

Late rally keeps Salem in title hunt

By G.A. Rieck
staff writer

Winning time.

There's a stretch of every basketball game that earns that title. Some coaches insist it's the start of the second half; others argue it's the midpoint of the opening half, when tempo is determined.

In Monday's state district tournament opener at Plymouth State, winning time was defined differently. It came when Mike Hale was on the floor.

Hale, Salem's 6-foot-5 senior forward, scored five points in a 9-1 Rock run in the final 2:51 to lift his team to a hard-fought 71-63 victory.

Nothing came easy in this third meeting between the two neighboring schools. But after a Hale sparked second-quarter surge in which the Rocks outscored Canton 10-2 to grab a 28-20 lead, Salem never trailed. Hale knocked down seven straight in that stretch, he finished with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

"HE'S DEFINITELY one of the better players in the area," said Salem coach Bob Brodie of Hale. "He's been that way for the last two years. Mike's not a fancy player, but he always seems to thump people inside and out."

Two things kept Hale from thumping Canton worse than he did: A pesky Chief pressure defense that forced 23 Salem turnovers (Canton only had 11) and kept the much-bigger Rocks from taking control with their inside game, and the officiating.

"(The officials) called it very tight," said Brodie, "and early on we didn't adjust to it."

Both teams were shooting the bonus before the three-minute mark of the first quarter. Three Chiefs fouled out. Salem lost one and three others had four fouls by game's end.

One of those three Rocks with four fouls was Hale. After drawing his third and fourth personals in a five-second span of the third quarter, he watched the last 5:25 of the third quarter and nearly three minutes of the fourth to the bench.

HALE WASN'T the only one in trouble. Teammate Rick Taylor also had four fouls and a seat on the bench, which meant Brodie had to trust his back-ups to hold on.

"We were just trying to keep our finger in the dike," said Brodie. "I have to give credit to those guys coming off the bench. That's what struck me about this game. Our bench guys played really well."

When Hale re-entered in the final quarter, Salem led 58-52. Canton was the team to rally in the next two minutes, though, outscoring the Rocks 8-3 to knot it at 60-60 with 3:08 left on a Roger Trice jumper.

Two Bryan Kears free throws put Salem back on top, but Mike LaSota tied it again for Canton with 2:51 to go. That's when Hale took over.

A driving shot with 1:53 left put the Rocks ahead to stay. He then rebounded a Canton miss and was fouled. After hitting the first free throw, he missed the second, but Taylor rebounded and scored on a put-back to boost Salem's lead to 67-62.

"WHEN THEY got the rebound on that missed free throw and scored, that probably broke our backs," said Canton coach Tom Niemi. "That was the key."

The Chiefs' shooting down the stretch didn't allow it to overcome any mistakes. They missed their final six floor attempts of the game. They also committed three turnovers in the last minute, adding to their woes.

It was the only bad stretch of the game for Canton. Their defense and the foul trouble sustained by Salem's key inside players allowed the Chiefs to establish the tempo.

"I thought we had a heck of an effort," said Niemi, whose team finished the season at 12-9, including three setbacks against Salem. "We added some wrinkles to our press, to adjust to what they tried to do to break it. I thought that worked well."

BRODIE AGREED. "It was like a chess game at the end," he said. "We were adjusting to their press, and they were adjusting to our adjustments."

"But our biggest problem in handling their press was that we didn't have Mike on the floor. (Jeff) Justice did a nice job filling in for him, but Jeff doesn't attack the press like Mike does."

Joining Hale in double-figures in scoring for Salem was Justice, who came off the bench to net 14, and Taylor with 11. Justice also nabbed 16 rebounds. Dave Collins collected nine points and Kears had eight to go with seven assists. Ted Hancock also contributed off the bench, dishing out seven assists.

Canton got 16 points from Tyrone Reeves, 14 from Brad Garey and 11 from Trice. While the Chiefs pressured Salem into making mistakes, it was the Rocks who controlled the boards, outrebounding Canton 51-30.

Hawks tumble in district final

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson and Westland John Glenn are the only two Oberlin-area volleyball teams still alive in Class A state tournament competition. And only one of these teams will have the opportunity to make the state finals March 21 at Flint Carman-Ainsworth High School.

Both teams will compete, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, at the Wayne Memorial regional tournament.

