

## Sports

suburban life inside

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# Baylor's Briggs balks at suspension

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By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Baylor University star guard Carlos Briggs claims he was a scapegoat and said he was dismissed from the basketball squad last week without proper justification by first-year coach Gene Iba.

Briggs, who led the nation in scoring two years ago at Schoolcraft College in Livonia (Mich.), was kicked off the team prior to last Tuesday's practice (Jan. 7) along with fellow senior co-captain B.J. Mitchell.

Contacted Friday morning, Iba declined to give the Observer a reason,

stating: "It stays as an internal matter, and it will not be discussed."

The Waco (Texas) Herald-Tribune, however, reported last week that Iba dismissed the pair "for disciplinary reasons." A wire service report went on to say that Briggs and Mitchell were removed from the squad for missing practices.

But sources in and around the Baylor basketball program say that Briggs and Mitchell were excused from the practices. On Dec. 26, the Detroit Benedictine High School product, along with six other Baylor players, were suspended for various periods of time by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), stemming from alleged recruiting violations last year.

BRIGGS AND MITCHELL were

serving nine-game suspensions by the NCAA and would not have been able to play until Saturday, Feb. 1, in a Southwest Conference game against Texas A&M. (Eight regular season games remain after that date).

Two other players, sophomore center Darryl Middleton (the team's leading scorer) and Eric Johnson, younger brother of former Baylor All-American and Detroit Pistons Vinny Johnson, have been suspended for the year pending appeal Saturday (Jan. 11) before an NCAA review panel in New Orleans. The two allegedly accepted free plane tickets home. (Three other Baylor players have since been reinstated).

Briggs, who averaged 12 points per game this year and finished second last year in the Southwest Conference in scoring (20.4 points per game), said he

can't understand why he and Mitchell were dismissed.

"Coach Iba said that since we (the top seven) were suspended anyway that practice was optional until Sunday (Jan. 5)," said Briggs. "There wasn't any practice that Sunday (the day after a game). So then we came back on Monday (Jan. 6). B.J. and I didn't practice, we just stood and watched."

"COACH IBA CALLED US into his office before practice on Tuesday (at the Heart O' Texas Coliseum) and said we were missing nine games anyway and the season is pretty much lost — so why don't you quit. B.J. and I told him we weren't going to tell the public that."

"Coach Iba said: 'Then we're going to have to terminate you both from the squad.' He said we didn't show enough

support to the team."

At Baylor's Dec. 30 home game against Texas-San Antonio, Briggs was asked by Iba to sit in the stands instead of on the bench because it "wouldn't look good to the NCAA."

On Wednesday (Jan. 8), Briggs and Mitchell met with University President Dr. Herbert Reynolds and athletic director Bill Menece to discuss the matter.

"They told us there was nothing they could do and that it was coach Iba's decision, but they said our scholarships were still good and that we could finish school," Briggs said.

Prior to the season, Briggs was suspended three days from practice by Iba for lack of intensity.



Carlos Briggs  
fallen star

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## Stevenson trips Harrison

### North serves up a loss on Canton

For those who expected the Livonia Stevenson volleyball team to be down after being among the state's final four the past two years — check this out:

"I felt we played very well. Stevenson was just a lot better than I thought they would be. I should have known better. I think that by the end of this season they will be a better team than they were last year."



Diana Raddatz sends a pass to the front row against the Spartans.

The praise comes from Farmington Harrison coach Ron Shortt after his team — predicted to be among the area's best — lost in two sets to Stevenson Wednesday.

Led by the power hitting of junior Kristine Bailey and sophomore Sue Zatorski, Stevenson bopped Harrison 15-7, 15-11.

"They scramble so well," Shortt said of the Spartans. "We could not put the ball down against them. We played some awfully long points, and they won just about every one. That can get demoralizing after a while."

"And when they set up and get the ball to Kristine — she can really pound the ball. She is an awfully good player. I thought Lisa Bokovsky (former Spartan standout) was about the best I'd seen but I think Kristine is better right now than Lisa was in her junior year."

Shortt was pleased with his team's effort despite the loss.

"We played at an 83 percent overall efficiency rate," he said. "That's not too bad."

Jennifer Hughes played a strong all-around game for the Hawks. The senior set and spiked effectively. She was perfect from the service corner, as well.

Jeanine Whittemore played well at the net for the Hawks.

The Hawks are now 4-2 on the year. Wednesday's match was Stevenson's season-opener.

NORTH FARMINGTON got its Western Lakes season started on a strong note Wednesday, besting Plymouth Canton 15-6, 15-2.

"Fundamentally, we were so strong," said North coach Sandy Lubieniecki. "We passed with a 98 percent efficiency and that's pretty good this early. We're coming along."

The Raiders controlled the match with strong serves. Diana Raddatz was a perfect 20-for-20 from the service corner. She nailed the first 12 serves for points in game two.

Nancy Cotran was a plus in every phase of the game for the Raiders, especially along the front row. Sandy Spahn also had a productive match at the net.

Lubieniecki said she was pleasantly surprised with the play of her two talented sophomores, Suzi Butcher and Stephanie Knapp. "They hit the ball extremely well," she said.

The Raiders are 3-1. Canton is 0-1. FARMINGTON gave Northville, a good battle

Wednesday, but the Mustangs prevailed 15-10, 15-4.

"We played pretty well," said first-year Falcon coach Maureen McNabb. "We played better than the score indicates."

Seters Kelli Koss and Lori Casaroli were the standouts for Farmington. Leslie Martin had a strong match defensively.

