

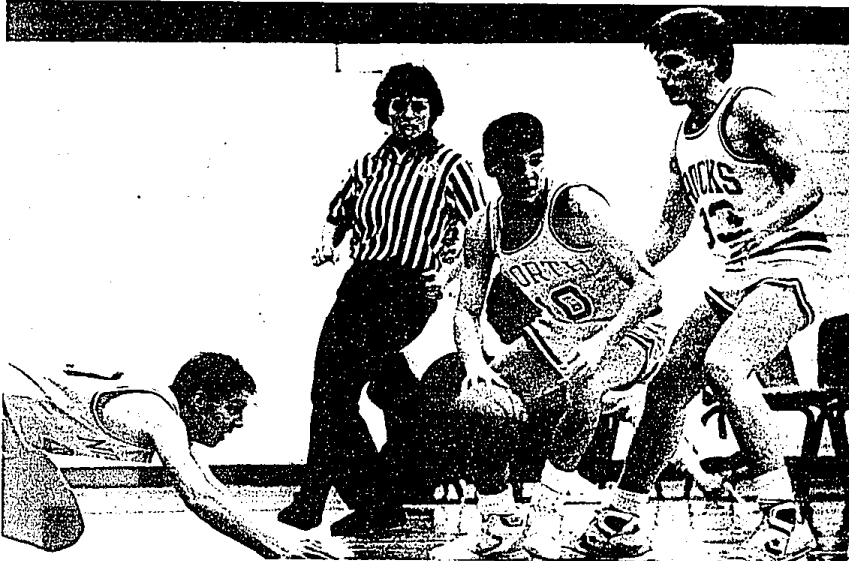
## Sports

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(F10)



Matt Hoffman takes possession of a loose ball before a sliding, diving teammate, Andy Drake, can get there. Hoffman, who played well at the point for the Raiders, receives backcourt

pressure from Salem's Mike Albertson. North had a third-quarter rally but lost the game 69-60.

## Pioneers gain important win

By C.J. Risk  
staff writer

Shootout at Lepley. That's what this confrontation should have been labeled.

When two teams like Oakland University and Grand Valley State, each averaging better than 100 points a game, meet on the basketball court such a billing is warranted. Unfortunately, such advance hoopla isn't always lived up to.

It wasn't Thursday. Instead of a high-powered offensive show featuring four of the top 10 scorers in the Great Lakes Conference, defense prevailed. And so did OU, taking charge midway through the first half and maintaining it for a 79-68 triumph.

How important was this win? "I think it was the biggest victory in my coaching career," said Greg Kampe, now in his fourth season at OU. "If we'd lost, we would have been out of the conference race."

"It was the most important game I've coached in."

WHAT MADE the game so significant was OU's double failures the week before in the Upper Peninsula. Losses to Lake Superior State and Michigan Tech, two of the league's lower division teams, dropped the Pioneers to 1-2 in the GLIAC. GVSU came into the game 2-0 in the league and 11-2 overall, including an impressive win at University of Detroit last Monday.

With OU averaging a league-leading 105.7 points per game and GVSU scoring 100.5 (third in the GLIAC), defense was probably the last thing

anyone would have expected to see. But that's what the game became, with OU converting just 39 percent of its first-half floor shots yet still leading 43-30, thanks to the Lakers even worse shooting — 32.5 percent.

GVSU was up 15-13 with 14 minutes left when the Pioneers went on a 10-3 tear to take the lead — for good. An Andy Kolp from Birmingham Brother Rice basket got the Lakers to within 29-26 with 6:35 left in the half, but OU answered with an 8-0 run in the next two minutes to go up 37-26.

POOR SHOOTING wasn't the only cause of the Lakers' first-half woes. Thirteen turnovers hurt them, too.

The second half was better for the visitors. Their shooting improved (to 42.5 percent) while OU's dipped (31.6 percent), and they committed just four turnovers. But they couldn't contain Scott Bittinger.

The senior guard had a rough first half, scoring eight points and working for every one. In the second half he poured in 19, answering every GVSU threat.

The Lakers closed to 51-45 on an Ed Finch basket with 14:25 to go, but Bittinger replied with a buzzer that started a 6-2 mini-spurt, again pushing OU's lead to 10, 57-47. The Pioneer advantage remained between eight and 12 points until Mike Davis (from Bloomfield Hills Lakes) — who led GVSU with 26 points and eight assists — scored to make it 78-62 with 3:58 left.

Bittinger dispelled any further thoughts of a Laker comeback with two baskets in a 25-second

span. OU outscored GVSU 9-6 over the final 3:44 to ensure the win.

