

## Sports

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# Rockets heist title from Hawks, 60-59

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Farmington Harrison basketball coach Mike Teachman, as he so often does, summarized Friday night's Western Lakes championship game with Westland John Glenn in one precise sentence.

"It was just a great high school basketball game."

Those jammed into the Harrison gym Friday night to see Glenn's breathtaking 60-59 victory could do nothing but agree.

The game had it all: non-stop, end-to-end action, circus shots, blocked shots (more on that later), errant shots (fair balls on free throws) and clutch shots. The heroes came in two forms, expected and unexpected.

Not even a plethora of referees' whistles could ruin this game — although it appeared for a while like both starting lineups would be benched with foul problems. No, sir. This game had drama (32 minutes worth) and, of course, irony.

LET'S BEGIN with the irony. The Western Lakes football championship matched Glenn and Harrison. Glenn won. The difference in the game was Tony Bales. The basketball title, Glenn vs. Harrison, the margin of victory again provided by Glenn's Tony Bales. With a touchdown, Bales won the basketball game with a line-drive free throw with 19 seconds left. This second attempt hit nothing but air — nothing, no rim, no net, no backboard.

The shot gave Glenn the 60-59 advantage it would take into the post-game celebration, but not before some unexpected heroics from Jerry Diete-Spiff.

The spindly 6-6 post player, a starter

## basketball

all season, was benched prior to this game. But when called upon, he played his best game of the year.

"Purely coaching strategy," said a Rockets coach Gordie Davis. Right.

Diete-Spiff solidified Glenn's inside defense. With the last 10 seconds ticking away, Harrison worked the ball inside to Will Lund. Lund, who scored six points in the final quarter, made a move and went up for the potential game-winning shot.

Diete-Spiff timed his leap perfectly, put his big hand on Lund's shot in midair and calmly tipped the ball to teammate Steve Hawley — ballgame.

"Basically, the key to this game was that we played good overall defense," Davis said. "We tried to keep them to one shot. We had some breakdowns there, but overall we did a good job. And we didn't let Ken George hurt us too much."

Teachman, more or less, agreed. "The difference between this game and the game earlier when we won was their inside defense. We controlled the glass against them last time. That didn't happen tonight."

"And another thing, you can't expect to come back so many times against a good team like that and expect to win."

The Rockets have been known to blow leads. They let loose of an eight-point lead in the final eight minutes of their first meeting with Harrison.

"We just can't stand prosperity," laughed Davis. "We like to make things exciting."

GLENN SCORED the first eight points of the second half and built an 11-point lead. The Hawks, behind a stirring nine-point outburst by Billy Otto, were within a point, 45-44, when the third quarter ended.

With 4:16 left in the game, Glenn's Greg Bates (who scored all nine of his points in the second half) converted a layup and a free throw for a three-point play to give his team a 56-50 lead. Insurmountable? No way.

Lund, Scott Bissell and George scored in between a Bales hoop to make it 58-56 with 2:30 left.

Red Sarscevic made two steals and hit a free throw to pull the Hawks within one, 58-57, with 1:18 left. He forced another turnover, which led to Ken George's layup with 36 seconds left — Harrison 59, Glenn 58.

Hawley hit one of two free throws with 25 seconds left to tie the game. Otto missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity with 20 seconds left and Bales was fouled immediately. You know the rest.

ON THE NIGHT, Hawley managed to lead Glenn despite constant pressure from the Hawks' defense. He scored 17. Andy Grzulis, one of three Rockets plagued by foul trouble, scored 12. Bates added nine and Diete-Spiff seven.

Lund's 19 points led Harrison, 11 in the second half. He was also Harrison's top rebounder. Otto scored 17, 11 in the second half, also. George, never allowed to dominate the game, managed to sneak 12 points past the Rockets' defense.

"It hurts to come this far and lose by a point," said Teachman. "But we lost to classy outfit."

Glenn, the Western Lakes champion, is 15-5 on the season. Harrison, the deposed Western Lakes champ, is 17-3.



Billy Otto (No. 22) knifes through the John Glenn defense Friday night. His 17-point effort didn't

prevent Glenn from walking away with the Western Lakes basketball championship.

STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

## North wins a charity case

This is not supposed to happen to the home team.

North Farmington, the visitors, made 27 of its 36 free throw chances Friday night. Plymouth Canton, the home team, made six of 11.

North Farmington, naturally, won the basketball game 61-52.

The Chiefs did not get a free throw opportunity until late in the third quarter.

