

## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312

Monday, January 10, 1987 O&amp;E

(F18)

## Chiefs dump Hawks

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Alley cats. Plymouth Canton plays basketball like a bunch of hungry alley cats. The Chiefs are small, quick and mean. They seem to swarm the court. You think you have a lane to the basket. Suddenly, there's a Chief ballhawking you. You pick up your dribble anywhere on the court and it's an instant trap. Should you hurt them in some way, make them mad, they come back at you twice as strong. Regardless of how far you think you have them down, they never quit battling.

That was the type of game the Chiefs played Friday night against Farmington Harrison. The result was a 58-43 Canton victory that put the Chiefs in first place in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"I thought we played a strong game defensively," said Canton coach Tom Niemi. "We used our press very effectively. We used it against Dearborn Tuesday and it worked well for us then, too. We will continue to use it. It's quite complicated and it took time to develop. But they are playing it well now."

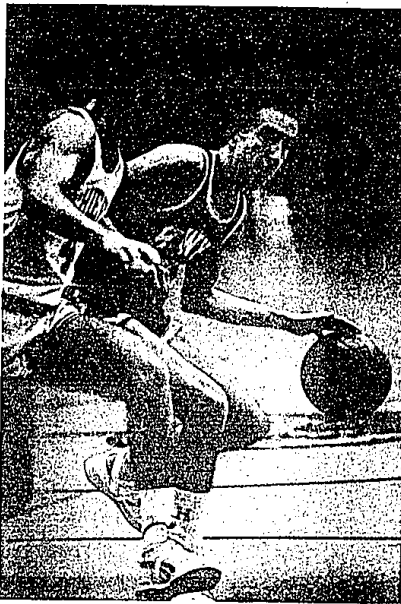
THE CHIEFS forced 12 turnovers in the first half and bottled to a 28-18 lead. The badgered Harrison shooters hit 6-of-19 from the floor and 8-of-13 from the foul line in the first half.

"Where we lost this game was when we missed all those free throws in the first half," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "We weren't able to hit our shots inside, either, but then it's hard when you're getting hit. Give Canton credit, though, they made their shots when they had to and their press gave us trouble early when we kept dribbling into the corners."

One of the hazards of Canton's hell-bent defensive play was a propensity to commit fouls. The Chiefs were whistled for 24 fouls on the night. Three starters — Tyrone Reese, Roger Trice and Jeff Anusiewicz — fouled out.

Harrison couldn't take full advantage of that situation for two reasons. No. 1, the Hawks made only 13 of 23 foul shots in the game and many of the misses were from ends of one-and-one opportunities. No. 2, Canton got tremendous play from its second unit.

Roger and Jeff played despite being sick with the flu. Another three of them went down with fouls. But



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Mike Koroly (with ball) scored seven points for Farmington Harrison Friday night, but his team lost at Plymouth Canton, 58-43.

our bench just did an excellent job. They played a real unselfish game. I'm real proud of the way those kids played. They played to win," Niemi said.

Matt Littleton and Brad Carey were the standouts of the bench. Littleton shared game-high scoring honors with Reeves, each with 13 points. Carey added seven points.

THE HAWKS made one serious run at the Chiefs late in the third quarter. With 6-8 center Brad Ridgeway doing a large share of the work, Harrison ran off a 13-4 spurt in the final minutes of the third and first minute of the fourth quarter. A steal and basket by Ridgeway and two free throws by Scott Bissell drew the Hawks within three, 38-35, with 6:31 left to play.

Many teams would have folded at that point. Alley cats, however, don't fold. Littleton calmly answered Bissell's free throws with a 15-foot shot. Reeves forced a turnover and made a nifty pass to Trice for a layup. After a Hawk misfire, Littleton drained another short jumper. Another Harrison miss was followed by a Reeves basket.

One minute and 20 seconds after Harrison pulled within three, Canton spread the margin back to 11, 46-35. Ballgame, even though Reeves and Trice fouled out soon after that surge.

RIDGEWAY and Chad Burgess scored 11 each to pace Harrison. Ridgeway also had seven blocks and four steals.

Roger Trice, who at 6-8 is Canton's most effective inside player, added 10 points. Brian Paupe, another starter slowed by the flu, added eight points.

Referees Ken Dersay and George Heger called 42 personal fouls and two technical fouls (both on Harrison's Gary Schwedl). Teachman, though careful not to detract from Canton's effort, was not pleased with the work of the two officials.

"It was not only what they called, it was what they didn't call," said the veteran coach. "In my opinion, these were not varistally-caliber refs."

The loss leaves the Hawks with a 3-3 league record and a 4-4 overall mark. Canton is 4-2 in the league, 5-4 overall.

