

Patriots pluck cage victory

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Winning time was more than just a cute phrase for the Livonia Franklin basketball team Tuesday night.

Leading by a point midway in the final quarter, the Patriots scored 10 of the last 12 points — most of them on free throws — to hold off visiting Plymouth Canton 62-52.

Franklin goes 3-2 in the Western Division and 5-6 overall, while the Chiefs, who have lost their last four games, drop to 2-3 and 5-6.

Craig Overalls, who scored six of his game-high 20 points, a 5-foot-9 point guard, tossed their lead to 62-51 with nine seconds left, knowing what winning time is all about.

"That's crunch time — when we all play together, when they foul and we have to make our free throws," said Overalls, a 5-foot-9 point guard. "Usually, we go into 12 defenses. We pull it out and make them come and play us."

WITH TIME game tied at 46 entering the fourth period, Franklin made its first three shots to move in from 52-46. Karl Wukie answered for the Chiefs with two field goals, including a triple, for a one-point difference.

The Patriots, with five minutes to play and having only the minimum lead, took a chance by deciding to use the clock so early and trying to draw Canton out of its zone.

Wayne player celebrates with win

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Kevin Hankerson was able to have his cake and eat it, too.

The 6-foot-4½ center celebrated his 18th birthday Tuesday, scoring a game-high 24 points to lead his Wayne Memorial to a 56-55 non-league basketball win over highly-touted Ann Arbor Huron.

Hankerson's mother Shirley put icing on the big celebration by presenting a large cake to her son, who passed out slices to all his teammates and coaches, who enjoyed every bite afterwards.

The senior had reason to be pleased.

He also won his head-to-head matchup against 6-5 Huron center Kareem Carpenter, the transfer from Redford Bishop Borgess.

Carpenter, who was being looked at on this night by University of Michigan coach Steve Fisher, finished with 18, two below his average.

"We challenged Kevin to stay in the game for 32 minutes," said Wayne coach Chuck Henry, whose team is 12-1 overall. "We knew it would be difficult for him to stay out of foul trouble because he was guarding a talented player (Carpenter)."

"AND AT THE other side of him down on the blocks was another player even bigger (6-5, 205-pound David Amos), which put Kevin at a real disadvantage and added pressure on him. But Kevin really rose to the occasion" as they say in the sports world."

The most critical play occurred when Hankerson made a driving layup with 32 seconds left. Fouled on the play by Carpenter, the Wayne center converted the free throw to give the Zebras a 56-55 lead.

The game-winning shot was set up when Amos took an ill-advised 17-foot off-balance jumper with 42 seconds left.

After Hankerson's basket, Huron coach Harold Simmons called a timeout to set up a final shot, but the Huron Huns never got one off as Pierre Hixon intercepted a pass with seven seconds left.

While falling out of bounds, Hixon hurled the ball the length of the floor.

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It worked, however, as Franklin made eight of 13 free throws.

"I said: 'It's winning time, let's put it to a higher level,'" Franklin coach Rod Hanna told his players. "Everything below five minutes we call winning time. You gotta mentally get tougher."

"We had the lead, and we wanted them to play man defense. That's a chance you take if your kids get fouled — that they'll make the free throws. But we expect them to deliver in those situations."

In addition to Overalls, who also contributed four assists, four steals and no turnovers, John Santi scored 13 points, Dave Barina 12 and Steve McCool and Keith Roberts eight apiece.

WUKIE SCORED 11 of his 13 points in the second half for Canton, and forwards Brett Howell and Kevin Holmes tossed in 11 each. Franklin was 17-of-26 at the line, while the Chiefs were 8-of-14.

"In the last four games, there have been long stretches when we've really struggled offensively," Canton coach Dave Wagoner said. "Unfortunately for us, that stretch happens in the fourth quarter."

"Right now, we're not playing real good basketball. Mentally, we break down at key times, and that all goes back to being a young team and trying to grasp a new system."

Overalls, McCool and Santi have carried much of the load for the Patriots, but Barina has taken on a greater share of the work, adding another

dimension to Franklin's game.

A 6-foot-1, 150-pound senior with good leaping ability, the first-year varsity player also pulled down eight rebounds, the same as the 6-4 McCool. Santi followed with seven.

"Barina has really come along," Hanna said.

"He stepped up, his level of play has improved. He's shifting the boards well and taking the ball to the basket, and we need that to be consistent."

