

Chargers snap Hawk win streak

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

It was good while it lasted, but Farmington Harrison's basketball team was brought back to earth Tuesday night by Livonia Churchill, 51-50.

For the Hawks, who suffered their first loss in 15 games, it was an uphill struggle from the start.

The Chargers, who quickly opened a 4-0 lead, pulled Harrison out of its vaunted zone defense and spread out the floor.

The Hawks, forced to play man-to-man for the first time since December, suddenly found themselves out of sync defensively.

Coach Don Albertson's strategy paid dividends as Churchill opened a 16-8 first-quarter advantage. The lead grew to 17 points with 40 seconds left in the half on a free throw by Mickey Katschor.

Harrison then trimmed Churchill's lead to eight on a basket by Will Lund near the end of the third quarter and pulled within six on two separate occasions midway through fourth, but Churchill held off the rally by making 11 of 14 foul shots in the final four minutes.

"THIS GAME was sort of our season," said Albertson, whose team is 10-6 overall. "Right now we're trying to get a good record since we can't win the championship. We're just taking them one at a time."

Harrison, despite the loss, is still in good shape. They maintain a two-game lead in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division, with only three league games remaining.

Harrison coach Mike Teachman said Churchill had a lot to do with his team's poor showing.

"What can you say?" asked the Harrison coach. "They outplayed us and they deserved to win."

"They pulled us out of our zone and made us play man-to-man. And you could tell we weren't ready to play."

The Chargers' defense corralled two of Harrison's top scorers, point-guard Ken George and swingman Scott Bissell. George finished with two points and fouled out midway through the final quarter. Bissell scored only three.

"NAME A TEAM in this league with

basketball

what you call five good starters," Albertson said. "Harrison is a team that comes close as anybody."

"But a triangle-and-two is a good defense in this league and it's been successful for us since Christmas."

"The big key tonight was Ken Gendjar guarding Bissell, and you saw what kind of shots he was forced to take. And the other was Jim Knittel on George."

Although Churchill's defense was effective, the Chargers also got a lift from junior guard John Knittel, who hit five straight shots in the second quarter and added seven of eight free throws in the final quarter to finish with a team-high 17 points.

Mickey Katschor added 12 points and sophomore center Brad Wylie had 10 for the Chargers.

Knittel's shooting was somewhat of surprise. Going into the game he had made only seven of 40 attempts from the floor.

"That's not indicative of the kind of shooter Knittel is," Albertson said. "In practice he is good. And he's a good free-throw shooter. He was very instrumental in getting us the lead."

HARRISON was led by Will Lund, who scored 12 points, and Rod Sarcovich, who added 10. Both post players fouled out in the final quarter.

"We came up flat, but Churchill had a lot to do with that," Teachman said. "We came out flat and I think the panic set in. I told them we can't get down like that at halftime (35-21) and always expect to come back."

Teachman also said that rebounding was a factor.

"We outrebounded Churchill at our place 41-16, but they outrebounded us here, 30-25," he said. "That's a big statistic."

But Teachman's big concern is what upcoming opponents may try now that Churchill's tactics worked.

"We're playing at (Plymouth) Canton on Friday, and I'm sure they'll be playing us man-to-man, so we'll at least be practicing against it," Teachman said. "I'm sure we're going to have to play it again soon."

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'We were due' Falcons shake doldrums by blitzing Salem

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Somebody has extinguished Plymouth Salem's 101st light. The team is playing with no fire.

Farmington, loser of its last six basketball games, came into the Salem gym Tuesday night and waxed the Rocks 66-60 — the game was not as close as the score might indicate.

"We're just playing with any intensity at all," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "You'd think when a team beats you once you'd want to get a piece of them the next time around."

Salem didn't look like it wanted to beat anyone, especially in the first half.

Inspired by the play of Bruce Kratt and Kyle Mutz, Farmington raced to a 42-27 halftime lead. Kratt scored 16 of his 22 points in the half and Mutz scored 11 of his 19.

THE FALCONS scored at will against several different Salem defenses. They scored inside, outside and at the foul line. Kratt was nice for 10 at the line in the second quarter.

"Bruce had a real good game tonight," Falcon coach Rich Roy said. "Salem played a man-to-man on us for the most part, and we just posted up Bruce because he was bigger than his man. We did not have to shoot from the outside much tonight and that's good for us. Most teams have been playing zone against us."

Salem pinned its ears back and made a run at Farmington in the second half. But the closest it could get was the six-point spread at the buzzer.

"It seems like every game has been like this for us," Brodie said. "We'll play one good half or one good quarter. We just never seem to put a whole game together. You know, I cannot remember the last time we've played a good game."

SINCE BEATING Livonia Churchill on Jan. 7, the Rocks have lost seven of its last 11 games.

To add insult to injury, Farmington had not only lost its last six games but had never beaten Salem at Salem.

