

Sports

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Hawks win opener; North, Falcons fall

The most important thing was that Farmington Harrison won the basketball game.

Despite having less than a week to practice due to an extended football season, the Hawks overcame their lack of court time and Waterford Kettering for a 59-49 victory Friday night at Harrison.

Six members of the team, including all five starters, were still playing football a week earlier and eventually helped the Hawks win the Class B championship in their 13th and final game on Saturday, Nov. 26.

"You could tell the sync wasn't there," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "It looked like we hadn't played together."

"The effort was certainly there. But there's only so many things you can do in four days."

Chad Burgess, 6-foot-3 senior, despite the late start in basketball, made a smooth transition, scoring a game-high 18 points and crashing the boards for 16 rebounds.

Bryan Wauldron contributed 12 points and six rebounds, and guard Jason Lichtman chipped in 10 points. Among the top six players, Mill Coleman, who got poked in the eye with a finger and didn't play much of the fourth quarter, and Adam Lowy added six points apiece and Marcus Mack five.

The Hawks held a 24-20 edge at halftime, and the third period was the key as Harrison increased its lead by five points to 40-31.

For obvious reasons, the Hawks were not sharp, however. Errant passes resulted in 15 turnovers, and Harrison was 19-of-58 shooting, missing a lot of layups.

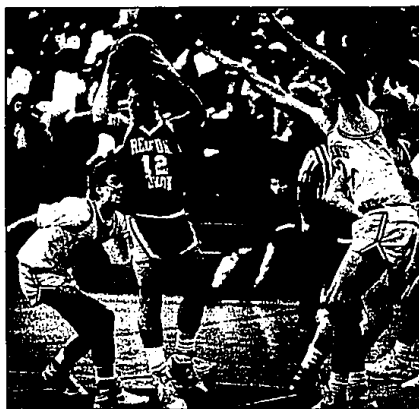
"We've got work to do, but we got a win out of it," Teachman said. "I remember the Harrison football team had a semi-close game in its first game, too."

The football team beat Southfield 25-12 in its season opener last September and didn't have another game that close the rest of the season.

Jim Miller, an all-metro quarterback in football, had 14 points and nine rebounds to lead Kettering.

REDFORD U. 63, FARMINGTON 56: The visiting Panthers took advantage of the 3-point line Friday, surprising the favored Falcons in the season-opener for both teams.

Junior Steve Nowak made four 3-



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

John Burdick, sandwiched between Farmington's Gene Tokrakes (left) and Jason Brown, hauls in a rebound for the Panthers.

point shots and Joe Dellgaw two for RU. Dellgaw finished with a team-high 18 points and Nowak scored 14. Lee Tappy was the other Panther in double figures, scoring 12 points.

RU trailed 46-43 after three quarters but outscored Farmington 20-10 in the final eight minutes to finish the upset.

The game was tied at 47 and 49 in the fourth quarter before RU pulled away. Dellgaw made all four of his free throw tries in the final quarter, and Jon Burdick and Kevin Whitman converted two each.

"Once we got a small lead, they had to come out after us and gamble," RU coach Tip Smathers said. "It really was an evenly-matched game. We were trying to hustle and compensate for their two big guys (6-foot-6 1/2 Mike Myers and 6-5 Jason Brown). It was really a team effort."

Myers led all scorers with 19 points. Brown had 12 points for the Falcons, and Dennis Raimi finished with eight.

BERKLEY 68, N. FARMINGTON 45: Berkley's height and experience was too much for the Raiders to overcome in Friday night's basketball season opener.

The host Bears, who are considered to have the tallest team in Oakland County, jumped in front 23-11 and led 35-22 at halftime. Berkley added four points to its margin entering the final period, 46-29.

"They're huge; they beat us up pretty good inside," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "They have a nice, veteran ballclub, and we're a young team."

The Raiders, who played without injured point guard Matt Hoffman, were led by sophomore Chris White and junior Brian Temple, both of whom had 18 points.

Hoffman, the only returning starter from last year's Western Lakes Activities Association championship team, is expected to be out at least another week with a sprained ankle.

Berkley's Sean Hansen scored 16 points and teammate Doug Lang 10.



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Brian Browne, junior point guard on Farmington's basketball team, drives the lane against Redford Union in the season opener Friday.

The Falcons came out on the short end of a 63-56 score.

Ladywood gets rematch with Marian in quarters

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Livonia Ladywood sent a message Friday to Birmingham Marian that was loud enough for Marian's Miss Basketball candidate, Jennifer Shasky, to hear.

Near the end of Ladywood's convincing 70-55 regional title win over Taylor Center, the Blazers fans began chanting, "We want Marian."

No doubt Shasky, who was watching in the stands at Southfield High School, heard the plea.

The regional title means Ladywood (16-6) and Marian (23-1) will meet for a third time this year in a Class A quarterfinal game, 7 p.m. Wednesday at Southfield Lathrup. The No. 1-ranked Mustangs won both previous encounters against Ladywood en route to the Catholic-League championship.

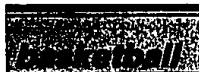
Shasky might be a little apprehensive about playing the Blazers again.

"WE'RE REALLY pumped up to beat them this time," Ladywood senior guard Jenny Kennedy said. "Since we've lost to them twice, we'll try to shut down Shasky and the rest of them, too."

"This is what I've worked four years for, and it really feels great."

Relentless defense — especially against Center's star guard Wendy Jamula — and fine play off the bench helped Ladywood put away Center (23-3).

Ladywood played without leading scorer Yvonne Barnett, who badly sprained her left ankle in a regional semifinal win Wednesday over Detroit Cooley. Ladywood coach Kim Bechard said Barnett's status against Marian is "iffy." Translated, Barnett is doubtful for the quarterfinals.



