

Marlins shoot down Trenton in hoop opener

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy emerged from its "offensive funk" for one quarter Thursday night, and it was enough to put the Marlins in the championship game of their own basketball tournament.

Mercy (2-2) raced to a 10-0 lead against Trenton in the second game of a double-header and snapped a two-game losing streak with a 35-22 victory.

The Marlins played St. Joseph, which defeated Plymouth Canton 43-38 in the first game, for the Mercy Hoops Classic title Saturday night.

"You have to look at that as a real key," Mercy coach Larry Baker said of the fast start, "given where we've been for the last week — which has been a giant offensive funk."

Joanne Stephens sank back-to-back triples to begin the game and, judging by the reaction of the Mercy players when Trenton called a timeout, one would have thought the Marlins had won.

ACTUALLY, MERCY did as it turned out, with Carrie Walton adding a couple baskets and junior Jenny Clinton an additional four points to fuel the Marlins' momentum. After a couple more timeouts, Katie Mans finally erased the goose egg from the Trenton side of the scoreboard with 35 seconds left in the quarter.

"We had seven field goals (in a 42-28 loss to Plymouth Salem) and became incredibly cautious," Baker said. "The three-point shooting at the start told everybody it was OK. Jo got us started, and the defense was great the rest of the way."

The offensive flare left Mercy in the second and third quarters. The score was stuck on 10-2 for the longest time, and the Marlins led 21-8 at halftime and 23-14 after three quarters.

Clarkston belts North

Clarkston won the battle of unbeaten teams Thursday night, downing North Farmington 57-41 in girls basketball.

The Wolves, who led by 10 after one quarter and 34-16 at halftime are 5-0, the Raiders 3-1.

Kim Gurecki scored 19 points for North and shared game-high honors with Clarkston's Rhonda Jokisch. Susan McKee added 16 for the winners.

"We just didn't match up," said North coach Greg Capling, whose teams faced a height disadvantage.

The Raiders outscored Clarkston 25-23 in the second half.

FARMINGTON 53, CHURCHILL 37: Mandy Cannon scored 17 points and pulled down eight rebounds Thursday night as the visiting Falcons evened their record at 2-2. The Chargers remained winless at 0-4.

Cannon, a senior guard, also had six assists, and her sister, Rachael, tallied eight points and passed for five assists.

Farmington's Shell Gaul chipped in 10 points and four rebounds, and Bonnie Wheeler added six points and seven rebounds.

Freshman guard Chrissy Daly had high scorer with 19 points for Churchill, which trailed 22-13 at halftime. The Falcons were 11-of-18 shooting free throws and the Chargers 8-of-21.

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The teams went to Toronto in mid-July for an international tournament, and the Mustangs won all three of their games to claim the championship trophy. The Pony and Bronco ballclubs won two of three games.

Members of the NFWB Mustangs (9-10) were Bryan Bahri, Josh Del Corvo, Jerry Yatooma, Andrew Castora, Ryan Weisman, Tommy Marx, Noah Zancarno, Blair Gottlieb, Aaron Lawson, Andy Marshall, Kirk Taylor, David Viane and Jeff Pustulka. The team is managed by Mike Bahri with assistance from coaches Jerry Yatooma, Ray Del Corvo and Tim Castora.

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The Pony (13-14) roster consisted of John Abad, Jeff Bahri, Alex Bittoff, Dylan Cooper, Jason and Joey Danilewicz, Dana Darowich, Herman, Matt Kidder, Mike Mulovich, Bill Marudas, Peter Metz, Guy Moraskey and Matt Zimmerer. The team is managed by Bob Zimmerer, and the Pony coaches are John Abad, Mike Metz and Phil Mulovich.

Aaron Stephan, Andrew Ajlund, Michael Feld, Darin Glasser, Jay Johnson, Jacob Lawson, Mark Lee, Sean Lutwin, Jeff McCaffrey, Jason Rawlowski, Scott Reid and Curt Wagner comprise the Bronco (11-12) ballclub, which is managed by Doug Pawlowski. The coaches are Dick Lee, Joe Reid and Jeff Feld.