Stevenson squares off against Dearborn Edsel Ford while Glenn faces Temperance-Bedford. The championship match is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

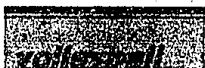
Stevenson earned a berth to the regional tournament by winning the Southfield-Lathrup district tournament last Saturday. The Spartans defeated Redford Bishop Burgess in the championship match, 15-6, 15-10.

"It's pretty ironic that we happened to beat Livonia Stevenson in the district finals last year," said Burgess coach Jerry Abraham. "They played very well this time. We were playing well and I thought we may beat them, but they played tough and were deserving of the win."

"WE CAME off a banner year last year in which we won the league, district and regional titles, the Operation-Friendship championship, and advanced to the state finals before losing to Portage Northern. We had a lot of positions to fill this year. I feel the girls did a great job. Overall we had an excellent season."

Burgess ousted Detroit Henry Ford in the semifinals 15-8, 16-14, after beating Livonia Churchill in its opening match 15-12, 15-4.

Stevenson opened Farmington (15-0, 15-1) in the semifinals after opening the tourney with a 15-2, 15-0



win over Redford Union. The Spartans defeated Southfield Lathrup 15-15, 15-4, 15-3 in a pre-district match Thursday.

"I think the most pleasing thing is that we didn't have a letdown," said Stevenson coach Lee Cagle. "We faced some competition that we beat pretty easily in the regular season, and many times you tend to play at a lesser level when you play those teams again. Fortunately we had no letdown at all. We wanted to be on all day because we knew we'd have to play a tough team in the finals."

AMY ANDERSON, Kristine Bailey and Sue Zatorski carried much of the load for Stevenson in the district tournament. Anderson served 35 times, had seven aces and just one error. She also recorded nine kills in 16 attacks.

Bailey, the power hitter on the team, had 53 kills in 69 attacks, including 20 kills in the championship match.

Zatorski finished the tournament with 10 aces in 29 serves. She also registered 50 spikes with 31 kills, including 10 kills in the finals.

Rocky Cibor had an exceptional day of setting for the Spartans finishing the day with just three errors in 38 sets in the finals.

"Rocky is often overlooked but she is a very important part of our game," said Cagle. "She sets the whole game in our 5-1 system and is just a superior setter. She has set over 1,600 times for us and 1,400 have been perfect sets, where the hitters can expect the ball to be there and don't have to do anything to change their approach. She's very, very good."

Stevenson, with a 43-4 overall record, will face Edsel Ford, the co-champions of the Northwest Suburban League along with Garden City.

"We're favored to win it and I hope we do," said Cagle. "Right now the girls are playing with an awful lot of confidence. We're looking forward to playing much tougher competition."

JOHN GLENN advanced to the regional competition after winning the Ann Arbor Huron district championship. The Rockets opened the tournament with a 15-5, 15-2 triumph over Romulus. They defeated Plymouth Canton in the semifinals (15-8, 15-3) and look out Ann Arbor Huron in the finals (15-11, 15-18, 15-1).

"I thought we had as good a chance of winning it as anyone else did," said Glenn coach Wendy Bostwick. "We've had a pretty inconsistent season, and I didn't know if we'd be up or down. After our first game I knew we were on."

Slacy Graham paced the Rockets with 18 kills on the day. Denise Gurnke had 10 kills and Chris Jones had 35 assists. Jennifer Okon ran the offense with exceptional passing and setting.

"Overall it was a total team effort," said Bostwick. "This is the third year we've won the district championship."

The Rockets enter regional competition with a 15-14 overall record.

FARMINGTON HARRISON came up one match short of advancing to the regional, falling Saturday to host Madison Heights Bishop Foley in the district championship 15-11, 13-15, 7-15.

"We won the first game and were leading 13-7 in the second game," said Harrison coach Ron Shortt. "We came that close and just couldn't put it over the edge. After coming from

behind like they did, Foley had so much momentum in the third game there wasn't much we could do."

In the opening round the Hawks defeated Warren Fitzgerald 15-2, 15-6. They disposed of Redford Thurston in the semifinals 15-8, 15-11.

Janine Williams led the Hawks with 13 kills in 20 attempts against Foley. Heidi Reyst added six aces serves for Harrison.

"This is the best season for a Farmington Harrison team since I've been here," said the fourth-year coach, whose team finished 22-14. "We started out at 5:00 and have been a little better each year."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD advanced all the way to the finals of the Northville district before being eliminated by Walled Lake Western 15-7, 13-15, 17-15. The Blazers defeated South Lyon and North Farmington en route to the championship match and finished the season with a 22-8 overall record.