"We're really pumped up to beat them this time. Since we've lost to them twice, we'll try to shut down Shasky and the rest of them, too."

— Jenny Kennedy
Ladywood senior guard

Ladywood missed Barnett Friday, but reserves Carri Mitter, Peggy Knittel and Janice Koncal filled in admirably.

KNITTEL, a junior forward, and Mitter, a junior center, scored 12 points apiece, and Koncal added 10. Shari Adams led the Blazers with 18 points, and the steady Kennedy poured in nine points, playing her typically sound floor game.

"We won as a team," Bechard said. "The bench did a tremendous job. They wanted it more, with Yvonne and Krista Campeau (out III) both on the bench. We wanted to win as a team and we did. It's exciting."

"Knittel has really come on and she's filled the gap with Yvonne gone. In the beginning of the season she sprained an ankle and she played real timidly. At one time, she was the 12th player off the bench this year."

Taylor Center brought a state ranking into the game, and the Rams showed why early. Center scored the first eight points of the game and led 20-11 after one quarter.

Center led 24-20 with 4:33 left in the first half when Jamula picked up her third foul and sat the rest of the quarter. The Blazers took advantage of her absence, outscoring the Rams 18-4 the remainder of the quarter to lead 34-28 at halftime.

TWO FREE THROWS by Kennedy with 1:27 left before the half gave Ladywood its first lead, 29-28. Kennedy and Knittel led Ladywood's late first-half surge with six points apiece. Adams ended the half, converting a three-point shot at the buzzer.

"Without Jenny Kennedy we wouldn't have gone this far," Bechard said. "She and Yvonne have brought us this far. She doesn't score as much, but she controls our offense and defense. She's an excellent captain."

Jamula led Center with 18 points (five below her average), but she made only five of 19 shots from the field. Center Jennifer Miller contributed 14 points and sophomore guard Helena Guth added nine.

Ladywood made its first four shots of the second half and opened up a commanding 51-34 lead after three quarters. The closest Center got after that was seven points, 59-52, when Jamula converted a three-point play with 1:43 left.

"Our main goal was to frustrate her," Bechard said. "We wanted her to shoot farther out. We felt if we could take her out of her game, then we could take the big player (Miller) out of the game, too."

But will the Blazers be able to take Shasky out of her game?

Unusual coaching style wins for SC's Teeters

EVERY COACH HAS a style. Tom Teeters is no exception.

"Tom tends to get in your hair," was Chris Pacifero's description. Nikki Stubbs was more eloquent as she recalled last summer's running in sand dunes.

"Tom, I hate you, I hate you," she remembered thinking.

If communication is how a coach is graded, Teeters deserves an A. But it isn't. Coaches are judged on cold, hard, black-and-white figures. Won-loss figures. Explanations may be allowed, but are rarely remembered.

Which makes Teeters all the more unusual. He gets through to his players. His love-hate relationship, a style he relishes nurturing, works.

And he wins. Always.

"To get the kind of results Tom does, well, I just don't know how he does it," said Pacifero.

The results are remarkable. A volleyball coach since 1974, the 33-year-old Teeters has guided two different high school teams to state titles. Of the four prep teams he's coached, three have won league championships. So have both his college teams.

LAST WEEK came the crowning achievement in his career — thus far. He prodded, goaded and eventually guided Schobers College's volleyball team to an NJCAA championship. The Lady Ocelots — thanks to great performances from Stubbs (the NJCAA tournament's most valuable player) and Pacifero — defeated Texas Southwest 15-11, 15-9, 13-15, 15-5 in last Wednesday's final.

How does he manage it? His



C.J. Risak

teams aren't the most talented. Their success sometimes even surprises their coach. Like last week. "I didn't think we had as good a chance (as previous SC teams) because of our lack of height," he said.

But win they did, maximizing their talents and overcoming their deficiencies. Well, maybe not maximizing. Teeters would never admit one of his teams had reached full potential.

"He's very demanding," said Pacifero. "He expects 100 percent all the time."

Not just at SC, either. Last spring, Teeters led Livonia Ladywood's team to the Class A state title in just his second season as coach.

NEITHER WAS accomplished by the good fortune of having great talent. Nor was his first state title, at Livonia Clarenceville in 1978, his first stop on a circuitous coaching trip. "When I first started at Clarenceville," he said, "we practiced in the cafeteria. They wouldn't give us any gym time."

The Trojans reached the state semifinals in 1979 and finished second in the state in 1980. Pacifero also coached at Wayne State in '79 and '80. The Tartars rose from the Great Lakes Conference cellar the league title in his second season.

His other coaching stints, at Garden City and Farmington Hills Mercy, have been equally successful. He coached at SC in '77 and '78 before going to WSU. He returned to SC in 1985; the Lady Ocelots haven't lost an Eastern Conference dual match since. They finished fifth in the nation in '85 and fourth in '86.

ALL THIS from a 1971 Garden City West graduate who played two years of soccer at SC, and never got his four-year degree. His interest in volleyball was initially kindled by Artur Wyzinski, a Pole who played on his homeland's national team before defecting. His team later won the '76 Olympic gold medal.

Teeters played on Wyzinski's club team in Hamtramck. Wyzinski was hired to coach Clarenceville, but broke his leg. He suggested Teeters take his place.

Since that first practice in Clarenceville's cafeteria, Teeters has never let up. He works at United Parcel Service, but he lives to coach.

"He's always thinking about something new to try," said Stubbs, who has been coached by Teeters for five years — three at Garden City and two at SC. "He comes into practice with all this stuff written on scraps of paper."

Like running and dunes between matches at a beach tournament in Grand Bend, Ontario, last August. Or, instead of the dunes, running in chest-deep water in Lake Huron — "with our arms up, for 45 minutes," according to Pacifero.

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