

# Falcons hold off Pat run

By Ken McDonald  
special writer



RANDY BORGSTAFF/photographer

Tony Racka flags down a loose ball Tuesday night during the Falcon's give-and-take win against Western Lakes foe Livonia Franklin.

Farmington High School was overflowing with the Christmas spirit Tuesday night.

The Farmington Falcons tried to give away their early Christmas gift — a 68-50 win against Livonia Franklin. But the Patriots were also in the giving mood, throwing away chances late in the fourth quarter to close the gap and pick up their first win of the year.

The loss left Franklin with an 0-3 mark (0-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association) while Farmington moved to 3-1 on the year (1-1 in the W.L.A.A.).

The Farmington victory seemed all wrapped up midway through the third quarter. A tough pressing defense and good ball handling helped the Falcons jump to a 24-point lead, 53-29. But Farmington could not seem to tie the ribbon around their gift.

FRANKLIN FOUGHT back in the final quarter and turned an otherwise dull contest into a barn-burner. With just over a minute left Franklin had cut the margin to eight, 58-50, and had possession

**basketball**

of the ball. But that's when the Patriots turned into that jolly, fat red man, St. Nick, turning the ball over three times in the final minute.

Farmington coach Rich Roy was happy with his team's play during the second and third quarters, especially with his team's ability to press Franklin.

"I just wanted to speed the game up a bit," Roy said. "We played some fair defense and scored a lot of points off our transition game."

Poor foul shooting by the Falcons down the stretch also helped let the Patriots back into the game.

"Our foul shooting was terrible," Roy said. "We have been shooting in the high 70s (from the line) so far this year."

The charity stripe was anything but a free hand-out for the Falcons Tuesday. Farmington managed to hit just 12-of-25 shots from the line, including going 1-of-7 during the fourth quarter.

# Hawks rally to tip Glenn; North jolted

Westland John Glenn may have felt pretty good about things Tuesday night.

The Rockets carried an eight-point lead into the final quarter of their Western Lakes basketball clash at Farmington Harrison Tuesday night.

Somebody forgot to tell them that Farmington Harrison doesn't know how to lose.

The Hawks rallied in the fourth quarter to overtake Glenn with a 21-10 run, winning the inter-divisional battle 64-59.

"It's a carry over from last year," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "These kids just really want to win."

"We got down by eight in the fourth quarter, but we put on an all-out Banche-like defensive effort and pulled away."

Teachman threw an unusual twist at Glenn in the final quarter. The Hawks had pressed throughout the game, but Teachman lifted the press in the final quarter.

"We just sat back in our zone, but we played it with a lot of intensity and forced them into taking bad shots," he said.

There were two other keys to the Hawks' win:

- Rebounding. Although the Hawks were physically smaller, they dominated the glass. Will Lund, 6-3, pulled in 17 rebounds and Rod Sarcewich, 6-2, pulled in 14.
- Ken George. The senior heated up offensively, scoring nine of his game-high 19 points in the final

quarter. He hit seven-of-eight free throws and dished out five assists.

On the night, Jeff Hoskov added 10 points and eight assists, while Scott Bissell tossed in 10 points.

Andy Grauzils led Glenn (1-1 in the Western Lakes, 1-3 overall) with 17 points. Steve Hawley added 16.

"This was our best test of the year," Teachman said. "Glenn is a very, very good team and they played hard."

Harrison is 4-0 on the season, 2-0 in the conference.

CHURCHILL 50, N. FARMINGTON 48: Livonia Churchill got 15 points out of Ken Gendjar and 11 from Andy Oliver Tuesday night as the Chargers simply took the game away from North in their own gym.

"We didn't play well," said North coach Tom Negoshian. "We didn't play hard either. Churchill just outshouted us, outscrapped us. They wanted it more than we did."

FIRST-YEAR Franklin coach Joe Franges was impressed with his team's never-say-die attitude.

"They're not going to give up. These kids have given me a supreme effort whenever they're on the court," Franges said.

"It's a matter of getting used to a completely new system. When we learn the system and get in better shape we'll be hard to beat. We saw spurts where it (our man-to-man defense) hurt Farmington. But they beat us in the transition game for some easy buckets," Franges said.

Farmington blew open a close 13-13 game in the second quarter. A 14-4 spurt late in the period gave the Falcons a 35-23 halftime edge.

The Falcons came out hot in the third quarter. Senior guard Bruce Kratt paved the way, scoring nine points in the period, including two pretty driving layups.

Kratt led the way for the Falcons pouring in 23 points on the night. Senior center Kyle Mutz chipped in 17 and Steve Howell came off the bench to add 12 points.

The Patriot attack was paced by forward Chris Parent with 21 points. David Janes added 10 while Pat Hollingshead kicked in nine points.

The Chargers built and maintained leads of three and five points throughout the final quarter. With six seconds left, North's Rick Anthon buried a jumper from the corner to pull within two. North never got a chance to tie it.

"I told the kids before the game that North was one of the better teams in the league," said Churchill coach Don Albertson. "But, win or lose, I didn't want them to get too up or too down because of this one game. It feels nice to win, though."

Mickey Katschor and Steve Owens scored eight each for the Chargers. Katschor added nine rebounds. Brian O'Leary helped out with five assists and some strong defense.

Paul Wahrman led North with 19 points and Anderson added 18. Each pulled in eight rebounds.

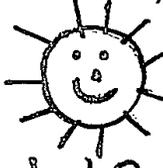
The Raiders are 1-1 in the league, 3-1 overall. Churchill is also 1-1 in the league, 2-2 overall.

WAYNE 75, GARDEN CITY 49: Wayne Memorial lost four starters off last year's team including two Division I college players. But, don't look for Garden City to feel sorry for them.

Junior Mark Robinson scored 24 points and added eight rebounds to lead Wayne past the Cougars Tuesday. Junior Mark Claborn added 10 points.

"We never trailed," said Wayne coach Chuck Henry. "It was one of those games where our press just burned them out."

Skip Barnett tossed in 19 for Garden City (2-2). Wayne is 3-0.



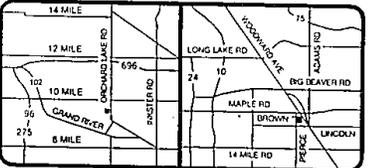
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