

Sports

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Chiefs ground Hawks

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison coach Mike Teachman had no doubt about the deciding factor in Friday's basketball game.

Nor was there any hesitation on the part of Plymouth Canton coach Tom Niemi. In fact, it was clearly obvious to the entire crowd of several hundred who watched Niemi's ballclub rout the Hawks 81-64.

The Chiefs proved once again that height can make a huge difference on the basketball court, and teams that have that advantage can dominate a game.

Canton rebounded from its only loss of the season with an awesome rebounding performance. The Chiefs, who ran their Western Division record to 3-0 and overall mark to 8-1, controlled the offensive boards and decided the game with their ability to capitalize on their many chances.

"That was the story out there tonight," Teachman said. "Their putbacks were the difference in the game."

HE WAS QUICK to note the way in which the game turned early when Canton went to a bigger lineup, putting 6-foot-4 Mitch Fyke at guard with the quick and fleet-footed Roger Trice.

That allowed Niemi to play 6-7 Cedric Begun in the middle with 6-5 Jeff Anulewicz, the starter in the post, at forward on a rotational basis with Brian Paupore and David Foxworthy, both of whom are well over 6-foot.

"They had four people out there bigger than anybody we had," Teachman said. "After that, they had tremendous confidence on any shot they took from outside. To me, the whole game was the board play."

The taller Chiefs could be reasonably assured of getting any rebound, and they usually did. Canton had a 36-24 rebounding advantage, according to its statistics, and Harrison had the Chiefs with a 32-17 margin on the boards.

More importantly, Canton had 17 offensive rebounds to only six carcasses at the defensive end for the Hawks, now 1-2 in the division and 5-4 overall.

"When we went to the big lineup and changed defenses, that changed the game," Niemi said. "We took away their inside game, and we went inside."

"I THINK IT intimidated them. With Cedric in the middle, he covers a lot of territory, and it opened up some things for us."

"You're going to see it more often," he added. "We've worked real hard, bringing players along, and now it gives us a different dimension."

While the Chiefs did a number at the offensive end, it also helped them defensively. Their control of the defensive boards also ignited a number of fast breaks.

Trice excelled in that area, scoring many of the team-high 19 points in the transition game. Anulewicz, a major beneficiary of the numerous offensive rebounds, had 17 points.

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Farmington's Brandon London (24) and Jason Brown (42) get tangled up with Mike Vrooman (center) and Chris Nazell of Stevenson while fighting for rebound position. It was a good

week for the Falcons, who won two in a row with their 42-40 victory over the Spartans.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Falcons win 2nd in row

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Maybe now it's time to wipe that "also-ran" label from the Farmington High boys basketball team.

It was quite a week for the Falcons, who on the heels of their upset of previously unbeaten Plymouth Canton on Tuesday, did it again Thursday, scoring a 42-40 triumph over visiting Livonia Stevenson.

It was also Farmington's first win in three tries in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Farmington coach Bob Kaump, whose team is now 3-6 overall, explained his team's recent surge.

"I think our confidence level and our intensity has been much better," he said. "We've had some good practice time and our attitude is better."

The Falcons, who trailed by as many as eight points in the opening quarter, took command of the game late in the first half when 6-foot-5 junior center Mike Meyers connected on four straight shots to give his team a 25-20 halftime lead.

Stevenson tied the game at 28-all on a bucket by Eric Schwedt with 2:43 left in the third quarter, but the Spartans never got over the hump.

FARMINGTON TRIED to sit on the ball in the final three minutes and the strategy nearly backfired. But the Falcons appeared to have the game wrapped up, leading 42-37 on two Darrin Magera free throws with 27 seconds to play.

Stevenson did not quit as



Brandon London tosses a pass inside to a teammate as Stevenson's Eric Schwedt reaches for the ball in vain.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Schwedt connected on a three-point shot to close the gap to two, 42-40, with 11 seconds remaining.