Ironically, it was that third quarter that spelled the Chiefs' doom. They were outscored 14-5 by the Raiders —

the eventual margin of victory.

Rick Anderson led North (12-8) with 23 points. He was 16 of 18 from the line. Mike Rudin had his best offensive outing of the year tossing in 18 points. Chuck Howard added 14.

Joel Miles led the Chiefs with 21 points. Dan Olszewski added eight. Canton falls to 10-10 on the season.

CHURCHILL 58, FARMINGTON 55: Livonia Churchill built up a nine-point lead in the final quarter Friday night, but missed free throws allowed visiting

Farmington back into contention.

The Chargers missed the front end of four one-and-one free throw tries in the final three minutes.

The three-point margin at the end was as close as Farmington got.

Ken Gendjar scored 19 points to lead Churchill, 11 in the final quarter. Mickey Katschor added 15 and Brad Wylie 10.

Bruce Kratt scored 20 and for the Falcons. Steve Howell added nine, Kyle

Please turn to Page 2

# 'Pumped up' Raiders rock to 9th gym title



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Tana Burningham helped Farmington Harrison to a third-place finish in the WLAA league meet Thursday with a 35.55 all-around score.

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

You can expect the Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics meet to remain housed at North Farmington for a while.

See, for another team to host the league tournament, it has to win the tournament the previous year. That is proving to be most difficult.

North Farmington, facing serious challenges from Plymouth Salem, Farmington Harrison and Westland John Glenn, won its ninth straight league championship Thursday night.

Good teams, when pushed, get better. North Farmington responded to Thursday's challenge by amassing a school-record 136.75 points. (See statistical summary.)

"The girls really got pumped up," said North coach Gary Giltz. "They wanted to win this meet badly. You know, when there are two other teams with the possibility of beating you, you tend to get fired up."

North didn't have too many points to spare, however, thanks to a heroic performance by Salem.

THE ROCKS learned Wednesday night that their No. 2 all-arounder, Jackie Huff, would not be able to compete because of a broken foot. But, behind the strength of Beth Rafal and Becky Talbot, the Rocks scored an impressive 130.45 to finish in second place.

"The last time Jackie got hurt (earlier this season), the girls got all bummed out and we got down," said Salem coach Kati Kinella. "But nothing could keep them down this time. I'm real proud of them."

Huff was not the only all-arounder missing from the meet. Harrison's Jody Solomon was out with a back injury. Canton's Darryl Cignac was out with a broken hand and Farmington's Jackie Daly, hampered by a foot injury, competed in just two events.

"We felt real bad for those teams," said Giltz, whose Raiders competed with all-arounder Lisa Brundie at less than half-strength. "You like to compete against them at full strength. If Salem had Jackie, I'm sure the score would have been closer."

LET'S GET the idea that the meet was devoid of talent. Six scores of 9.0 or better were reached and six different competitors scored at least 34.0

all-around.

Eileen Murtough, North Farmington senior, was the meet's top scorer. Her 35.65 all-around score nipped Harrison's Tana Burningham (35.55). Murtough scored 8.90 on vault, 8.75 on uneven bars, 9.05 on balance beam and 9.15 on floor exercise.

Burningham, a sophomore, scored 9.05 on vault, 8.45 on bars, 8.80 on beam and a 9.25 on floor.

The Raiders placed three performers in the top five all-around. Kara Korhu was third (34.85), scoring 9.10 on vault, 8.10 on bars, 8.75 on beam and 8.90 on floor. She lit up the crowd with a snappy Tsukahara on her vault.

North's Lucine Toroyan tied for fifth all-around with Glenn's Debbie Tomasko, 34.05. Toroyan scored 8.30 on vault, 8.65 on bars, 8.55 on beam and 8.55 on floor.

Glenn's Tomasko, making her first appearance in a Western Lakes league meet, scored 9.25 on vault (another stunning Tsukahara), 8.15 on bars, 8.40 on beam and 8.25 on floor. Angie Temelko placed eighth all-around with a 32.60. Glenn placed fourth in the meet with 126 points.

FOR SALEM, Rafal placed fourth all-around (34.45) and Talbot seventh (33.20). Rafal scored 8.85 on vault, 7.95 on bars, 8.75 on beam and 8.60 on floor. Talbot hit an 8.20 on vault, 8.30 on bars, 7.90 on beam and 8.80 on floor.

Salem also got key individual efforts from Sharon Moran (eighth on beam, 8.25), Debbie Popp (10th on beam (8.10) and Dana Holda (eighth on bars, 8.0 and seventh on vault, 8.20).

