

Sports

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Do sports belong in community college?

First of two parts.

IS IT WORTH IT?
How many times has that been asked, do you think? How often has a trustee at a community college wandered into the athletic building late on a Wednesday night, heard the echo of a bouncing basketball and gone into the gymnasium to investigate? He finds two uniformed teams with two coaches each and two striped-shirted officials on display in front of fewer than a dozen spectators. What's he to think? If that trustee is fiscally aware, he's going to ask himself why his college, so painfully short of essentials like computer terminals and administrative help, is investing in varsity basketball players and coaches. "I mean, which would benefit a greater number of students," he would question himself, "a varsity basketball program that helps 12 kids or a half-dozen computers that could aid thousands of students?"

ESPECIALLY, THAT trustee will say to himself, a varsity basketball program that no one cares about. We could cancel it and no one on campus would notice, he'd figure after re-examining the size of the crowd. He'd leave with the question pounding in his head: What good is it to have varsity sports in a community college? Are they worth the expense? Does anyone care? Does anyone notice? Money is a strong inducement

for change. At present, community college sports are not threatened because funding is not endangered. It has been in the past, however. High schools are quick to cancel sports programs, calling them nonessential, when millages fail. In 1980, financial woes led Oakland CC to slice its sports program from 14 to eight. It remains at that level.

THERE IS a difference here. High school sports programs are lopped because they are visible. Their cancellation is noticed by the community and can serve as inducement to get a millage approved.

Community college sports rarely draw as many fans as a Tuesday night high school basketball game between two mediocre squads. No millage failure would be needed as inducement to reallocate funds. The public wouldn't notice the cancellation of sports, anyhow.

So why keep them? To placate a few hot-shot jumpshooters who couldn't make it, athletically or academically, at a better school? Their only interest in schools like Schoerlitz College or OCC is shootin' hoops. Their education is predicated on learning a left-handed hook.

SUCH FEELINGS exist. They are based in simple logic. But are they accurate? Are community college sports a waste?

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North kickers advance



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Al Riddock (No. 5) and Jon Houser march downfield Monday in North Farmington's convincing district tournament win against Monroe.

North Farmington romped to an easy Class A district boys soccer win Monday over visiting Monroe, 10-0. The Raiders (11-4-2) met top-ranked Livonia Churchill last night in a district semifinal match. (Results will appear in Monday's Observer.)

In the win over Monroe, Monty Najar led the way with two goals and three assists. Al Riddock added two goals and one assist, while Zac Beim contributed three assists.

Other North goal scorers included Pete Keller, Mark Leaning, Dave McGrath, Tim McMinn, Pat Ward and goalie Craig Nome, who scored on a penalty shot.

SALEM 9, BELLEVILLE 0: Plymouth Salem (12-3-1) opened district action Monday with an easy victory over visiting Northville.

Senior Ted Hanosh notched his third hat trick of the season, bring his season total to 16.

Dennis Reynolds and Joe Cosenza each added two goals. Randy Balconi and Jeff Gold rounded out the scoring, while Mike Zaretti collected three assists.

The Rocks' defense, which has allowed only one goal in the last seven games, made things easy for net-minder Dave O'Malley.

Salem hosted Ypsilanti last night in the semifinals.

ANN ARBOR HURON 3, CANTON 0: You can forget about a Salem-Plymouth Canton rematch as Ann Arbor Huron posted a district-opening shutout Monday against the host Chiefs.

The loss drops Canton to 5-9-3 overall.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL 7, BISHOP BORGESS 0: In a district opener Monday at Redford's Mason Field, the Shamrocks of Redford CC (8-4-4) beat Redford Bishop Borgess (1-14) for the third time this season.

Craig Thiel led the winners with three goals and two assists. Aaron Brown also notched a hat trick. Joe Arnet tallied the other CC goal.

Injured Falcons maintain Harrison's losing streak

Entering the game with two straight out and an 0-9 record on its tail should have given the Farmington girls basketball team reason for alarm.

But Diana Fair's troops took everything in stride and rose to the occasion, defeating Farmington Harrison 54-26, at Harrison Tuesday night.

Carrie Hale pumped in 10 first-half points in leading the Falcons to a 29-8 halftime lead. Harrison played a tough second half but the damage had already been done.

"We were playing without two starters that were averaging 30 points between them," said Fair. "What was really nice was that we saw some girls score points tonight that usually don't score many."

"They were obviously gunning for us. Harrison played tough. I just figured that the other girls would pick up the slack and they did."

Kelli Ross paced the winners with 14 points. Hale added 10 while Karen Jenkins meshed in eight points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Kris Waldmann fired in 11 points for Harrison which falls to 0-11.

"The first half was the ball game," said Harrison coach Jim Neve. "We stayed right with them in the second half we just started out a little cold. We made a lot of floor mistakes and threw the ball away a lot. The second half was a pretty even ball game. The girls are coming along."

NORTH FARMINGTON 35, NORTHVILLE 27: The Raiders put together four good quarters of solid defensive basketball which resulted in this Western Lakes Activities Association victory. North outscored its opponents 20-12 in the first half and never looked back.

Renee Fishell paced the Raiders with seven points and four steals. Sandy Spahn added six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"We played tremendous defense," said North coach Greg Capling. "Our match-up zone was all over the floor. We also shut down Trele Ducker, their leading scorer all year. She only had nine points tonight. We've had a tendency of not being able to put together four good quarters but tonight we were able to do that and we won."

North Farmington improved to 4-5 in the league, 5-7 overall with the victory.

MERCY 57, GALLAGHER 59: Four girls scored in double figures for the Marlins leading Farmington Hills Mercy to its seventh victory of the season Tuesday night at Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher.

The Marlins stormed to a 43-25 halftime lead only to have Gallagher battle back in the fourth quarter and make a game out of it.

Mercy was up by 14 with four minutes left to play and went into a delay game. The Marlins missed three free throws, however, while

Gallagher was busy chipping away at their lead. With just over one minute remaining in the game Gallagher had reduced the lead to six.

Margaret DeMatteis then sent in two of her 12 points on the night on an out-of-bounds play giving Mercy the eight point margin.

Yvette Maisson drilled in 12 for Mercy while Marie Dietz added 13 and Jennifer Slocar scored 11.

Stacy Kraitsa burned up the nets for Gallagher with 30 points, 12 in the final eight minutes.

The win boosts Mercy to 7-4 on the season, 3-2 in the Catholic league. Gallagher falls to 3-8, 1-4 in the league.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carrie Hale got Farmington off and running Tuesday with a 10-point first half against Farmington Harrison.

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