

# Sports

Chris McCosky editor/B44-1101



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(F)18

## Chiefs rule in Western

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

There were 10 seconds left in the game.

Plymouth Canton's Tyrone Reeves hit Mike LaSota with a pretty pass underneath the Farmington Harrison basket. LaSota's hoop gave Canton a 65-58 lead and Tom Niemi finally accepted the victory.

"That's it. That's it, that's it," the Canton coach shouted while slapping five with everyone along the bench.

Sir Edmund Hillary probably said the same thing when he reached the top of Mount Everest.

In fact, Canton's 65-58 win at Harrison Friday night — a win that gave the Chiefs sole possession of first place in the Western Lakes Western Division — would have made old Sir Hillary proud. It was like climbing a steep mountain.

"Yes, I guess we climbed a bit of a mountain tonight. But we've played over adversity all season," Niemi said.

LET'S TALK adversity. Canton got into foul trouble early. The Chiefs were whittled for 17 fouls in the first half. Harrison was whittled for seven. By the fourth quarter, Canton had three players with four fouls and two others with three.

For the game, Harrison made 24 of 38 free throws. Canton made 11 of 13.

But the Chiefs, in effect, were getting two points for every free throw they gave up. The Chiefs made 27 field goals to Harrison's 17.

But foul trouble wasn't the only thing blocking the Chiefs Friday — there was a human mountain by the name of Brad Ridgeway to contend with. The 6-8 senior center scored 14 points for Harrison, blocked 10 shots and grabbed 11 rebounds.

The Hawks were very effective when they set up their half-court offense and kicked the ball inside to Ridgeway. Unfortunately for the Hawks, the Chiefs seldom allowed Harrison to set up.

"I think that was because of our inexperience," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "These guys, even our seniors, haven't played that much basketball. That stuff happens. We got out of our offense. Then we got frustrated. But Canton did a nice job. They saw that we took the middle away so they worked the ball around until they got an open shot."

AND CANTON didn't miss many open shots, particularly down the stretch. Much to Niemi's delight, it was players off the bench that were doing the scoring. Brad Carey (who should remind old-time Canton basketball fans of a young Scott Adler), Matt Littleton, Mike LaSota and David Foxworthy all contributed mightily.

"We work very hard to develop players in our program and we expect them to perform," Niemi said. "And tonight they did. They really did a job for us."

Plymouth Canton	9-6
Farmington Harrison	9-6
Livonia Spartans	7-7
Northville	6-8
W.L. Central	4-10
Livonia Hawks	1-13

Canton led throughout the first half but Harrison took a 33-31 lead in the third quarter. Jeff Anulewicz scored to tie the game, then Carey drained two long-range jumpers and Littleton hit a short jumper to put the Chiefs back in front 39-35.

Harrison rolled the game at 39. But LaSota, Carey and Brian Pasporo countered with baskets and Canton eventually took a 47-44 lead into the final quarter.

Canton, virtually ignoring Harrison's all-out pressure, never relinquished its lead in the fourth quarter.

"AT HALFTIME I really thought we had them," Teachman said. "They were in foul trouble and I thought we could really take it to them in the second half. But we didn't play very smart. We couldn't find their open shooters and we stopped taking the ball inside; we stopped doing the things that got them into foul trouble in the first half."

Said Niemi: "I thought we played excellent defense when we had to and I thought we showed excellent poise when Harrison took the lead. I'm really proud of the kids. We're like a family. Everyone of these guys played super tonight."

