

## Sports

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(F10)

# North outguns Falcons for district title

## Raiders will play Tuesday

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Instead of saying "hats off" to the North Farmington boys basketball team, it might be more appropriate to tell the Raiders this:

"Hats on."

Before Friday's Class A district final at Walled Lake Central, a fan with a premonition bought the Raiders hats that read: "District 23 champions, 1989-90."

North players wore the hats proudly after beating Farmington 58-45 to win their third district crown in six years. North coach Tom Negoshian wasn't sure who bought the hats, but certainly knows they weren't his idea.

North, 12-10 overall, beat Farmington twice this year, but Negoshian knows beating a team three times in a year can be difficult.

"I don't know where the hats came from, but it must be someone with more confidence than I had," Negoshian said, "because Farmington did a great job and I knew coming in it would be a dogfight. To their credit, Farmington didn't quit. They kept attacking and never once gave up."

THE WIN sends North to the regional Tuesday at Ferndale against the University of Detroit-Jesuit at 8 p.m.

Farmington, which finished its season at 5-16, shot only 20 percent (14-for-55) from the field and 59 percent (20-34) from the free throw line. But coach Bob Kaump was still proud of the effort.

Brian Browne, one of seven seniors playing his final game, led the Falcons with 13 points, seven in the



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

North players celebrate their victory in the district final.

third quarter. Greg Bjedov and Wes Brockman, a pair of seniors, contributed 10 and seven points, respectively.

"Our kids were sky high in school today," Kaump said. "I'm a little disappointed we didn't win it, but I'm real pleased and just happy to be here. I was very pleased with the players' determination. It's real tough to lose by five to 10 points every game, but that's what we seemed to do."

Senior guard Matt Hoffman led North with 15 points and eight assists, but the Falcons paid so much attention to him they forgot about Brian Temple, North's other senior guard.

Hoffman's three-point play at the end of the second quarter gave the Raiders a 26-20 halftime lead, but Temple scored 10 of his 13 points in the third quarter to key a second-half surge.

TEMPLE MADE three 3-point field goals in the quarter, including a pair in the first two minutes when North outscored Farmington 8-0 to open up a 34-20 lead. North enjoyed a 46-31 advantage after three quarters, and the closest Farmington got in the fourth quarter was within

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nine, 50-41, on a basket by Bjedov.

"We wanted someone other than Matt Hoffman to beat us, because he's beaten us three straight years," Kaump said. "I know Temple hadn't been shooting well when we scouted him, so we let him beat us."

Temple, who missed eight games earlier this year because of an ankle sprain, was ready for the challenge.

"It felt good to contribute again," Temple said. "This is the best my ankle has felt in two months. I felt I had the hot hand and the team kept giving the ball to me."

Hoffman, who gets as much enjoyment out of passing as he does shooting, is grateful to have Temple back at full strength.

"Temple had a great game," said Hoffman. "When it was pressure time, he knew he had to have a great game — and he did. I know that if I've got the ball I'm going to make sure my teammates get the ball or I'm going to score. I'm comfortable with that."

Foul trouble played a key role. No players fouled out, but Mike Smith, Temple and Eric Deltor finished with four fouls each for North, and P.J. Green and Bjedov were saddled with four apiece for the Falcons.

NORTH'S BILL Chwalik avoided serious foul trouble and finished with a team-high eight rebounds.

The Falcons showed they were well prepared for the final as they trailed only 12-11 after one quarter. North opened up a 17-11 lead early in the second quarter, but Farmington outscored the Raiders 9-6 in the next four minutes to pull within three, 23-20.

Hoffman then made an off-balance, 15-foot bank shot at the buzzer, was fouled, and made the free throw to give North a 28-20 halftime lead. That set the tone for the second half.

"I think it got the team a little hyped up and ready for the second half," Hoffman said. "That it did."



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Eric Deltor (45) gets fouled by Farmington's Wes Brockman as the two fight for a rebound in the district championship game at Walled

Lake Central. The Raiders won the game 58-45 and will play in the Ferndale regional at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

# Hot second half wins it for Muskegon

By Mike Stewart  
staff writer

After beating Lakeland in the Region XII basketball tournament semifinals Friday, 91-78, Oakland Community College jumped forward to facing Macomb Community College — and a chance to avenge three previous losses to the Monarchs — in Saturday's title game.

However, as far as Muskegon Community College is concerned, the grudge match will have to wait until next year.

Muskegon crushed Macomb in Friday's late game, 98-68, and then recorded a 92-82 win over the Raiders on Saturday to claim the regional championship and advance to the Division III national playoffs.

Muskegon trailed OCC by six at the half, 38-32, after hitting just 30 percent from the field. But in the second half, the Jayhawks came out blazing, 70 percent of their shots (21 of 30) to vault past the Raiders.

