



Raiders reach goal of 11-0 campaign



Chris Knoche, a freshman member of the North Farmington team, was a key addition to the squad this season. He won the

breaststroke Thursday night as the Raiders concluded a perfect dual-meet season.

North streaks past Falcons

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The team was a recurring theme Thursday night as North Farmington concluded its dual-meet swim season with a special victory.

And well it should be since the Raiders were celebrating a team accomplishment.

That the North swimmers defeated crosstown rival Farmington 108-84 and won their first Lakes Division championship in the Western Lakes Activities Association were of secondary importance.

More significantly, the Raiders made history by achieving their first perfect record — a 11-0 slate — in the school's 20 years of interscholastic swim competition.

"At the beginning of the season, we dreamt of this," said tri-captain Doug Schwedland, who also serves as North's spiritual leader.

"WHEN WE BEAT (Plymouth) Salem, I started telling the team 12-0 was possible. If we all stuck together, we could do it. This tops it all off — the final night and everything."

Rob Kuzelzman, a diver and one of only seven seniors on the squad, was a part of two state championship teams at Dearborn High before transferring to North last year, but the camaraderie among the Raiders surpasses that of his former teammates.

"Doug gave us a speech in the locker room and fired us all up," he said. "A team becomes so close when you have a leader like that."

"Diving has always been considered a separate sport," Kuzelzman said, "but a team like this is like a family."

The Raiders have applied the team approach out of necessity. Many had to do their part, some to varying degrees, because North doesn't rely on just a handful of individual standouts.

The Raiders have talent on their team, but it is pretty evenly distributed, too.

"I'M NOT ONE of the better swimmers on the team, but it's great to be a captain and part of this team," senior Rob Mahle said.

"I'm part of the depth. We've had a lot of strong

swimming

teams at North in the past, but they didn't have the depth to go undefeated."

If anybody can be singled out as a team leader in terms of performance, senior Steve Turney, the remaining tri-captain, would be at the top of the list. He won the butterfly (56.54) and helped the Raiders win both relays Thursday.

"I knew we'd have a good season, but I didn't know if we could beat Salem," he said. "He (Schwedland) said we could, and when we did I felt like a fool; he felt real happy."

"Don't say that," Schwedland said. "You win all the races."

"I'm glad I'm a senior this year," Turney said, "because this is a good place to leave off."

While Turney is one of the top upperclassmen, the Raiders also were helped by a strong freshman class that included Mike Drelles, Keith Lee and Chris Knoche. Drelles won the backstroke (1:00.92) and Knoche the breaststroke (1:06.65).

"AS A GROUP of kids, (the freshmen) had a bigger impact on the program than any other group," North assistant coach Pat Duthie said.

With the incoming freshmen, the Raiders knew they'd have a good team, but nobody was talking about an unbeaten season in December, said Duthie, who was head coach for 14 years and has been an assistant to Sue Gendron the last two.

"(The perfect year) is significant from the standpoint it just doesn't happen very often," Duthie said. "It's something this team will be remembered for a long time."

Along the way, North had to win a few close ones, too, but the bottom line was the victories went to the Raiders, including an 88-84 win over defending league champion Salem on Jan. 19.

Please turn to Page 4

Hawks edge Franklin in WLAA consolation

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Jason Lichtman snapped Farmington Harrison's basketball team out of its doldrums Saturday.

Called the team's "unsung hero" by coach Mike Teachman, the 5-foot-10 senior guard hit two clutch shots to send the game into overtime. The Hawks then went on to defeat Livonia Franklin, 55-52, to gain third place in the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball playoffs at Plymouth Salem High.

Harrison finished the regular season at 17-3, while Franklin dipped to 11-9.

Lichtman's heroics were just what the doctor ordered for the Western Division-champion Hawks, who were stunned last Tuesday by Westland John Glenn in the semifinals, and then learned later in the week that senior forward Bryan Wauldron, the team's second leading scorer and rebounder, left the team for personal reasons, reportedly to take a job to earn spending money for spring vacation.

"We showed some character and overcame some tremendous adversity the past week," said Teachman, who had no comment on the Wauldron matter. "We had the stuffing knocked out of us and you could see we were a little down at the start. We hit only six of 33 shots from the floor in the first half, but then we kicked in a little of our pride and that brought us back. Hopefully this will get us pepped up for the districts."

THE PATRIOTS were well on their way to their second win in three tries over Harrison, but they blew a seven-point lead in the final two minutes.

basketball

Mill Coleman made two straight shots and then Lichtman drilled a three-pointer with only 20 seconds to play to give the Hawks a 49-47 lead.

