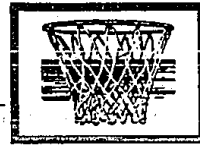


# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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(F1C)

## Hawks' comeback can't catch Salem

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

If anyone still needed to be convinced about the legitimacy of Plymouth Salem's basketball team, the Rocks supplied the evidence Friday night.

In a game that certainly lived up to expectations, Salem dealt visiting Farmington Harrison, ranked No. 5 in Class B, its first defeat, 65-64. Both teams are 6-1 overall.

The Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game didn't mean anything in the league standings, but that didn't mean anything to the players involved.

It was an exciting, back-and-forth contest that saw the Hawks attempt to salvage a victory in the last minute before Craig Marshall's free throws with 12 seconds left finally decided it.

"WHEN THEY come in our gym, set up a rally and we show people we can play, that's a big confidence builder," said Salem star Jeff Elliott, who poured in a game-high 23 points and also had nine rebounds, eight assists and four steals.

"This was a game people didn't think we could win. We made a couple mistakes near the end, but we'll learn not to make those mistakes in the next game."

"We had a seven-point lead to-night, and we'll be even more confident in the next game, even if we only have a one-point lead," he said.

HARRISON COACH Mike Teachman said the effort was there from his players and, therefore, couldn't be too upset by the outcome.

He did wonder what might have transpired had time not expired when it did, given the seesaw nature of the contest. The Hawks battled back from a 13-point deficit in the second quarter and a 63-55 margin

### basketball

with 1:35 remaining in the fourth.

"It seemed like a pendulum type of game," Teachman said. "They seemed to be on top of it when the buzzer sounded. I'd like to see (what would've happened) if we had played a 33-minute game."

SALEM CARRIED the game to the Hawks beginning with Jeff Gold's layup off the opening tip. The Rocks coasted to a 19-8 lead on Gold's coast-to-coast play and were up 31-18 midway in the second period.

"They were ready to fly people against our press, and we weren't getting back on defense," Teachman said.

"I told my kids 'Let's just match athletic ability with athletic ability and let the chips fall where they may,'" Salem coach Bob Brodie said.

Elliott and center Jake Baker had nine points apiece in the first half, and the latter was a key to Salem's eventual victory. The 6-foot-5 sophomore added 15 points and pulled down 15 rebounds.

But Harrison ran off 11 unanswered points to make it a two-point halftime, 31-29, and turn the momentum. After Baker interrupted the streak with five points, the Hawks climbed within one at half-time, 36-35.

That trend continued at the outset of the second half, Harrison scoring the first 11 points to take its first lead. The Hawks hit three consecutive triples, including two by Chad Burgess, and went from playing catch-up early to having a 10-point lead, 46-35.

"Any time you play a team with the athletes they have, it's hard to

spread the game," Brodie said. "I told our players the challenge was to see if they could win the close ones."

BRODIE SAID he emphasized to his team the need to stop Harrison's dribble and penetration, believing Harrison's quickness was the biggest threat. Thus, the Rocks conceded the outside shot, nearly to their regret.

Burgess, who scored 20 points to pace the Hawks, hit four 3-pointers, Bryan Wauldron and Jason Lichtman one each. Wauldron tossed in 15 points and had six rebounds, and Lichtman finished with 10 points.

"You have to make a decision as a coach," Brodie said. "We decided to make them beat us with the perimeter shot, and I'll be darned if they almost did."

Elliott, who sank a pair of triples, scored 14 in the second half and led a Salem comeback that pulled the Rocks within 92-90 after three quarters.

It was Salem's turn to surge early in the fourth, and Elliott's drive to the basket returned the advantage to the Rocks, 66-65, and his outside shot gave Salem its 63-56 lead.

