

Burgess shines for soaring Hawks

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

One day after he was named to the all-league basketball team, Chad Burgess of Farmington Hills Harrison turned in an all-world performance.

The 6-foot-2 junior broke his school's single-game scoring record Monday night as the Hawks easily eliminated Livonia Clarenceville 89-42 in the opening round of the Class B district tournament at Harrison.

Burgess, one of five players whom league coaches selected for the Western Lakes first team, filled the basket to the tune of 44 points as Harrison rolled into Wednesday's semifinals.

The old record of 40 was older than Burgess. Jim Mason scored that many against Utica Eisenhower in 1971, the second year after Harrison opened its school doors.

"I felt bad about keeping him (the game) Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, "but very few of us ever have the chance at that kind of game. When you do, you have to go for it."

CLARENCEVILLE coach Paul Clough understood. "At first, I wondered why he was still in there," he said. "I looked around and saw (Teachman) had one kid and four second-team players out there."

"I knew they weren't trying to run up the score." "That Burgess had a record-setting night was not the only impressive aspect of his performance. He did it with amazing 23-of-25 shooting, which included being 3-of-4 from three-point distance.

Furthermore, he had 10 rebounds as the Hawks controlled the boards 40-22 and six steals as Harrison

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'I felt bad about keeping (Chad Burgess) in the game, but very few of us ever have the chance at that kind of game.'

— Mike Teachman
Harrison basketball coach

turned countless Trojan turnovers into transition baskets.

"Once I started shooting I felt pretty good," said Burgess, adding he didn't begin to think of the record until the third quarter. "It was my teammates who gave me the ball and enabled me to score."

Burgess notched 23 points in the first half as the Hawks, leading 47-11, had the contest well in hand by halftime.

THE GAME took a decisive turn late in the opening period when the Trojans started getting beat consistently on the fast break. From the beginning, Clarenceville had trouble advancing the ball against Harrison's 2-2-1 press, which caused plenty of transition baskets. But when the Trojans, who started out extremely patient against a half-court zone, missed shots, the Hawks cleared the glass, and Burgess proved unstoppable in the open court.

"I haven't counted up the turnovers; I'm afraid to," said Clough, adding he scouted the Hawks and their press in the Western Lakes playoffs Saturday. "If you're going

to give up the ball at half court, it can turn into a real fast break, and that's just what happened.

"I saw everything they did on Saturday. We practiced on Sunday, and we knew everything they were going to do.

"I just didn't think they'd do it that well," he added. "At least, you hope they won't do it that well."

BURGESS HAD 10 first-period points as the Hawks increased a five-point lead to 21-6. He hit an assortment of second-quarter shots, including perimeter jumpers, to pace Harrison's 62-percent shooting (21-of-34) for the half.

The plan was to let Burgess play some in the third quarter and, if he was near the record, to let him go for it, Teachman said. Burgess added another 13 points, including six on triples, to give him 38.

Burgess hit a layup for the first points of the finale and had a chance for a three-point play and the record at 41. But he missed the free throw and, before Teachman could pull him out at the next stoppage of play at 5:03, he scored twice more.

"If a guy is that talented and works that hard," he deserves a shot at the record, said Teachman, who believes a player who attempts 20 shots should score 20 points. "And he takes 25 shots and scores 44."

Burgess had a good supporting cast. Teachman added. Jason McDonnell had seven assists and Jason Lichtman five. Bryan Wauldron was the only other Harrison player in double figures with 14 points, but 10 others contributed points, also.

Gregg Buell scored 13 points to lead Clarenceville, which finished the season with a 10-11 record. Louie DeBellis added eight and Steve Tyson seven.



Despite standing only 5-foot-9, Harrison's Milford Coleman (right) showed he could get in the air Monday, as he does on this play attempting to block the shot by Clarenceville's Steve Tyson in the lopsided district game.

Vikings avenge loss

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play that hard and to make sure you're right there at the end." Sophomore Matt Hoffman, who was named the all-league team along with WLC's Herrington and Rob Wolski, and Hill were instrumental in keeping North in the game.

BOTH MADE four triples (three apiece in the second half) and scored 17 and 16 points, respectively. Ratajski added 13 points and Kurt Dudek eight.

WLC's zone and North's cold shooting set the pattern early. The Raiders, who were 7-of-29 in the first half, didn't get enough offensive rebounds as a result.

WLC's Derk Wallace also had 13 rebounds and Wolski nine to go with his 20 points.

"This is what we really wanted to do," said Emert of his team's defense. "We wanted to board and hold them under 60 points."

North made some sharp defensive plays, too, but the taller Vikings were able to get off good shots over their shorter opponents after a quick pass inside.