Shamrocks pop Pioneers

By Brad Emons
staff writer

For Whom the Bell Tolls?

It wasn't exactly out of Hemingway, but it was darn close Friday as a sturdy Redford Catholic Catholic defense, led by 6-foot-3, 245-pound tackle Ryan Bell, limited usually high-scoring Ann Arbor Pioneer to only 94 yards total offense in authoring an impressive 13-0 victory.

It was the Shamrocks' third straight shutout in 1989, but more importantly, it signaled that CC is a team to be reckoned with again this season. In past years Pioneer has tormented a perennially sound CC defense with short passes and gimmick plays, but on this night in a battle of state-ranked teams, it was all Shamrock. On Pioneer's first play, junior tailback Damon Jacobs literally had his Bell rung as the massive CC tackle threw him to the ground for a 1-yard loss.

Bell also ended his evening of terror by throwing Pioneer quarterback Kevin Meyer for a 10-yard loss, stopping Ann Arbor's only real scoring threat.

"IT KIND OF set the tone," said CC coach Tom Mans the game's opening series. "That first hit is what we needed. We came in as a young team trying to find ourselves. We had not played up to this level until this point."

A guy like Ryan Bell, who is playing well both ways, provided the senior leadership we were looking for. I'd say he's got to be one of the best linemen in the state."

Pioneer coach Chuck Lori, who has led Ann Arbor to a pair of state Class A championships, including two wins over CC en route to the coveted

football

little in 1987, pinned the loss on himself.

"When you're playing a good team you've got to control the ball, but they did things defensively that we weren't prepared to face," he said. "We adjusted too late and part of that is my fault. They came at us with an eight-man front with their tackle over our tight end. It created a mismatch."

"And there is Bell knocking the crap out of our 180-pound tight end. We needed more time to change our offensive line schemes."

Mach called the early going "a chess game."

NEITHER TEAM could sustain a lengthy drive until CC marched 75 yards in nine plays, capped by Jason Carr's 4-yard touchdown pass to Arshon Stewart with just 44 seconds left in the half.

Ironically, Carr was trying to kill the clock when he suddenly found Stewart again just crossing the goal line.

"He (Carr) is improving every game and showing tremendous strides," said the CC coach. "He does not make mistakes and that's a key ingredient. He's showing poise and he's gaining more confidence in himself, and the team is gaining more and more confidence in him."

Carr finished the night hitting seven of 15 passes for 80 yards, but the bulk of the Shamrocks' offensive came from 5-7, 165-pound tailback David Owens, who led all rushers with 128 yards in 27 carries.

Owens made a nifty 15-yard run to set up CC's

other TD in the third quarter, a 1-yard sneak by Carr with 5:05 to play.

"THIS IS WHAT it's all about, beating a great team like Pioneer," said Owens. "Our offensive line did a great job and I think everybody wanted a little bit more. It was the most intense week of practice I've ever seen."

"Our demonstration squad gave me all I could handle in practice. They're one of the toughest defenses I face, even though they don't get to play. They play so hard. I had to be physically ready to go. Give them credit."

Mach, meanwhile, put a heavy emphasis during the week on "Play like you practice."

"We had very good practices all week and we told them the mental part of the game is 4-to-1 to the physical part," said the CC coach. "We stressed that all week."

The Shamrock coach said the victory over previously unbeaten Pioneer will serve as a springboard to the tough Catholic League Central Division schedule.

"We shut down a good football team and I didn't know if we could hold them as well defensively," said Mach. "We hadn't seen them throw (in Pioneer's previous two games), but we knew they could. The tempo of the game they wanted to set was that 'we're going to run you if we can, and then mix it up with the pass.'"

BUT THE PIONEERS could generate little, if anything against a fired-up Shamrock defense. Held Ann Arbor to only 11 yards passing and 83 yards rushing.

