

Canton tips Falcons; Raiders edge Pats

Rob Neu likes four good quarters, but his Plymouth Canton girls basketball team shined in only two Tuesday.

Yet the Chiefs (13-1) sent Farmington down with a 56-34 loss in a Western Lakes game.

In the first half, Canton exploded for 37 points and held the Falcons down defensively. Penny Piggett sent in 14 points and Karen Boluch added 12 for the Chiefs.

"We've been emphasizing consistency," said Neu. "In the first half, we had great intensity. . . . We executed really well."

Farmington (1-12), with 13 points in the first half, matched that with 13 more in the third quarter as the Falcons outscored the Chiefs 21-19 in the second half.

Lisa Spence led the Falcons with 12 points.

But it was the first half which did the Falcons in.

"They played a real aggressive man-to-man defense and they pressed us a little bit," Farmington coach Diana Schwartz said. "And we couldn't score."

Canton's only loss this season came against Northville.

N. FARMINGTON 44, FRANKLIN 42, OT: Sandy Spahn scored with 40 seconds left in overtime to lift the Raiders past the host Patriots Tuesday in WLLA action.

But Spahn later missed a free throw to give Livonia Franklin new life, but the Patriots couldn't capitalize. North Farmington tied the game 42-42 with four seconds left in regulation when Jean Anzlovich hit the front end of two free throw attempts.

North (7-8) was 16-of-24 from the line and Franklin 6-of-21.

"That was the ballgame right there," said Franklin coach Tim New-

man. "They hit their free throws when they had to and we didn't."

It was the Raiders' first win in the Patriots' gym in nine years.

"It's about time we were there," said North coach Greg Grodzicki.

At the half, the Raiders led 23-21. Franklin (8-9) was led by Gayle Chaele with 13 points and Rose Obley with 11. Ann Howard had 14 and Spahn 10 for North.

SALEM 34, NORTHVILLE 24: The Rocks went scoreless in the first eight minutes but rebounded in time to take a WLLA win over the host Mustangs Tuesday.

Plymouth Salem, 11-3 (10-1 WLLA), was outscored 4-0 in the first quarter but responded with 14 points in the second quarter and led 14-11 at halftime.

"We just had to get on track," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "Northville had a good moving zone and they matched up pretty good with us. It was difficult to score. But everything worked out in the end."

Deana Head led the Salem attack with 9 points.

STEVENSON 60, HARRISON 18: The Spartans had three players in double figures while the Hawks were just able to reach double figures total in Tuesday's WLLA game.

Kelly Kowalski led Stevenson's three-point attack with 24 points. Molly Snow had 19 and Sue Zatorski 16 for the Spartans, who shot a blistering 35-of-57 from the floor.

From the line, Stevenson was 10-of-12.

"We ran well," said Stevenson coach Wayne Henry. "We had a lot of fast breaks off steals."

At the half, the Spartans led 38-4 as the Hawks were outscored 24-1 in the second quarter.

Who 'kneeds' them?

Conflicting reports arise on knee braces

By Jim Hughes and Larry O'Connor staff writers

Four weeks ago, Rochester Adams head football coach Jack Runchey should have been celebrating his first victory of the 1985 season. Instead, the second-year Highlander coach stood by the school bus in the Bloomfield Hills Lahser parking lot shaking his head.

Late in the game, Adams senior running back Tom Mullinax was tripped up on a short run and injured his knee. As coaches and trainers looked over Mullinax, there was an eerie silence. About 20 minutes later, Mullinax left the field on a stretcher and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mullinax suffered ligament and cartilage damage to his knee, and Runchey put the football victory aside as he conveyed his concern over his star player.

"He got a knee brace today, and it's in his locker," Runchey said. "He wanted to wear it in practice before using it in a game."

WOULD A BRACE have prevented the injury to Mullinax?

A study by the Sports Medicine Committee of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS), published in the September issue of "The Physician and Sportsmedicine," concluded "the effectiveness of knee braces is a controversial area that needs further biomechanical and epidemiological study to aid in better designs."

The article, quoting surgeons, raises both sides of the issue. Said Dr. George Hewson Jr., an orthopedic surgeon and athletic consultant to the University of Arizona, "It would be great if a (prophylactic) brace could decrease the incidence of tears to the medial collateral ligament, anterior cruciate ligament and the meniscus."

Dr. Frank Noyes, clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, "No scientific conclusions can be made for or against prophylactic braces, and ethi-

cal advertising should state this."

Dr. Dale Daniel, associate professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of California, San Diego, adds, "We at the AAOS are very concerned that prophylactic braces not be sold as proven items."

