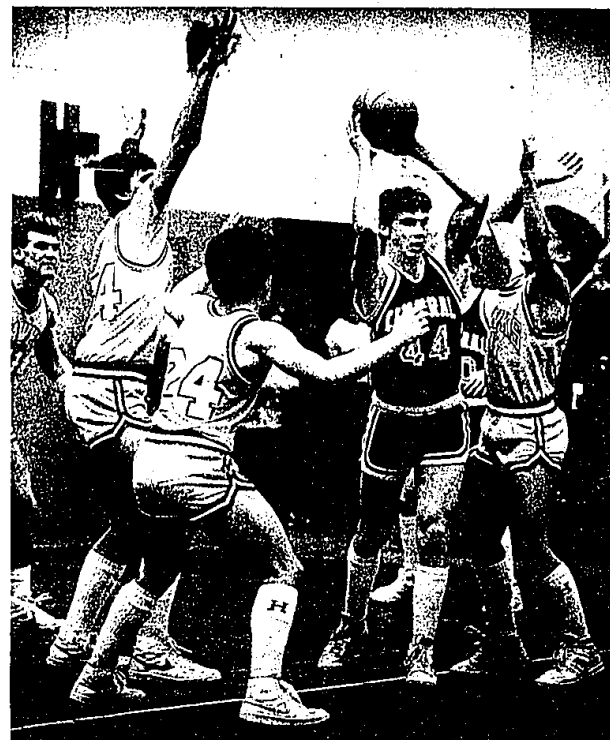




Thursday, January 24, 1985 O&E

Hawks outlast Central in OT



Central's Tom Cummings (with ball) is surrounded by a band of Hawks: Mike Dempsey (54), Ken Hixon (24) and Ken

George (11). The Hawks won Tuesday night in overtime.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

There's a lot to be said about athletic ability on a basketball court.

Farmington Harrison does not have the area's best basketball players, but it may have the area's best all-around athletes.

As a result, Harrison is one of the best basketball teams in Observerland. The Hawks proved that Tuesday night with a stirring 54-46 overtime victory against Walled Lake Central.

The win proved something else about these Hawks: they are one of the best teams in the Western Lakes. The Hawks and Walled Lake Central came into the game with identical records, 4-1 in the league and 6-2 overall. Central is second in the Lakes Division, Harrison is now entrenched at the top of the Western.

Tuesday night's clash was a classic struggle. The home team Hawks controlled most of the game leading by as many as 10 points as late as the final quarter.

BUT, THE fleshy Vikings came charging back behind some torrid per-

imeter shooting from Chris Owen, Mike Kohler and Tom Cummings. With 1:17 left to play, Central led 45-42.

Then John Miller, the heart and soul of the Hawks, took over. He made a nifty feed inside to Vince Enright for a bucket to pull Harrison to within a point, 45-44, with a minute to play.

Mike Dempsey, Harrison's 6-foot-7 center who was dominant much of the game for the Hawks, made a steal with 40 seconds left. But Harrison missed shot and Ken Hixon forced Cummings with 14 seconds left.

Cummings hit the first free throw and missed the second — it was the reprieve Harrison needed.

With 12 seconds left and the Hawks down by 2, Ken George worked the ball up the court. The ball swung around the perimeter to Miller. On the baseline, some 12 feet from the hoop, Miller, with three Vikings pestering, simply pulled up and drained the jumper with two seconds left. Overtime.

"You just can't say enough about John Miller," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "He is our leader. He is the guy who gets everyone pumped up. Al-

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Falcons, North win

Farmington's red-hot shooting in the first quarter cooled to an ember by the game's end but the Falcons still had enough heat to burn host Livonia Churchill, 60-56, in a Western Lakes basketball game Friday night.

Farmington opened the game with a 20-7 first quarter lead. The Falcons led 35-26 at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Chargers got to within 1 point, but couldn't extinguish the Falcon lead.

Bill Robinson had 18 points for Farmington (5-5 overall, 4-3 in the league). Greg Foustra clipped in 12 and Bruce Kratt added 10 to the winning total.

For Churchill (2-7 overall, 2-4 in league play), Mike Hermanson had 17 points and 7 rebounds and Scott Hille scored 15 points and had 10 rebounds. Andy Oliver scored 13 and Mickey Katschor dished off 9 assists.

N. FARMINGTON 57, LAKELAND 39: Tom Negoshian taught his old boss a new lesson Friday night.

Negoshian and his North Farmington Raiders invaded Milford Lakeland and handed the Eagles a sound 57-39 defeat.