When asked to explain his team's sudden turnaround, Roy jokingly said, "We were due."

Seriously, though, several things happened Tuesday that hadn't been happening during the skid. No. 1, the shots were falling. Farmington had been shooting under 30 percent over the last three weeks. The team shot nearly 45 percent against Salem (22 of 49).

Second, the team played a physical inside game. Mutz (nine rebounds), Craig Petersmark and Mike Kramer helped Farmington control the paint.

Third, the Falcons knocked down their free throws. The team hit 22 of 28 from the line. Salem hit 10 of 15.

"They deserved every free throw they took," Brodie said. "We played lazy defense. Instead of moving our feet, we just slapped and reached."

Lastly, Farmington got a huge boost from its bench. Kramer (eight points and three rebounds) and Mark Stevens (six points) gave the team quality minutes.

THOSE FACTORS, plus the superb efforts of Kratt and Mutz, minimized the absence of starting guard Tony Racka who was in Florida competing for \$1 million in the CBA hot shot contest.

For Salem (7-6 in the Western Lakes, 8-8 overall), Mike Hale led the way with 23 points. Paul Makara added 19 points and seven assists.

"Those two have been doing it for us all year," Brodie said. "We just have to get them some help."

The win improves Farmington's league record to 5-8, 7-9 overall.

N. FARMINGTON 52, W.L. CENTRAL 49: A 12-2 spurt in the second quarter helped North Farmington get back on track Tuesday, winning at Walled Lake Central.

"We just kept going up and down," said North coach Tom Negoshian. "We shot pretty well tonight and we played hard."

North hit on 22 of 48 shots from the field while Central only connected on 15 of 50. Central, though, hit 18 of 22 from the free-throw line to North's six of 10 — North needed every field goal it got.

Rick Anderson led the winners with 23 points. Paul Wahman added 19.

For Central (5-8 in the Western Lakes, 7-8 overall), Daran Edmonds scored 15 points and Mike Kohler added 14.

North is now 6-7 in the league, 8-7 on the season.

Andover wins county crown

Individually speaking, the Oakland County Swim Championships Saturday at Oakland University were a flop for Bloomfield Hills Andover. But collectively, the meet was a resounding success.

Andover did not have a single individual champion, but the Barons — one of the favorites to win the Class A state championship next month — were far and away the best team. Andover won both relays and tallied 214 points to easily outdistance second-place Birmingham Seaholm's 120.

BERKLEY was third with 95, a point ahead of Bloomfield Hills Lahser. Rochester Adams was fifth (85), Birmingham Brother Rice was sixth (83), North Farmington was seventh (79), Southfield-Lathrup took eighth (64), Troy placed ninth (61) and Rochester tied Ferndale for 10th (45).

Other local team finishes: Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, 15th (25); Farmington and West Bloomfield, 17th (14 each); Troy Athens, 20th (eighth Farmington Harrison, 21st (four); and Southfield, 22nd (two). Avondale, Birmingham Groves and Madison Heights Lamphere did not score.

swimming

Andover set a new meet record — one of four that fell during the meet — in winning the 200-yard medley relay in 1:40.91. Dave Lehmkuhl, Charlie Chung, Cary McConlogue and Mark Shagena combined for the victory.

THE BARONS' only other victory was turned in by the 400 freestyle relay team of Ernie Drellchman, Steve Pancratz, Guy Cacciarelli and Steve Sharpe (3:20.45).

"We had been training very hard," Andover coach Mike Lane said. "We didn't put a lot of emphasis on the meet. I don't want to downplay it, but we thought we could train right through and still win it."

The best Andover could do in individual events was three seconds. Those were by Lehmkuhl in the 50 free (22.51), Pancratz in the 500 free (4:50.84)

and McConlogue in the 100 backstroke (57.16).

THE MEET's outstanding individual performers were Lahser's Mark Landry and Adams' Ed Weckert. Each won two events and each set a new meet record.

Landry's triumphs came in the 50 and 100 free. He won the 50 in a record 21.86, edging the 1983 mark of 21.88 set by Seaholm's Al Kovach. Landry captured the 100 in 48.45.

Weckert doubled in the 200 individual medley and the 100 butterfly. Weckert's 200 IM clocking of 1:57.40 broke the 1983 standard of 1:58.26 set by former Adams swimmer Doug Cleland. Weckert won the 100 fly in 53.56.

One other meet record fell. Novi's Jon Cohen won the 500 free in 4:40.54, bettering the 1983 mark of 4:43.94 established by Groves' Scott Christie.

Other individual champions were Mike Schuler of Lathrup in the 200 free (1:46.01); Rob McElwain of Rochester in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.64); Jason Schiavo of Cranbrook in diving (437.75 points); and Dave Nack of Ferndale in the 100 yard back (55.99).

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