

## Sports

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# Surprise! North jolts Jays



Rick Anderson (with ball) looks over the Southfield defense Friday night as Tyrone Green (No. 40) tries to put the stop on the Raider Junior. Anderson scored 22 points for North.

By C.J. Rilek  
staff writer

Southfield's Blue Jays never believed it could happen.

They believe it now. North Farmington forced them to face reality by outbounding, outrebounding and outplaying them, which rightfully led to the Raiders outscoring the Jays in a 57-54 district basketball final at West Bloomfield Friday.

"Our guys really didn't think this could happen," said Southfield coach Greg Silwka, whose team bowed out at 20-3. "We didn't deserve this ball game."

Truthfully spoken. And yet, as poorly as the Jays played for 3 1/4 quarters, they earned credit for never surrendering. They trailed 55-43 with 3:33 left but clawed back to within a pair with 35 seconds left.

North, now 15-7 and headed for a first-round regional contest against either Ferndale or Oak Park at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Ferndale, sided the Southfield rally by missing the first free throw in 7-1-and-1 situations in the last quarter.

BUT THE RAIDERS finally got the man they wanted at the free throw line when it counted. With 30 seconds left, Rick Pennala canned a pair to increase North's lead to 62-52.

Ken Coleman's basket off a rebound pulled Southfield back to within 2 with 11 seconds remaining. But Pennala was fouled again with 6 seconds to go, and he hit 1 of 2 to clinch North's first district crown under coach Tom Negoshian.

It could have been easier for the Raiders, whose take-it-to-'em offense and packed-in zone defense frustrated Southfield all night, and it could have been easier on Negoshian. The coach was thoroughly drained after the win, which was a long time in coming — the two teams shot 32 free throws in the final 3:04.

WHAT WOULD have made it easier for both North and Negoshian was to have a few more regulars left on the floor in the late going. Rick Anderson and Paul Wahrman, whose dead-eye shooting devastated Southfield, and Bob Chwalk all fouled out. That trio led North's scorers with 22, 21 and 9 points respectively, and Chwalk controlled the boards with 14 rebounds.

Anderson exited with 7:20 to play. Wahrman followed with 3:04 remaining, and Chwalk left with 1:10 on the clock.

That left it up to the reserves, and they did just enough.

"It was a credit to the bench and the kids who came off the bench," said Negoshian. "They made some clutch free throws."

"Some" is 13 of 25 in the final quarter, after the Raiders canned 10 of their first 13. That kind of inaccuracy brought back dark memories for Negoshian, whose team lost in last year's district final to Southfield because of poor free throw shooting.

WHAT WON it for North wasn't the last quarter, but the first 3. The Raiders shot selection was excellent, and they made the most of it by hitting 19 of 28 floor shots going into the fourth quarter.

They overcame a 5-point play by the Blue Jays — a basket and free throw by Tyrone Green, a free throw by Vince Baldwin after a technical foul was called on Chwalk, and a basket by Baldwin — to tie it at 19 after a quarter.

Southfield was dismal on offense — "Terrible, from both the field and the free throw line" was how Silwka summarized it — until Baldwin heated up

in the final period, scoring 10 of his 19 points. Green scored 12 in the game and Ken Hollie had 10.

THE JAYS hit just 3 of 15 second-quarter shots and were 4-of-12 in the third. They managed just 14 of 28 free throws, including 2-for-9 in the first half.

A 3-point play by Anderson, who scored 18 first-half points (11 in the first quarter), put North up 32-20 with 1:46 left in the half. The Jays narrowed it to 32-24 at the intermission on baskets by Hollie and Green.

Six points apiece by Anderson and Wahrman helped the Raiders build their biggest lead, 48-32 with 54 seconds left in the third quarter.

"I thought there were two keys to the game," said Negoshian. "We had to make our free throws — we lost it there last year — and we had to hold them to one shot, and I thought we did that when our starters were in there. We also needed a strong floor game from Pennala, which we got."

The Raiders also got 3 free throws in the final 30 seconds from Pennala, and that proved to be the difference.



Southfield's Ken Hollie (with ball) works on North's Rick Pennala

## Falcons miss on district title bid

By Chris McCoaky  
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson has its Class A district basketball crown back.

After getting derailed by Livonia Bentley last year, the Spartans bounced Farmington 66-48 Friday night to win their fourth district championship in six years.

The victory Friday at Livonia Churchill's gym was by no means a masterpiece for the Spartans. In fact, it was rather symbolic of Stevenson's entire season. The Spartans played great at times, horrendous at times, but in all instances, they played well enough to win.

The Spartans played to near perfection in the first quarter, scoring on all but three possessions, hitting 10 of 17 shots and building up a 23-10 lead.



