

## Sports

Brad Emons, Dan O'Meara editors/591-2312



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# Mercy rally falls short in regional final

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

For one half of basketball, it looked as if Plymouth Salem would earn a berth in the Class A girls quarterfinals the easy way.

The Rocks dominated the first two quarters of Saturday night's regional final with Farmington Hills Mercy in a way uncharacteristic of the rivalry.

But that was just the lull before the storm as the second-half drama soon unfolded. Salem, nevertheless, moved to the next rung on the tournament ladder, but not before surviving a determined comeback by the Marlins and claiming a 41-34 victory at Southfield High School.

"I just kept waiting for the buzzer to ring," said Salem coach Fred Thomann, never assured of the victory until the final horn. "And I hoped it would go off when we had the lead."

THE ROCKS, 24-1, return to Southfield High for Wednesday's 7 p.m. quarterfinal contest. They will play Trenton, which defeated Taylor Center in another regional final Saturday and prevented a match-up between Salem and Thomann's alma mater.

The winner advances to the semifinals at Grand Valley State College in Allendale and will play at 8 p.m. Friday. The state finals also will be played at GVSC on Saturday, with the Class A game starting at 2 p.m.

"This game was every bit as big as the next one," Thomann said. "Now we have to take our game and move it up another notch."

"Right now we're starting to get into our playing groove, and that's real important."

For the Marlins, the loss brings a halt to their string of regional championships. Until this year, Mercy has been to the quarterfinals without interruption in this decade.

## girls basketball

HOWEVER, ANOTHER streak was guaranteed to remain intact, Mercy coach Larry Baker pointed out.

"This is the fifth consecutive year one of these teams has put the other out of the tournament," he said. "The two teams together have a rich tradition of great girls basketball competition."

It appeared the teams might add one of their lesser chapters to that history when the Rocks controlled the first-half action, holding the Marlins to nine points on 4-of-19 shooting.

But Patty Chapp hit a three-point field goal at the buzzer and halved Salem's lead at halftime, 18-9. That signaled the start of Mercy's comeback.

Jan Herberholz, who scored all of her team-leading 12 points in the second half, hit an outside shot and two free throws to start the third period. Then Adrienne Clark, also scoreless in the first half, converted a backcourt turnover, and Mercy was suddenly within three.

THE MARLINS took their first and only lead when Chapp scored to make it 22-21 with 2:20 left in the third period.

Dena Head, who had a game-high 24 points for the Rocks, countered with five straight, including a three-point play after rebounding her own shot and laying it in, to give Salem a 25-21 edge.

Herberholz scored the first basket of the

fourth quarter, also, to force a 25-25 tie, but the Rocks pulled in front again, 30-25, on Barb Krug's pivoting hook and free throws by Keri McBride and Head.

Salem wasn't in the clear, however. Mercy got within a point twice to maintain the suspense. Clark sank a pair of free throws to make it 30-29 with 4:45 to play, and her three-point field goal instantly chopped a 33-29 Salem lead with 2:31 on the clock.

Head, who was 9-of-16 from the floor and had eight rebounds, hit a jumper and two free throws for a 37-32 cushion, and Jill Estey and Head combined for four free throws in the final 20 seconds to finally decide the issue.

Estey finished with 10 points for Salem, a regional champ for the fourth time in Thomann's five years as coach. Chapp had nine and Clark seven for the Marlins, who finish with a 15-8 record.

# Harrison, Falcons open with victories

All things considered, this game wasn't bad for an opener.

Farmington Harrison got its boys basketball season off to a good start, whipping Waterford Kettering 64-57 Friday at Kettering.

"That was awfully good," said Harrison coach Mike Teschman, "for having only four days of practice."

While most other basketball teams in the state had been practicing for 2½ weeks, many of the Hawks were still busy with other duties — namely, trying to win a state football championship. Harrison's football season didn't end until Nov. 28 in the Class B state final in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Despite the short week of preparation, the Hawks jumped in front of Kettering early, leading 18-16 after one quarter and then pasting their opponents with a 21-7 second-quarter surge. But their 16-point lead was trimmed to five (48-43) after three quarters, and in the fourth Kettering went ahead.

That's when the football stars showed they could be just as successful on a basketball court. Bryan Wauldron, who finished with nine points, got the basket that put Harrison back in front. Dave Romps scored six of his nine points in the last-quarter surge.

Chad Burgess led the Hawks with 14 points and Jason Lichtman netted 13, including three-for-three shooting from three-point range. Millard Coleman added eight. Wauldron, Romps, Burgess, Lichtman and Coleman all played football for Harrison.

FARMINGTON 51, RU 37: 11



RANDY BORST/staff photographer  
Brandon London looks back for a possible breakaway pass from a teammate.

## basketball

Despite the short week of preparation, the Hawks jumped in front of Kettering early, leading 18-16 after one quarter and then pasting their opponents with a 21-7 second-quarter surge.

Farmington hit 20-of-53 from the floor (37.7 percent).

Steve Quenneville led all scorers with 14 points for Farmington. Darin Magera added nine. John Burdick paced RU with 11.

BERKLEY 60, N. FARMINGTON 58: North Farmington trailed by 12 at halftime but battled back to tie it in the second half, only to lose when Berkley's Ghanim Kiky sank two free throws with five seconds left Friday at North.

The Bears took control of this season-opener early, outpacing North 20-16 in the first quarter and 22-14 in the second to take a 42-30 halftime lead. The Raiders cut the gap to four (53-49) after three quarters.