CANTON SHOT 8-of-9 to start the game, but the Patriots managed to stay even, 17-17, at the end of the first quarter.

Holmes had nine first-half points for the Chiefs, who led 29-28 at halftime, and Santi, who showed some power moves 10 to the basket early in the game, had 10 for Franklin.

But Roberts, a sophomore who recently was elevated from the JV team, hit a key shot to begin the second half, and the Patriots, who hit their first four shots of the third quarter, were ahead the rest of the night.

Franklin extended its lead to 42-33 before the Chiefs, taking their turn at a comeback, tied the score after three periods. But the Patriots always responded with another surge of points.

Noting both teams shot about the same percentage, Hanna said, "Basically, we won the game on the free-throw line and not turning the ball over (9)."

And they were two factors that added up to winning time.

Lancers spear CC

Redford Catholic Central coach Bernie Holowiecki, suffering from the flu, missed his first basketball game since 1981.

Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher proved to be no cure, defeating the visiting Shamrocks, 69-55.

Steve Whitlow led CC with 22 points. Matt Putti chipped in 12 points and Mark Clary 10.

Wayne Thomas scored a game-high 24 points for the Lancers, now 6-5 overall and 4-3 in the Central.

The Shamrocks, who connected on 11 of 14 free throws, are 2-10 overall and 1-6 in the Catholic League Central Division.

STEVENSON 72, W.L. CENTRAL 59: On Tuesday, Livonia Stevenson soundly defeated visiting Walled Lake Central in a W.L.A. Lakes Division encounter.

The Spartans jumped to a commanding 41-14 halftime lead, outscoring the Vikings 16-5 in the first quarter and 25-9 in the second quarter.

Senior guard Ron Baran led Stevenson with 11 points. Senior center Glenn Szeeman added 10.

Jason Olson scored a game-high 23 points to lead Central, while Eric Leaf contributed 19.

Stevenson is 8-4 overall and 4-2 in the Lakes. The Vikings fall to a dismal 1-10, 0-6.

BISHOP BORGESS 94, NOTRE DAME 77: Michigan State-bound Shawn Respert scored 26 points Tuesday, hitting host Redford Bishop Borgess past Harper Woods Notre Dame.

The Spartans improve their record to 10-2 overall and 6-1 in the Catholic League Central Division. The Fighting Irish are 4-8, 2-5.

Artie Brown contributed 21 points for the Spartans. Randy White chipped in 11 and HeShawn Sumler 10.

Handy Hicken scored 26 points in a losing cause.

A mad dash ensued with Huron retaining possession with only one second remaining.

SIMMONS CALLED another timeout, but the River Rats, faced with going the length of the floor and little time remaining, had little hope. Carpenter took a pass near mid-court and rifled a bullet that barely grazed off the backboard to end the suspense.

"Pierre had great presence of mind to throw it (the intercepted pass) deep," Henry said. "It was not only a great defensive play, but a heady play because he threw the ball down to their end instead of trying to save it to one of our players."

Huron led 25-23 at intermission, but Wayne rallied to take a 42-40 advantage after three quarters.

The Zebras were up by as many as six in the final quarter, but Huron roared back.

The River Rats capitalized on a pair of Wayne turnovers, both on out-of-bounds passes.

Craig Thomas (10 points) came up with a steal and layup with 1:58 to go, propelling Huron to a 54-53 lead. Teammate Ryan Griffin (13 points) then stole the ball again and made one of two free throws with 1:36 remaining.

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"THEY (HURON) raised their level defensively, but then the momentum changed and we dug down defensively," Henry said.

It was the second straight one-point defeat for Huron, now 8-3 overall.

"We didn't preserve it on the offensive end, just poor execution offensively," said Simmons. "We performed poorly on the offensive end. We broke down totally, but you see college kids and pros do it, too. You just hope the team to execute better offensively the next time."

"We've been winning big all season and now all the sudden we're in tight ballgames. We did the same thing down the stretch (Friday) against Ypsilanti (a 50-49 loss). I guess if you in a slump, you take it now instead of at the end of the season."

Both teams were minus a starter. Wayne's second leading scorer, 6-1 Larry Johnson, apparently has been lost for the season with a knee injury. He faces possible surgery, but will undergo more tests.

Also out was Huron's 6-8 center Vaughn Swartz, who suffered a severely bruised collarbone in the loss to Ypsi.

