

Sports

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Danny Stelm and his Harrison swim teammates ran up against a tough Livonia Franklin squad Thursday night and came away

with a 90-81 defeat. The Hawks, who have had several close meets, are 0-4 overall.

Randy Bonst/Staff Photographer

Mack guides Hawks to win over Canton

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Marcus Mack usually plays a supporting role on the Farmington Harrison basketball team.

Friday night he deserved an Oscar for his performance as the leading man.

With teammates Chad Burgess and Bryan Wauldron in foul trouble, Mack was the man, scoring a game-high 21 points and leading the Hawks to an easy 66-49 victory over Plymouth Canton.

"I thought we could live with what we held their top three scorers to, but Mack hurt us," Canton coach Tom Niemi said.

"They got an outstanding performance out of Mack. I thought he played a tremendous ballgame for them."

THE GAME TO decide possession of first place in the Western Division leaves Harrison at 3-0 and 7-1 overall. The Chiefs are 2-1 and 6-3.

In addition to Mack, Burgess scored 19 points, Wauldron chipped in 14 and Jason Lichtman added seven, but it was Mack who produced the most at a crucial point in the game.

Burgess and Wauldron had picked up their fourth foul midway in the third quarter and gone to the bench. The 6-foot-2 Mack went to work, scoring nine of Harrison's 19 points in the period and helping the Hawks turn a close game into a one-sided affair.

"Right then, I knew I had to come through, or it was going to be a tough game," Mack said. "A tribute to Chad is that he got in foul trouble and still had 19 points."

Burgess was pleased to see Mack have such a good game, even if it was the first time this season someone other than himself was the team's leading scorer.

"I'M HAPPY TO see Marcus come off shooting like that when Bryan and me were in foul trouble," he said.

"I told him he had to take charge and lead our ballclub. Knowing we were in foul trouble, he got the job done with his hustle."

It was Mack's gritty play in the third quarter that enabled the Hawks to expand a 20-21 halftime lead. His second efforts on rebounds and darting moves to the basket helped the big quarter.

Mack had 16 of his points in the second half and was 9-of-11 shooting free throws in the game. He also had six rebounds.

"Toward the middle of the game, (Canton) started getting tired," he said. "Their zone spread out more, and they were leaving openings inside."

Harrison coach Mike Teachman had a hunch Mack was ready to have a big game. Mack has scored nine, 15 and 21 points in three games since the holiday break.

Harrison's Jeff Nelkirk won two

basketball

"HE'S HAD TWO very strong games in a row," Teachman said. "I saw it over vacation. He started to get more comfortable."

"I often thought when Marcus arrived, that's when we'd become a team."

"It's really going to help Chad if he doesn't have to face two defensive players all the time," he added. "We like to have bookends with our big guards."

Burgess and Mack actually play forward positions, but the Hawks, with no starter taller than 6-2, put four guards and a forward (Wauldron) on the floor in terms of athletic ability.

Canton's Brian Paupore had a quiet 17 points, spreading them evenly over the four quarters, and Troy Wauldron scored 12. Mike Sulak had nine rebounds.

"Obviously, we were looking at (Paupore)," Teachman said. "We played five different defenses, and two were specifically designed to pay attention to him."

"TWO OR THREE times we went after other people and they dumped it to him. He didn't miss a whole lot."

Harrison's defense always seemed to be a step quicker than the Chiefs, cutting off the lanes and not giving Canton too many good shots inside. The Chiefs had only seven shot attempts in the third quarter.

"That's why they're ranked fifth or sixth in the state (Class B)," Niemi said. "They're a very fine basketball team. They're (a) veteran team, and maybe our youth showed tonight."

To end the third quarter, Mack scored off the fast break and converted a three-point play, giving the Hawks a 48-33 lead. It was never a contest in the fourth quarter, though Canton got it down to 57-45 before Mack, Burgess and Lichtman led a late surge.