"BY NORMAL standards, we're a good shooting team," said GVSU coach Tom Villeneuve. "We've had games in which we've shot 60 percent (from the floor). And we always seem to have one player hit three-pointers for us in each game. But not today. Oakland played a good all-around game."

GVSU was shooting a league-leading 53.5 percent from the floor going into the contest, but hit just 37.5 percent. Finch, who connected on 6-of-10 three pointers and netted 31 points in the win over U-D, was limited to six shots and seven points against OU.

Mike McCain put the defensive clamps on Finch. And McCain did his share in other areas, scoring eight points and hauling in 14 rebounds.

"We're capable of being a good defensive team," said Kampe. "We've been a good on offense. I think we forgot about defense. I'll take the blame for that. After last weekend up north, we needed it."

Rebounding was also a key factor for OU. The Pioneers dominated the boards, grabbing 61 to GVSU's 47. Their advantage was 35-25 in the second half. Pete Schill came off the bench to grab 14 and John Henderson, who scored 16 points, had 10 boards. Brian Gregory scored nine points and dished out 17 assists.

Kurt Theisen added 11 points and Terry Smith 10 for GVSU. OU hosts Northern Michigan Wednesday.

## North drops cage contest

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Keith Smith was a late arrival to the second-half fireworks Friday night at Plymouth Salem.

North Farmington's basketball team wished he had stayed on the bench, where he sat with four fouls until late in the game.

Instead, the 6-foot-4 senior ended up being the life of the party as he sparked the Rocks to a strong finish and a 69-60 win over the Raiders in Lakes Division play.

Smith missed three quarters of the third period and half of the fourth, during which time North rallied from a 12-point halftime deficit to trail by only two points, 54-52. He played a decisive role as he scored six of Salem's first eight points in the last quarter to get the Rocks, who had been stuck in neutral, rolling again.

"HE'S A LEADER on the team; he's our catalyst," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "He's the horse we have to have; he sparks us."

"When he went back in the game, the other kids picked their heads up. And he did a good job of staying in the game."

The Rocks were scoreless in the fourth quarter until Smith sank a free throw at 4:09, but John Shelton used the glass to pull the Raiders within one, 55-54.

Smith followed Scott Hale's drive to the basket with a layup of his own as the Rocks began opening up a lead again.

Kurt Dudek, who paced the North scoring with 17 points, downed a shot from the corner to keep it close (59-56), but Smith, on a power move into the lane, scored off a rebound and converted a three-point play to give Salem a six-point lead with 2:18 remaining.

TODD MARION, who led all scorers with 23 points, was 4-of-4 at the free-throw line down the stretch to help the Rocks end a four-game losing streak.

"We needed a win bad," Brodie said. "We needed to come back here and get one before things all fell apart."

Marion, who was 8-of-9 at the line overall, got 15 of his points in the third quarter, and his hot shooting touch was the major reason Salem enjoyed a 54-42 lead going into the finale.

But the Raiders, who have struggled to put their game together in the early season and slipped to 2-5 overall, made a comeback and strong bid to win the game.

North outscored the Rocks 10-0 in the first half of the fourth period, and Dudek had six of those points, including the two that brought the Raiders to within 54-52 on a shot from the baseline.

## basketball

"I THINK WE played hard in the second half," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "It's the type of game if you play hard good things happen."

"We were lethargic, we were standing around in the first half. When you start playing hard, it makes you aggressive in all phases of the game."

Negoshian added he thought the game was still up for grabs with 1 1/2 minutes to play. The Raiders were only down four, 64-60, but Pat Rzepecki sank a layup and Marion and Hale combined to make three foul shots to decide it.

"We gave up something awful

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## Warriors squeeze by Harrison

Farmington Hills Harrison had three players score in double figures Friday, but Walled Lake Western outscored Harrison 17-11 in the second quarter and held on for a 64-61 win.

The Hawks fell to 4-3 overall, and Western raised its mark to 2-3.

Bryan Wauldron scored 22 points and had eight rebounds to lead Harrison. Jason Lichtman added 17 points, followed by Chad Burgess with 13.

Mike Berlige scored 23 points to lead Western, which turned a 19-18 deficit into a 35-30 advantage after the second-quarter scoring surge.

W.L. CENTRAL 70, FARMINGTON 57. The Falcons fell behind 39-24 at halftime, and a big third quarter couldn't save them from suffering their sixth defeat in seven games.

Central is 6-0 overall, 2-0 in the Lakes Division. Farmington is 0-2 in Lakes play.

Farmington trailed by 10 points, 53-43, at the end of three quarters, after outscoring Central 19-14 in the quarter.

