

# Salem trims Patriots in OT

By Chad Emmons  
staff writer

Flymouth Salem coach Bob Brodie watched the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball title hang ominously on the rim Tuesday night.

With the score tied at 71 near the end of regulation play, Livonia Franklin guard Craig Overalls launched a 15-foot baseline shot that seemed almost suspended in mid-air.

The shot bounced three times on the cylinder, but rolled off in the final frantic seconds. The visiting Rocks then took advantage of the break in overtime, scoring six unanswered points to thwart the upset-minded Patriots, 77-71.

Salem, now 17-2 overall, will play Westland John Glenn (see related story) for the coveted WLA A playoff title beginning at 8 p.m. The Rocks will play Saturday on their home floor.

"On the second bounce I thought it was going down," said a relieved Brodie afterwards. "But we've had a couple shots ourselves go the other way this year and it was nice that we came out on top this time."

**THE ROCKS** took control in overtime by capitalizing on three Franklin turnovers when the Patriots mysteriously quit attacking the basket.

Jeff Gold's steal and layup with 1:36 remaining broke the scoreless overtime deadlock. Craig Marshall's steal and basket with 46 seconds left followed by two more free throws sealed the verdict.

Franklin appeared tentative and disorganized in the overtime after senior guard John Shea, one of the team's better ball-handlers and passers, fouled out with 23 seconds left in regulation.

Franklin had taken a 71-69 lead with 32 seconds left when Overalls converted a pair of free

## basketball

throws, but Salem's Jeff Jagacki, who netted a team-high 17 points, got free underneath for a layup as Shea picked up his fifth. But Jagacki missed the go-ahead free throw with 23 seconds to play, setting the stage for Overalls' ill-fated bid to win it.

"I have faith in his ability. It was a good shot for him (Overalls)," said Franklin coach Rod Hanna, whose team slipped to 11-7 overall. "It was tough to lose, but overall I was happy with the effort."

**"AFTER WE LOST** shea they (Salem) scored quickly. I think our intensity and thinking level went down. We made three bad passes, while their defensive intensity level went up. The ball did not get inside like we wanted it. Our concentration went away from the basket. We threw the ball out instead of going to the basket."

Brodie, meanwhile, said it was defense which proved to be the difference after the Rocks starting missing critical shots from the free throw line.

"Our defense at the end of regulation and in the overtime was pretty tremendous," said the Salem coach. "That's what you want in crunch time. I told them to contest every shot and the offense will take care of itself."

The Rocks' offense took care of itself, particularly in the first half when they led by as many as 13 points.

But a 39-30 halftime lead disappeared quickly when Franklin guard Roy Hall started ringing in shots from everywhere.

**THE SENIOR** sharpshooter peared to 16 third-quarter points to pull the Patriots to within four, 56-52.

Franklin finally caught the Rocks at 67-61 with only 1:44 to go on Hall's three-pointer.

"I told my guys at halftime that it was going right down to the wire," said Brodie. "Franklin's a tough team to keep down. They're scrappy and they're always hustling. They just kept coming after us."

"That's a good basketball team, and I can see why they beat all the top dogs in our league."

Hall led Franklin and all scorers with 27, while Overalls and Shea contributed 12 and 10, respectively. Mark Donehue tallied nine and sophomore Steve McCool added seven off the bench.

Meanwhile, Salem got a big contribution off the bench from Mike Albertson, the hard-nosed senior forward who scored 14 points. Sophomore center Jake Baker added 12 points and 13 rebounds, while Gold tallied nine.

Albertson helped pick up the slack when the Rocks' top scorer, Jeff Elliott (15 points), went through a dry spell for much of the second half.

**"MIKE (ALBERTSON)** gave us a great effort," said the Salem coach. "He had been in a lull of late, but I just told him to play and don't be spectacular, just give 100 percent. He was flying all around the court and causing a lot of trouble."

And although it appeared the Rocks were in trouble down the stretch, they persevered and pulled out the win, giving them a shot at the coveted WLA A crown. Last year North Farmington downed the Rocks in the WLA A final.

"This will be our third championship game in a row and that's all you can ask," Brodie said. "All you can ask for is to play for the championship."



THOMAS ARNETT/Staff Photographer

Chad Burgess slips down a rebound during Harrison's 87-53 loss to John Glenn in the WLA A semifinals Tuesday. Burgess scored 16 points to lead the Hawks.

# Hawks tumble in league semi

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**HARRISON** WAS within four, 53-49, when Spencer drove the lane and Lawrence hit another 3-pointer to stretch Glenn's lead to nine with 3:00 remaining. That forced the Hawks to press and enabled the Rockets to win going away.

"Usually, I hit a lot of 3-pointers, but I haven't been hitting them lately," Lawrence said. "I've been off lately. I just got hot. After I hit a couple, I got heated up."

