

# Division debuts

## Churchill rallies; Falcons still winless

Jason Belaire scored nine of his game-high 15 points in the fourth quarter Thursday, leading Livonia Churchill to a 56-46 boys basketball win at Northville.

The win opened the Western Division campaign for the Chargers, now 3-4 overall.

Northville slipped to 0-1 and 3-3. Heath Meyers led Northville with 13 points and Joe Kaley contributed 11.

The Chargers trailed 26-14 at halftime, but outscored the Mustangs 21-5 in the third quarter to lead 35-31. Mike Juddawikis scored nine points and Mike Picha had six for Churchill in the third quarter.

Churchill made 23 of 31 free throws for the game and made adjustments at halftime to get Belaire more into the flow of the game. "Their game plan worked," Price

### basketball

said. "They played a box-and-one on Belaire and took us out. We did not give up. We moved Jason on the block and tried to readjust."

Churchill's balanced scoring included 14 points from Picha, 12 from Juddawikis and 10 from Chad Campau.

"We got good support from the bench and on the floor," Price added. "Picha and Ryan Polny rebounded well, and our guards Dale Colter and Alex Bedaway helped off the bench. "They played really together and it was a good victory for us."

JOHN GLENN 61, FARM-

INGTON 59: A fourth-quarter Farmington rally Thursday wasn't enough against host Westland John Glenn, which won the Lakes Division opener.

Glenn improved to 3-4 overall. Farmington, winless in six games, outscored Glenn 21-11 in the final quarter after trailing 50-38.

Cassy Killenbeck led three Rocketts in double figures with 17 points. Andre Dixon and Bobby Lawrence scored 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Farmington's Mike Myers led all scorers with 21 points and teammate Chris Schmid had 14, including four 3-point shots.

WAYNE 64, LINCOLN PARK 51: Leonard Wade scored 20 points and Tony Rumpel added 19, leading Wayne Memorial to the top of the Wolverine A League win Thursday at Lincoln Park.

Wayne (5-1 overall and 2-1 in the Wolverine) led only 23-19 at halftime but pushed the lead to 44-35 after three quarters.

The Zebras never relinquished the lead against the Railplitters, who stumbled to 4-3 overall and 0-2 in league play.

Kevin Hankerson grabbed 11 rebounds for Wayne and Pierre Hinton added six. Harold Skinner scored 15 points for Lincoln Park.

SAGINAW 94, BISHOP BORGESS 45: State-ranked Saginaw raced by outmanned Redford Bishop Borgeess Thursday behind the 31-point effort of senior guard Delano Johnson.

The non-conference loss evened Borgeess's record at 2-2. Shawn Hesport, Borgeess' top scorer, did not play because of an injury suffered in a car accident.

Charles North was the only Spartan in double figures, scoring 16 points. Kareem Carpenter scored eight points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Lon Dawkins, who already has signed with the University of Tulsa, and Jess Drain, scored 12 points each for Saginaw. Marcus Buckley added 11 points.

## Shasky realizes role on expansion club

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

JOHN SHASKY was rooting for the Detroit Pistons to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship last spring, Tuesday he wanted them to lose.

Nothing personal, mind you. Just call it sound business.

After years of promise at Birmingham Brother Rice and the University of Minnesota, and years of honing both in the states and abroad, Shasky has made it to the big time. The 24-year-old Birmingham native is a member of the Miami Heat, one of the NBA's two newest teams this year.

Shasky recalled watching the Pistons at the Silverdome and was elated to play his first professional game in Detroit.

Although it wasn't the fondest of homecomings (the Pistons scorched the Heat, 116-100), it nonetheless was a nice experience.

"It's exciting. I've lived in Detroit since I was in seventh grade, and I've been a big Pistons fan ever since," said Shasky. "I've lived in Detroit the whole time. I wish (Thomas) had been here and (Bill) Laimbeer and guys like that. I watched them and followed them and I was a big fan."

"Now it's a different situation. Now I'm in that same league and I have to root for a different team now," he said. "But it was a big thrill to play against those guys and in front of my family and friends."

SHASKY TRAVELED a long road to the NBA.

During his prep days at Brother Rice Shasky was one of the state's top players. He helped the Warriors attain a fine 68-16 record during his three varsity seasons. Including three district titles and two regional championships. Rice was a Class A state semifinalist his junior year.

Shasky was wooed by a number of local colleges but elected to attend Minnesota, where he finished with a 9.6 point per game career average. He graduated from college in 1996 and was drafted in the third round that year (61st pick overall) by the Utah Jazz.

But a number of circumstances (NBA players negotiating a new contract, a big trade involving the Pistons and Jazz, no rookie league at the time, Jazz roster moves) left Shasky on the outside.

He elected to improve his skills on the European circuit where he played a season and a half with teams in France and Italy. Shasky spent the last half of last season with the Rapid City Thrillers in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA).

Then expansion came along and offered Shasky another chance. He was signed by the Heat as a free agent, and he couldn't have been more grateful.