But Franklin's Roy Hall (13 points) nailed a three-pointer at the six-second mark to give the Patriots a 50-48 advantage.

"That was a heck of a shot by Hall because Lichtman had a hand right in his face," said the Harrison coach.

But after a timeout, Lichtman took the ball the length of the floor and scored a layup as time expired, sending the game into OT.

Harrison then outscored the Patriots 6-2 in the three-minute session to clinch the win. Lichtman's two points with 13 seconds left tied it for the Hawks.

"There were six seconds on the clock and all we had to do was play defense," said Franklin coach Rod Hanna. "Lichtman went through us like knife in butter. It's disappointing. He went through all five of our players."

Marcus Mack paced the Hawks with 14 points. Three others scored in double figures including Coleman (12), Chad Burgess (11) and Lichtman (10).

Mark Donohue added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Patriots. John Santl came off the bench to score 10 points.

In other WLAA consolation games:

STEVENSON 87, CANTON 59: Senior forward Scott Koskowiak scored a game-high 23 points and helped hold Plymouth Canton's high-scoring forward Brian Paupore to 11 points, leading Livonia Stevenson (14-4) to a fifth place finish in the WLAA.

Three other Spartans scored in double figures including Chris Nazelli (17), Ron Baras (13) and Rick Laven (10).

Fernando Johnson led the Chiefs (11-9) with 14 points and Troy Wauldron added 11.

"We experimented a little with our defense and we were geared to stop Paupore and Wauldron," said Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre. "Koskowiak did a nice job and our defense did enough to turn off their offense. They never got into a flow."

Stevenson hit 23 of 35 free throws, while the Chiefs were only 11 of 24.

N. FARMINGTON 67, CHURCHILL 56: Brian Temple, a junior forward, had the hot hand, leading North Farmington (10-10) to a seventh-place finish with a victory over Livonia Churchill (5-15).

Temple tallied a game-high 25 points, hitting six shots from three-point range, to pace the Raiders. Matt Hoffman, a junior point-guard, played a strong floor game and added 16. (North made 11 three-pointers on the day.)

Three Chargers scored in double figures including Jason Belaire (12), Mike Jucodawits (11) and Mike Picha (10).

W.L. CENTRAL 48, FARMINGTON 45: Derk Wallace tallied 16 points and Matt Smith contributed 13 as Walled Lake Central (1-19) avoided a winless season with a victory over the Falcons (3-17) in a loser's bracket game.

P.J. Green paced Farmington with 11 and Jason Brown contributed 10.

NORTHVILLE 57, W.L. WESTERN 55: Chris House (34) and Heath Meyers (23) combined for 41 points as the Mustangs (10-10) defeated Walled Lake Western (6-14) in a loser's bracket game.

Kevin White tallied 20 in a losing cause.

Marshall-led Rocks capture league title

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Salem applied its own version of the Marshall Plan to win the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball championship Saturday night.

Craig Marshall, a senior guard, scored a career-high 18 points and, generally, had an all-world performance as the Rocks defeated Westland John Glenn 80-73 on the Salem court.

"(Coach Bob Brodie) just said to play with reckless abandon, and that's what I did," said Marshall, who also had 12 rebounds, eight assists and five steals.

"This was the last game here for the seniors on the team, and we wanted to play as hard as we could."

Intense described Marshall's play, as well as that of his teammates, who gave Salem its second league title in three years.

MARSHALL WAS instrumental in setting the fast-paced, aggressive style that characterized the game. His quick, assertive drives to the basket picked on flaws in the Glenn defense and netted 10 first-half points.

"My weakness is shooting the ball," Marshall said. "So I like to drive and tonight I took the ball to the hole."

"I took a lot of pressure off (leading scorer) Jeff Elliott. I went to look for (center) Jake (Baker) down low, but they really packed in the zone. They were letting me drive, and I took as much as I could."

Marshall certainly wasn't the only reason Salem finished the regular season 19-2. Elliott scored a team-high 19 points, which included three triples, and Baker matched Marshall's numbers with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

"This season has been a tribute to the players," Brodie said. "Elliott has scored a lot for us, but down here at crunch time everybody is contributing."

But the source of Salem's drive and energy Saturday was Marshall, who lobbed the ball on the break and went the length of the floor to score some of his layups.

MARSHALL'S PLAY in the championship game can be attributed to a recent conversation he had with Brodie in which his role was analyzed.

"I said, 'Craig, your game is being a slashing, hard-driving type of player,'" Brodie said. "You can't play a real control game as effectively. You're at your best when you play hard. So play hard, go to the hole and shoot the ball more."