"I just don't think we shot the ball real well," said Negoshian, summing up the contest.

"ONCE YOU start missing and the other team is in a zone, then you begin second guessing if you should shoot or not.

"That's a 19-2 ballclub, and you know they're going to play well. This is their gym," he added.

The Vikings threatened to pull away in the second quarter after making a 12-1 scoring run, but Hoffman brought the Raiders back within 30-22 on successive outside baskets in the final minute.

Central Michigan University's women's basketball team earned a berth in the Mid-American Conference tournament, opening last night at home against Toledo. But the Lady Chippewas wouldn't have gotten this far if not for freshman Sue Nissen.

The 6-foot freshman forward from Redford (and Dearborn Divine Child)

was named MAC player of the week after totalling 52 points, 20 rebounds and nine assists in two games last week. In CMU's 78-69 triumph at Eastern Michigan Saturday, Nissen had 38 points and 16 boards.

Nissen has already been selected to the all-MAC first team. It's a well-deserved honor. She is fourth in the conference in scoring (17.3), second

in rebounding (9.9), second in field goal percentage (54.3) and second in free throw shooting (67.9).

Statistics like that — combined with CMU's 11-5 MAC record (15-12 overall) — should earn Nissen a shot at MAC player of the year honors. A victory over Toledo last night would send the Lady Chippewas into the MAC semifinals.

WLC finds consolation in league

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Third place in the Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball playoffs goes to Walled Lake Central.

The Vikings (18-2) defeated Westland John Glenn for the third straight time this season in the consolation final on Saturday, 72-63. (All playoff games were played at Plymouth Salem.)

Rob Wolski, a 6-foot-4 senior, led the winners with 25 points. Other scorers in double figures included Larry Herrington (17), Mark O'Hanlon (15) and Scott Fernandez (11).

Central led by as many as 16 points in the second half before Glenn closed the gap to five in the closing minutes, but the Rockets could not edge any closer.

Rockets, who fell to 12-8, were paced by Greg Anderson (18 points), Marcus Lowe (16) and Kevin Wilson (10).

CANTON 79, HARRISON 77 (2 OT): In the most thrilling game of the day, Plymouth Canton (16-4) used the clutch shooting of Brad Carey to turn back Farmington Harrison (13-7) to earn fifth place in the W.L.A. Carey, a senior guard who finished with 15 points,

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sent the game into overtime with a three-point shot with only two seconds left. Troy Waldron, a reserve guard, forced a second overtime with a three-pointer with only three seconds left. He had 14.

Brian Paupore led the winners with 22 points. Mitch Fyke also added 14.

Harrison, which lost an eight-point lead in the final two minutes of regulation play, got 23 points from junior forward Chad Burgess.

Jason Lichtman, who hit a big three-pointer in the first overtime, finished with 12 along with sophomore Mill Coleman.

FRANKLIN 55, CHURCHILL 52: Livonia Franklin (15) galloped seventh place in the W.L.A. by hitting 12 of 14 free throws in the final quarter, beating Livonia Churchill (11-9) for the second time this season.

J.J. Swindall, a senior forward, led the winners with 18 points. Mike McCool and Tom Shea added nine and eight each. Shea converted all six of his free throw attempts in the final quarter.

Three Churchill players scored in double figures:

Steve Ditchkoff (14), Jason Belaire (12) and Kyle Percin (10).

FARMINGTON 63, W.L. WESTERN 52: Three Falcons scored in double figures in a loser's bracket triumph Saturday over Walled Lake Western (9-19).

Jason Brown paced Farmington (7-13) with 17 points; Mike Myers and Steve Quenneville added 15 each as the Falcons outscored the Warriors 26-13 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Tom Kubik and Kevin White tallied 17 and 13, respectively, for Western.

STEVENSON 66, NORTHVILLE 49: Scott Kostikovski's 20 points helped Livonia Stevenson (5-11) defeat the Mustangs in a W.L.A. loser's bracket game, the first of six on the day at Salem.

The Spartans' Eric Schwedi and Mike Vrooman added 11 and nine, respectively.

Ron McDonald netted 12 for Northville, which finished the regular season at 4-18.

NOVI 64, REDFORD UNION 60: On Saturday, Novi (12-9) defeated host RU (2-17) in a make-up game. Junior forward Chris Warzecha notched 16 points in a losing cause. Teammate Joe Lesotte added 11.

For Novi, Dave Shown notched 17 and Brian Schram contributed 15.

The host Panthers led most of the way until the Wildcats rallied in the fourth quarter, putting on a 25-13 spurt.

Nissen leads CMU into tournament

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