

Head lifts Rocks past Farmington

Dena Head scored a career-high 36 points Tuesday night in leading Plymouth Salem to a 103-34 victory over visiting Farmington in girls basketball.

The Rocks took a 33-6 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. They increased the lead to 54-12 by the half and 91-14 after three quarters of play.

"We got off to a real good start and just kept it going," said Salem coach Fred Thomann.

Jill Estey added 26 points, 11 steals and 18 assists for the state-ranked Rocks, who improved to 9-1, 4-0 in the Lakes Division. Keri McBride chipped in 10 points for the winners.

Farmington, which dropped to 3-6 and 0-5, was paced by Stacy Swanderski with 12 points.

GLASSBORO 63, NORTH 53: Westland John Glenn waited until the fourth quarter to take control of Tuesday's game at North Farmington. But the Rockets outscored North 16-5 in the final eight minutes as they improved to 3-1 in the W.L.A.A. 7-2 overall.

"We ran out of gas in the fourth quarter and missed seven free throws," said North coach Greg Capling. "They're a good, aggressive team. They shut us down in the fourth quarter."

Denise Gunkle pumped in 22 points to lead Glenn and Beth Wilson added 19.

girls basketball

North, which fell to 5-4 overall and 1-3 in the W.L.A.A., was paced by Kim Gurecki with 18 points, Suzi Butcher with 14 and Donna O'Brien with 11.

CHURCHILL 37, HARRISON 23: Farmington Harrison remains winless in 91 games as the Hawks were defeated Tuesday night at Livonia Churchill.

It was a big win for the Chargers, however, who earned their first victory of the season against eight losses.

"I feel bad for them but happy for our girls," said Churchill coach Tim Newman. "They came in thinking they had a chance. But we play them again."

Carey Morocco scored 16 points in leading the Chargers, who jumped out to a 13-8 half-time lead. Gretchen Lloyd added 11 for Churchill, and Dawn Gabrieli dished off for five assists.

Karen Nasarian dumped in six points, along from the free throw line, to pace Harrison.

Big games await prep elite

By Brad Emons and Dan O'Meara staff writers

CONSIDER THIS a "make or break" week for a couple of area football high school teams.

A possible division title and state playoff berth is on the line when Westland John Glenn (4-1) travels Saturday to meet unbeaten North Farmington (5-0) in a key Lakes Division game in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The other big matchup will be played Sunday at Pontiac's Washtenaw Stadium when Catholic Central (4-1) bangs heads against Birmingham Brother Rice (5-0) in the annual Boys Bowl. The Central Division title is at stake.

Farmington Harrison (5-0), one of two unbeaten Overland teams and the state's top-ranked team in Class B, can wrap up another Western Division title Saturday with a win over second place Livonia Churchill (3-2).

After five weeks of games, the "expert prognosticators" are deadlocked with a cumulative season total of 54-19 each. Emons closed the gap by going 11-3 last week, while O'Meara slipped to 10-4.

Here goes another week of picks:

FRIDAY GAMES

(all 7:30 p.m.)

Lutheran North at Clermontville: Avondale has all but wrapped up first place in the Metro Conference, but Clermontville (3-2) could be vying for second with a win over Mount Clemens Lutheran North, which gained its first win of the year last week over Harper Woods, 35-0.

Picks — Sick with Clermontville for another week.

Walled Lake Central at Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans (3-2) seem to have found themselves of late and still have a chance to claim a share of the Lakes Division title. Picks — Beating winless Central appears to be money in the bank.

Farmington at Ply. Salem: The Rocks (3-2) have lost two straight against quality teams (Glenn and North).

grid predictions

The Falcons (1-4) might have fared better if they were in the Western Division of the W.L.A.A. instead of the Lakes. Picks — Salem breaks out.

Dearborn at Garden City: GC (0-5) could avoid the color of the Northwest Suburban League with a win over the visiting Pioneers (2-3). Dearborn is reeling from a 14-0 loss to rival Edsel. The Cougars, coming off a 3-0 defeat to Redford Union, must avoid penalties. Picks — Dearborn escapes with a win.