Mike Myers scored 16 points and Jason Brown added 14 to pace Farmington. Layne Herrington's 24 points led Central. Dan Gardner added 17.

## Salem deals Farmington its first wrestling defeat

Plymouth Salem handed Farmington its first dual-meet defeat Thursday with a 36-24 victory for the Rocks in Lakes Division wrestling.

Salem improved to 5-2 overall, and the Falcons stand at 4-1 following a meet that provided a number of upsets and surprises.

"The kids I thought would win lost, and the kids I thought would lose won," Rocks coach Ron Krueger said. "(Farmington coach Al Beyer) felt the same way (about his team)."

"It seemed the guys who were hungry wanted to come back and beat the other kids (whom they lost to in the North Farmington tournament)."

Salem took a 27-9 lead, winning six of eight bouts through the 145-pound bracket.

The Falcons, who won three of the last five, still could have pulled out a victory, but Salem's Brian Burleson decided the issue when he pinned Tom Stanek in 4:12 to end the 167-pound bout. The Rocks added a 5-1 decision by Chuck Graczyk over Charles Wyatt at 193.

Salem jumped in front 12-0 on pins by Matt Koenigs (4:59 over Joe Goudeseune) and Jeff Delbecke (1:31 over Chris Phillips) at 98 and 105 pounds.

## wrestling

The Rocks extended their lead to 21-9 on consecutive wins by Todd Bourlier and Scott Conant at 119 and 126, respectively. Bourlier scored a technical fall (15-1) over Matt Mullins, and Conant decisioned Steve Lee 6-3.

Back-to-back decisions by Ed Barlage and Mike Smith at 138 and 145 gave Salem its 27-9 advantage. Barlage defeated T.J. Armstrong 2-0, and Smith nipped Todd Jacobs 3-2.

Farmington's only wins prior to the 153 contest were Chris Gardner's pin over Dave Mang at 112 and Rob Woodbeck's 9-4 decision over Mike Shumate at 132.

The Falcons picked up an additional 15 points when Mike Kelly upset Steve Burleson 10-9 in the 165 bout. Bill Lindbergh pinned Craig Powers (2:18) at 165 and heavyweight Paul Daniels scored a 10-second fall over Scott Brelhaupt.

JOHN GLENN 49, NORTH 12: The unbeaten Rockets improved their dual-meet record to 6-0 as they opened Lakes Division competition by beating the Raiders, 2-3.

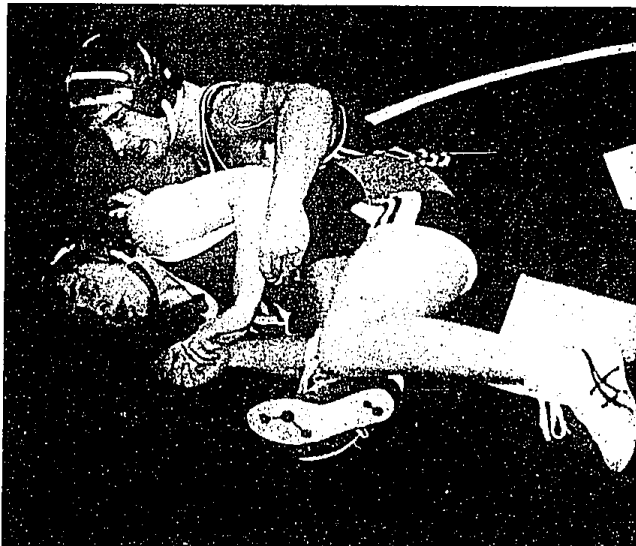
North's only victories included Zalm Cummalala's pin at 198 pounds and decisions by Jack Beall and John Lydon at 119 and 145, respectively. Cummalala, 17-3, pinned Glenn's Abe Zakheim in 9:23. Beall defeated Jim Pace 8-1 and Lydon edged Craig Kuban 10-7.

W.L. WESTERN 66, HARRISON 12: Western won 10 of the 13 weight classes Thursday, handing the Hawks their second Western Division loss against one win. Harrison is 1-4 overall.

Both of Harrison's wins came on pins recorded by Ray Pudlik (98) and Jason Fox (145).

CANTON 39, NORTHBVILLE 30: The Chiefs won the match against the Mustangs, but Canton coach Rick Menoch was anything but pleased.

"We won but we did not wrestle well," Menoch said. "That's a problem. We got pins where I expected us to, but I don't think our other guys wrestled the way I thought they should."



Rob Woodbeck of Farmington had the advantage through much of Thursday's bout with Mike Shumate of Salem. Woodbeck won the 132-pound contest on an 8-4 decision, but that couldn't stop the Falcons from dropping the match, 36-24.

THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer