

Sports

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(F18)

Steal keeps Hawk streak alive at 12-0

It was not the kind of game that champions are made of.

The unbeaten Farmington Hawks entered Friday's basketball game against winless Livonia Franklin a bit too cocky and exited knowing they were lucky to still be perfect.

A steal by Rod Sarcevic with 30 seconds left, followed by Ken George's layup — his only points of the game — and Will Lund's pivotal defensive rebound allowed Harrison to escape with a 53-49 victory at Harrison.

"Well, we won, but we played poorly," said Hawk coach Mike Teachman, whose team is 12-0 overall and 0-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA). "We had our shots but we didn't make them."

BUT TEACHMAN wasn't about to slight Franklin's effort. "They just played really well," he said of the Patriots. "They hit some outside shots, which they haven't been doing this year."

Mark Kerpel, who finished with 12 points, had half of those in the final quarter. The game was tied at 49 when Sarcevic, who bagged nine points for Harrison, made his steal. Ken George, who was fouled but missed the free throw and Franklin had a shot to tie it.

But the Patriots misfired and Lund rebounded with one second left. He was fouled and hit both free throws to close out the scoring.

Lund finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds. Scott Vissell added 10 for Harrison.

Dave James paced Franklin (0-11 overall), 0-9 in the WLAA) with 14 points. Chris Parenti had 11.

JOHN GLENN 65, FARMINGTON 59: Free throws spelled the difference Friday at Farmington. Westland John Glenn hit 15 of 22 while Farmington had just seven attempts, making five.

"It kind of disappointed me, that we didn't get to the free throw line," said Farmington coach Rich Roy, whose team fell to 6-7 overall and 4-6 in the WLAA. "And it was at our place, too."

The homecourt advantage didn't help the Falcons, particularly in the third quarter when Glenn went from a one-point halftime lead (35-31) to a seven-point surge after three quarters (50-43). Farmington pulled to within a pair in the fourth quarter, but could force no closer.

Farmington got 20 points from Tony Kaka, 14 from Kyle Mutz and 10 from Bruce Kratt. Steve Hawley scored 18, Gerry Diete-Spitt 16 and Tony Boles 11 for John Glenn (9-4 overall, 8-2 in the WLAA).

CC 75, BROTHER RICE 36: Redford Catholic Central wasted no time with visiting Birmingham Brother Rice Friday, blitzing the Warriors with a 27-10 first quarter and outscoring the 45-15 halftime lead.

Lance Vaccarelli hit all five of his first-quarter shots, scoring 10 points in the period to establish the pace. Sean McCleery added six in the period.

Vaccarelli finished with 19 and McCleery had 14. Paul Tavanna contributed nine, as all but one Shamrock scored.

Mike Lanier's 12 points was tops for Rice. Lee Fitzpatrick finished with eight.

The win raised CC's record to 10-3 overall and 7-1 in the Catholic League's Central Division. Rice fell to 3-9 overall and 1-7 in the division.



Kyle Mutz battles John Glenn guard Steve Hawley (right) for a rebound during Friday's WLAA battle. Farmington fell to the Rockets, 65-59.

BISHOP GALLAGHER 50, BORGESS 41: An 18-7 first quarter got Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher started on the road to victory Friday at Redford Bishop Borgess.

The Spartans, 4-8 overall and 2-7 in the Catholic League's Central Division, outscored Gallagher 27-23 in the second half but it wasn't enough.

Cordell Robinson's 10 points was best for Borgess. Parish Hickman scored eight. Bernard McGee poured in 20 points for Gallagher (6-7 overall, 3-5 in the division), including 10 in the first quarter. Steve Mazzola added 13.

ST. AGATHA 63, ST. FLORIAN 47: With three players reaching double figures in scoring, Redford St. Agatha disposed of visiting Hamtramck St. Florian easily Friday.

The Aggies got 20 points from Jim Knittel, 15 from Kevin Rice and 12 from Kevin Fouka in evening their

Catholic League C-D West Division record at 3-3. They are 7-4 overall.

St. Florian, 9-11 overall and 0-6 in the division, was led by Steve Michalski's nine points.

St. Agatha led 20-14 after one quarter and 36-24 at the half.

WAYNE 70, FORDSON 46: Wayne Memorial's relentless man-to-man defense handcuffed visiting Dearborn Fordson Friday as the Zebras ran their win streak to 12 games, including an 8-0 mark in the Wolverine A League.

Four Zebras reached double figures in scoring: Mark Clairborne (15 points), Rod Sommons (13), Mark Robinson (11) and Spence Williams (10).

Fordson (6-8 overall, 2-6 in the league) was led by Mike Laquaniello with 16 points.

Wayne outscored Fordson 18-8 in the second quarter to go from a 16-12 lead after one quarter to 34-20 at the half.

Short ignites NIMU cagers

By C.J. Rusk
staff writer

ALICE SHORT shares a quality common to most of us: She takes for granted her talents, often not realizing just how imposing they are.

Short is a basketball player. But more than that, her greatest single ability on the hardwood is shooting. Ever since her prep days at Farmington Harrison, Short has possessed an uncanny knack for the simple, yet most essential, element of the game — putting the ball through the hoop.

She took those talents to Bradley University, but the program was too intense, too businesslike. The fun of playing was missing.

So she transferred to Northern Michigan University prior to the 1984-85 season. Short was immediately eligible, but a badly pulled muscle near her knee severely hampered her. She averaged just 5.9 points per game.

Was the talent that earned her a scholarship gone? Short never questioned it. And this season, particularly over the last six weeks, she's proved it.

The junior has averaged 18 points per game for the 10-6 Wildcats, tops on the team. She has 93 points in the last four games. After a 2-4 start, NMU has won eight of 10, with Short leading the team in scoring six times.

But to her, the recent surge has been nothing special.

"THE REASON I'm scoring more is that we have a fast break offense," was how she explained it. "I never had that before. Not in high school or in college."

"But scoring never really crosses my mind, to be truthful. I go into every game thinking the same thing, to do what I can to win. I don't ever go into a game thinking I'm going to score 20 points or something like that."

"It just happens. If I'm open, I'll shoot. And if you're a consistent player, no matter how an opponent plays you, you should be able to score."

Short has been able to do that, unquestionably. Few female players possess her range on outside jumpers.

"She's very good shooting off the pass and stepping up for the shot against a zone defense," said Wildcat coach Fayette Stein of Short's ability.

"She can shoot with someone on top of her from 18 feet out and still score pretty consistently."

While the fast break style of offense employed by NMU has opened up the court for Short, it was the extra work she put in last summer that allowed her to take full advantage of her opportunities.

BOTHERED BY ASTHMA, the added work was not easy for Short. Each day, she'd ride her bike from her parents' home in Temperance four miles to work and four miles home. And every day after work, she'd run or swim.

"She came back strong physically," said Stein. "Her biggest weakness, especially after her knee injury, was her endurance."

For a while early in the season, Stein toyed with the idea of playing Short at point guard. The move didn't work.

"I kind of wanted to do it because I really like passing," said Short. "It's more exciting for me to make a good pass than to score. So I thought I'd try it, but I really didn't have enough confidence in myself to handle the kind of pressure they put on you at the college level."

The experiment lasted only a few weeks before Stein reassigned Short to her more natural spot — shooting guard. And since getting reacquainted to the position, both Short and the team have excelled. She has paced the team in scoring nine times, including a 31-point effort at Minnesota-Duluth Thursday.

The Wildcats lost that game, 89-83, snapping a six-game win streak.

SHORT HAS not been riding a roller-coaster this season, which pleases her. "I want to keep being consistent," was one of her season's goals. "My scoring has been, and my defense has been most of the time."

She has hit nearly 50 percent of her floor shots, and after a slow start, her free-throw average is close to 70 percent. She credits Stein with her resurgent shooting.

"She's been spending a lot more time with us on our shooting," said Short. "Not just me, but everyone on the team. She helps us realize what shots are good, what shots are bad."

But essentially, what Stein has done to get Short on track is make the game fun again.

"Coach Stein makes you want to work hard," said the sharpshooting guard. "She puts a lot of desire into playing basketball. She makes us love to play."

"It's so much different here than at Bradley. I love it here. I'm back to playing basketball for the main reason I want to play — for the love of the game."

And Stein is happy to have her. "I don't think she's peaked yet," the NMU coach predicted. "She still amazes me."

Winless Falcon tankers draw praise from coach

The Farmington swim team lost its eighth straight swim meet of the season, 108-84 to Walled Lake Central Thursday, but don't look for coach Ross Bandy to complain.

"For only having 14 boys, this team is doing as well as can be expected," the first-year Falcon coach said. "The guys are putting in a lot of hard work and their spirit is still up. When you come up short all the time it's tough to take, but these guys are doing a great job. It's hard to overcome points when you barely fill out the events. I'm real proud of these guys."

Against Central, Chris Ingh won both the 200-yard freestyle (1:59.57) and the 500 free (5:09.67).

Jim Vlk won the 100 butterfly (56.66) and Doug Riccio took the 100 backstroke (1:01.38).

NORTH FARMINGTON snubbed its

old Northwestern Suburban League pal John Glenn Thursday night, 114-55.

The two Western Lakes conference newcomers were battling for a share of second place behind Livonia Stevenson in the Lakes Division.

