



No contest: Brother Rice buries CC

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Jeff Herberholz stole the ball at the Catholic Central free throw line and drove the length of the floor. As he approached the basket he twirled the ball behind his back and slammed it through the hoop.

Jeff Herberholz is a 6-foot-8 center.

His play was typical of Brother Rice's performance Sunday night in the quarterfinal round of the Catholic League playoffs — Brother Rice could do no wrong.

Rice, for the third time this season, blasted Redford Catholic Central. Final score: 71-57.

Rice will advance to the semifinal round at 6:45 p.m. Thursday at Calihan Hall on the University of Detroit campus.

The Warriors will play either East Catholic or Southgate Aquinas.

The game disappointed many of the near 6,000 fans that crowded into Calihan, but nobody was more disappointed than CC coach Bernie Holowicki. His team sleepwalked through the first 4 minutes of play and found itself in a 9-0 hole — a hole that only got deeper as the game progressed.

"We were beaten before we started," Holowicki said. "Sometimes you believe in yourself and sometimes you don't. They beat us twice in a row. You'd think we'd be emotionally ready to play. We weren't."

THE BOYS FROM Birmingham certainly came ready to play.

B.J. Armstrong, as he has done in all three matchups

with CC, stole the show. His final stats: 31 points (9 of 13 from the floor and 13 of 15 from the free throw line) and 8 assists.

"These performances, and the one Tuesday (51 points vs. Cahoon), he is capable of every night," Rice coach Nick Conti said. "I'm certainly not surprised."

John McIntyre, CC's top gun and Armstrong's off-the-court buddy, scored 26 points, hitting 11 of 27 shots.

But Armstrong got a lot more help than McIntyre. Herberholz added 19 points and Chris Plunkett had 12.

No other Rice scorers had double figures.

"We've been doing a better job of this kind of play in the last third of the season," Conti said. "Before they would make a run. It has gotten smaller and smaller as the sea-

son has gone along. We never gave CC a chance to make a run at us."

"THE CLOSEST thing to a "run" that CC made came in the second quarter. McIntyre forced 3 Rice turnovers and scored 8 points to pull CC within 4, 25-21.

Undaunted, Rice finished the half with an 8-3 spurt and never looked back.

"I believe a great number of games are won or lost in the first 3 minutes of a game or in the first 3 minutes of the second half," Conti said. "The game may have been won right there."

No arguments here. The Warriors ran off an 11-3 spurt to begin the second half; the issue was decided.

Rice is now 15-2 on the season. CC falls to 11-6.

Spartans cool Harrison

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Save the Rodney Dangerfield jokes, please, but the Livonia Stevenson basketball team is seeking some respect.

The Spartans are 15-1 on the season



Rod Sarcovich gave the Hawks some solid play off the bench.

and unbeaten in 12 Western Lakes conference games. Yet, they aren't ranked or even mentioned in the state polls.

Adding insult to injury, the Detroit News, prior to Thursday's battle of the Western Lakes division champs, picked Farmington Harrison to beat the Spartans.

"I think that upset some of the kids," said veteran Stevenson coach George Van Wagoner. "I think we had something to prove here tonight."

The Spartans may not have proved anything of statewide relevance, but they did reinforce their dominance in the Western Lakes. The Spartans, champions of the Lakes Division, bested Harrison, champions of the Western Division, 62-53.

"I THINK this was big," Van Wagoner said. "But we still have to prove we're not just strong in our league."

Unfortunately, the only way Stevenson will be able to prove that is to get out of its district. Only in the regionals will the Spartans face teams outside Observersland.

Thursday's clash was billed as the battle of the Western Lakes' best. And, for three quarters, the game lived up to its billing.

The first half displayed an old-fashioned shoot-out between Harrison's John Miller and Stevenson's Matt Burdiss. Each scored 14 first-half points, but Stevenson escaped the half with a 29-26 lead.

Bob Sluka's 8 third quarter points kept Stevenson ahead 42-40 going into the final quarter.

It was at this point the game degenerated.

The game was physical throughout and got out of hand in the last eight minutes. The referees called 20 fouls through the first three quarters, 18 in the fourth.