"MY JOB was not to get in foul trouble and look to score a little more," Hankerson said. "I'm the only big man for sure there and there is not much depth with Larry being out. Basically everybody had to pick up the scoring and that's why I was a little nervous going in. But everybody contributed and things worked out pretty well."

The Zebras got solid contributions from Hixon and point-guard Reggie Brandon, who tallied 11 and nine points, respectively.

Hankerson's birthday was not the only motivation.

"People keep saying we're a good team, but they say we can't beat the big schools," he said. "We had something to prove tonight. That was enough incentive."

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Thursday, February 1, 1990 12E

(L6 F52)

S'craft, OCC men romp to easy wins

The Schoolcraft College men's basketball team took the lead late in the first half and never looked back Saturday, defeating host St. Clair Community College, 87-73.

Forward Randy Watters, a freshman from Milford Lakeland, paced the Ocelots offensively, pouring in a game-high 26 points, while pulling down seven rebounds.

Schoolcraft (10-15) rallied late in the first half to capture a 40-38 halftime lead.

"We played well late in the first half and finally got ourselves a lead," said Schoolcraft coach Dave Bogataj, whose team is 3-8 in conference play. "Early in the first half, St. Clair was making a lot of three pointers and we couldn't stop them, but late in the half, we really got it together."

St. Clair (8-21) connected on five three pointers in the first half, but according to Bogataj, things settled down after halftime.

"We defended them in the second half and cut down on their three-point threat," he said. "In the second half, we were just able to build on our lead, thanks to good defensive pressure applied by our guys."

Sophomore center Al Hudson (Rumulus), coming off a 32-point, 15-rebound performance against Alpena, contributed 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Ocelots, while sophomore guard Kenny Foster (Hiver Rouge) chipped in 17 points, four steals and five assists.

"Al Hudson dominated the boards for us," Bogataj said. "He made it tough for them to establish an inside game."

Jim Belt scored 17 points for St. Clair, which dropped to 0-9 in conference play.

OAKLAND MEN: Sophomore forward Tim Robinson scored a game-high 22 points on Saturday, leading Oakland Community College past visiting Alpena CC, 113-90.

Michael Bailey chipped in 21 points, Toney Murphy 15, Bobby Dinges 14 and Mike Smith 12 for the Eagles.

Oakland (15-3) got the ball rolling early, jumping out to a 55-31 halftime lead.

Bobby Allen led Alpena with 17 points.

SC WOMEN: The Lady Ocelots overcame a 38-35 deficit Saturday to

basketball

defeat host St. Clair, 78-72.

Lisa DePianche (Allen Park Cabrini) led Schoolcraft with 19 points. Sophomore center Barb Krug (Plymouth St.) added 16.

DePianche and Krug were in foul trouble throughout the game," said Schoolcraft coach Jack Grenan, whose team overcame a 38-35 halftime deficit. They played over that and did a nice job.

DePianche and Krug combined to connect on 16 of 28 field goals.

The Lady Ocelots are tied with Delta in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association. Both teams are 7-2 in conference play. Schoolcraft is 13-4 overall.

MADONNA WOMEN: The Madonna College women's squad dropped a pair of weekend encounters, falling to 4-6 overall.

On Saturday, host Aquinas College, the No. 1 ranked team in District 23, rolled to a 68-52 win over the Fighting Crusaders in a game played at a local high school gym after a power outage delayed action for nearly four hours.

Brenda McNeill supplied most of the power for Aquinas (14-4 overall), scoring a game-high 25 points.

"We just never dealt with Brenda," said Madonna coach Bob Bell.

Katy Glaz and Sue Butchart each added 10 points. Butchart also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Madonna, which couldn't overcome a 28-18 halftime deficit, was led by Holly Murphy's 12 points and 10 rebounds. Michelle Dykynski contributed 11 points, while Lisa Kline grabbed 10 rebounds.

On Sunday, Madonna fell to Lake Superior State (9-9) in a game played at Traverse City High School, 73-65.

Dykynski, who transferred to Madonna this season after spending four weeks at Lake Superior, scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Double added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Five Lake Superior players scored in double figures led by Aimee Berger's 16. Kris Bullock and Sherri Hyavainen contributed 12 each.

Madonna trailed 32-24 at the half, but fought back to within four in the final two minutes, but couldn't get over the hump.

"We're making serious strides," Bell said. "Our record is not there, but our schedule is three times the caliber of last year."

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