

## Sports

Chris McCosky editor/644-1101

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(P)10



Salom's Tony Moore (with ball) handled the pressure applied by Farmington's Darin Magora with little trouble.

## Rocks crush Farmington

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

So much for preliminaries. Enough of the rematches. And no more mismatches.

The state tournament has reached district final time for Plymouth Salem. From here on out, the road to Crisler Arena will be unfamiliar and treacherous, perhaps impassable, with roadblocks constructed by teams foreign to this part of the state.

Wednesday night the Rocks took their second step, but this one was far easier than the first, when they struggled to beat Plymouth Canton. They led from the first basket until the final buzzer, routing woeful Farmington 75-45 at Salem.

**THE VICTORY** put the Rocks into the district final at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Salem, against Novi, a 54-51 winner over Northville in Wednesday's first game. The winner earns a berth in the state regionals at Eastern Michigan University.

"I wrote on the blackboard before the game that this will buy us a tick-

et to the (district) finals," said Salem coach Bob Brodie.

The outcome was hardly a surprise, not when two teams at the opposite end of the scale oppose each other. Salem was 18-2 during the regular season (the Rocks are now 20-2); Farmington was 2-18 (the Falcons finish at 2-19).

Two Rocks each outscored Farmington in the first quarter. Salem led 24-8 after one, with Mike Hale scoring 12 points — mostly from the perimeter — and Rick Taylor scoring 10 points — mostly from the paint.

**THE GAP** was never less than a dozen after the Rocks outpointed Farmington 18-4 in the final 4:29 of the opening quarter. Hale netted 23 points for Salem; Taylor had 20.

Part of the reason for their scoring was Farmington's box-and-one defense, with Salem guard Bryan Kears drawing man-to-man coverage. The strategy was apparent: keep the ball from getting to Salem's scorers. Problem was, it didn't work.

Andrew Boten paced the Falcons with eight points, a remarkable feat considering he drew his fourth foul with 6:21 left in the third period.

Darin Magora and Ronald Jones added six each.

Novi, which is 14-7, presents a different challenge for Salem. "They've got a lot of good athletes and they've got good size at the guard positions," said Brodie. "They've played against a lot of zones. We're going to step out on them and force

them to shoot with a hand in their face."

Salem's man-to-man defense and size should give Novi problems. "Novi's probably outscored a lot of teams," said Brodie. "They hit the glass hard when they miss. But they're going to have a hard time doing that against us."

## Late rally beats Hawks

The bottom fell out on Farmington Harrison in the final quarter Wednesday in its Class B district basketball opener at Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

The Hawks played Catholic League playoff semifinals Royal Oak Shrine tough for three quarters before succumbing to a 76-57 loss.

Shrine outscored Harrison 23-8 in the decisive fourth period.

Harrison led 26-20 late in the first half. But 6-foot-8 senior center Brad Ridgeway got into foul trouble, picking up his fourth early in the third quarter. Shrine, by comparison, committed just two first-half fouls. Senior center Derrick Grant led

the victorious Knights (14-6) with 22 points. Senior guard Brian Horton and senior forward Marty Stephens added 16 and 15, respectively.

Scott Bissell and Chad Burgess led the Hawks with 14 and 13, respectively. Ridgeway, who played 22 minutes, added 11 points, 11 rebounds and five blocked shots. Gary Schwedt contributed seven assists.

"We took the ball inside and we knew what we wanted to do — I thought we outplayed them for the most part," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman, whose team bowed out with a 10-11 overall record. "Shrine ran a man-to-man press and we couldn't get it to our guards."

## OCC shooting for national title

Now Kalamazoo Valley Community College knows how it feels. Just two weeks ago, KVCC game into Oakland CC's territory and upset the Raiders 107-101 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association state finals at Schoolcraft College.

The loss was a heartbreaker for OCC, which had won the state tournament in 1986 and made it to this year's finals by knocking off the Eastern Conference regular-season champs, Highland Park CC, in the state semis.

"I don't think we took them lightly," said OCC coach Lynn Reed of KVCC. "We were just mentally down after the Highland Park game."

Last weekend, the Raiders got a shot at revenge and made the most of it. They met KVCC in the NJCAA Division II regional finals, which the Cougars were hosting, and whipped them 95-88 with a strong defensive effort Saturday.

The regional title earned them a berth in the NJCAA Division II quarterfinals at Delta CC. OCC (now 26-8) will play Meramec (St. Louis) CC at 8 p.m. tonight.

"WE CAUGHT them like they caught us," said Reed, noting that in Friday's regional semis KVCC edged arch-rival Lansing CC in overtime. "It was an outstanding defensive game for us. We stayed out of foul trouble a little better this time."

"In our first game, we got into foul trouble and couldn't play defense. And we didn't get the ball inside like we should have. This time, we jammed it down their throats."

Reed uses a half dozen pressure defenses, but his half-court defense is almost exclusively man-to-man. When KVCC and OCC met the first time, the Raiders' foul troubles forced them to go to a zone, which the strong outside-shooting Cougars gobbled up.

Saturday's contest was another story. KVCC had the early lead, going up 24-17, before OCC rallied to trail by just one, 40-39, at the half. A second-half run gave the Raiders a 13-point bulge they never surrendered. The closest the Cougars could get was six.

**OCC'S INSIDE** game destroyed KVCC. Frodo Courters Sam Smith (25 points and 14 rebounds), Derrick Williams (22 points and 15 rebounds) and Jimmy Sherrell (19 points and eight assists) dominated. Guard Gary Holt added 16 points and eight rebounds and guard Carson Butler scored just nine points but dished out 12 assists.