Milford's coach, Lyn Reed, was the head coach at Oakland Community College and Negoshian was his assistant. The North coach's yearning for a win was twofold.

"It was an important game for us," Negoshian said. "I think the kids sensed that were fired up."

"But I'm pleased. We keep getting better and we're pleased about it."

North (8-3) jumped out to a 17-8 lead and built it up throughout the game.

Rick Anderson scored 14 points and hauled down 10 rebounds for the Raiders and teammate Bob Chwalik added 12 points and 8 rebounds.

Dan Buezniger paced Milford with 16 points.

C.J. Risak

Making rules: It's a dirty job people love

RULES, RULES, RULES. Everything within the rules. Confining, restraining, constraining, refining rules. Who makes the rules? People — and we all know how imperfect they are. Which makes rule-making the measure of professions for there will always be a need for people to rule on rules.

Sports embodies this addiction of ours, for nowhere are rules more strictly enforced than in the games we play.

I've got nothing against rules, as long as they pertain to everyone. For instance, two basketball teams playing under different sets of rules would be silly, right?

Or, say, one team using a different size basketball than another. Or even teams on one part of the nation interpreting the same rules differently than teams in another part.

RIDICULOUS, RIGHT? Of course it is. That's why I should come as no big surprise that each of the above has occurred.

The first everyone remembers quite well. The reminders of it encircle collegiate basketball courts everywhere. Remember? The 3-point field-goal line, I mean. What a job the NCAA did with that.

Actually, what the NCAA said was that it would not allow 3-point field goals — or shot clocks — to be used in the season-ending tournament, which just added to the confusion.

Some conferences adopted 3-point lines, some didn't. Some had shot clocks, some didn't. And to add interest, some 3-point lines were 22-feet away while others were as little as 19. Shot clocks ranged from 30 to 45 seconds.

The experiment didn't last too long, thank goodness. How could it? It doesn't make sense for teams to play under a dozen different sets of rules.

BUT TIME marches on . . .

And so do the basketball rulesmakers. Next, they figure, let's tinker with women's basketball. We'll improve the game, make it more like the men's game by shrinking the ball. That will make it easier to handle, there will be fewer turnovers, and the game will be more exciting. A smaller, lighter ball will be easier to dunk, too.

Imagine that! A girl dunking the ball! Well, as it turned out, this change in rules has helped in unexpected ways and done little that it was expected to help.

"It's definitely made a difference," said Schoolcraft College women's coach Ed Kavanaugh. "I love it, they love it."

WHERE IT has helped is not in ballhandling or dunking — a girl actually did dunk a ball this season, the first time ever in a game situation. According to Kavanaugh, it has helped "shooting range, but not necessarily accuracy. And it helps distance passing. They can get out on the break better."

Sue Kruszewski, Oakland University's coach, has noticed no significant changes. "They like playing with it," she said, "but it hasn't really helped our shooting percentage much."

The rub here isn't so much the changing of the size of the ball, but its limitations. High school girls still use the bigger balls, which seem like a little like a weightlifter starting with heavy weights and working down. Wouldn't it make better sense for younger players to start with the small ball and work up to the larger one — not vice versa?

Kavanaugh is hopeful the smaller ball will be adopted for high school play nationally, which would be helpful in this state since it would take until the turn of the century for the MHSAA to make a ruling on such a "controversial" topic.

NOW, SO NO stones be left unturned, the basketball rulesmakers have moved into the NCAA's arena for some fine-tuning.

If anyone at Schoolcraft wanted to protest the Ocelots loss of three games earlier this month, they could make a case of it. After all, the team was playing without its two top scorers, who were sidelined by a misinterpretation of the rules.

Here's what happened: The NCAA passed a new rule stating all players must pass at least 12 credit hours in the previous semester to compete. The previous rule said athletes must pass 10 hours. James Orr and Harold Martin each passed only 10 hours so, under the new NCAA standard, they were ineligible. Schoolcraft played three games with just seven players and lost all three.

Then the NCAA discovered some regions of the country were enforcing the rule differently than others. A phrase included in the new ruling said it cannot create a hardship on players enrolled in school. Some regions translated that as players already enrolled can follow the 10-hour standard.

SCHOOLCRAFT'S REGION followed the new ruling to the letter, and it cost them. Late last week, the NCAA issued a clarification, stating that students enrolled in school before the new rule's adoption can follow the old rule.