Woodhaven at Redford Union: Woodhaven (4-1) is the Northwest Suburban League's most improved team. The Warriors, idle last week in NFL play, went out and thumped non-league foe Milford, 35-18. RU (1-4) will have little to say on the mind. Picks — RU hands Woodhaven its first league loss, according to Emons, but O'Meara's crystal ball tells of a different ending.

Belleville at Wayne Memorial: Flanker Tom Faison was the only standout for Wayne last week in a 35-6 loss to title-ranked Fordson. The Zebras (3-2) should have no trouble against Belleville (1-4), which won for the first time last week against Southgate, 10-0. Picks — The Zebras regain their stripes.

SATURDAY GAMES

(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Churchill at Farm. Harrison: Shades of 1983 when Churchill upset the Hawks? Nobody thought the Chargers could do it then. A repeat is unlikely, although Churchill's young crew appears to be coming of age. Picks — The Chargers suffer more growing pains. Harrison romps.

Ply. Canton at Liv. Franklin: The Patriots (2-3) self-destructed last week against previously winless Northville. Canton (2-3), meanwhile, must regroup after getting blasted by Harrison, 35-0. Mistakes will determine this

one. Picks — Take Franklin and the home field advantage.

Weld, John Glenn at North Farmington: Two bruising defenses square off and both have decent passing attacks. A weird bounce or two could figure prominently in the final outcome. Who will dare to open it up? Picks — It's Glenn's turn to return the favor after losing last year, 9-7, Emons says. The advantage seems to be with Glenn, but a hunch says North, according to O'Meara.

Taylor Kennedy at Redford Thurston: The Eagles (0-5) have yet to find themselves. They were shut out last week by Crestwood for the third time this season. Kennedy (2-3) is relying on the running of quarterback Ricardo Joaquin, who rushed for 138 yards in a 9-7 victory last week over Taylor Truman. Picks — The Eagles can't leave their familiar nest.

St. Agatha at Redford Union: Our Lady, Our Lady of Lakes coach Mike Boyd has another good team this season. The Lakers (4-1) appear to be the team to beat in the Catholic League's C-Section. Agatha (2-3) crushed Wyandotte Mount Carmel last week, 4-6, but the competition will be much stiffer this week. Picks — The Aggies can't head off the Lakers' trip to the Silverdome.

St. Hedwig at Lutheran Westland: The Warriors are 2-2, but Detroit St. Hedwig (4-1) is one of the better Class D teams in the metro area. They picked up a number of players' service high school. Picks — The Knights ride high into Westland.

Bishop Burgess vs. Bishop Gallagher (1:30 p.m. at Garden City Jr. High): The Spartans (2-3) are hurting, particularly on the offensive line. Two overtime losses this season haven't helped the team's morale. Gallagher (2-3) lost last week to Catholic Central. Picks — Gallagher spoils Burgess's homecoming.

SUNDAY'S GAME

Catholic Central vs. Brother Rice (1:30 p.m. at Pontiac's Waverly Stadium): Rice's outstanding halfback Jason Wolf will be a marked man. CC coach Tom Mach is 6-6 against Rice's Al Fracassa, a statistic nobody should overlook. CC has the better defense, but Rice can move the ball better. Picks — Wolf and Rice yield a victory cry. Emons says. O'Meara likes the Shamrocks in this one.

North, Glenn renew rivalry

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WLC's first possession of the second half ended in another fumble, and the Raiders capitalized again with Sturtz' third TD. Gesund's second TD catch finished the scoring.

Sturtz gained 96 yards on 14 carries, and tailback Ryan McHenry had eight attempts for 56 yards. Filopovich was 4-of-5 for 111 yards passing.

WITH THAT game completed, the Raiders could turn their attention to Glenn and the "best football team we've gone against," according to O'Leary.