"IT (EXPANSION) was a chance for a lot of people. There were 24 more jobs in the NBA this year," he said. "I've been trying to get into the NBA since I got out of college. After Europe and the CBA, we knew the expansion was coming up and we aimed for this year as being a good chance to make it and it worked out. "I know it sounds kind of corny, but this is the fulfillment of a life-long goal, really. I had lunch with a friend of mine and we were talking about how we used to sit around and talk about 'Boy, what if I could play in the NBA someday' and how we used to go to the Pistons games when we were younger and imagine your-

### people in sports

self being out there.

"Now to actually be out there is a big thrill and a lot of fun," he said. "I'm happy to be here."

Shasky remains upbeat despite limited playing time.

The 6-11½, 240-pound forward/center played the last five minutes of Tuesday's game and was credited with two rebounds and two points (the pounded home a dunk for the game's last basket). He averages just 10 minutes a game, recording a season-high 24 minutes and 8 points in a late November outing against the World Champion Los Angeles Lakers.

He said it's been an up-and-down season for him personally. After obtaining a few good minutes earlier this season, Shasky missed three games because of an illness. He's been relegated mainly to mop-up duty ever since.

"We have 12 guys and you can't play all 12 all the time," commented Miami Heat coach Ron Rothstein, a former assistant with the Detroit Pistons.

SHASKY REALIZES his role is that of a back-up center and he's accepted that status. He'd like to remain in the NBA for as long as possible.

"I've always said before I made

the NBA that I'd just love to be in the league, and, even if I had to sit on the bench, it would still be great just to be in the NBA," he said. "Of course, once you get there you want more than that."

"I think my career will be as a backup center. That's fine. I'd like to stick around a long time and I think that's realistic because I'm big, first of all, and big guys are always in demand. There are a lot of guys who can stick around and make a real nice career being just a good player,

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close game," said the Stevenson coach.

NORTH, MEANWHILE, is starting put things together. "We need to get better each game and that's my goal," Negoshian said. "And my other goal is to get Matt back 100 percent."

"The kids are used to playing

a hard worker and those kinds of things that I think I am.

"I'm realistic. I don't expect to be the focal point of a team or the starting center. I know my abilities are limited. I guess nobody ever really likes to admit that, but I don't have the same kind of ability as the great centers in this league or I'm not blessed with the same type of physical skills as some centers."

"I know I just have to be smart about that and understand what my limitations are and play within those (limitations)," he said. "I have to understand I'm going to have to be a back-up. But I can be a good one and be a real benefit to the team."

Shasky is one person who hopes the Heat is always on.

## Raiders' Temple dooms Spartans

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NORTH, MEANWHILE, is starting put things together. "We need to get better each game and that's my goal," Negoshian said. "And my other goal is to get Matt back 100 percent."

"The kids are used to playing

against gimmick defenses. This is the third defense — like a box-and-one — we've seen already against Matt. And now that they've seen it and practiced against it, they know somebody else is going to get open and somebody else is going to have to knock them in."

Temple, White and Dettler answered the call, just like Little Drummer Boys.

### sports shorts

#### • SOCCER TRYOUTS

Girls with birth years from 1975 through 1978 who would like to play spring soccer for the Livonia Hawks should contact Tom Coyne at 427-3336 or Paul Dugan at 478-5649. The players will be playing in the Little Caesars Premier Soccer League.

In addition, adults interested in applying for coaching positions should contact Dugan.

#### • COACHES NEEDED

Mersey High School is looking for coaches in the following capacities and sports: varsity cheerleading, track assistant and skiing. Send resume to athletic director Suzanne Brown at 29300 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018, or call her at 478-2836.

#### • EQUINE SEMINAR

An eight-week equine preventive medicine and lameness course begins Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Oakland Equine Center in South Lyon.

Advanced registration costs \$75, and each additional family member must pay \$50 to join. The class is limited to 45 applicants and a minimum of 25 applicants is required in order to conduct the course.

To receive an application, write the Advanced Equine Seminar, 53262 Meadow Lane, Farmington Hills 48018. Or for more information, call 437-3361.

#### • MADONNA CLINIC

Madonna College in Livonia will sponsor its Annual Baseball Clinic in the Activities Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4.

The clinic is for grade school, junior high and high school players and their coaches. Current Tigers players Pat Sheridan and Mike Henneman will be among the instructors.

Also on hand will be former Tigers player and batting coach Gates Brown and former pitcher Mike Wilcox. Others include Madonna baseball coach Mike George and Michigan State University coach Tom Smith.

The fee is \$10 for students and \$15 for coaches. A complimentary lunch is included in the fee.

Madonna is accepting mail registration for the clinic. Make checks payable to Madonna College Athletics, and mail to: Business Office, Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia 48150. Or call 255-1100.

#### • BOWLER TAKES 4TH

Tamika Glenn of Farmington Hills rolled a 193 to place fourth in the Girls Division of the third annual Michigan Junior Masters Association Christmas Classic, Dec. 17 and 18 at Candlelit Bowl in Bridgeport.

Sandy Miller of Flint bowled 235 to win the tournament.

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