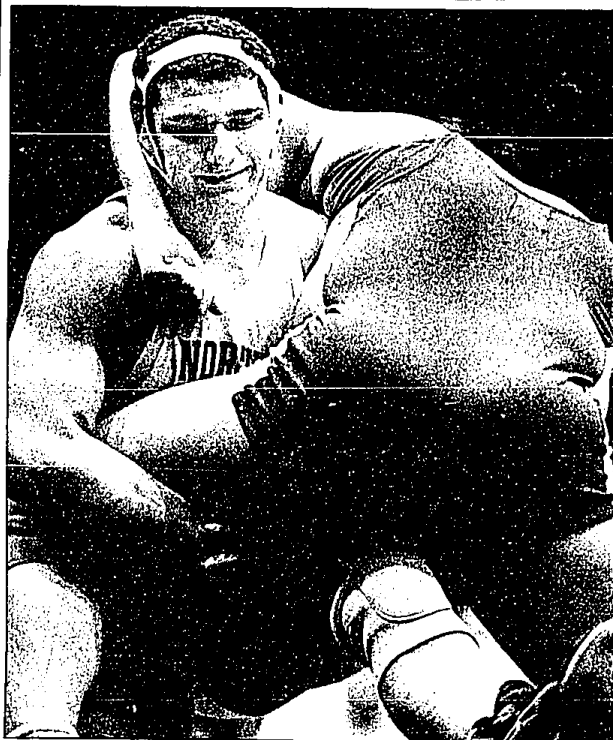


# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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Zaim Cunmulaj of North Farmington attempts a takedown by lifting Roman Rimmer's leg off the mat and trying to knock the other out from under him in the consolation final. Cunmulaj dominated the Temperance Bedford wrestler in winning a 13-4 decision.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

## North's Cunmulaj places 3rd in state

By Dan O'Meara

Zaim Cunmulaj, competing in "the class weight of the tournament," capped an outstanding high school career with a third-place finish in the Class A individual wrestling finals.

The heavyweight division was filled with outstanding wrestlers, and Cunmulaj proved he was one of them during the two-day event that concluded Saturday night in Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Cunmulaj, who finished with a 115-30-1 career record, suffered his only loss when Redford Catholic Central's Lee Krueger, the eventual state champion, won a 7-4 decision in the semifinals.

While the two have become good friends, Krueger also was Cunmulaj's nemesis, winning close decisions in the finals a year ago and the district tournament three weeks ago.

"Krueger may be the No. 1-ranked heavyweight in the country after this," North coach Dick Cook said. "I think he's the best wrestler ever to come out of Catholic Central."

"IN ANY OTHER year, this would have been the high school champion," he said, pointing to Cunmulaj. "I think Zaim could be the champion in any other state. He's beaten all the other ranked kids except Krueger."

In their semifinal match, Krueger had a 3-2 lead

when he used a double-leg move for consecutive takedowns that boosted his advantage to 7-2. Cunmulaj scored a pair of escape points that closed the final margin to three.

"Lee hit him with a move he hadn't used on Zaim," Cook said. "He shot in with a double-leg move that we didn't expect. We keep adjusting our strategy, but the trouble is he keeps adjusting his."

"I think (Krueger) is the best heavyweight to come out of this state," he added.

Krueger, who was the 198-pound champion last year, and Cunmulaj, who improved upon his fifth-place finish at 198 as a junior, followed the same path to success as heavyweights.

NEITHER WAS RANKED during the dual-meet season while others such as Berkley's Helios Tenaglia, Clio's Scott Brotherton, Temperance Bedford's Roman Rimmer, Romulus' Paul Nowicki and Traverse City's Mike Nadlicki got much of the recognition.

"This is the class weight of the tournament," Cook said. "We had kids in our regional who could have placed and didn't even get here."

Cunmulaj rebounded from his loss to Krueger by beating Brotherton, who was ranked No. 1 all season, and 48-0-1 entering the finals, on a 7-2 decision in the consolation bracket semis.

Please turn to Page 6

## JG takes Hawks out of title picture

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Westland John Glenn is not the same basketball team that lost to Farmington Harrison two months ago, and one reason is junior Eric Spencer.

The 6-foot-1 junior was sick last December and didn't play the night Glenn got blown out at Harrison 74-62.

Not only was he present Tuesday night, but he was part of a balanced attack as the Rockets stunned the Western Division-champion Hawks 67-53 in a game played at Farmington High.

The Rockets, 11-8 overall, will face Plymouth Salem, the Lakes Division winner, for a third time this season in the Western Lakes Activities Association final at 8 p.m. Saturday. Salem, 17-2, will be the host team.

Spencer tossed in 12 points, including 6-of-6 shooting at the free-throw line, and was one of four Rockets in double figures.

BOBBY LAWRENCE, who had four of Glenn's seven triples, led the way with 15 points. Greg Anderson, whose outside shooting was another key, also scored 12, and Jason Pizzuti added 10 off the bench. Chad Burgess and Bryan Wauldon were the only Harrison players in double figures with 16 and 11, respectively.

"At the beginning of the year, we weren't playing as a team as much," Spencer said. "We were taking a lot of outside shots and weren't getting it inside. Now we have more balance and are doing a lot better."

Glenn coach Bob Killingbeck echoed Spencer's appraisal of the team, saying the Rockets have meshed into a cohesive unit.

"Early in the year, we were turning the ball over and giving up easy baskets," he said. "Now we have the poise to get it up and down the floor."

"Ever since Spencer has been playing first string, we've been doing real well. It's a quality player and, as you see, he can put the ball in the basket."

