

Sports

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(F10)

Harrison remains unbeaten by pounding Raiders, 67-40

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Farmington Harrison continues to fool everybody in the early going of the boys basketball season.

The Hawks, featuring all five starters off their state championship football squad, were fearful of getting off to a slow start having only one week of preseason practice.

But Friday night they made rival North Farmington look like the rusty team, as seniors Chad Burgess and Bryan Wauldron combined for 38 points to give the Hawks a convincing 67-40 win over the Raiders.

"Winning the first four (prior to the North game) was amazing because of the closeness to the state championship game (Nov. 26)," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "I was amazed they played as well as they did, but tonight I knew they'd be ready."

According to Teachman, beating North is just as important as winning a division game in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"All the division games are important, but this game is really important to our players," said Teachman, whose team can close out the 1988 portion of their season unbeaten with a victory Thursday in the

basketball

Western Division opener at Livonia Franklin.

THE GAME ALSO marked the return of North's point-guard Matt Hoffman, who sat out the first three games with a severely sprained ankle.

Hoffman, who led North last year to the WLA playoff crown, was not quite himself. Although he was still favoring his ankle, the 5-foot-9 junior scored 10 first-half points to keep North relatively close at the half, 33-23.

But the Raiders committed 17 first-half turnovers as the Hawks' pressing defense left them completely out of sync.

Wauldron, the 6-foot-2 jumping jack, scored eight of his 16 in the opening quarter and added a slam dunk early in the third quarter.

"Wauldron was scooped at the start," Teachman said. "He's a prime-time player. He has all that juice in him, but sometimes you have to control it because he'll get caught trying to go over the top too much."

Burgess, the Hawks' leading scorer with a 23-point average, got cranking in the third quarter as Harrison broke it wide open. He led a 19-8 scoring outburst, notching 10 of his game-high 20.

"With our young kids, I think we got caught up in an athletic contest," said North coach Tom Negoshian. "They have some Division I football players and you can't do that against a team like Harrison."

"WE MISSED SOME easy shots and as the momentum changed, it was difficult for our young kids to fight that off and be steady."

Teachman said the game plan was to "put constant pressure on and see what happens."

"We like to get the ball in the air and let our athletes go after it," he said. "Four of them are defensive backs. The other is (quarterback) Mill Coleman, who you'll see in that position some next year."

Teachman was also pleased with the play of reserves Steve Hempel, Rob Karbowki and Adam Lowy.

"We got in a little foul trouble, but the bench came through," said the Harrison coach. "Their job is not necessarily to score, but to hold the fort until the cavalry comes back, more or less."

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North's Jack Herberholz (left) tries to find an avenue around Farmington Harrison defender Chad Burgess. Harrison rolled to a 67-40 win.

Guards are top stars

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

LAST YEAR'S Miss Basketball award went to Plymouth Salem star Dena Head, who probably took it with her to the University of Tennessee.

Salem coach Fred Thomann had another deserving candidate, senior guard Jill Estey, this year. And if you ask Thomann, he'll say Estey is the best player Michigan had to offer in 1988.

Estey provided the Rocks' veteran coach several reasons to take such a stand, and she leads the seven-member 1988 All-Observer girls basketball team. Estey is the only repeat performer off last year's seven-player honor roll. She also has made several all-state teams.

"She's the consummate all-around player in the state," Thomann said. "There's not a better total player in the state in terms of passing, ball handling, court recognition, defense and being able to use both hands. She has shooting range and makes the pressure shots. She can do it all."

OF COURSE that's a biased opinion, but the accolades don't end there from opposing coaches. "Jill's as fine a guard I've seen pass this way in Michigan girls basketball competition," Farmington Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "I've seen her evolve through a series of roles for Plymouth

Salem, and she's fit into each role the way the coach would want. As an experienced coach that's the greatest compliment I could give her."

Joining Estey on the first team are junior center Sue Ferko and senior guard Michelle Fortier (who already has signed with Western Michigan), both of Plymouth Canton.

The rest of the team includes Livonia Ladywood guard/forward Yvonne Barnett, Garden City senior center Kim Falkowski, Wayne Memorial junior guard Maya Lewis and the youngest player, Livonia Franklin guard Dawn Warner, only a freshman.

Presenting the All-Observer team, selected by the Observer Sports Staff.

FIRST TEAM

JILL ESTEY, Plymouth Salem: The 5-foot-4 senior did it all for Salem, leading the Rocks to an 18-5 overall record and a district title.

In 23 games, Estey averaged 16.1 points, 8.7 assists and four steals per game. She made 73 percent of her free throws and buried six shots from three-point range. She was All Western Lakes Activities Association first-team pick.

Estey took on more responsibility this year with Head now playing for Tennessee and she answered the challenge successfully.

Also an excellent soccer player, Estey will play basketball in college. Thomann said she has narrowed her college choices to the University of Illinois and Harvard

and will visit both schools this winter before making a decision. But Thomann added that Estey also would listen to Notre Dame, if the Fighting Irish offer a scholarship.