"Any time you get into a key ballgame and have young people the blowouts can occur," Niemi said. "When you're not hitting, blowouts happen real quick."

"A lot of times it doesn't mean destroying (the other team)," Teachman said. "They're out there taking chances. You have to decide whether you're going to lose pretty or try and win the game."

Harrison outrebounded the Chiefs 39-27 with Burgess pulling down eight caroms, Lichtman and Rob Karbowaki seven apiece.

"Lichtman's were nice because we feel we have to have the big men blocking out to enable the guards to rebound at times," Teachman said.

Ills are over for North

Harrison gets dunked by Franklin

The remedy to cure North Farmington's ailing swimming team Thursday was named Livonia Stevenson, of all teams.

North, which had 13 swimmers ill last week, got well against the Spartans, scoring an exciting 87-85 win over the host Spartans.

Stevenson placed second last winter behind Plymouth Salem in the 50-yard freestyle (23.54) and the 100 freestyle (52.44). He also was a member of the medley relay team, along with Mike Drelles, Chris Knoche and Steve Tumey, that prevailed in 1:47.38.

The Raiders remain perfect in two dual meets with the win and are 1-0 in the Lakes Division of the WLAA.

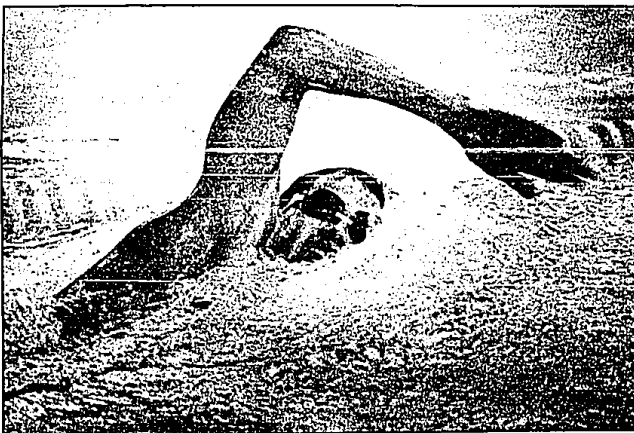
Junior Chuck Cuba had the healthiest results, winning both the 50-yard freestyle (23.54) and the 100 freestyle (52.44). He also was a member of the medley relay team, along with Mike Drelles, Chris Knoche and Steve Tumey, that prevailed in 1:47.38.

Other winners for North were Rob Kinselman, who won the diving with 202.75 points, and Knoche, who won the breaststroke (1:06.34).

Mike Goecke and Aaron Rieder were double winners for Stevenson. Goecke claimed titles in the 200 freestyle (1:51.80) and the 500 freestyle (5:07.52). Rieder's wins were in the individual medley (2:04.38) and the backstroke (53.71).

Taki Cerasioulas took home Stevenson's other victory, winning the butterfly in 53.08.

The Spartans won the freestyle relay.



Jason Barringer competes in a freestyle event (above) but won the breaststroke for Harrison.

Randy Bonst/Staff Photographer

lay, the last event of the meet, in 3:32.94. Members of the winning group included Goecke, Rieder, Tony Albert and Joe Petrillo.

FRANKLIN 90, HARRISON 81: Paul Hokett starred for the Patriots Thursday as they edged Farmington Harrison in the Western Division encounter.

Harrison remains winless in four dual meets.

Hokett won the 200 freestyle

events and swam a leg on the winning medley relay team that clocked a winning time of 1:54.60. Nelkirk, Dennis Sayles, Chad Hughes and Ed Serzo swam on the relay team.

Nelkirk's wins came in the 50 freestyle (24.40) and the 100 freestyle (53.70).

Serzo won the individual medley (2:19.80), and Jason Barringer claimed victory in the breaststroke (1:06.70) for Harrison.

The Hawks were paced by Jeff Nelkirk's three first places, including the medley relay.

