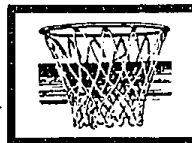


# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor / 591-2312



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## 3-pointers give Hawks win over North



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Bill Green puts up a shot, while Harrison's Jason Lichtman (23) and North Farmington's John Shelton battle for position in anticipation of a possible rebound.

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Jason Lichtman was hoping to capitalize on the new three-point rule in high school basketball sometime this season.

Thursday night was one of those times.

Lichtman connected on three such shots, including two at crucial stages late in the game, to lift Farmington Hills Harrison to a 58-52 victory over cross-town rival North Farmington.

"I've been working on that a lot this season," said the 5-foot-9 guard after he helped rally the Hawks from a 52-49 deficit in the last four minutes.

"I thought the three-point shot could open things up, because we're not that big inside.

"The shot was open and I had the opportunity to take it," Lichtman added, "and I took it."

THE RAIDERS led 52-49 after John Shelton's layup, but one shot by Lichtman quickly tied it. Teammate Chad Burgess followed with a corner shot that put Harrison on top 54-52 with 3 1/2 minutes left.

Having taken the lead, the Hawks went into a delay mode, but North got the ball again after a missed layup only to give it back on a turnover.

With the Raiders still in position to tie, Lichtman drilled another three-pointer at 1:29 and, with it, decided the issue.

"The three-point shot has changed this game, hasn't it?" Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "I'm in favor of it, because it adds more skill to the game.

"Teams had been putting people in the weight room in recent years and hanging away inside. It was getting away from a skill game."

MILLARD COLEMAN's free throw concluded the scoring, but the Raiders had chances even after Lichtman's shooting display. Kurt Dudek, Matt Hoffman, Vanoy Hill and Shelton all attempted the triple in the time remaining. But they were unsuccessful, and the Hawks grabbed the rebound each time.

"If we had made a couple of those shots we had, it could have gone either way," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

While Lichtman was at center stage in the end, Harrison was led throughout by Burgess and Bryan Wauldron with 19 and 18 points, re-

spectively. Lichtman finished with 11.

Bill Green, a big post player, paced the Raiders with 18 points, 12 coming in the first half when North got the ball inside with regular success. Hill added 10 points, Hoffman and Dudek seven apiece.

"This was a real nice team effort," said Teachman, whose team heads into the holiday break with a 3-1 record. North is 1-3.

"JIM HILL played a marvelous game, giving away as much size inside as he did, and Burgess and Wauldron are antelopes out there. They just know how to play the game."

The Raiders, hitting seven of their

first 11 shots, jumped to a 16-10 lead as Green and Jim Ratajski dominated early with their inside scoring. But Coleman's three-point basket at the first-quarter buzzer pulled the Hawks with 16-14, and Ratajski got into foul trouble as the half progressed.

Harrison, shooting 5-of-8 to start the second period, continued to gain momentum and took a 33-28 halftime lead after Burgess and Wauldron combined for eight unanswered points.

"This is a real high-character group," Teachman said. "It doesn't do any good to panic when a guy 6-6 is shooting over you. He has to keep game."

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**'The three-point shot has changed this game, hasn't it? I'm in favor of it, because it adds more skill to the game.'**

— Mike Teachman  
Harrison coach



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harrison's Millard Coleman (44) and North Farmington's Matt Hoffman will have many points and Coleman six. Harrison defeated the Hawks 59-52.

## OCC beats stubborn SC

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

When it comes to shooting a basketball, you've got to have legs.

It may sound funny — fans always talk about a shooter's touch, or a shooter's eye — but it's true. Ask anyone connected with Schoolcraft College's mens team.

Going into Wednesday's game with defending NJCAA Division II champion Oakland Community College, SC was a heavy underdog. Factor in an ankle injury to point guard Deon Frederick, the team's second-leading scorer, and the absence of leading rebounder Ladon Tait, who was taking a final exam, and the odds on winning were astronomical.

SC coach Dave Bogataj knew it before the opening tip. "Hey," he said, "we'll give it a shot. We'll have some fun."

For more than three-quarters of the game, the Ocelots did have some fun. And OCC certainly didn't. Everything the Raiders put on a sport, SC answered.

Until the eight-minute mark. Then talent-rich (and more rested) OCC literally ran the Ocelots into the floor, pulling away to a 109-81 victory.

"THEY'RE DECEPTIVE," said OCC coach Lynn Reed of his opponent. "They don't ever quit. Whenever a team has three good shooters — and they have three — you can never get too far ahead."

### basketball

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— Lynn Reed  
OCC basketball coach

The Raiders won their national title a year ago with full-court pressure defenses that helped them dictate the game's tempo. They tried the same against SC, which dressed just seven players for the game, but it didn't work. OCC led 47-40 at the half after a quick blitz that resulted in two baskets in the final 24 seconds.

"We were gambling a little too much with our press in the first half," said Reed. "We softened it up a little bit in the second half and played better overall defense."

That helped the Raiders build leads in the second half — they went up 63-48 with 13:46 to play after a 10-8 surge — but the Ocelots would come right back. A 13-5 SC run cut that 15-point gap to seven, 68-61, with 10:51 left.

Steve Hawley's three-pointer pulled SC to within 76-70 with 8:09 on the clock. But that was it for the Ocelots. Their legs were gone, and their shot went awry. They didn't score another point for 3 1/2 minutes.