## 'Nette worth Ruggiero is thinner and shot-shy, but she's still the on-court general

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

TOM WILLIAMS was there. He coached her in middle school.

Larry Baker and Mike King were there, too. They coached her in high school.

Heck, everybody was there. It was like old-time week. Her mom and dad, other relatives, a whole bunch of her friends from high school — quite a reunion. They filled up a section of bleachers at University of Detroit's Calihan Hall Wednesday.

One wise guy cracked: "U-D should schedule Colorado State every year — this is the biggest crowd of the season."

The attraction: Annette Ruggiero. The former All-Area, all-state point guard from Plymouth and Farmington Hills Mercy High School is now in her second year with the Colorado State women's basketball team.

"It would have been a lot nicer if we won," Ruggiero said. "But it was great. I was so surprised to see all those people. It was like old times."

HER TEAM put up a valiant effort against the heavily favored Titans — a team that features a couple of Ruggiero's old pals, Terri Ford from Mercy and Amy Austin from North Farmington. Colorado State fought from behind all night and eventually took a four-point lead with less than five minutes to play. But U-D overpowered CSU in the final minutes to escape with a 60-53 win.

It was a good-bad night for Ruggiero. She played hard and played well, but her team lost.

Good-bad. Typical of her two years at Colorado State. On the surface — a 4.0 grade point average and starting role on the basketball team — it seems life is too easy for Ruggiero. Beneath the surface, hidden by her accomplishments and amiability, are many arduous and anxious moments.

Ruggiero, typically, didn't disappoint anyone (except maybe herself) with her performance Wednesday. She still wears the French braids in her hair and the intense, almost ferocious expression on her face — her trademark at Mercy. She is still the floor general, taking charge at both ends of the floor.

An assistant in the CSU Sports Information Department said this about Ruggiero: "She doesn't roll up a lot of big numbers, but the coach (Brian Berger) said the team would fall apart if she wasn't out there."

Does that sound like the Annette Ruggiero we knew at Mercy, or what?

CLEARLY, THOUGH, it is not the same Annette Ruggiero. For starters, she has lost some 20 pounds since the summer. She was always a small point guard; now she looks tiny.

Annette Ruggiero  
CSU point guard

"I was trying to lose some weight," Ruggiero said. "I had gained like 10 pounds since last year. I lost like eight pounds, then I started getting real busy with school and basketball and everything. I didn't expect to lose that much."

"But I feel like I'm in the best shape of my life. The coach really works us hard. Plus, we only have nine players so there are a lot of times when I have to play 40 minutes (like Wednesday night). It's hard to tell if the weight loss has anything to do with endurance. But I feel good."

There is something different about her game, too. She didn't shoot the ball a lot at Mercy, but she was never afraid to put it up. Watching her play Wednesday, one could sense Ruggiero's reluctance to shoot. She put up just three shots: she missed one, made one and had one blocked.

"I am supposed to be shooting more," she said. "I have heard a lot about that. I think the coach is starting to accept the fact that I'm not shooting guard. But he wants me to put it up more."

"I know I have to look for the shot more. Right now my teammates don't expect me to shoot so they don't really look for me on the court. But if I started shooting more, they would start looking for me — the whole thing would kind of snowball."

THE ISSUE is causing some anxious moments for both Ruggiero and Berger. In his first year with CSU, he has more or less told Ruggiero to shoot it or sit.

"He said that when the league season started the team was going to need someone in there who was willing to shoot the ball. He said if I wasn't willing to do that, he would find someone who was. He said he doesn't care about my percentage. He just wants me to shoot. My shooting

percentage has been horrible lately (25 percent after 12 games)," Ruggiero said.

It's an adjustment that Ruggiero knows she has to make. She'll make it. She has had to make several adjustments since arriving at Fort Collins, Colo.

She played on four straight winning teams at Mercy. In her first year at CSU the team lost 21 games — far more than Ruggiero had ever lost in high school.

"It was just miserable," Ruggiero said. "There were a lot of team problems. It's a lot better this year. Last year, there were a lot of girls who didn't get along with the coach. There was a lot of backstabbing. This year, everybody gets along great."

WITH A NEW coach, Berger, came renewed hope for the CSU program. It also fostered serious concern among the returning players.

"At the start of this year we worked out with the assistant coach. We didn't meet the new coach until practice started. When he showed up we were all so scared. He's a real tough guy, a real disciplinarian. I like that. It makes me a better player, but he scared us to death," Ruggiero said.

"We kind of felt like, well, he didn't recruit us so he might not think we are any good. It was scary for a while. I had to really work to earn my spot. I heard stuff that he said about me. He kind of thought I was overweight. I don't think he thought I was good enough. That really motivated me. I figured I just had to prove to him that I could play."