And it was free throws that eventually won the game for Stevenson. The Spartans hit 12 of 18 free throws down the stretch, Harrison hit 7 of 12 and missed a pair of crucial one-and-one opportunities in the final 3 minutes.

"THE GAME was meant to be played with the clock running," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman, who was not enamored with the officiating. "That's not what happened here. They stopped us tonight with the whistle. We got all the touch calls. They'd (Stevenson) ram us and get no call. That bothers me."

Teachman was also upset because starting forward and Hawk co-captain Vince Enright was in foul trouble from the first quarter on, eventually fouling out in the first minute of the final quarter. Teachman felt the fouls called on Enright were unwarranted.

Teachman was slapped with a technical foul early in the fourth quarter and Stevenson turned it into a 4-point play and went up 53-44.

THE LEAD proved insurmountable, though the Hawks had numerous chances to battle back.

North gets revenge; Falcons in playoffs

North Farmington's basketball team turned the tide on Northwest Suburban rival Redford Thurston Thursday night when the Raiders averaged an earlier season loss to the Eagles, 67-53, in Farmington.

North (12-5 overall and 5-3 in the league) used a strong second quarter, outscoring Thurston 18-9, to take the lead 39-22 at intermission.

Paul Wahrman and Rick Anderson combined for 24 first-half points for the Raiders. Wahrman finished with 18 points and 16 rebounds. Anderson had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

"They put a box-and-one on Anderson and the other kids hit tonight," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "When (the reserves) hit we win, when they don't, we lose."

The Hawks stopped Stevenson on just 1 point in its last 9 possessions, but could only score 5 points themselves.

Spartan free throws from Burdiss, Ed Gilbert and Pete Hudny iced the win.

"This was a total team victory," Van Wagoner said. "Right down to the last player."

Burdiss led all scorers with 22 points. He also pulled down 14 rebounds and dished out 7 assists. Sluka added 16 points despite fouling out in the final quarter. Gilbert scored 11 points and made 6 steals. He was also effective handling the ball against Harrison's press.

For Harrison, Miller finished with 20 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists. Ken George scored 17 points and Mike Dempsey added 11 points and 7 rebounds. Ken Hixson dished out 7 assists.

The Hawks are now 9-3 in the league, 11-5 overall.

Dean Temple pumped in 12 points for the Raiders and Bob Chwalk had 8 points and 13 rebounds. All of Chwalk's points came in the second half.

Scott Filipiak led Thurston with 15 points and Dan Ramos and Tony Sokol each had 9 for the Eagles.

FARMINGTON 77, W.L. WESTERN 64: The Farmington parents didn't hear the halftime speech by Richard Roy, they just saw the results — an impressive second half that ended a come-from-behind Western Lakes win for the Falcons Friday night.

Trailing by 9 at intermission, 45-36, Roy gave his team a lockerroom pep talk.

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John Miller's (No. 44) hot hand kept Farmington Harrison in the ball game Thursday night against Livonia Stevenson. Stevenson, though, defeated the Hawks, 62-53.

Raider gymnasts give coach happy homecoming



Eileen Murtaugh scored 33.45 all around Friday to lead North past Plymouth Salem. She won on both vault and bars.

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

It was the best of Observersland gymnastics, the No. 1 and No. 2 teams meeting head on.

But that was of secondary importance to No. 1-ranked North Farmington.

Friday afternoon's meet with Plymouth Salem was the homecoming for North coach Mary Glitz. Glitz had missed the last three meets because she was busy giving birth (on Feb. 5) to 7-pound, 3-ounce Scott Walter.

When Glitz walked through the doors of the North gym Friday, about five minutes prior to the meet, the place erupted. The first to greet her was team manager Kristin Oswald. Soon, the popular coach was mobbed by all her gymnasts.

It was an emotional moment for the coach and for the players. In fact, there was perhaps more emotion spent over Glitz's return than there was over the meet itself.

THE RAIDERS knocked off Salem 127.65-124.30 in a meet that neither team will place among their seasonal highlights. North had scored in the 130s its last three meets. Salem's team scores, meanwhile, may have reached a premature peak.