"They just physically beat up Plymouth Salem (last Friday night)," he said. "They're well balanced, and they can play defense. It'll take a super effort for us to beat them."

The Raiders edged Glenn 9-6 last year, and, since O'Leary became head coach in '83, nearly all of the games in this rivalry have been close, low-scoring struggles.

"I expect it will be that way again — the defenses will dominate," O'Leary said.

Playoff ratings update

Farmington's two undefeated football teams remain near the top of their respective playoff regions after five weeks of the 1987 high school season.

Harrison, 5-0, is the leader in Class B Region IV with a 91.20 point average in the weekly computer rankings. The top four includes Allen Park and Monroe Catholic Central, both 5-0 with 88.00 averages, and Dearborn Divine Child, 4-1 and 65.80.

St. Joseph, the leader in Region I, has the highest point average in Class B at 92.40.

In Class A Region III, North Farmington, 5-0, is second behind Birmingham Brother Rice. The Warriors have a 102.40 average, the Raiders 94.40. The top four includes Warren Lincoln (5-0, 92.80), Ferndale and Grosse Pointe South (4-1, 80.80).

The top four teams in each region qualify for the playoffs, which begin Nov. 6-7 and conclude Saturday, Nov. 28, in the Pontiac Silverdome.

linemen, the Rockets will have a definite size advantage. But lighter teams can succeed in football, and North's defense is quick and aggressive.

"They're big and physical, but we've played big teams all along," O'Leary said. "Look how big Stevenson was."

"Size doesn't scare us. They're a well-executed team. That's what I'm concerned about. They have not weaknesses offensively or defensively."

WHILE NORTH'S defense is capable of keeping the Raiders in the game, an offense that has not dominated teams with the exception of WLC, will have to move the ball.

"Scott Simon has got to be a key factor," O'Leary said. "He has to have a good game."

"We've got to be able to keep the defense off the field some of the time."

Simon was 14-of-23 for 154 yards and a TD when North defeated Salem 10-0 on Sept. 25 in a game that pitted unbeaten teams.

Mercy stuns Blazers

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"I tore into them at halftime," Baker said, "because I thought we were still suffering from the post-Marian game blues."

The Marlins responded in the third quarter, taking the ball to the basket and parading to the line after getting fouled. Mercy grabbed a 28-24 lead and later pushed it to 38-32 before the Blazers scored the last five points, cutting it to one on McNulty's turnaround shot.

Baker was especially pleased by Clinton's play at guard and lauded her role in affecting the outcome.

"She just played flat-out, man-to-man, in the face defense on their point guard the whole

'A low-scoring game was to their advantage. We usually try to create scoring opportunities off the defense, and we didn't get that tonight.'

— Ed Kavanaugh

Ladywood basketball coach

night," he said, "and that was the key to stopping McNulty. Of course, I was pleased with the job Jennifer Slosar did rebounding with McNulty, also."

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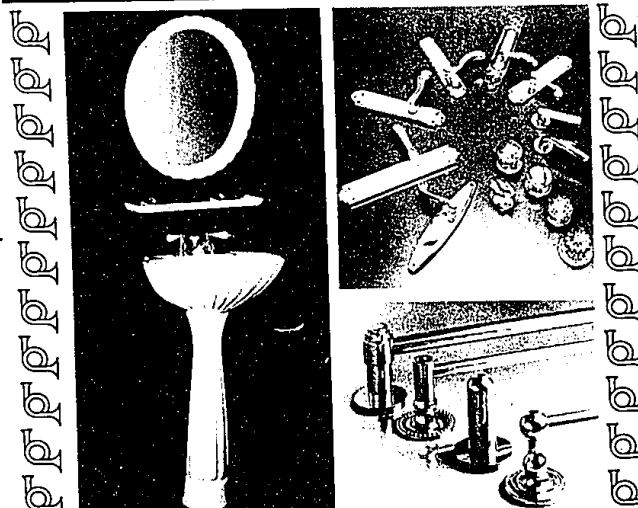
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