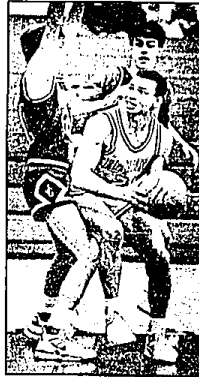
"BUT HE'S JUST one of the keys," he added. "We're playing better as a team. We're not relying on one person."

Harrison coach Mike Teachman said he thought the addition of Spencer and Lawrence's shooting made the difference for Glenn. As for the Hawks, it wasn't one of their more inspiring performances.

Teachman pointed out Harrison is 4-3 when it allows more than 60 points and 12-4 when it holds the opposition to less than 60.

"The better team won tonight," Teachman said. "They had open shots and we didn't. We didn't play defense."

"We lacked mental intensity. You



Marcus Mack prepares for layup and a shot over Glenn's Mike Trussler.

THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

could see it in warm-ups, and I thought we were really ready to play off the last two practices."

Tuesday's game was supposed to have been played at Harrison, too, but the game had to be switched to Farmington late in the afternoon. The large doors that divide the gym in half were stuck open, forcing a last-minute site change.

"I THINK IT turned out to be a big (factor)," Teachman said. "At 4:15, the decision was made, and all of the players were called."

"I'm sure it took some wind out of their sails, but (Glenn) played better. And Spencer and Lawrence played great."

Casey Killingbeck and Lawrence hit back-to-back triples to start the game, and their sharp shooting was a foreshadowing of things to come. But the Rockets went into a spin in the second quarter and made only three of 18 field goals. Spencer, however, made all six free throws in that period to keep Glenn in the game while the Hawks rallied from their slow start.

Adam Lowy's triple gave Harrison its first lead, 32-30, but the Hawks, who trailed by several points most of the game, had only a pair of one-point leads after that.

The Rockets never trailed after Lawrence hit a timely triple and Chris Poplin added a tip in at third-quarter buzzer for a 47-43 lead.

Please turn to Page 2

## Raiders fall despite 32 by Hoffman

It took seldom-used Jimmy Young to help Plymouth Canton turn its basketball fortunes around Tuesday against visiting North Farmington.

The situation was critical for Canton. The Chiefs had rallied in the third quarter, outscoring North 19-13, but the Raiders were still in command, thanks to Matt Hoffman. The junior guard had already burned the Chiefs for 28 points in the first three quarters, pushing North to a 47-39 lead.

But the fourth quarter was all Canton. Young came off the bench to limit Hoffman to four points in the period. Daryl Magreta scored six points down the stretch (he finished with 10) and the Chiefs roared past the Raiders with a 19-6 surge that carried them to a 58-53 triumph in a Western Lakes Activities Association consolation game.

Canton, which had lost four of its previous five games, was trailing by 14 points in the third quarter before righting itself. Troy Waldron's solid all-around play helped; he totaled 17 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots. Brian Paupore netted 15 points as the Chiefs improved to 11-5.

Hoffman's superb scoring effort — he finished with 32 points — was wasted as North dipped to 9-10. Chris White added 12 for the Raiders.

NVILLE 70, FARMINGTON 69: The final seconds of Tuesday's WLAA consolation game at Northville were played like neither team wanted to win.

The Mustangs led by a point and were at the free-throw line with :12 left. They missed the first shot in the one-and-one, but rebounded and were fouled again. Again they missed, and this time Farmington rebounded, pushed the ball the length of the court, went for a layup — and missed.

The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-16. Northville is 9-10.

Farmington trailed 39-34 at the half but pulled ahead with a 21-15 third-quarter that gave them a 55-54 lead entering the fourth. Free throws killed the Falcons — they made just five of 14. Northville was 15 of 24.

Mike Myers had 26 points for Farmington; Mike Williams contributed 13. Heath Meyers' 26 led the Mustangs, while Chris House got 21.

## Raiders set swim sights on perfect year in duals

North Farmington will be going after its first perfect season in dual-meet swimming Thursday night when the Raiders are host to cross-town rival Farmington at 7 p.m.

Coach Sue Gendron's team leads the Lakes Division with a 4-0 record and is 10-0 overall.

Despite plenty of one-loss seasons in past years, North has never had an unbeaten untied record. Its previous best was a 12-0-1 campaign in 1984-85.

The Raiders tied Livonia Stevenson in the first meet that year — their last in the old Northwest Suburban League — and won their next 12 in a row. North also captured the NSL title that year.

The 1988-89 team's biggest victory to date was its 80-84 victory over defending Western Lakes Activities As-

### swimming

sociation champion Plymouth Salem on Jan. 19.

"Obviously, we've come through some close meets," North assistant coach Pat Duthie said, "but we have what we consider to be a good dual-meet team."

"Basically, we have three kids in every event. That's why we've been so successful."

North's latest victory was a 93-79 triumph over Northville in a WLAA crossover meet last Thursday.

Steve Turney and Chuck Chuba had two individual victories apiece, and Chris Knoche had two wins, in-

cluding a share in the 200-yard medley relay victory.

Turney won the individual medley in 2:09.8 and the butterfly in 57.31, and Chuba prevailed in the 50 and 100 freestyles with times of 23.73 and 51.60, respectively.

After assisting teammates Mike Drellies, Doug Schwedland and Keith Lee in winning the medley relay in 1:49.37, Knoche later won the 500 freestyle with a 5:09.58 time. North's other victory came in the breaststroke in which Dan Knipper posted a 1:06.87 time.

Duthie added the Raiders received a good performance from Rob Kunzeiman in diving. Northville has three excellent divers, Duthie said, and Kunzeiman broke up the opposing trio with a second-place score of 226.75, his best score of the year.

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