See, it hasn't exactly been a cakewalk for Ruggiero. But then Ruggiero has always been one to respond to a challenge. Going out to Fort Collins was an immense challenge. She could have made it easier on herself by going to Western Michigan (which had a keen interest in her services) and staying fairly close to home. She was well known in Michigan. Nobody ever heard of Annette Ruggiero in Colorado. She virtually had to start from scratch.

"I know now that I made the right choice," she said. "It was so close to going to Western. But after coming home now, I realize Western was just too close to home. It is really exciting to come home now. Going away forced me to be independent."

HER NEXT challenge is to help CSU build a winning basketball program.

"Turning it around here is very important to me," she said. "We're close right now. We're missing just a little something. We haven't won enough yet to really know how to win."

Who better to teach someone how to win than Annette Ruggiero?

## Rocks muscle North; Spartans rip Falcons

It was a classic basketball confrontation Friday at North Farmington. Big men vs. little men, inside power vs. outside finesse.

Not that North was without an inside game, what with Rick Karcher and Chuck Howard, both 6-foot-5. But against Plymouth Salem's Mike Hale (6-5), Rick Taylor (6-7) and Dave Collins (6-4), well, let's just say the outside shot was far more attractive.

But as usually happens in such showdowns, it's the big men who rule. They did at North, as Salem pulled away to a 61-46 Western Lakes triumph. The win pushed the Rocks' record to 6-0 in the league, same as Westland John Glenn (a 78-63 victory at Walpole Lake Central Friday). The two teams will meet Friday at Salem.

"It was a real good game until the last four minutes of the fourth quarter," said North coach Tom Negoshid, whose team dipped to 3-5 overall and 2-4 in the WLAA. "Then we had to do some things we didn't want to have to do. We started to put the ball up at a quicker pace."

Against rebounders like those roaming under the boards for Salem, there are few second chances. But the Raiders didn't need many in the first half, according to Rock coach Bob Brodie.

"They shot the eyes out of the bucket early," he said; "we had them shooting 55 percent in the first quarter and 72 percent in the second, and none of those were inside. They were all outside jumpers. (Kurt) Dudek did most of the damage for them. He got 14 of his 20 points in the first half."

The Raiders' shooting allowed them to stay close to Salem, trailing just 29-25 at the half and forcing Brodie to make a defensive adjustment to try and contain Dudek. The Salem coach put D.J. Ewald, a 6-3 guard, on the shorter Dudek, a move he said "was the key, right there."

Still, the Rocks led by just 44-39 entering the final

## basketball

quarter. Their size finally started taking its toll, however, Collins got all eight of his points in the period, and they outscored North 17-7.

Hale had 21 points for the winners. Brian Kearis got 15 and Taylor had 14. Hale's nine rebounds was high for Salem (8-1 overall), which outboarded North 28-15. Karcher clipped in 11 points for the Raiders.

STEVENSON 54, FARMINGTON 38: Livonia Stevenson started slowly but finished with a flourish, outpointing the Falcons 42-24 over the final three quarters to win going away Friday at Stevenson.

Free throws played a pivotal part in the Spartan win. They hit 14-of-21, including all seven of their chances in the fourth quarter, to two-of-five for Farmington. Rich Gregor poured in seven of his 13 points in a 17-8 Stevenson fourth quarter.

Farmington (2-6 overall, 1-5 in the WLAA) got 11 points from Ron Jones.

PLY. CHRIST. 58, LUTH. NW 54: Plymouth Christian (7-1 overall, 5-1 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Association) overcame an early deficit to knock off Farmington Lutheran Northwest (4-4 overall, 2-4 in the MIAC) Friday at Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth.

Pat McCarthy's 22 points and Steve Windle's 10 points and eight assists topped the Eagles, who trailed 13-10 after one quarter before taking a 25-24 halftime lead. Greg Garmow netted 22 points and Andy Lewis added 12 for Lutheran Northwest.

**Mobiltronics, Inc.**

an authorized  
**CELLNET**  
agent

**Presents The**

**GE PRICE BUSTER SALE**

**\$745\***

**SPECIAL BONUS**

**FREE 625\***

**FOR A GE CARFONE**

**CELLULAR AIRTIME MINUTES**

**GE CARFONE**

**GE QUALITY**

**MANY FEATURES**

**FULL WARRANTY**

**FINANCE IT**

**\$1788**

**per mo.**

**w/approved credit**

**CALL**

**585-4520**

**Mobiltronics, Inc.**

**AMERITECH**

**MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS**

Over 125 cities in the U.S.A. & Canada

More cells for greater call capacity

Free roaming in Windsor

\*Restrictions apply. Limited Quantity.