The Spartans then fouled Jason Brown with six seconds to go. The 6-4 junior missed and Stevenson had one last crack at sending the game into overtime, but Chris

Nazell's attempt off an alley-oop pass from an out-of-bounds play never reached the hoop as time expired.

"We had some opportunities and the game was up for grabs," said Stevenson coach Jim McInyre, whose team dipped to 3-5 overall

basketball

and 0-3 in the Lakes. "It was a nice comeback and our kids didn't quit. When ever we get into some kind of rhythm, we'll be OK."

Quenneville, a steady guard, paced Farmington with 16 points. He hit four 3-pointers. Brown finished with 15 points.

"JASON (BROWN) HAS been playing well the last three games," Kaump said. "He can shoot the ball, but we're also trying to make him play more inside. He's not lacking in confidence, though, shooting the ball."

Quenneville also drew praise from Kaump.

"Steve did a good job of protecting the ball and controlling our offense," said the Farmington coach. "And Drew McDougall's rebounding also made a difference in the game."

Nazell, a junior forward, paced Stevenson with 13 points. Mike Vrooman, a 6-6 junior, added 11.

The Spartans, however, did not get the point production at the guard position as they did two days earlier when Scott Koskowiak and Schwedt tallied 22 and 16, respectively, in a 61-52 win over Northville.

Against Farmington they combined for only 11 points.

But maybe the Falcons' zone defense had something to do with it.

At least for a week, the Falcons believe they can do anything in the Western Lakes circuit.

Falcon matmen prevail

Farmington scored the last 21 points Thursday to break a 24-24 tie and crush Walled Lake Central 45-24 in Lakes Division wrestling.

The Vikings pulled even on back-to-back decisions by Brian Grayb and Kyle Pipkin at 145 and 155 pounds, 24-24.

The Falcons, who upped their season record to 5-1 and their division mark to 2-1, went ahead to stay after the 157-pound match in which Tom Stanek defeated Joe Howard on a 10-8 decision.

Bill Lindbert then pinned Matt Stritmatter at 3:13 of the 185-pound contest. Charles Wyatt won by void at 198 and heavyweight Paul Daniels, also recording a pin, ended his bout with Charles Hare in just 13 seconds.

Farmington fell behind 18-0 as Walled Lake's Andy Malczewski, Steve Glowinski and Ken Brown pinned their opponents in the first three weight classes.

But the Falcons quickly caught up and then went in front with four straight wins. Farmington took a 24-18 lead on T.J. Armstrong's pin (4:23) over Tom Knecht at 138.

Farmington's 119-pound Jamie Madrey pinned Rick Chuck in 42 seconds. Steve Lee received a forfeit victory at 126 and Rob Woodbeck pinned Dale Unsworth in 35 seconds at 132.

Lindbert and Woodbeck best the best records on the team at 19-5 and 19-6, respectively. Daniels is 13-7.

STEVENSON 47, N. FARMINGTON 23: Livonia Stevenson won five bouts by pin and another by technical fall to defeat the Falcons, 3-7-1.

David Wojciechowski (105), Randy Davis (112), Kurt Will (145), Jarrod Wilkins (167) and David Combs (198) had pins for the Spartans. Mike Schrock scored a technical fall at 126, and North forfeited six points to Brandon Marzolin at 98.

North's successes included pins by Bill Murley and Zaim Cummalaj. Murley stopped Atilla Omar at 1:23 of their 132-pound bout, and Cummalaj, moving up to heavyweight from 198, pinned his Stevenson opponent in 2:32.

In addition, Jack Beall scored a 16-4, superior decision over Tony Pasadi at 119, and Jeff Jacobs beat Matt Sladek on a 10-3 decision at 185. North's Doug Hoyt battled Paul Geddes to a 2-2 draw at 138.

At the Novi Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 16, North's Jeff Head (105), Beall, David Apple (125), Murley and Cummalaj placed among the top four in their weight classes.