Orr and Martin returned to action last Saturday, much to the delight of coach Rocky Watkins. Still, it would have been much nicer to have them when the Ocelots were losing those three straight.

"They unnecessarily sat out three games," said Watkins. "It's the NCAA's fault. They made a clarification in the middle of the season."

"It was very untypical of them. They're usually very stern. There was pressure applied by other regions, but I was surprised they gave in."

Watkins isn't complaining, because he got his two stars back.

Besides, should he start complaining, who knows? They may change the rules again, make them play with a Nerf ball and throw in a 30-foot free-throw line, just for good measure.

God knows, they're work isn't done yet.

Turnovers slow Lady Pioneers

There was much optimism when Oakland University opened its women's basketball season.

And why not? The Pioneers had a three-time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) performer returning in Brenda McLean, together with two other starters and the top reserve.

What they didn't have was an experienced point guard. And that has developed into a serious shortcoming.

OU returned from a disastrous trip north early Sunday morning with little in the way of good news. The Pioneers lost twice on their road trip, the latest coming at Michigan Tech Saturday by an 81-70 margin. It was the first time Tech had ever beaten OU.

"OUR PROBLEMS have been turnovers and rebounding," said coach Sue Kruszewski. The loss at Tech was the third straight in GLIAC play for OU, after a 3-0 start, and dropped the Pioneers to 8-9 overall.

It won't get easier, either, not with GLIAC front-runners Grand Valley and Saginaw Valley coming to OU this week. Grand Valley is 5-1 in the GLIAC and will take on the Pioneers at 6 o'clock tonight. Saginaw Valley, the defending conference champ, is 6-0 and will face the Pioneers at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Kruszewski admitted there is still a problem at point guard. Pam Hawkins has filled the position most of the season, with Maria Reynolds also seeing some playing time.

Neither has been effective. Hawkins, according to Kruszewski, "is a natural forward. That's where she's most comfortable."

And that's where she'll return. Kruszewski planned to start junior Kris Brown at the point against Tech until Brown tore ligaments in her knee.

Kruszewski now wants to start junior transfer Julie Wilga, a Livonia Franklin graduate, at the troublesome position.

"She's had some experience there, so we'll give her a shot," said the OU coach.

WHILE THE PROBLEM at the point might have been foreseen, it's hard to figure how OU could be ranked last in the GLIAC in rebounding with McLean and 6-foot-3 center Kim Nash. Nash, however, is foul-prone, and McLean has all too often been left to clear the boards herself.

Against Tech, McLean turned in an outstanding performance with 25 points and 16 rebounds. But OU couldn't stop Tech's hot shooting. The Huskies hit 67 percent of their second-half floor shots to pull away from a 34-32 halftime lead to an eventual 11-point triumph.

"The teams we've been playing have been playing extremely well," said Kruszewski. "More than our playing poorly, other teams have much improved."

Forward Sarah Knuth added 18 points and 8 rebounds for OU, while guard Toni Gasparovic scored 13 points. Mary Fisher poured in 27 points and grabbed 10 boards for Tech, which improved to 2-5 in the GLIAC and 4-10 overall.

HOWZE PACES OF WIN

Chris Howze pumped in 6 of his career-high 29 points during overtime to lead visiting OU past Michigan Tech 62-59 Saturday.

The win evened the Pioneers' GLIAC record at 3-3 and earned them a split in their northern trip. They lost last Thursday at Lake Superior State. OU is 10-6 overall.

The Pioneers led 26-22 at the break, but Tech, which shot just 33 percent in the opening half, fought back to tie it at 53 and force the overtime. Howze, who also led the team in rebounding with 9, then scored 6 of OU's 9 points to clinch the victory.

Randy Strunk added 14 points for OU, while freshman guard Scott Blittinger collected 10 points and 8 rebounds. Filmore Walker paced Tech (2-6 in the GLIAC, 2-11 overall) with 17 points.

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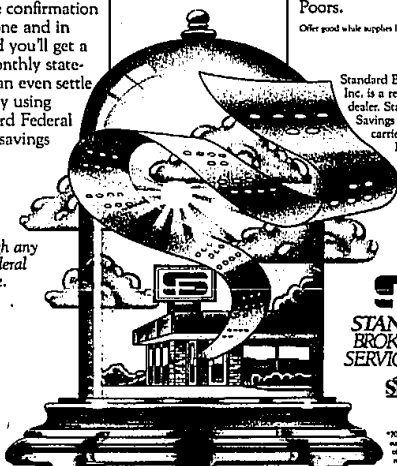
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