SUE FERKO, Plymouth Canton: Another WLA first-team selection, Ferko established herself as one of the area's most dominant inside players.

A 3.85 student, the 5-11 junior center averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds for a team that finished the year 19-2 overall before being upset by Salem in district. Ferko scored 33 points in a WLA semifinal playoff game. The Chiefs went on to win the WLA crown.

"She's improved her game to the point where she's a definite Division I college prospect," Canton coach Rob Neu said. "She's one of the most dominant post players in southeast Michigan."

MICHELLE FORTIER, Plymouth Canton: The senior point guard was a steady leader for Canton, at one-time ranked fourth in Class A this fall.

Fortier was a first-team All-WLA selection and averaged 10 points, six assists and three steals per game. A 3.4 student, she signed a national letter-of-intent in November to attend Western Michigan.

"She's paid her dues," Neu said. "And as a result of her hard work she's going to WMU. She's a student of the game. She loves to play, watch and study the game."

YVONNE BARNETT, Livonia Ladywood: The 5-foot-6 senior led Ladywood in scoring (16) and rebounds

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Canton's Michelle Fortier, a senior point-guard, was named to the All-Observer team. She led the Chiefs this year to the Western Lakes Activities Association crown. Fortier is headed next fall to Western Michigan University.



Two of the first-team performers on this year's All-Area girls basketball team are freshman

Dawn Warner (left) and Plymouth Salem's Jill Estey (right), a repeat performer.

all-area girls basketball

1988 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST TEAM

Jill Estey	.....	Ply. Salem
Michelle Fortier	.....	Ply. Canton
Susan Ferko	.....	Ply. Canton
Yvonne Barnett	.....	Liv. Ladywood
Kim Falkowski	.....	Garden City
Dawn Warner	.....	Liv. Franklin
Maya Lewis	.....	Wayne Memorial

SECOND TEAM

Tanisha Stokes	.....	Dishop Borgessa
Jenny Kennedy	.....	Liv. Ladywood
Jenny Canton	.....	Farm. Mercy
Eve Clark	.....	N. Farmington
Kim Gurecki	.....	N. Farmington
Carlette Dancy	.....	Wayne Memorial
Gandi Jones	.....	Ply. Canton

THIRD TEAM

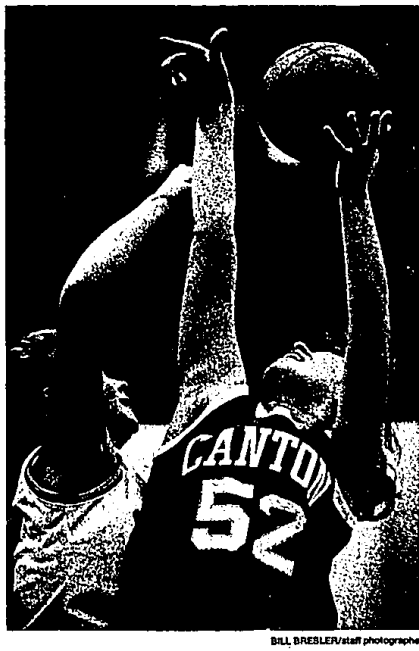
Christine Hoffman	.....	Westland Glenn
Jake Strick	.....	Liv. Franklin
Kyra Woodard	.....	Dishop Borgessa
Amanda Bell	.....	Ply. Canton
Shantel Spikes	.....	Wayne Memorial
Kim Reith	.....	Garden City
Terril King	.....	Ply. Salem

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Gary Schwan	.....	Wayne Memorial
Dan Freeman	.....	Liv. Franklin

HONORABLE MENTION

Livonia Ladywood: Sheri Adams, Carl Meyer; Plymouth Canton: Jenny Russell, Plymouth Salem: Sarah Ratts, Wendy Bailey, Livonia Franklin: Leslie Scharfack, Wayne Memorial: Antoinette Peterson, Dena Balthwell, North Farmington: Dena O'Brien, Farmington Hills: Marcy Joanne Elshorn, Fern Thompson, Liv. Albion: Richard Bishop Borgessa, Angela Ross, Marcy Carr, Westland: John Davis, Tracy Martin, Westland: Glenice, Garden City: Lynn Owen, Carolyn Shanks, Livonia: Gaudin, Jenny Williams, Jany Abu, Carl Barchard, Livonia: Elizabeth, Jenny Audet, Jeanne Martin, Richard Owen, Jenny Audet, Shannon Morris, Richard, Theresa, Garden City: Livonia: Dena O'Brien, Karl Weston, Kelly Anselmi, Richard B. Agathe, Kelly Carr, Livonia: Westland: Elizabeth Locke, Richard Temple, Chantelle, Richard and Marcy Cannon, Farmington: Karen Farmer, Erika Hatcher, Farmington: Harrison: Karen Napier, Dany Frost.



Susan Ferko (right) of Plymouth Canton stands tallest among the seven first-team selections on this year's All-Area girls basketball team.