CANTON 69, HARRISON 6: The Chiefs improved their dual-meet records to 4-0 in the Western Division and 7-0 overall with a one-sided victory over the Hawks.

Harrison's Ray Pudlik opened with a pin at 98 pounds, but Canton prevailed in every other weight class.

Tom Flores (105), Dax Sammut (119), Jim Yack (138), Mike Golchuck (155), Norm Hanson (167), Ron Seal (185), Jim Crews (198) and heavyweight Jerry French recorded six-point falls for the Chiefs.

Josh Barrie and Liam Rentz won by technical fall at 126 and 132 pounds, respectively. Matt Keeler won on a walkover at 112 and Craig Rinke, in the only close bout of the night, eked out a 10-9 decision at 145.

Raiders regroup after loss to defeat Salem

North Farmington corrected the difficulty it had setting the ball in its last match, and the result was a 16-14, 15-13 volleyball victory over Plymouth Salem Thursday.

The Raiders, however, encountered troubles with their serving — normally a strong facet of their game.

North, 12-2 overall and 1-1 in the Lakes Division, missed nine serves in the opening game, but the problem wasn't so severe that the Raiders couldn't play over it and win.

"You almost don't deserve to win when you miss that many," North coach Sandy Lubienicki said. "Usually, we're very consistent, but it just left us. Fortunately, we had two who did serve well, and that helped."

Carrie Lee was 13-for-13 serving, and she had nine points and three aces, two of which accounted for the final points of the second

game. Kelly Coulson was 10-for-10 serving with six points and two aces.

The Raiders set the ball better than they did against Livonia Stevenson in their previous match, and that led to Stephanie Knapp and Pam Konjarovich having seven kills apiece. Knapp was 16-of-18 as an attacker and Konjarovich 14-of-14.

"We improved on the two things we didn't do well Monday (in the three-game loss to Stevenson)," Lubienicki said, referring to the team's communication on the court and setting.

"I've always said a team is as good as its setters can put the ball up there. Everybody wants to be a spiker, but it takes a lot of extra qualities to be a good setter."

Lee and Debbie Weintraub had 12 assists apiece. Donna O'Brien had seven digs to

volleyball

lead the defensive effort, and Lee added six.

An exceptional play by Missy Boscaewen and O'Brien in the second game was met with applause from the audience. Lubienicki called it a "miracle" play.

A hard spike went out of bounds off Weintraub. The ball was headed for the rear wall, but Boscaewen made a one-arm bump to knock the ball back toward the end line.

A diving O'Brien managed to get hold of it and line the ball over the net again.

Salem's Roseann Sumpter had 10 kills,

two blocks and four aces, and Kara Cummings had six aces and 14 assists.

MARIAN 15-15, MERCY 11-4: The Marlins hope to avoid falling further behind in the volleyball race taking shape in the Central Division of the Catholic League tonight.

The Marlins, who play host to Redford Bishop Burgess at 7 p.m., were beaten by Birmingham Marian last Thursday and slipped to 2-2 in the division.

Harper Woods Regina has the same record, but Livonia Ladywood leads the circuit with a 4-0 record and Marian is now 3-1.

Mercy had beaten the Mustangs at the Kiwanis Classic earlier in the season when star hitter Jennifer Slesar was healthy. She has recovered from the broken hand that sidelined her for several weeks and played

Thursday, but Mercy coach Tim DeBello credited Marian with playing "very, very well."

Six-foot-3 Kathy Phillips, an all-stater in basketball and third in the voting for the Miss Basketball award, led the Mustangs' hitting attack.

"She hit them hard and on sharp angles," DeBello said. "We didn't have a chance on a lot of them."

The Marlins, 14-4 overall, led 11-7 in the first game before Marian rallied to win. The Mustangs tied the score at 11, and Mercy lost every long volley after that, said DeBello, noting the Marlins' difficulty with serve reception.

"We'd play good defense and get the serve back, and then we had five bad serves in a row," he said.