"After the attitude problems we've had this week, I'm surprised we came as close as we did," said Salem coach Kathi Kinella. "It's not that they have a bad attitude. It's more of a laxy attitude. They just can't seem to get going."

"I'm pleased with the performance. It's just that we're not going to get better as a team until some of these girls

develop some spirit and leadership and compassion — until they are willing to help out the other people as well as work improve themselves."

For the Raiders' gymnasts, Friday's meet was used to implement new tricks into their routines.

"We tried some new things out there," said North assistant coach Dennis Fitzgerald, who has run the team in Glitz's absence. "We were not mentally sharp in the other areas, and the judges were quick to pick up on that. They didn't miss anything."

"But, we had to get these new tricks into the routines before the league meet and regionals. You can't walk in a league meet and throw something you haven't thrown before."

THE MEET featured four line all-around performers: Eileen Murtaugh and Lucine Toroyan from North and Jackie Huff and Beth Raffal from Salem.

Murtaugh and Raffal tied for all-around honors with 33.45 points each. Toroyan scored 33.25 and Huff, bothered by an injured ankle, scored 32.0.

But the difference in the meet, as it turned out, was Kara Karhu. Karhu, North's No. 3 performer, scored 31.95 all-around including an eye-popping 8.5 floor exercise and a no-fall 8.1 balance beam. Salem's No. 3 performer, Sara Michalik, scored 28.40 all-around.

Murtaugh and Raffal set the tone for their individual dual by each pulling 8.6 on vault. Karhu was next with an 8.35, followed by Toroyan's 8.25. Huff placed fifth with an 8.15.

Murtaugh won on the uneven bars with an 8.25. Toroyan and Huff each scored 8.15 and Raffal scored 8.0.

After the first two events, North led 63.35-61.50.

TOROYAN AND Raffal, both demonstrating confident and poised routines, tied on beam with 8.4 scores. Murtaugh garnered an 8.2, Karhu and Huff each scored 8.1.

Huff and Karhu stole the show on floor. Huff scored an 8.6, besting Karhu's 8.5. Raffal and Toroyan each scored 8.45 and Murtaugh finished her night with an 8.4.

The win improves North's record to 10-1, the only loss coming to state-ranked Troy. The loss was the Rocks' first this season, they are 9-1.

PLYMOUTH CANTON won its first two meets of the season last week.

On Monday, the Chiefs bested Vassar in the second half of a double dual with Freeland, 111.9-108.3. Freeland scored 136.95 in the meet.

Then on Wednesday, the Chiefs scored their first Western Lakes win of the season, topping Farmington 132.25-107.4.

A quartet of Chiefs helped offset the individual talents of Farmington's Kara MacIntosh. MacIntosh won on bars (7.85) and floor (7.83) and placed second on vault (7.7) and beam (7.1).

Ann Healey won the vault (7.75) and placed second on floor (7.4) for the Chiefs. Apryl Mosakowski won on beam with a 7.15. Megan McGow placed third on vault (7.65) and second on bars (7.8).

Shelly Ludwig placed fourth on vault (7.45) and third on bars (7.45).

Also for Canton, Carol Horvath tied Farmington's Lauren Mistor for third on beam (6.85), and Cheryl Battaglia took fourth on both bars (6.9) and floor (7.2), and placed fifth on vault (7.15).

Debi DeWitt placed third on floor for Farmington (7.35).

Against Vassar, Ludwig won on bars (7.4), Mary Jo Charroo won on beam (7.3) and Healey on floor exercise (7.8). McGow placed second on vault (7.85).

The Chiefs are now 2-9 on the season. Farmington falls to 2-7.

CC skiers 2nd in region

The Redford Catholic Central ski team put on a surprising display of excellence last week and finished second overall in the Mt. Brighton Region 2 tournament to qualify for the state meet.

The Shamrocks tied for first in the giant slalom and finished fourth in the slalom in the 15 team field. Brighton won the region.

Jeff Evenson ended up third in the slalom and sixth in the giant slalom while teammate Paul Cutcher was seventh in the giant slalom.

Other top 20 finishers for CC were Jeff Armstrong (15th in the giant slalom) and Greg Mularoni (19th in the giant slalom).

The Shamrocks compete in the state finals against nine other teams Feb. 25.