Matt Lahman paced KVCC, which finished its season at 30-6, with 28 points. Ed Finch, the Western Conference player of the year, stung OCC for 35 points in the first meeting; this time, Smith, Williams and Holt took turns guarding him and limited him to 12.

The Raiders advanced to the finals of the 14-team region with a

**WHERE:** Oakland Community College more basketball team.

**WHAT:** The NJCAA Division II tournament.

**WHEN:** Starting today with four games.

**FACTS:** AND FUTURE: Eight community college teams will compete for the national title. The tournament's first round features Meramec (N.J.) against Horizon (N.J.) at 1 p.m., followed by Al-

legany (Pa.) vs. Houston (Kan.) at 5 p.m. Eastern (Texas) plays Meramec (N.J.) at 8 p.m., with OCC and Meramec (St. Louis) meeting at 8 p.m.

The Meramec-Houston and Al-

legany-Houston games will meet in one semi-

final at 8 p.m. Friday, followed by the Eastern-Shawnee and OCC-Meramec

games at 8 p.m. Semifinal winners will meet for the title at 8 p.m. Saturday at Delta CC.

OCC advanced to the Division II tournament with a win over Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the regional

semifinal Saturday at Delta CC.

The Raiders' last game was a

first-round 98-71 win over Glen Oaks CC, a 97-88 triumph against

Macomb CC, and a tough 82-80

semifinal victory over Owens Tech (from Toledo).

Smith delivered the win over Owens Tech in Friday's semi by

caning a 12-foot jumper with

eight seconds left. Smith finished

with 16 points, 12 coming in the

second half, and nine rebounds.

**HOLT AND WILLIAMS** each

scored 17 points to lead OCC. Wil-

liams also had eight rebounds and

eight assists. Butler had 15 points

(nine in the second half on four-for-

four shooting) and eight assists and

Reggie Anderson contributed eight

points and 10 boards. Brian Wil-

liams topped Tech with 21 points.

OCC trailed 40-37 at the half and

was behind by nine before mounting

a comeback in the final five minutes.

In Thursday's win over Macomb,

Smith got 27 points. Butler had 19.

Anderson netted 16 and Holt had

14. OCC got ahead quickly, building a

48-31 halftime bulge. Jay Miron's

25 points was best for Macomb.

Against Glen Oaks Wednesday,

Anderson hit seven-of-eight field

goals and scored 21 points to pace

the Raiders. He also nabbed 10 re-

bounds. Three others were in dou-

ble-figures in scoring: Smith (19),

Williams (16) and Holt (17). John

Bowie had 12 assists and Sherrell

grabbed 10 rebounds. Tim Smith

led Glen Oaks with 13 points.

Should the Raiders defeat

Meramec CC tonight, they would

play the winner of the Eastern

(Texas)-Shawnee (Ill.) game in Fri-

day's semifinals. The NJCAA Division II championship game is slated for Saturday at Delta.

## Maison makes choice: Drake.

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

What Yvette Maison was looking for in a college was the right attitude. What she found was Drake University.

Earlier this week, Maison decided to attend the Des Moines, Iowa, college. She had narrowed her choices to Western Michigan and Drake.

The Farmington Hills Mercy basketball star was recruited by nearly every Mid-American Conference school before singling out WMU. After comparing the Bronco program with Drake's, she opted for Drake.

"The dedication toward basketball was far greater at Drake than at Western," said the 5-foot-8 guard. "And the education was more personal, too."

**DRAKE COACH** Susan Yow spotted Maison at a summer all-star camp and began recruiting her. Maison's senior season at Mercy attracted more attention; she averaged a school-record 18 points per game. She also collected five rebounds and 4.3 assists as the Marlins' point guard, and was a first-team all-Observer pick.

"She's been recruited by several MAC schools," acknowledged Mercy coach Larry Baker. Yet, Maison chose Drake — a team that lost its first 11 games last season and finished 9-18 overall — over WMU, which reached the MAC tournament final four and is a perennial conference powerhouse.

"It was an unusual choice," agreed Baker. "Few people around here know about Drake. They're definitely rebuilding. But I know for certain

she made a mature, objective decision, that she weighed all the factors."

Drake was 9-9 in the Gateway Conference last year, despite an injury-plagued campaign. The team was down to seven healthy players much of the season.

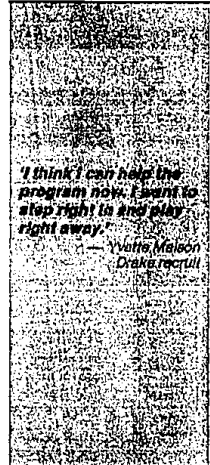
**THREE GUARDS** with extensive experience return next year. Freshman Jenny Fitzgerald started 27 games at the point and averaged 8.2 points per game; sophomore Missy Slockett played in 17 games — she missed the rest because of a broken ankle — and scored 13.4 points; and junior Julia McGee, a guard-forward, played in all 27 games, averaging 7.4 points. But there was no one else behind them. Fitzgerald averaged 39 minutes (out of a possible 40) per game.

Last year was Yow's first as Drake's coach. Her rebuilding of the program and the school's renewed commitment to the sport had a big impact on Maison's decision.

"I think I can help the program now," said Maison. "I want to step right in and play right away."

**PART OF MAISON'S** attractiveness as a top-notch recruit is her versatility. With Drake's depth problems, Maison's proven ability to play either point or shooting guard made

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