It's not difficult to tell how the Falcons fared Friday night by looking at the faces of the Farmington regulars — they lost to Stevenson.

Then the Livonians went to sleep for two quarters. In that time, they hit 11 of 31 shots and committed 8 turnovers.

WHILE THE Spartans slumbered, Farmington scratched back into contention. The Falcons, behind the sterling play of Bill Robinson, got within 6 points, 41-35, with just under two minutes left in the third quarter. They had four chances to narrow the gap even further but misfired.

That run, though, seemed to exhaust the Falcons and Stevenson rolled away from them in the final quarter.

"I think you've got to say the best team won tonight," said Farmington coach Richard Roy, whose team hasn't won a district title since 1977. "They just have too much size and

they shot extremely well in that first quarter."

Stevenson's Bob Sluka terrorized the glass all night. He finished with 16 rebounds and scored 8 of his 18 points off offensive rebounds.

He wasn't the only standout for Stevenson. Ed Gilbert put on one of his best offensive shows of the season. He scored 19 points and tore apart whatever type of defense Farmington put forth with his ability to penetrate the lane.

The 6-foot senior guard even tried to throw down a dunk — but he missed.

"I THOUGHT Gilbert and Pete Huddy (10 points), our guards, did a real nice job," said Stevenson coach George VanWagoner. "We couldn't let their guard (Bruce) Kratt go, and I

think the kids did a nice job of stopping him."

Indeed, Bruce Kratt was limited to just 6 points. But Robinson picked up the slack for Farmington scoring 15 points before fouling out in the final quarter. Kyle Mutz added 9 for the Falcons (11-12).

"I think our kids played hard," Roy said. "They have all year."

The task at hand for the Spartans (19-3) will most likely be Detroit Mackenzie Wednesday night at Southfield-Lathrup in the first round of the regionals.

"I think anything can happen once you step out on a basketball floor," VanWagoner said. "Mackenzie is tough. They doubled a good Fordson

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## Observerland's best sails in Salem district

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Chuck Henry says the pressure is off his Wayne High basketball team.

His players achieved their fourth and final goal of the season Friday night, wearing down Northville to win the Class A district title at Plymouth Salem, 65-40.

The Zebras, sporting a 21-1 record, face Public School League (PSL) champion Detroit Southwestern (20-2) in a first-round regional game Wednesday night at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse. (Game time is 6:30 p.m.)

"This is sweet," said Henry, who won his first district title ever as Wayne's coach. "We wanted to win our Christmas tournament, league title, city title and district title. We've achieved every goal we set."

"In the hearts of a lot of people, because of the way we lost to Ann Arbor Huron (77-43), nobody gives us a chance against Southwestern."

"I feel the pressure is on them. We'll play loose, play our hearts out and let the chips fall where they may."

AFTER ESCAPING Wednesday's double-overtime triumph over Plymouth Salem, a more relaxed Wayne team carried out its business against Northville.

The Mustangs put up a fight, but were simply no match for the determined Zebras.

"We fought them as hard as we could for 3 1/4 quarters," said Northville coach Omar Harrison, whose team finished 10-12 overall. "Then we made physical and mental mistakes. We just wore down. I thought we did an excellent job at handling their pressure and overall I'm pleased. But we don't have the strength coming off the bench."

Wayne, using as many as 10 players, exerted full-court pressure all night.

Northville trailed 15-10 after one quarter and 32-23 at the half.

The Mustangs then pulled within six at the outset of the second half, 32-26, on John Storm's 3-point play, but never got any closer.

Wayne made things happen defensively, sparked by reserve guard David Reynolds, who had 8 points and 6 steals for the game.

"HE'S OUR best defensive player in understanding our scheme of things," Henry said. "You saw him strip the ball a number of times. Defense is his specialty."

Wayne's two main weapons offensively, 6-foot-6 Pollis Robertson and 6-2 forward Howard Flowers, shot a combined 14 of 24 from the field.

The Wisconsin-bound Robertson had 16 points and 4 blocked shots. It was his cradle-style slam dunk with 5:48 left in the game that gave the Zebras an insurmountable 53-32 lead.

Flowers, meanwhile, hit his first 4 shots to get Wayne off and rolling. He finished with 14 points.

Northville's beefy front-line of 6-6 John Storm and 6-4 Greg Wendel, made things difficult at times for Wayne.

Storm finished with 14, while Wendel and Don Norton each had 9.

"On offense we wanted to get ball to Pollis," Henry said. "But they were squeezing him, so we had to get the ball in the corner to Howard."

"They did a nice job in their zone."

THE TELLING STATISTIC for Northville was 21 offensive rebounds and only 4 field goal conversions.

"We did miss a lot inside," Harrison said. "I think that was the difference in the game."

This is Wayne's most successful season ever. A win Wednesday, would be icing on the cake.