Jon L. Schriger, associate professor of clinical medicine at Michigan State University, surveyed 1,248 football players in 12 high schools. He found that 197 players who wore knee braces as preventive braces did not sustain any injuries from a lateral blow. Two players sustained hyperextended knee injuries but returned to play the same season.

ANOTHER STUDY, conducted in 1981 through the spring of this year by Herbert A. Haupt, former associate team physician at Wake Forest University, found there were 24 medial collateral injuries in the two years Wake Forest players did not wear the brace and 29 in two years the brace was worn.

There's confusion on the effectiveness of protective braces; some studies say they decrease medial collateral injuries, others say they enhance the chance of injury.

Dr. Warren Schildberg, who practices in Garden City, said positive signs are associated with braces. A year-old statistic, according to Schildberg, says there were 40,000 surgical procedures for ligament and cartilage knee injuries out of 1.4 million high school and college football players.

"That's not too awfully bad," Schildberg said. "I think they're valuable as protective devices. I look at 25-30 sets of knees a day. I personally recommend them (braces) for practice. It's kind of dumb for a kid to blow his knee in practice. Some (high school players)

are even using them in games."

"Do the Detroit Lions use them? Yes. Does the University of Michigan use them? Yes. They may be wrong, but I'll take their advice," added Schildberg.

A GROUP OF coaches in the Observer & Eccentric area were interviewed on protective knee braces, six of the seven questioned said some players on their team wear them.

"It's mandatory for all of our linemen," said Brother Rice coach Al Francis, who added braces can be purchased for about \$70-\$80. "We believe they have helped a lot. Of course, you can still get a knee injury with the braces on, but it's like the face mask. You're not totally protected, but there is some protection."

Armand Vigna, head coach at Livonia Franklin, just received 24 braces purchased by the school's booster club. "We had a couple of kids with knee injuries so we had to buy some braces," he said. "Our first priority is the injured players, and our second is our running backs. I'd like to have a couple for each kid. I believe in it."

At Farmington Hills Harrison, wearing the brace was contagious. "I originally bought 12, but I didn't think the kids wanted to wear them, so I sent six back," said coach John Herrington. "Then, one of our players got hurt, and they all wanted them. We're experimenting. I'd eventually like to have them on all the players."

Westland John Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said "I think it looks like the next coming thing in high school football," but Troy Athens coach John Walker said no player on his team wears a brace.

"I HAVE MIXED emotions," Walker

said. "Some help, and they may help more psychologically than anything else. We haven't had any rash of knee injuries, and as a result, we haven't felt the need to get preventive braces."

Steve McAnelly (former Athens linemen now at Central Michigan University) wore a preventive brace, and, while dropping back on a pass play, was injured and required knee surgery. There's really no acceptable way to predict whether or not a knee brace will or will not prevent injury."

Cal Fletcher, Southfield High's head football coach, said most of his offensive linemen wear braces. "We believe strongly in them. They may not prevent knee injuries, but the player may only be out for a shorter time than the whole year."

Because of what appears to be mixed results of some studies and the differing opinions of both doctors and coaches, the jury is still out on knee braces. Whether braces become mandatory — which some coaches see happening down the road — is another question, and probably won't be decided until further study.

"I can visualize that happening," Fletcher said of forcing schools to supply braces. "But that would be tough for a Class D school with a budget of nil. That would almost force a school like that out of the sport."

"There's some feeling that they're going to become mandatory," Vigna said. "More and more college and pro players are wearing them."

Gordon summed it up best: "The problem I see is the cost. With the budget they have for football, it's hard to have them on hand, but, if it's to prevent football injuries, I'm all for it."

girls basketball

Mercy checks Marian rush

Continued from Page 1

Marian stayed within six points of Mercy most of the time. With three minutes remaining in the game, and Mercy leading 44-38, the Marins went into a delay and successfully killed the clock. Marian got just two possessions in the final three minutes of the game.

"If there's anything that I'm pleased about," said Baker, "it's that we finished the game well. We showed we were a well-conditioned team and that we had some depth."

MERCY GOT a boost off the bench from both Jan Herberholz and Margaret DeMatina. DeMatina scored seven points in the second half and Herberholz helped spark the Marins' second-half press.

The big guns for Mercy (6-1 in the league, 10-3 overall), though, were Duzynski (10 points, eight rebounds) and guard Yvette Watson (10 points and three steals). Terri Ford scored nine points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

For Marian (3-5 in the league, 5-8 overall), Sue Thompson and Noelle Nagy led the way with 12 points each. Thompson scored 10 of her 12 in the first half. Vicky Gudenburg helped keep the Mustangs in the game with eight second-half points.

Afterward, the teams and coaches shook hands and exchanged congratulations. Mere formality. There remains no love lost between Marian and Mercy.

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