The backcourt did the damage for North. Senior guard John Shelton notched 19 points and sophomore guard Matt Hoffman added 14. Kiky paced Berkley with 16. Sean Hansen collected 14.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer  
Farmington's Mike Williams is forced to give way to Redford Union's Paul Hronec in Friday's

season-opener game. The Falcons had their way in the end, taking a 51-37 victory.

# OCC cagers no longer the underdogs

By C.J. Riasak  
staff writer

A year ago, no one really knew what to expect from Oakland Community College's mens basketball team. It was a new team with a new coach, and in a league as tough as the Eastern Conference, that combination rarely breeds success.

"All the way through," recalled OCC coach Lynn Reed, "no one expected us to do it. But we've got a bunch of fighters on this team. They never quit."

OCC never did give up. The Raiders finished second to Highland Park CC in the conference, then won the conference tournament. They were second in the state tourney to Kalamazoo Valley CC, but avenged that defeat by beating the Cougars in the Region XII finals.

That got the Raiders to the eight-team NJCAA Division II tournament. In the first round, they whipped Meramec CC (St. Louis) 94-66. They advanced to the semifinals against Shawnee CC (Ulin, Ill.), which OCC edged 131-129 in double overtime.

It was both a great year and a surprising one. It was also a season that left a deep impression on Reed as he aims his Raiders for the start of this Eastern Conference campaign.

"If we made it last year, we can do it again this year," Reed said. "But we can't be complacent. Everyone's gunning for us, and that'll make it tougher."

"We'll have to wait and see how we handle that, and if we can maintain our intensity."

Reed did not enter his second campaign with as many questions as he had in his first. Indeed, five of his top eight players return, including Butler, the team's leading scorer (21 points per game), and Williams, the conference's top rebounder (11.7 a game, with 18 points).

Butler, a 6-foot point guard, and Williams, a 6-5 forward, are joined by returning Sam Smith, a 6-4 forward (16 points, eight rebounds a game last year; Greg Davis, a 6-6 center, and Reggie Anderson, a 6-4 swingman and part-time starter a year ago.

BUOYED by the success of last season, the Raiders have several advantages as they prepare for the start of their Eastern Conference season-opener at home against Mott CC Wednesday. First, they've played a season together and roles are more defined.

Butler probably won't score like

## Hot-handed Lansing CC jumps on Raiders early

A fast start by Lansing Community College proved more than Oakland Community College could overcome Tuesday as the Raiders fell 114-106 at Lansing.

The home team connected on 41-of-50 shots over the first 30 minutes of the game, peeling OCC down by more than 20 points with 10 minutes left. The Raiders battled back, however, closing to within four with two minutes left.

But four subsequent chances to slice into Lansing's lead after that ended in failure for the Raiders at the free throw line, where they missed the first shot in four consecutive free throw attempts. Too in a costly turnover and a technical foul on Derrick Williams for grabbing the rim and OCC's rally was squashed.

Williams finished with 35 points, including five three-pointers en route to a 23-point first half. Carson Butler added 19, Sam Smith scored 17, and Eric Butler, Reggie Anderson and Greg Davis contributed 10 points apiece.

Kirk Baker paced Lansing with 40 points.

The loss was OCC's first after five wins this season. The Raiders host Mott CC in their Eastern Conference opener at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

he did last year, which is a tribute. "He's improved a lot," said Reed. "He's moving the ball and he's more patient. There's a lot of leadership potential in Carson."

Williams remains a major college prospect, averaging 27.3 points and 13.7 rebounds in helping OCC win five of its first six games.

Smith, according to Reed, is "a clutch player who does everything

well. He's good defensively, a good rebounder, and he can shoot inside and out," while Anderson showed flashes of brilliance down the stretch last season, averaging nearly 18 points over the last 10 games.

But the player whose improvement has impressed Reed the most is Davis. "He's tremendously improved," said Reed. "He's very strong, very quick and a good

leaper." Davis has averaged 13.7 points so far this season.

ALTHOUGH THREE key players — Gary Holt, Jimmy Sherrill and John Bowie — are gone, the replacements are capable. Eric Butler, Carson's "little" (he's 6-4½) brother, has provided a spark off the bench thus far, averaging 12.2 points.

Mark Hogan, a 6-8 center who broke his ankle last year and missed nearly the entire season, is back and will help OCC's interior defense with his size. Flanders Morgan, a 5-10 point guard, is a defensive standout and 5-11 David Chumley and 6-2 Eric Hawkins are both solid guards.

The Raiders are bigger than last year, which may make them alter their style — slightly. "We're changing to more of a power attack," admitted Reed, quickly adding, "We'll still run and press."

OCC'S PRESS — or presses — were instrumental in its success last season. Reed uses nine different pressure defenses, several of which are similar but at the same time "different enough to create havoc for our opponents."

Yet, the Raiders have disadvantages as well. With the start of the conference season approaching, the Raiders defense concerns Reed. "We're not as good defensively as I'd like yet," he said. One problem is that Anderson and Hogan joined the team late, each sidelined after having played part of an earlier season.

## basketball

"If we made it last year, we can do it again this year. But we can't be complacent. Everyone's gunning for us, and that'll make it tougher. We'll have to wait and see how we handle that, and if we can maintain our intensity."

—Lynn Reed

OCC basketball coach

Also, as Reed indicated, teams will be gunning for them. The biggest challengers for the conference crown, according to Reed, will be defending champ Highland Park, Macomb and Mott. After opening with Mott, OCC plays at Macomb Dec. 12, making the schedule another hazard. But this bunch of Raiders has faced adversity before. They traveled the road through it to success before. The question now is, can they navigate that same road with the same intensity again?