Craig Burland and Mike Tumey paced the onslaught. Burland won both the 200 freestyle (1:52.55) and the 500 freestyle (5:20.80), while Tumey captured the 200 individual medley (2:04.17) and the 100 butterfly (54.01).

Dan Mannisto won the 50 free (23.18) and Kevin Lee won the 100 breaststroke (1:10.46).

Bruce Goins, Andy Fretz, Tumey and Scott Began teamed to win the 200 medley relay (1:51.52). Mark Schwarzbach, Mannisto, Burland and Mike Butti took the 400 freestyle relay in 3:32.63.

North is 7-1 on the season.

FHS matmen roll North

Not that it was necessary, but the Farmington wrestling team got some unexpected help in beating rival North Farmington on Wednesday, 45-27.

The flu bug has riddled the Raiders. "This is the worst season ever for flu," said Raider coach Dick Cook. "We're only getting about a third of the team in for practice and it's different kids out every time."

Scott Seabolt (93), Jamie Madry (119), Mark Pallo (126), Bob Woodbeck (132) and Bill Lindbert (167) all won on pins for Farmington. T.J. Armstrong (112) and Darrell Tharnish (145) won on points. Bill Critcher (heavyweight) won on a hold.

The highlight for North (1-6) came at 185. Brian Haack upset Farmington's John Augustin in an 8-7 decision.

Andy Brady (138), Corey Bartsch (155) and Zlam Cunnalaj (198) all won on pins for North. Jack Beal won on a hold at 105.

FARMINGTON HARRISON picked up its second win of the season last Tuesday, beating Redford Thurston, 42-34.

Pins by Pat Dugas (167) and Pat McFadden (185) secured the win.

Other winners for the Hawks were Ted Frusienki (90), Cliff Aclanlara (112), Pat LaFleur (137), Buddy Martin (138) and Sean Trost (145).



Tracy Solomon placed second in three events Thursday, helping Harrison defeat Plymouth Canton, 127-8-120.

Hawks tally 127 to defeat Canton

Plymouth Canton's gymnastic team tallied its highest score of the season — 120.0 in a meet with Farmington Harrison Thursday night at Canton.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, Harrison also earned its best score, and won the meet 127-8-120.0.

"I was on the bus coming home before I realized we had lost the meet," said Canton coach John Cunningham.

"It was one of the more irrelevant things that happened. I was very, very pleased with our performance."

Sophomore Tana Buntingham was the meet's high scorer. She placed first in all four events: She scored 8.7 on vault, 8.45 on uneven parallel bars, 7.9 on balance beam (which tied Canton's Sharon Moran) and 9.0 on floor exercise.

Tracy Solomon also had a successful meet for the Hawks. She placed second on vault (8.65), bars (7.9) and floor (8.75) and fourth on beam (7.65).

Darcy Gignac was the top all-arounder for the Chiefs. She took third on vault (8.15), third on beam (7.8) and fourth on floor exercise (7.95).

Megan McGow placed third on bars (7.55) and Maureen McLean took fourth on vault (8.05) for the Chiefs.

Julie Runk contributed a third on floor (8.0) for the Hawks. She tied teammate Jody Solomon for fourth on bars (7.3).

The Hawks are 6-1 on the season; Canton is 2-3.

NORTH FARMINGTON scored an impressive 128.85-121.05 win against Westland John Glenn Thursday — impressive because North completed without its No. 2 and No. 4 all-arounders Lucine Toroyan and Lisa Brundlie, both beset with injuries.

'I read where Glenn was scoring 123 and 124. With our injuries, I wasn't sure what to expect.'

*—Mary Giltz
North coach*

"I read where Glenn was scoring 123 and 124," said North coach Mary Giltz. "With our injuries, I wasn't sure what to expect."

Eileen Murtaugh and Kara Karhu came through nicely for the Raiders. Karhu won both the floor (8.8) and bars (8.3) while taking second on vault (8.6) and beam (8.5).

Murtaugh won vault (8.9), placed second on bars (8.1) and floor (8.65) and third on beam (8.2).

Debbie Tomasko won beam for Glenn with an 8.6. She placed third on floor (8.4) and fourth on bars (7.85). Teammate Angie Temelko took third on vault (8.55), third on bars (8.0) and fourth on floor (8.35).

Marie Wells earned a fourth on vault for Glenn with an 8.0.

Cindy Tjan gained a fourth on beam for North with a 7.75. Laura DiCicco was fifth with a 7.55. Marilyn Dunn posted a fifth on beam (7.7) and Kim Stralator placed fifth on both vault (7.95) and floor (7.6).

North now has won eight in a row since losing its season opener. Glenn is 6-3.