For third place Harrison, Tracy Solomon placed ninth (31.85), scoring 8.40 on vault, 7.55 on bars, 7.70 on beam and 8.20 on floor. Jamie Lyons helped out with an 11th-place all-around finish (30.65).

"I'm happy with our effort," said Harrison coach Linda Perkins. "North is just a quality team and Salem did an outstanding job. You look at the top 10 all-arounders: North had three kids and we had two. That's the difference right there."

By virtue of its perfect dual meet season, North Farmington also won the Western Lakes Division title. Harrison was crowned champs of the Western Division.

Next up for the state area gymnasts, the state regional meet this Saturday.

WESTERN LAKES GYMNASTICS MEET Thursday at N. Farmington	
TEAM RESULTS: 1. North Farmington, 136.75 points; 2. Plymouth Salem, 130.45; 3. Farmington Harrison, 125.45; 4. Westland John Glenn, 126.00; 5. Plymouth Canton, 121.00; 6. Northville, 114.05; 7. Walled Lake Western, 113.75; 8. Farmington, 107.50; 9. Walled Lake Central, 99.50.	
VAULT: 1. Debbie Tomasko (Glenn), 9.25; 2. Kara Korhu (N. Farm), 9.10; 3. Tana Burningham (Harrison), 9.05; 4. Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 8.90; 5. Beth Rafal (Salem), 8.85; 6. Tracy Solomon (Harrison), 8.40; 7. (tie) Lucine Toroyan (N. Farm) and Dana Holda (Salem), 8.30; 8. Becky Talbot (Salem), 8.10; 9. Dana Holda (Salem), 8.00; 10. Bue Luby (Salem), 8.15.	
UNEVEN BARS: 1. Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 9.15; 2. Lucine Toroyan (N. Farm), 8.65; 3. Tana Burningham (Harrison), 8.45; 4. Angie Temelko (Glenn), 8.40; 5. Becky Talbot (Salem), 8.30; 6. Debbie Tomasko (Glenn), 8.15; 7. Kara Korhu (N. Farm), 8.10; 8. Dana Holda (Salem), 8.00; 9. (tie) Beth Rafal (Salem) and Marilyn Dunn (N. Farm), 7.95.	
BALANCE BEAM: 1. Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 9.05; 2. Tana Burningham (Harrison), 8.90; 3. Kara Korhu (N. Farm) and Beth Rafal (Salem), 8.75; 4. (tie) Lucine Toroyan (N. Farm) and Wendy Riemer (W.L. Western), 8.55; 5. Debbie Tomasko (Glenn), 8.40; 6. (tie) Jamie Lyons (Harrison) and Sharon Moran (Canton), 8.10; 10. Debbie Popp (Salem), 8.10.	
FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Tana Burningham (Harrison), 9.25; 2. Eileen Murtough (N. Farmington), 9.15; 3. (tie) Kara Korhu (N. Farm) and Beth Rafal (Salem), 8.90; 4. Becky Talbot (Salem), 8.80; 5. Angie Temelko (Glenn), 8.65; 7. Lucine Toroyan (N. Farm); 8. Debbie Tomasko (Glenn), 8.25; 9. Tracy Solomon (Harrison), 8.20; 10. Lisa Brundie (N. Farm), 8.05.	
ALL-AROUND: 1. Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 35.65; 2. Tana Burningham (Harrison), 35.55; 3. Kara Korhu (N. Farm), 34.85; 4. Beth Rafal (Salem), 34.45; 5. (tie) Lucine Toroyan (N. Farm) and Debbie Tomasko (Glenn), 34.05; 6. Becky Talbot (Salem), 33.20; 7. Angie Temelko (Glenn), 32.60; 8. Tracy Solomon (Harrison), 31.85; 10. Wendy Riemer (W.L. Western), 31.20.	
DIVISION MEDALISTS (Based on eight dual meets)	
WESTERN DIVISION: Team champions: Farmington Harrison; Vault: Tana Burningham (Harrison); 8.90; Balance beam: Beth Rafal (Salem); 8.75; Floor: Tana Burningham (Harrison); 9.25; All-around: Tana Burningham (Harrison); 35.65.	
LAKES DIVISION: Team champions: North Farmington; Vault: Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 9.15; Balance beam: Eileen Murtough (N. Farm); 9.05; Floor: Tana Burningham (Harrison), 9.25; All-around: Eileen Murtough (N. Farm), 35.65.	
—Stats compiled by Mike Horner	