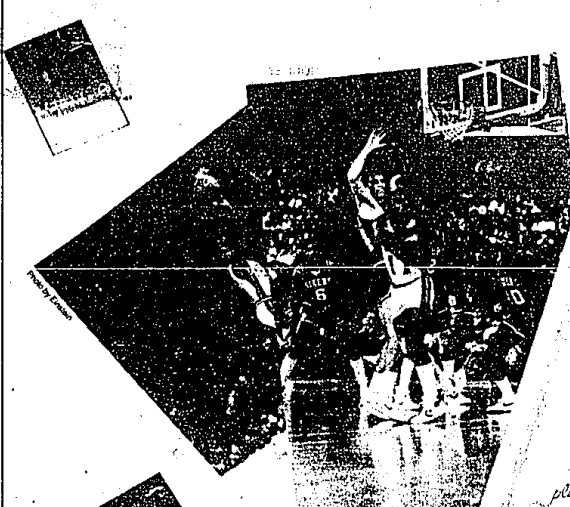
The Blazers may even have won the tournament had it not been for a stroke of bad luck late in the final game.

With Ladywood leading 14-10, Mary Kelly fell to the court and split her chin open, forcing the Blazers to finish the match without their leading setter. They eventually lost 17-15.

"That final match was a nightmare," said Ladywood coach Tom Teckers. "Mary had to get five stitches to close the cut and we lost her for the match. She was our setter and losing her hurt us really bad. Walled Lake Central played very well though. They deserved to win it."

"We have a very young team and we stuck together the whole season. This is the best first-year team I've had, and I'm really looking forward to next year. I think we'll be very strong."

TAKE A SHOT AT BEING A DETROIT PISTONS PHOTOGRAPHER!



prints for price of c

Guarantee applies to C-41 original rolls with standard finish on film. Offer subject to time and eligibility requirements. See store for details.

plus

ENTER RIGHT, EVERYDAY

Arbor Drug Stores, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Detroit Pistons are teaming up to give you a chance to be an honorary Pistons photographer for a night! Enter to win at any Arbor store...no purchase is necessary. There'll be two winners every month and each winner will enjoy a pre-game dinner with the coaches and press, plus four free tickets to the game! All winners will also qualify for the grand prize: a free trip to a 1987 Championship Series Game! Hurry into Arbor today and you could be a "big shot" on the basketball court real soon!

THE TWELVE TWICE-WEEKLY Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

DETROIT PISTONS

ARBOR DRUG CENTER A NEW KIND OF DRUGSTORE

TWA Thomas Cook Travel U.S.A.

Maison to Drake

Continued from Page 1

her a valued commodity.

"She can enhance your passing game and she can shoot well enough to play off-guard," said Baker. Yet, the Murcy coach didn't think playing time was a major part of Maison's decision.

"Western has a successful program, and they wanted her to step right in and play for them next year," he said. "I don't have any doubt she can do the same for us."

SC is tops in Dome

Zollie Stevens pumped in 34 points and Derrick Kearney added 23 to lead the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team to a 100-82 win Sunday over Madonna College in a game played at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Schoolcraft finished the season at 12-18 with the win.

Diamond Steele and Mike Sullivan each added 10 points for the winners, who broke away from a 47-47 half-

Drake.

Now that her choice is made, Maison, who is tentatively planning to study physical therapy, knows her work is cut out for her.

"I have to work on everything," she said. "I have to work on every aspect of my game."

Division I college basketball is a big step up from high school. For some, it can be too intimidating a step.

"Yeah, but it's exciting, too," was Maison's view. "I'm ready for it."

Division I college basketball is a big step up from high school. For some, it can be too intimidating a step.

Maurice Woods and Jim Sall each tallied 20 for Madonna. Bryan Daniel chipped in with 18.

Kearney, a 6-foot-3 forward from Detroit Receiving, was named game MVP in Saturday's East-West Conference All-Star game at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. He scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

CHIMNEYS

Cleaned
Screened
Repaired
Now

Roofs

• Repaired
• Re-Roofed
• New
• Leaks
Stopped

Karney Dondorian's
CROWN CONTRACTING, INC.
427-3961
LICENSED • INSURED • GUARANTEED
SINCE 1952