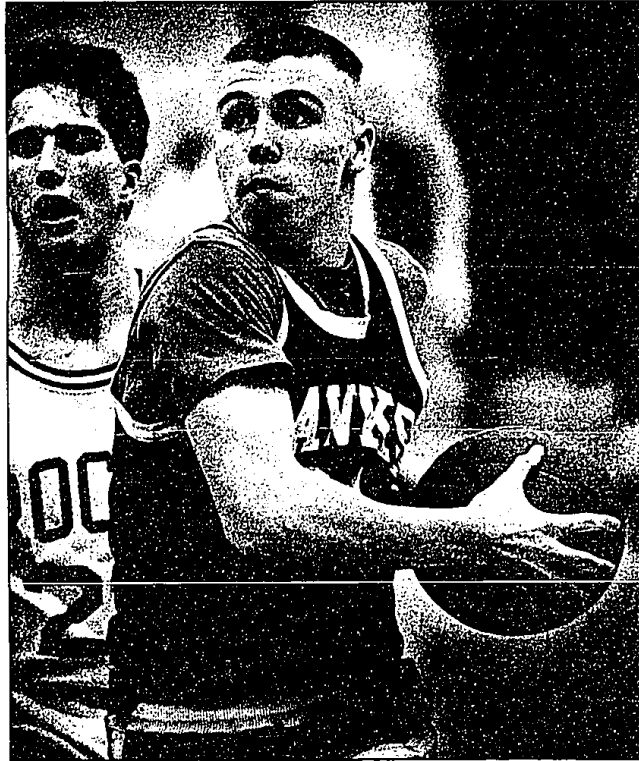
But the Hawks came close to turning the tables once more as a series of late turnovers under pressure from Harrison nearly cost Salem.

LICHTMAN'S FREE throws with :37 on the clock made it 63-62. The Hawks had a chance to go ahead, but Mill Coleman missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with :17 to play.

Marshall was fouled while taking an inbound pass after an exchange of turnovers and sank the crucial free throw.

Wauldron's 3-point attempt bounced off the front of the rim, and Marcus Mack, who added nine points and six caroms, scored a meaningless basket off the rebound with :01 remaining.

Please turn to Page 3



Bryan Wauldron scored 15 points, 11 in the second half, Friday night as the Hawks rallied from an early-game deficit against the Rocks. Harrison, however, succumbed to a Salem rally and suffered its first defeat.

## Mistakes ruin Farmington's upset bid

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

The hand of fate kindly patted Plymouth Canton on the back, while a win merely slipped through the mits of Farmington.

The visiting Chiefs erased a nine-point deficit in the final quarter and pulled out a 55-54 victory Friday against the winless Falcons in boys

basketball action. The pressure was on as Canton squeezed out its fourth consecutive win.

Things were undecided until the final seconds. Mike Myers sank two free throws with 11 seconds left to bring Farmington to within one.

The Chiefs' Mike Sulak was then fouled but missed the front end of the 1-and-1. On the ensuing play, Farmington's Jason Brown had trou-

ble hanging onto an upcourt pass. Canton scooped up the ball and ran out the clock.

The turnover was one of many forced by the Chiefs in the final eight minutes. Canton (5-2) tightened the vice with a trap defense, and the Falcons popped under pressure.

"We changed our defense," Canton coach Tom Niemi said. "It sparked

us. We went to a full-court trap and it worked."

In one span, the Falcons turned over the ball four straight times. Traveling calls were the bane of Farmington throughout the final quarter.

FARMINGTON, 0-7, couldn't find redemption at the foul line. The Falcons were 7-of-12 on free throw at-

tempts in the final eight minutes.

That didn't go well with a 1-of-6 performance from the floor in the fourth quarter.

"What really hurt us is that we didn't hit the big free throws down the stretch," said Farmington coach Pete Manlyla, who was subbing for Bob Kaump. Kaump was out of town attending his daughter's wedding.

"I feel we played straight up with

them except for the missed free throw. We shot enough of them."

Free throws didn't earn Farmington a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter. Some good offensive play underneath the basket—died Dennis Raimi (10 points) and Chris Schmid (nine points) put the Falcons in the

Please turn to Page 3

## Falcons tumble past Western

An injury was not enough to stop Farmington's gymnast Christine Oates from doing her best Thursday. No, not even two injuries.

Oates, suffering from shin splints and a sore shoulder, won three events and was second in another, as the Falcons defeated Walled Lake Western 121.1 to 80.9. Farmington is 2-0 in dual meets.