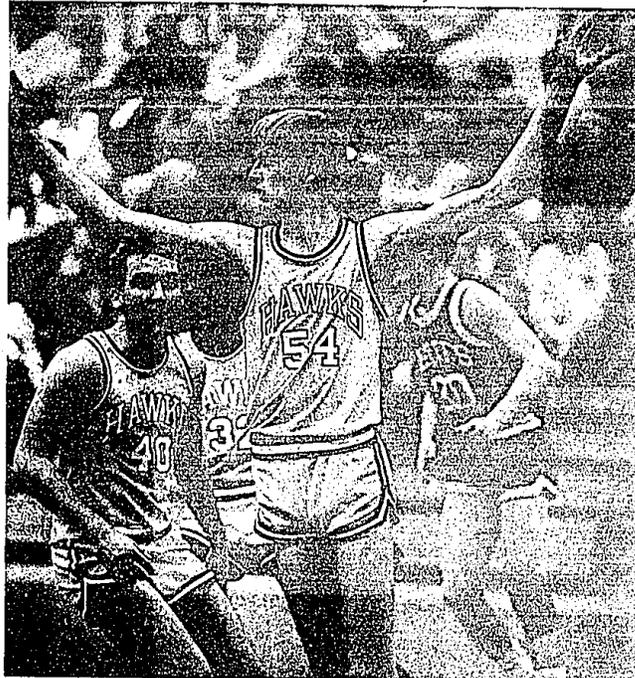
LaSota led Canton with 14 points. Carey notched 12. Starters Tyrone Reeves and Roger Trice were also effective. Reeves scored 10 points and dished out nine assists. Trice scored 11 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and checked Harrison sharpshooter Scott Bissell on just six points.

Harrison got 15 points from Chad Burgess and 14 from Gary Schwedt to supplement Ridgeway.

The victory gives Canton a one-game lead in the Western Division with two games left. The Chiefs, 9-5 in the league and 10-7 overall, host Livonia Stevenson Tuesday and Northville Friday.

The Hawks, 6-8 and 9-7 overall, travel to Walled Lake Central Tuesday and to Walled Lake Western Friday.

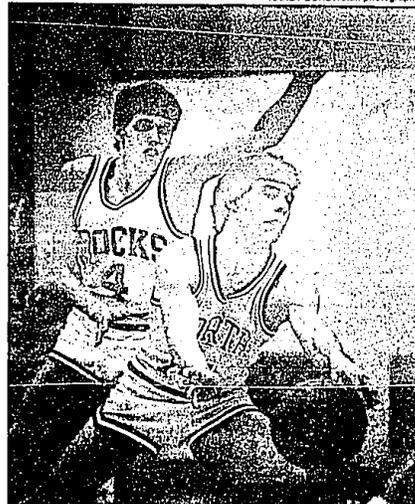
"We know that we have to play two very difficult teams next week," Niemi said. "This thing is far from over."



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

## Rough night

Brad Ridgeway (top) of Harrison and Mark Taylor (below) of North Farmington played hard in their respective basketball games Friday night but the results were less than satisfying. The Hawks fell out of a first-place tie in the Western Lakes Western Division after losing at home to Plymouth Canton. North fell behind early at Plymouth Salem and stayed behind the rest of the night.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

## Rocks bash North

All Plymouth Salem needed was that strong first quarter.

That's just what the Rocks got against visiting North Farmington. They led 18-6 after one period, and against a team like North, which has struggled offensively all season, that was enough.

Salem played the Raiders evenly the rest of the way to win by that 12-point margin, 58-46, in a Western Lakes Activities Association basketball game Friday.

"We got the ball inside in the first quarter," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Then North packed it in."

But by then it was too late — the damage was done. The Raiders narrowed the gap to 32-25 at the half, but Salem outscored them 26-21 over the last two quarters to claim the victory.

Chuck Howard did most of the offensive damage for North, scoring 13 first-half points. But Brodie made a defensive adjustment at halftime, limiting Howard to just four second-half points and 17 for the game.

"We didn't allow Howard to drop step and shoot in the second half," said Brodie. "We did a real good job defensively. I'm happy with our defense — we're holding teams to 49 points a game."

Rick Taylor was a potent offensive force for the Rocks, pouring in 25 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Mike Hite added 14 points. Rick Karcher contributed 12 for North.

The win lifted Salem to 15-2 overall and 13-1 in the W.L.A.A. North fell to 6-10 overall and 5-9 in the W.L.A.A.

STEVENSON 44, FARMINGTON 33: The one-two punch of Eric Johnson and Pete Mazzoni triggered a Livonia Stevenson scoring spree in the middle quarters, when the Spartans outpointed Farmington 35-14, Friday at Farmington.