"We don't specifically go to certain players," he added. "But I get to each individual and tell him what he has to do to make us a better team. And that's one of the things Craig has to do."

The Rockets, 11-9, also had balanced scoring with Greg Anderson pumping in a game-high 23 to lead the team. Bobby Lawrence, who also had three triples, and Casey Killingbeck scored 15 each, and Eric Spencer added 14.

Spencer was a key to

basketball

Glenn's drive to the WLAA final, scored 12 points in the first half when the Rockets went back and forth with Salem. However, he had only two in the second half.

"HE BASICALLY gets his points off other things — rebounds, loose balls, breaks," Glenn coach Bob Killingbeck said. "We didn't get any of those. Consequently, he wasn't in the offense enough."

"No one player got us going. We needed that spark and couldn't get it. We'd start something and then something bad would happen. We could never sustain that drive to keep something going."

The Rocks had a lot to do with that. They never let Glenn get too big a lead and always had a comeback for any surge by the Rockets.

Salem outscored Glenn 11-2 in the last three minutes of the third quarter to build a 55-50 lead with five players scoring baskets.

Anderson's triple pulled the Rockets within 60-59 at which time the Rocks made a decisive move, and it will come as no surprise Marshall was the player lighting the fuse.

His drive to the basket started Salem on a 12-3 run that increased its lead to 10 points, 73-63, with less than three minutes to play. After pulling down a big defensive rebound and being fouled, he added a pair of free throws during that streak, also.

MIKE ALBERTSON capped the run of points with a pair of buckets, and his second was a layup off the break — the result of an assist by Marshall, who whipped the ball half the length of the court into Albertson's hands as he was drawn to the hoop.

Another Area school also bit the dust in semifinals Friday.

In a Class D matchup, Lutheran Westland was ousted by Grass Lake, 56-18.

Meanwhile, Temperance-Bedford advanced to the 'A' final by defeating Rockford, 51-12.

scoring wins for CC were: Mike Gentile

CC wrestlers bounced by Lake Orion

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Redford Catholic Central's Mike Rodriguez was not a happy camper Friday night in Battle Creek.

The coach of the defending Class A wrestling champions watched his team suffer an upset 36-30 loss to Lake Orion in the semifinals of the state team dual tournament at the Kellogg Center.

CC bowed out with a 19-5 record, while Lake Orion (24-2) advanced to meet Temperance-Bedford in Saturday's final.

Even though his team won the title last

year, the CC coach is not thrilled by the new tournament format, which was added two years ago by the Michigan High School Athletic Association to be held in conjunction with the state individual meet.

"We had a good year, and our kids wrestled well," Rodriguez said. "It's not going to change because of what I and a few other coaches say, but I'm not accustomed to this kind of wrestling."

"All it is is trial, delay, stall, delay. The bottom line is winning and hammering each other, not trying to avoid pins. But I guess you can't cry over spilled milk."

In team scoring, wrestlers get six points

for a pin and three for a decision.

Lake Orion won matches at 103, 112 and 119 pounds as Matt Henry, decorated CC's Rusty Fowler, 12-8; Jeff Baker, plinned CC's Kevin Rowe, 0-59; and Greg Benninger plinned CC's Maunda Martin, 3-33.

THE DRAGONS also won in the 135-, 145-, 150- and 171-pound categories.

Aaron McDonald (171) wrapped up the match for Lake Orion by pinning Jeff Pinto in 1:59.

Lake Orion then voided matches at 189 and heavyweight, as CC's Lou Yeager and

state champ Lee Krueger each won by default.

But it was the 145-pound match in which Eric Zimmerman edged Brian Tulley, 11-10, that drew Rodriguez's ire.

The CC coach complained about the time keeper failing to reactivate the clock after stoppages in the match.

"Tulley was ahead, but then they (Lake Orion) got some extra time and ended up winning the match," he said. "I saw the same guy screwing up during the (Class D) and C matches earlier in the day. It was operator error."

Scoring wins for CC were: Mike Gentile

(125), a 9-4 decision over Kevin Kast; state champion Matt Helm (130), who pinned Jeff Wiscombe in 3:44; state champ Jay Helm (140), a 7-4 decision over Rick Vaillock; and Chris Rodriguez (153), who pinned Nick Agro in 2:22.

ANOTHER AREA school also bit the dust in semifinals Friday.

In a Class D matchup, Lutheran Westland was ousted by Grass Lake, 56-18.

Meanwhile, Temperance-Bedford advanced to the 'A' final by defeating Rockford, 51-12.