(1:58.00) and the butterfly (1:01.3), and he was an important member of the freestyle relay team that finished with a winning time of 3:39.07. Other members of the relay were Jason Leach, Dennis Faver and Brian Deming.

Franklin's other wins came from Deming in the 500 freestyle (5:34.63), Dennis DiLorenzo in diving (218.6) and Norm Paulic in the backstroke (1:06.90).

Harrison's Jeff Nelkirk won two

Panthers' new AD fills 3 coaching vacancies

By Brad Emmons
and C.J. Risak
staff writers

New Bedford Union High athletic director Jim Gibbons didn't have to look far to find his replacement as varsity football coach.

Gibbons, who interviewed eight of 14 applicants, selected defensive coordinator Shawn McGowan as the Panthers' new coach.

Gibbons has also hired a new baseball and softball coach.

Returning to coach RU softball after a two-year leave is Gary DeRoche, who replaces Tip Smathers. Meanwhile, former Dearborn Heights Crestwood coach Chris Van Gies, an elementary school teacher in the RU Schools, takes over for Stu Rose as the school's head baseball coach.

The 33-year-old McGowan said about his new position, "To be a head football coach has been a goal of



mine ever since I got into coaching." Gibbons liked McGowan's "diverse" background as a teacher and coach.

"Shawn had been with us for three years and we knew what he was like and we knew what we were getting," said the AD. "We also liked the fact that Shawn had the potential of being a person on our teaching staff, possibly next fall, and that he had certification in a lot of the areas that might open up."

McGOWAN IS THE social studies chairman, teaching U.S. and world history at Benedictine High in Detroit. He has also taught classes in business education, computers and

physical education.

"Both sides made it clear what this was all about was a football coaching job," McGowan said. "All I asked was if a (teaching) job opened up that I would be considered for it."

In seven years, McGowan spent time as an assistant football coach along with being the head basketball coach.

"He has a lot of head coaching experience," said Gibbons. "Plus, Shawn had a lot of grass-roots support from the parents and players." In his four years as head coach, Gibbons went 17-19. Last year the Panthers installed a wide-open "run-and-shoot" offense, finishing 4-4.

Gibbons also used a novel approach the past two seasons, coaching and calling plays from the press box.

"I'll probably have to change that," McGowan said. "But I'm not

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Raiders open with win; Mercy's back on track

The wait was worth it. The volleyball season didn't begin until Wednesday for North Farmington, but the late start didn't hurt the Raiders.

North opened with a three-game victory over Walled Lake Western, 15-5, 14-16, 15-12. It was the first dual meet for the host Warriors, too.

The Raiders would have started in mid-December, but the Mount Clemens tournament they usually enter was canceled.

"I was still pleased with how we way played," North coach Sandy Lubienicki said. "Our girls were excited to play."

Debbie Weintraub, the only returning starter, had 21 sets that re-

volleyball

sulted in kills. Vikki Seamos had nine kills and Donna O'Brien five.

Kelly Coulson had 11 points on serves and 11 digs on serve reception, an area in which the Raiders rated 90 percent.

North plays at Livonia Stevenson on Monday and will host Livonia Franklin on Wednesday.

FARMINGTON HILLS Mercy bounced back from its loss to Livonia Marian tonight and travel to Harper Woods Regina on Thursday.

Gallagher 15-2, 16-6 on Thursday.

"I thought we played well, especially after the Ladywood match," coach Tim DeBello said. "We did all the basics well. We served well, passed well and attacked well."

Andrea Velthoven led the Marlinas, 3-1 in the Central Division and 10-3 overall, with eight kills out of 19 attacks for a .421 hitting percentage. Lee Albrecht was 6-of-16, respectively.

Taking two turns on the service line, Maureen Paulin accounted for 11 of 18 points in the first game. Teammate Amy Miki served five points in the second.

The Marlinas host Birmingham Marian tonight and travel to Harper Woods Regina on Thursday.