

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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(F11D)

# Hawks lose sight of top scorer, title

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

A sleeping giant may have been awakened Tuesday in the Western Lakes Activities Association basketball playoffs.

Host Livonia Stevenson put on a devastating display down the stretch Tuesday to beat Andy Smith (31 points) and Farmington Harrison, 82-71, earning a spot in Saturday's WLA championship game against host Plymouth Salem.

"Each time out they learn something new about the game and they're getting better as a result of it," said Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre, whose team is 13-6 overall. "Earlier in the season we didn't understand how to change gears, but tonight they stayed within their own thing the last four or five minutes."

The Spartans, sometimes plagued by turnovers and poor shot selection, played flawlessly in the final quarter, outscoring the stunned Hawks 19-12.

Stevenson shot seven of eight from the floor and committed only two turnovers in the final quarter.

And to cap the win, the Spartans — with guards Rick Laven (22 points), Matt Grodzicki (21) and Ron Baran (17) running a three-man

## basketball

North loses 55-47, Page 4D

weave — lopped off nearly two minutes of the clock with a nifty stall.

GLENN SZEMAN, the 6-foot-9 Stevenson center who was plagued by foul trouble most of the night, put an exclamation point on the win with a thunderous dunk, putting the Spartans up by 10, 78-68, with 2:46 remaining.

That came after 6-5 Steve Leonard (10 points) hit two critical baskets inside to give the Spartans some breathing room.

"We do the most harm when we get the ball inside, like 'Z's' dunk and the pass (with 3:58 to go) to Leonard inside," McIntyre said. "We found out we didn't need to cast up three-pointers to win the basketball game."

But the Spartans used the long ball to stay in the game, hitting 11 three-pointers on the night, five each by Grodzicki, the sophomore, and Laven, the senior.

Stevenson led 19-17 after one quarter, but Harrison regained the lead at halftime, 43-41, thanks to the hot shooting of Smith, the 6-2 junior, who scored 12 of his game-high 31 in the second period.

But Harrison mysteriously stopped going to their scoring leader in the second half.

He got off only four shots in the second half, hitting all four.

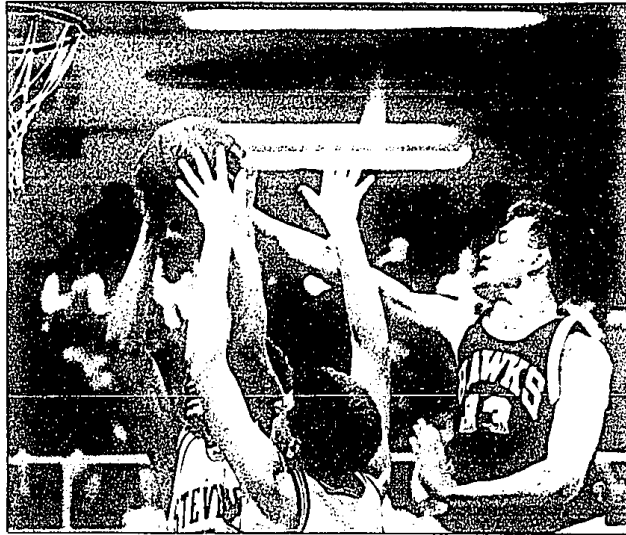
"TWO THINGS beat us," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "Grodzicki's shooting . . . that was a good move to play him as much as they did, and our presence of mind of not going to our scorer, who gets only four shots."

"We had people on the floor who took it upon themselves not to go to him. I'm disappointed because we talked before the game about knowing our roles. But I guess that comes with inexperience."

Smith, who was 14 of 17 from the floor, got special attention from the Spartans in the second half.

"They (Stevenson) ran a junk defense and that had something to do with it," Teachman said. "We were trying to go to 'Smitty' while running out of our offense, but too many

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JIM JAGDELO/staff photographer

Harrison's Andy Smith (right) challenges Steve Leonard and Kevin Terry for the basketball in the WLA semifinal game Tuesday. Smith

scored 31 points, including 22 in the first half, but the Hawks couldn't overcome host Stevenson, losing 82-71.

# Oakland CC ousted by Macomb in state tourney, 76-67

By Mike Stewart  
staff writer

Prior to the second round of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference basketball playoffs Wednesday, two Oakland Community College fans were talking about how their Raiders were going to dismantle Macomb Community College.

"We're going to take it to 'em," one of

the fans cor-luded.