WHICH WAS all the opening a team like OCC needed. The Raiders ran off 13 points in that span to stretch their six-point lead to 19. Carson Butler scored five of those points, including a three-pointer, and Derrick Williams had four.

"We ran out of gas," said Bogataj. "They've got a good team. They kept pouring people in, they just kept bringing in fresh legs — and we didn't have them."

OCC's inside game also hurt the Ocelots. Williams and Sam Smith were both outstanding, scoring 31 and 29 points respectively, doing most of the damage in the paint. Butler and Eric Hawkins added 16 points apiece.

The Ocelots stayed close in the first half, although they never led, thanks in great part to Mark Claiborne. The Wayne Memorial graduate poured in 17 first-half points, including five in a new 1-7-0 streak that pulled SC to within 43-40 24 seconds before halftime.

Claiborne finished with a team-high 23 points. Hawley had 21, Ryan Williams 16 and Frederick 12.

OCC, 8-3 overall and 2-1 in the Eastern Conference, will host Jan. 6 when it plays at St. Clair CC. SC, 5-7 overall and 0-3 in the conference, hosts Wartornith Air Force Base Jan. 6.

first half," said Hojna, whose team ranked 18th in the NJCAA — remained unbeaten through 11 games (2-0 in the conference). "We kept them out of the middle all night. They were getting one shot and that was it."

REGINA WOODARD, the 6-foot center from Bloomfield Hills Labser, was the workhorse inside for OCC. Woodard poured in 24 points and grabbed 20 rebounds. Michelle Tautbesse added 16 points and Shelley Duncan had 11 with 11 rebounds. OCC outrebounded SC 45-23.

No one enjoyed an outstanding game for SC. Sharon Miller was the Lady Ocelots' leading scorer with 12 points. Linda Lankford added 11 and Michelle Dykesinski netted 10. Lankford and Miller combined to make just 5-of-14 free throws, as SC was a mere 11-of-23 from the line.

OCC is now idle until Jan. 6, when it hosts St. Clair CC. SC dipped to 6-5 with the loss — its second this season to OCC (first in the conference) — and is 0-2 in conference play. The Lady Ocelots host Kalamazoo Valley CC at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

## Area matmen keep winning

Plymouth Salem, Plymouth Canton and Farmington continue to impress with their early-season success on the wrestling mats.

In division openers, the Rocks handled North Farmington 48-22 in the Lakes Division Wednesday, and the Chiefs whipped Livonia Churchill 54-13 Thursday.

Farmington finished strong and managed to overtake Livonia Stevenson 38-31 in its initial Lakes meet Wednesday.

Farmington Hills Harrison was not as successful, however, dropping a 67-18 decision Wednesday to Northville.

SALEM 48, N. FARMINGTON 22: The Rocks improved their record to 4-1, having also defeated Churchill, Carleton Airport and Northville. The lone loss was to Romulus.

Salem led 27-0 after the first five weight classes. Successive pins by Ron Fontaine, Jeff Delbeke and Dave Mang from 105 to 119 gave the Rocks the early momentum.

Steve and Brian Burlison also recorded pins for Salem. Zalm Cummings had North's lone fall at 198 pounds.

CANTON 54, CHURCHILL 13: The undefeated Chiefs found themselves on the short end of a 13-6 score after four bouts, but they won the last nine matches to turn the contest into a rout.

After the Chargers won three of four to start the match, Josh Barry pulled Canton within a point with

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Wrestling stats, SC

pin at 126. Tim Nardini won by injury default at 132 and put the Chiefs in front to stay, 18-13.

Tom Flores, Liam Rantz, Larry Pardi and Tony Savers also scored pins for Canton, 4-0.

FARMINGTON 38, STEVENSON 31: Bill Lindbert, Charles Wyatt and Paul Daniels finished the match with three straight pins at 185, 199 and heavyweight as the Falcons, 2-0, erased a 31-29 deficit and claimed the victory.

Farmington led 20-12 after Rob Woodbeck's decision over Atilla Omar at 132 pounds, but the Spartans won the next four bouts — three by decision, one by pin — to build an 11-point lead after the 167-pound contest.

The Falcons had an ace up their sleeve, however, and each of the last three Farmington wrestlers finished off his opponent with increasing speed. Lindbert pinned his opponent in 1:30, Wyatt 1:12 and Dasleja 30 seconds.

NORTHVILLE 67, HARRISON 18: The Hawks scored all of their points on pins by Ray Pudlik at 98 pounds, Troy Soeder at 138 and Matt King at 185. Harrison is 0-2.

## Lady Raiders top S'craft

It was a pivotal game, matching the two teams that tied for the Eastern Conference women's basketball championship last season: Oakland Community College vs. Schoolcraft College.

So at the end of the first half, when OCC coach Larry Hojna examined the stat sheet and noted that his team had hit just 10-of-39 free shots, he couldn't have been too happy.

Then again, when he glanced up at the scoreboard and saw his Lady

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Raiders had a 24-19 lead, he couldn't have been too unhappy, either. OCC's defense, particularly in the paint, and board work frustrated SC throughout the contest and was largely responsible for the Lady Raiders' 68-46 win at SC.

"Defensively, we played a great-