Mazzoni netted 12 points, six coming in a 17-5 second-quarter Stevenson surge that put the Spartans ahead 23-22 at the half. Johnson, who finished with 17 points, netted six in the third quarter as the Spartans increased their lead to 41-21.

A 12-3 final-quarter Farmington rally wasn't enough. Andy Boden and Steve Howell each scored eight points for the Falcons (1-15 overall, 1-13 in the W.L.A.A.). Stevenson is 8-9 overall, 6-8 in the W.L.A.A.

### LAKES DIVISION BASKETBALL STANDINGS (League records only)

Westland John Glenn	14-0
Plymouth Salem	13-1
W.L. Central	9-6
Livonia Stevenson	7-7
North Farmington	6-9
Farmington	1-13

## OCC's Raiders run, gun past Macomb CC, 105-85

By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

A quick glance at a mens basketball score like Wednesday's — 105-85, Oakland Community College over visiting Macomb CC — would be certain to prompt remarks like, "Another run-and-gun offensive contest, a scoreboard race won by the Raiders."

OK. There was a lot of running. And gunning. And scoring. But a team doesn't outscore its opponent one stretch — shutting them out for more than seven minutes — without some defense.

OCC did just that. The Raiders trailed 32-29 with 3:22 left in the opening half. Then they scored the last 11 points (seven by Sam Smith) before the first 15 points (six by Carson Butler) after intermission. The 24-0 run transformed a tight game into a runaway, as Macomb never got closer than 11 the rest of the way.

In that 7:13 stretch, OCC forced nine turnovers, surrendered four rebounds, and forced a bundle of bad shots. Almost all those poor shots were from the perimeter. The Raiders shut down Macomb's inside passing game, which had hurt them early.

"I THINK No. 51 (6-foot-5 center Greg Davis) has been improving and improving and improving," said OCC coach Lynn Reed of his team's interior defense. "And Jimmy Sherrill (from Avondale) played an outstanding game for us. He had a bad ankle for so long and now he's finally healthy."

Those two were key components to stopping the Monarchs when they got the ball into the scoring range. But the game was decided before Macomb got into its half-court offense. OCC's variety of pressure defenses wore out their opponents.

"We do so many things, pressing-wise," said Reed. "We have so many different looks. That created some confusion for them, and that's what got us our run and won it for us."

The Raiders' defense-created offense was the reason they outscored Macomb 65-53 in the second half. The Monarchs got 28 of those second-half points in the final six minutes, when the outcome was assured.

HOW CONFUSING were Reed's presses? Well, OCC used five of them, from a man-to-man denial to three separate zones. The most effective, according to Reed, was the 2-1-2 full-court zone; after leaving the mid-court area open most of the game, the switch to a press with a man in the middle caused numerous turnovers.

But more than that, the constant harassment tuckered Macomb out. "I think it's the constant pressure we apply," was Reed's reason for the Raiders' success, an 18-7 overall record and an 11-4 Eastern Conference mark. "It wears people out."

That also applies to Smith on offense. "He's an outstanding ballplayer," was how Reed described his 6-4 forward. "He can do so many things."

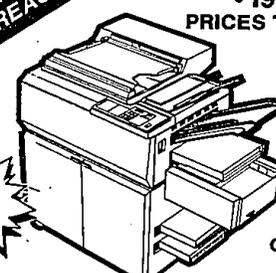
Against Macomb, what Smith did was score — 30 points in all. He also had eight rebounds. Carson Butler was equally effective with 24 points, 14 assists and six steals. Gary Holt added 20 points and nine assists, and Reggie Anderson and Sherrill had 10 points apiece, with Sherrill nabbing 11 boards.

Terry Koerner popped in 28 points to pace Macomb (9-15 overall, 5-8 in the conference). Glenn Miller had 18 and Jay Miron and Ron Courtney scored 13 each.

OCC still has an outside shot at a conference title. The Raiders finish their regular season Saturday at home against St. Clair CC.

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