The statement was not completely inaccurate. The Raiders took it to the Monarchs all right. The problem was, MCC handled everything OCC dished out, and the Monarchs completed their three-game season sweep of OCC in a convincing 76-67 fashion.

The loss dropped OCC to 18-6 and bounced the Raiders from the state playoffs, but they'll participate next

Wednesday in the NJCAA Region 12 (Division II) playoffs.

"I told my kids after the first time I scouted them (Macomb) that they were the best community college team in the state," said Raider coach Lynn Reed. "They really don't have any weaknesses."

Tom Murphy's 21 points paced the Raiders. Mike Bailey added 16.

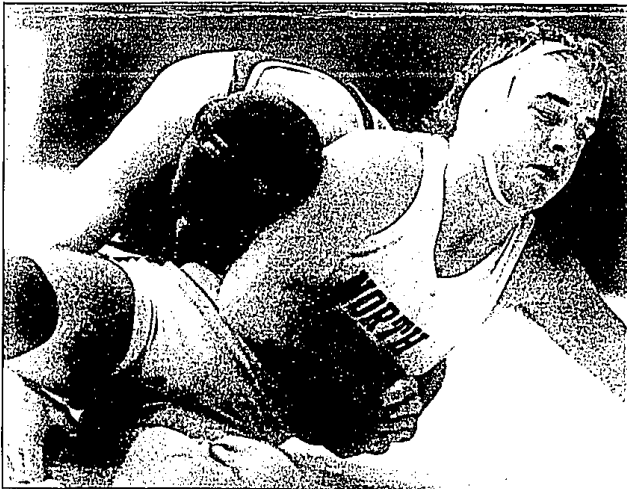
THE MONARCHS never trailed in the game. The co-champs of the Eastern Con-

ference held a slim 33-30 lead after one half of play. MCC opened a nine-point lead after hitting eight of their first 10 field goals. OCC also shot well, however, canning 14 of 23 from the field in the first half to close the gap.

Duplicating their first-half performance, the Monarchs continued to run a methodical offense over the final 20 minutes. They worked the ball inside effectively, and received some excellent outside shooting

from guard Mike Moscato of Rochester (19 points, four of five from three-point range) and Don Erb (12 points, six rebounds). MCC built a variety of small leads, but OCC never let the Monarchs off the hook.

Trailing by seven points with seven minutes remaining, OCC made one last charge. Two free throws by Jerry Prieskorn (14 points) brought the Raiders to within one, 61-60, with just over three minutes remaining.



JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Matt Thompson of North Farmington escaped from East Lansing's Erich Keller in the third period Saturday and captured fifth place at 140 pounds in the Class A wrestling finals.

# Thompson 5th in state

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Matt Thompson went to the state finals in wrestling last week, hoping for a showdown with reigning 140-pound king Jay Heim in the championship match.

"That desired scenario never developed for the North Farmington senior, but Thompson still made it to the finals, finished fifth in Class A and, otherwise, had a successful tournament."

"I was happy to place," he said. "I thought I could do better. Still, I'm happy for what I got."

North coach Dick Cook thought Thompson, who spent most of the season at 145 and was somewhat of a sleeper at 140, could challenge Heim of Redford Catholic Central, who ended up winning a second time on an 8-5 decision over Lake Orion's Jeff Wiscombe.

Thompson was close to being their himself, and it was Wiscombe who altered his plans.

After pinning Chad Niles of Lansing Sexton at 5:10 in his opening bout, Thompson lost a 4-2 decision to Wiscombe, a wrestler he had previously beaten.

"I was really mad I had lost, really upset," Thompson said.

While Wiscombe went on to edge East Lansing's Erich Keller 3-2 and get to the championship final, Thompson fought his way through the consolation bracket, beating Joe DeAngelo of Royal Oak Kimball 6-0 and Shaadi Fahs of Portage Central 5-2.

Thompson lost a 4-1 decision to Bay City Western's Todd Markel in the consolation semis but finished up a winner, blanking Keller 3-0 in the bout for fifth place.

Following two scoreless periods against Keller, Thompson, who fin-

## wrestling

ished with a 34-5 record, did all of his scoring in the last two minutes.

"I was surprised he took (the up position) both times, because I'm really good on my feet," Thompson said. "I knew I couldn't let him take me down. When he didn't, I knew I'd win, because I had my choice in the third period."

Thompson chose to go down to begin the finale and scored the first point with 1:30 remaining on an escape. He added a two-point take-down shortly thereafter.

"I knew I could get away from him," Thompson said. "If I escaped, I knew I would have to take him

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