Killingbeck said his team's main objectives were to limit the scoring of Burgess and Wauldron and keep them away from the boards. Both were limited to six points in the second half.

"If we keep them off the boards, they're going to struggle, because they depend on them to get all the garbage," he said.

"We had to do a half-way decent job on the boards. The first time they just killed us on the boards."

The Rockets have lost twice to Salem, but they're eager for a third meeting with a championship on the line.

**"WE PLAYED** Salem tough both times," Killingbeck said. "We had them beat the first time; we were up by 11 late in the game. We're confident. If we can play a good, strong game, we'll be there."

Harrison, ranked No. 7 in Class B, was one of the favorites to be in the final but will play Livonia Franklin in the consolation game at 6 p.m. instead. The game is at Salem, also.

"It's disappointing," Teachman said, "but as far as reality right out here (on the gym floor), between the lines, John Glenn beat us."

# Hot-shooting Delfgaww paces RU

Joe Delfgaw drilled five three-pointers and scored 21 points to pace Redford Union to a 69-55 boys basketball victory Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville.

RU, which improved to 10-8 with the win, had eight triples to three for Clarenceville — all by Kendrick Herrington, who finished with 13 points.

The Class A Panthers were never in trouble against their Class B opponent. RU led by 10 (27-17) at the half and by 15 (48-33) after three quarters.

John Burdick and Steve Nowak contributed 18 points apiece for RU. Trevor Smith's 18 points were high for Clarenceville, which slipped to 4-14. Derrick Herr added 12.

**STEVENSON 65, CHURCHILL 59:** In a battle of Livonia schools, Stevenson built a big first-half lead, then outlasted Churchill comeback to win a Western Lakes Activities Association consolation game Tuesday at Churchill.

Stevenson (13-6 overall) jumped in front 12-11 after one quarter and was up 37-20 at the half, but the Chargers (9-14 overall) battled back, outscoring their foes 16-10 in the third quarter and 23-18 in the fourth.

"We fought to the end," said Churchill coach Fred Price. "And that's what I was looking for."

Free-throw shooting ruined the Chargers. Stevenson made 12 of 19, Churchill was just 18 of 30, with five misses coming on the first in one-and-one situations.

Rick Laven led the Spartans with 16

points, including four-of-four free throws in the fourth. Chris Nazzell had 13 and Scott Kosikowski and Glenn Szeman scored nine apiece. Four players netted 10 points each for Churchill: Eric Osen, Chad Campau, Mike Picha and Mike Judawitka. Picha had eight rebounds.

**WAYNE 72, DEARBORN 55:** It was senior night at Wayne Memorial Tuesday, so the Zobras — who usually start four juniors and one senior — had all seniors starting.

Dearborn still couldn't beat the makeshift lineup, trailing 34-33 at the half. And when the starters got in in the second half, Wayne (now 15-4 overall) pulled away, outscoring the Pioneers 38-22.

Tony Rumble, the only senior starter, scored seven of his 19 points in the third quarter as the Zobras outscored Dearborn 20-13. Kevin Hankerson, Wayne Jackson and Chris Heber chipped in with 10 points apiece, Jackson getting seven in the fourth quarter. Hankerson also had eight boards.

Rob Scutlich scored 19 for Dearborn (9-11 overall). Mohammed Abderrah and Brian Merckens had 10 each.

**ST. ALPHONSUS 68, ST. AGATHA 67 (2 OT):** Troy Coleman riddled Redford St. Agatha for 36 points, including six of Dearborn St. Alphonsus' eight overtime points and the game-winning basket with seven seconds left, Tuesday at St. Als.

The defeat hurt, but there could be an even bigger loss. Senior forward Mike Boyle suffered a severe ankle sprain in the third quarter. Aggie coach Jim Murphy feared Boyle may be lost for the season.

St. Agatha, which fell to 16-3, had its

chances to beat the Arrows (5-12 overall), but couldn't convert — particularly at the free-throw line. The Aggies made just one-of-four from the stripe in the second overtime, with Galen Walker hitting one of two and Pat Wagner missing twice.

Matt Haran led St. Agatha with 25 points, but he, too, missed a key free throw late in regulation. Walker finished with 22 and Brian Kutch scored 12.

St. Als led 25-23 at the half, but the Aggies led it 41 after three quarters. It was 60-41 at the end of regulation and 64-apiece after one overtime. Kutch followed Coleman's game-winning basket with a desperation shot that missed with three seconds left.

**THURSTON 76, EVANGEL 67:** Fernando Merida leveled Detroit Evangel Christian with 29 points and 17 rebounds Tuesday at Redford Thurston.

The win improved the Class B Eagles' record to 15-4. Class B Evangel is 15-6.



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