"I can't say enough about our rising to the occasion," Mach said. "This is a great level to be on going into league play."

Rocks (3-0) roll against Farmington

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Salem football coach Tom Moshimer ventured above the playing field Friday night, but quarterback Hob Kowalski was staying down to earth.

For the first time in his 31-year career, Moshimer was calling plays from the press box instead of walking the sidelines. He made the right choice, as much as he as the undefeated Rocks (3-0) handed winless Farmington a 41-0 defeat at Salem.

"I wanted to go up there and see if I could do a better job of calling the ballgame," Moshimer said. "It's a different experience up there, and it worked out pretty well. You see more and get a little better feel."

What Moshimer saw was a lot of Kowalski making the big plays. The senior passed for one touchdown and rushed for two others.

Kowalski finished the night with 133 yards on nine carries, including an 85-yarder that set up his second TD, and completed four of 11 passes for 64 yards.

DESPITE the big numbers, Kowalski was keeping things in perspective and talking about the team instead of himself.

"On the passes, I got the blocking from the line," he said. "On the runs, I got the blocking from my backs. That's the difference between other teams and this team. We play as a team."

"I'm not going to overglorify the (individual results). I'll get compliments, but once Monday rolls around it's back to work."

The Rocks, who turned three Farmington turnovers into first-half touchdowns and a 22-0 halftime lead, are a team off the field, too, according to Kowalski.

"We get together and do things as a team," he said. "In school, we eat lunch together. Thursday nights we get together for dinner. We care about each other and, on the field, we protect each other."

The Falcons stopped Salem on its first two possessions and looked up to giving the Rocks a struggle, but back-to-back fumbles started Farmington on its way down the slide.

"ONCE WE MAKE a mistake we seem to lose confidence," Farmington coach Rick Milhizer said. "They outplayed us, no doubt about it, but we seem to make a mistake and get down."

"We stopped their inside run early, and they went to the air and picked us apart. When they beat you because they're better than something you can live with, but the mistakes you can't."

Scott Austin scooped up a loose ball and raced 37 yards for Salem's first TD. On the ensuing kickoff, Brian Viechko was stripped of the ball, and it took the Rocks three plays to score again — Kowalski passing 35 yards to Bryan Schultz.

Salem's third TD of the first half was set up by Ryan Johnson's 49-yard halfback pass to Austin, and Kowalski ran 10 yards untouched around end on the next play for the TD.

"Our kids played great once we got going," Moshimer said. "These are terrible playing conditions (muddy, clouded-up field), but it helped us a little more because we're a little stronger."

"We started substituting early. We spotted it here and there, but we did start substituting. When you're better than somebody, you can't yank kids out right away because you score."

On the first play of the second half, Kowalski ran nearly the length

of the field to Farmington's 2, and he got the TD two plays later on a 1-yard sneak.

"I had to give Kowalski that one after he ran it all the way down there," Moshimer said.

KOWALSKI, WHO had a similar run last year, said he got bogged down in the thick mud and didn't simply run out of gas. Farmington's Tom Economy caught Kowalski from behind and prevented him from scoring on the play.

"I got down here to the 20-yard line and hit a mud spot, and that slowed me down," Kowalski said.

Johnson made it 35-0 with a 3-

yard run late in the third quarter, and reserve quarterback Chris Teppen ran 19 yards on an option play midway in the fourth.

Teppen rushed for 67 yards, Steve Burillon 48, Pat Bowie 22 and Johnson 16. Austin caught two passes for 32 yards. While the Rocks had 286 of their 333 yards in total offense on the ground, Farmington was held to 58 yards, of which 53 was passing.

"Everybody got to play quite a bit," Moshimer said. "We're a 40-man squad, and everybody got a couple snaps. We gained the opportunity to play some kids who might not have in a 20-0 game, and they did well."

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NFWB teams

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Publish: September 18, 1989

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