The Falcons are 0-2.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN, meanwhile, opened its Western Lakes Activities Association (WLA) season Wednesday with a 15-6, 12-15, 15-4 triumph at Livonia Franklin.

Coach Wendy Reynolds, however, wasn't overjoyed with her team's play, especially in the second game.

"We weren't intensified and we had some mental errors," she said. "That combination did us in. Our hitters were not on."

With Kristy Ross leading the defense and Karen Crecholo serving six straight points, Glenn was able to win going away against the pesky Patriots.

"Overall I thought Kristi Crecholo took charge and Kelly Watts, our setter, did a good job," said Reynolds, whose team is 5-1 overall.

GARDEN CITY was surprised in its Northwest Suburban League (NSL) season opener Wednesday at Dearborn Edsel Ford, 15-10, 15-8.

"Edsel Ford is a good team and we made some crucial errors on our rotation and on our serving," said GC coach Tom Teeters.

The Cougars couldn't hold a 10-8 lead in the first game and committed a trio of back-to-back service errors in the second.

Despite the loss, Maria Evans was the team's defensive standout and Missey Ward was the top hitter. Meanwhile, Shelly Malone came off the bench to solidify the setting game.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL opened WLA play Wednesday with a 15-7, 11-15, 15-9 victory over visiting Walled Lake Central.

The Chargers (3-2) were sparked by Aleta Beck, who served seven straight points in Game No. 3.

Coach Mike Hughes also singled out sterling play of setters Pam Salms and Jacki Berry, as well as the serving and hitting of Liz Monroe.

REDFORD THURSTON made it two straight on the week with a 15-8, 7-15, 15-9 triumph over Tri-River League foe Dearborn Heights Crestwood.



photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Jennifer Hughes played a strong all-around match for the Hawks Wednesday but it wasn't enough to stop powerful Stevenson.

## Farmington conquers Salem in overtime

### Harrison romps; Raiders stop skid

Farmington High scored its biggest basketball win in years Friday night, a 67-63 overtime win over Plymouth Salem in a key Western Lakes Activities Association (WLA) encounter.

The win tightened up the Lakes Division race in the WLA. Salem leads with a 4-1 record, while Farmington increased its mark to 3-2.

Steve Howell, grabbing a missed shot by teammate Tony Racka, sent the game into overtime with a fall-away jumper at the buzzer.

The Falcons then scored the first four points of overtime on a field goal by Howell followed by a pair of Bruce Kratt free throws and never looked back.

Kratt, a senior guard, led the Falcons and all scorers with 23 points. Kyle Mutz and Howell finished 19 and 12, respectively.

Junior center Mike Hale led Salem with 19 points and 14 rebounds. Four other Rocks scored in double figures — Tom D'Angelo (11), Paul Makara (10) and Bryan Kerris (10).

"We played man-to-man almost the entire game," said Farmington coach

Rich Roy. "But what won the game for us was free throw shooting."

The Falcons hit 17 of 26 free throws, while Salem made 9 of 20.

"We had a chance to lock up the game at the end of regulation, but we missed some key free throws," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose team committed 20 turnovers. "But Farmington came out hungry and didn't quit for four quarters. They were stubborn and we couldn't put them away."

Both teams are now 5-2 overall.

HARRISON 61, CHURCHILL 47: Unbeaten Farmington Harrison shot 57 percent from the floor (28 of 49) Friday night in beating Western Lakes foe Livonia Churchill.

"We played defense well, ran the (fast) break well and came up with the clutch play when we needed it," said Harrison coach Mike "Coachman" Horse. Team is 7-0 overall. "But you have to give Churchill credit, they came back to give Churchill a couple of times hitting those baseline jumpers."

Host Harrison used a balanced scoring attack.

## basketball

Hod Sarevich and Scott Bissell each tallied 14. The two also combined for 17 rebounds. Will Lund added 15 points and 12 rebounds. Point guard Ken George played an all-around fine floor game, coming up with eight points, 10 assists, six rebounds and three steals.

Brian O'Leary and Mickey Kalscher scored 12 and 10, respectively, for the Chargers, now 3-4 overall.

N. FARMINGTON 57, W.L. CENTRAL 44: North Farmington (4-3) snapped a three-game losing streak Friday with a Western Lakes triumph over visiting Walled Lake Central. North broke open a close game in the final quarter, outscoring the Vikings 25-14.

Senior forward Rick Anderson key the victory, scoring 10 of his game-high 21 points in the final period. He also had 11 rebounds and six assists.

Paul Wahrman added nine points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

"If we could get some consistent play from some of the other we'd be OK," said North coach Tom Negoshian. "We have two returning players (Anderson and Wahrman). If the others get some experience and they start developing we could do alright. The key to winning this league is taking the games one at a time."

Central, which slipped to 2-4 overall, got 18 points from Daran Edmonds.

PLY. CHRISTIAN 50, LIGGETT 42: Plymouth Christian (5-0) remained unbeaten Friday with a easy win over Grosse Pointe University-Liggett.

The Eagles broke the game open with a 20-11 surge in the final period.

Pat McCarthy paced the winners with a game-high 23 points. Rob Windle added 15 points, six steals and seven rebounds. Meanwhile, Jim McCarthy added 11 rebounds.

Liggett was led by Keith Haggarty, who pumped in 15. Kevin Darby added 14.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Bruce Kratt, pictured in a game earlier this season, triggered Farmington's win against Salem.