Oates scored 8.15 on the uneven bars, 8.6 on the balance beam and 8.65 on floor exercise. She also posted a 7.95 on the vault, second only to teammate Debbie Ford's 8.0.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to keep (Oates) healthy," coach Mary Be Schornhurst said, adding Jennifer Reed was a nice surprise on floor and Debbie Ford turned in a strong performance on vault.

"It was not a good night on beam," she added. "There were too many falls."

Farmington's Julie Lawton scored in three events: 7.05 on bars, 6.9 on beam and 7.7 on floor.

Sherri Vitaleo was third on vault (7.8) and beam (6.5). Ford also scored 7.7 on bars and Reed 8.0 on floor.

NORTH FARMINGTON raised its perfect ledger to 4-0 Thursday, whipping host Grosse Pointe North, 114-99.

Standouts for North included sophomore Kristin SutarSKI who won the floor exercise with an 8.35 mark. Junior Ellen Wesselman scored 7.95 to win the bars.



Ellen Wesselman performs on the balance beam Thursday night, helping the Raiders stay unbeaten with a victory over another North, from Grosse Pointe.

## Mercy opens with win

Farmington Mercy kicked off what it hopes will be another successful ski season Thursday by winning the giant slalom tournament at Mount Brighton.

The Marlins, defending champions of the Mount Brighton Interscholastic Ski Association, outdueled the team expected to be its chief competition in the league this year, Birmingham Groves.

Mercy, under the direction of first-year coach Richard Kujala, was paced by the senior duo of Beth McIntosh and Molly McDonald, both of whom have been skiing for 12 years now.

McIntosh was the individual winner with a combined, two-race time of 36:91, and McDonald was second at 37:59.

The Marlins dominated the top places, with highly-regarded freshman Nicole Sinclair clocking 39:42 for a fourth-place finish and Mary Kay Jerneycic taking fifth with a 39:61 time.

In addition, Mercy's Sande Taylor was 10th at 41:49 and Tracie McClellan 11th at 42:17.

### skiing

Kujala, who replaces Cass Zarlikowski, has coached for 11 years, the last two at Harland High School, and also traveled with the USSA team during that time.

"I think we have a real good chance of winning the regional and going to state," he said.

The Marlins compete with East Lansing at 4 p.m. today at Mount Brighton, but Kujala expects the Wednesday, Jan. 11, meet with Groves "to be the race" of the regular season.

Brighton, which competed Thursday without its No. 1 skier, Sarah Holmes, was third, followed by Harland, Birmingham Seaborn, Howell and Southfield Lathrup.

## Marlins rally to victory

The Catholic League didn't wait long to showcase two of its top volleyball teams in the same gym.

Farmington Mercy and Redford Bishop Borges, a Class B finalist last winter, met Thursday at Mercy, and the host team prevailed 15-10, 15-13 in the Central Division opener for both teams.

The Marlins improved to 4-1 overall, while Borges suffered its first loss and fell to 6-1.

Mercy rallied in both games. The Marlins trailed 10-9 in the first when Pam Gryn, who had 11 points in the game, served the last six consecutively.

Borges led 13-11 in the second game, but again Mercy came back to win. Jennifer Goff served four

### volleyball

straight points, including aces on the first three. Her fourth serve was a hard cross-court offering the Spartans returned, but Becky Leddy sent it back for a game-winning kill.

"IT WASN'T A classic volleyball match," Mercy coach Tim DeBello said. "The kids were nervous on both sides."

"It wasn't the best volleyball in the area there were a lot of rallies back and forth. But, in both games, we were down and had to fight back, and.

"As I said before, we would have to play sooner at a mature level with a young group, and this is a big win for us in that respect."

The Marlins, however, can't afford a letdown since they play Livonia Ladywood, last year's league and Class A titlist, in another key division match at 7 p.m. tonight at Scholeraat College.

Against Borges, Andrea Velthoven and Goff were the big hitters, recording nine and eight kills, respectively. Goff's hitting percentage was .571, Velthoven's .428.

Mercy also got strong passing out of Gryn and Christy Johnson, who between them made only five bad passes in 33 tries.