its record at 3-3 overall and 2-2 in the WLAA.

Thurston upsets North in OT

Kevin Munson opened overtime for Redford Thurston with a basket and the Eagles then paraded to the free throw line and sank 9 of 12 attempts in turning back North Farmington 69-62 Friday at Thurston.

It was a major upset for Thurston, which lost its first four games this season but has now won three straight. The Eagles are 2-1 in the Northwest Suburban League while North, the preseason pick for the title, fell to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in the league.

"It was a really big one for us," said first-year Thurston coach Mike

Schutte. "We worked so hard on defense. Things are finally coming together for us."

THURSTON LED by 2 at the half (30-28) and by 4 after three quarters (47-43), but the Raiders rallied to tie the game and force overtime on Rick Anderson's 15-foot jumper with 22 seconds left.

Munson then hit a layup and North had to foul after failing to score on its possession. Scott Filpiak hit 4 of 6 free throws and Jeff Vaughn connected on 3 of 4 to ice the win.

Filpiak, a senior guard, was outstanding all game long. He poured in 29 points, including 11 of 13 free throws, and made 6 steals to spearhead the Eagle defense. Munson finished with 13 points and Tony Sokol had 9 points and 7 rebounds.

Anderson was nearly unstoppable for the Raiders, notching 30 points. Paul Wahrman added 10.

"We worked hard in practice for two days," said Schutte. "This is two games in a row where the bench has come through."

Central pins loss on Falcon matmen

Sometimes wrestling meets seem to drag for forever. Other times, they end very suddenly.

The latter was the case Thursday night as Wallied Lake Central stunned Farmington 38-34 in a key Western Lakes dual meet.

As far as Farmington was concerned, the meet ended after the sixth match.

The Falcons struggled in the light weight classes, losing four of the first five bouts. Dave Hovey's 15-3 decision over Central's Mike Pruitt being the Falcons' only win.

But, the shocker came at 133 pounds. Central's Pat Pruitt surprised Darrell Thornish and pinned him after only a minute of wrestling.

"Thornish just got caught," said Farmington coach Barry Walsh. "That put Central up too far. We couldn't catch them."

The Falcons made a good run at the 133s though. Mike Cody won at 133, Dave Cunningham won uncontested at 155, Al Ezen pinned Chris Pryjomski at 3:20 at 167, Dan Parlo pinned Zane Forbes at 3:40 at 198 and heavyweight Bill Critcher pinned

Gordie Johnstone in 3:10.

All for naught.

"Walled Lake Central is not right now and we're cold," Walsh said. "At the Oakland County meet they had eight kids in the finals and they have just excelled since then."

"I still believe we have a good team. We just don't seem to have our heads together right now."

The loss leaves Farmington at 4-2. Central is 3-2. All Western Lakes teams are chasing frontrunners Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton, both 5-0.

NORTH FARMINGTON stayed in contention for a possible Northwest Suburban League title shot by topping Redford Union Thursday, 42-30.

To win the title, North will have to beat John Glenn, ranked No. 4 in the area and No. 9 in the state. Glenn nipped Garden City 31-26 Thursday in what many consider the NSL's title-deciding match.

Against RU, North was the recipient of three uncontested wins via voids. The Raiders also won four

matches on pins. At 119, Paul Cook pinned Bill Griffin in 2:31. Dan Scully (146) pinned Brendon O'Reilly in 1:30. Brian Hood (155) stuck J.B. Summers in 2:53 and heavyweight Greg Collier pinned Bob Shoemaker in 4:40. The win leaves the Raiders with a 3-3 record.

FARMINGTON HARRISON hasn't had much to cheer about these days on the mats, but three Hawk wrestlers are having solid seasons.

Last week, the Hawks lost to Plymouth Salem 60-15 on Tuesday, then 18 to Plymouth Canton on Thursday. In both of those meets, Cliff Alcantara, Dennis Romps and Pat Dugas scored the lone Hawk victories.

Alcantara, wrestling at 98 pounds, pinned Salem's Scott Conlin in 5:33, then stuck Canton's Tom Flores in just 11 seconds.

Romps, at 122, defeated Salem's Kirk Rents and Canton's Jay Pollard. Dugas scored decisions over Salem's Greg Woodchuk and Canton's Doug Eldridge.

The Hawks are winless this season.

Raiders score 128 in victory

Just when it looks like there might be some parity on the Observersland gymnastics scene for a change, the dynasty flexes its muscle.

North Farmington, the area's gymnastics power for the past seven years, amassed a rather awesome 128-4 team score against Clarencenville Thursday night. Cville scored 105.3.

"The routines were very clean," said Raider coach Mary Giltz. "We were very pleased with the performance. The kids were pretty excited."

The scary thing is, North could easily have scored even higher. Eileen Murtaugh and Lucine Toroyan, the Raiders' top two all-around scorers, didn't compete on the balance beam.

"We knew we had the ability to score like that when everyone is on," Giltz

gymnastics

said. "We have the potential to score even higher than that."

To put it in perspective, Troy High, considered one of the top teams in the state to date, scored 128 in its first dual meet — 128 is an impressive score.

Murtaugh was North's leader again winning each of the three events she competed in. She scored 8.7 in the vault, an 8.55 on uneven parallel bars and an 8.85 on floor exercise.

Toroyan placed third on vault (8.4), second on bars (8.1) and second on floor (8.45).