"I told the guys at the half that we were in a good position to win this one," said Muskegon coach Gene Gifford. "We were getting good shots, they just weren't falling. I told them they're going to fall. We're too good of a shooting team not to have them fall."

OCC OPENED UP a 29-20 lead on back-to-back three-point baskets by guard Bobby Dingus (15 points). After a brief MCC run, a

Starlin Stevens troy bumped the Raiders lead to nine once again, 36-27. At the end of the half the Jayhawks closed the gap to six, but it appeared OCC had things in hand.

But in the second half things got out of hand quickly, thanks to Muskegon's Dennis Shears and Shannon Schwartz. Shears went wild, hitting eight of 10 field goal tries, including five of six from three-point range. He finished the afternoon with a game-high 33 points. Forward Shannon Schwartz hit six of his eight attempts and finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Shears' first three treys helped Muskegon to a 49-48 lead with 15 minutes remaining. Four minutes later, after an 8-2 scoring run, the Jayhawks held a 61-55 lead. With eight minutes left in the half, following a 10-2 run, MCC held a 71-60 lead and was on the verge of blowing the Raiders out.

OCC scrambled back, though. The Raiders employed a full-court press that shook the Jayhawks. The Raiders scored 11 of the next 13 points to pull within two, 73-71, the final basket coming when an MCC inbound pass was stolen and converted by Mike Bailey.

THE JAYHAWKS regrouped and managed to hang onto the lead. With one minute remaining, a Toine Murphy troy cut MCC's lead to three, 83-80, but the Jayhawks wouldn't fold.

Following Murphy's bucket, Muskegon guard Adam Visser was a perfect eight of

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eight from the stripe. As a team, the Jayhawks were 22-28 from the line. OCC, meanwhile, couldn't get any of its late three-point attempts to drop. The Raiders finished the afternoon hitting just 43 percent of their shots from the field.

"We're a much better shooting team than that," Raider coach Lynn Reed said. "For the year we shot 54 percent as a team. Today we missed some easy shots. But Muskegon's a good team. They have some excellent shooters. The name of the game is putting it in. Today we couldn't do that."

Murphy paced the Raiders with 21 points. Forward Tim Robertson added 16 and post Jerry Prieskorn canned 13. Guard Mike Bailey had nine points and a team-high 10 rebounds.

FOR THE JAYHAWKS, Scotty Townsend contributed eight points and eight rebounds. Muskegon wasn't a favorite at the outset of the tournament. "I think some people gave up on us," Gifford said. "We struggled for a while and ended up 7-7 in our league (Western Conference). But our kids believed in themselves. They're really played well in the past three games."

MCC beat Delta College in the first round, 76-70, and Edison State Community College in the second round, 105-92, to advance to the semifinals.

On Friday, in the first semifinal game, OCC beat Lakeland by a 91-78 count.

Five Raiders scored in double figures, including Bailey (22 points, six rebounds); Prieskorn (16 points, eight rebounds); Dingus (12 points); Robertson (11 points, 11 rebounds); and Ed Pasque (14 points).

OCC held a slim 41-40 lead at the half, but Prieskorn's strong post play — all of his points came in the second half — and OCC's accurate free throw shooting (17 of 22) boosted the Raiders to victory.

Lakeland was led by Dion Whitfield's 20-point, seven-rebound performance. Ben Davis added 18 points, and Vernon Whitmore canned 13.

The Lakers managed just 36 percent from the field.

ON THURSDAY, a buzzer shot by Bobby Dingus from 25 feet swished through the net, giving OCC a come-from-behind 80-79 victory over Owens Tech (of Toledo, Ohio).

Dingus' shot capped a furious Raider rally in which they outscored the Owens Express 20-6 in the final 5 1/2 minutes.

A Manny Durden free throw with 5:46 left gave Owens a 73-60 lead. But OCC was playing the kind of basketball their coach, Lynn Reed, teaches: Press and lure out your foe. OCC scored 10 straight points, narrowing the gap to three. After two Otis Smith free throws, the Raiders got six more in a row — with Tim Robertson's bucket putting OCC in front 75-75 with 2:05 left.

It was a game of free throws after that. Durden hit two to restore the lead to Owens, but Robertson was fouled with 19 seconds to play. He missed the first of two shots but canned the second to tie the game at 77.

The Express worked the ball to Smith, and he drained a 12-foot baseline jumper with :07 remaining. OCC called timeout for their last shot. Toine Murphy eluded Owens' pressure and wrapped a pass around a defender to Dingus, whose shot just beat the clock. Robertson, who scored five points in OCC's stretch run, finished with 17. Murphy scored 16, Mike Bailey had 14, Jerry Prieskorn netted 13 and Dingus got 11 — including three three-pointers.

Roy Coleman's 20 points paced Owens. Durden added 17, Smith scored 14 and Jim Harris had 11. The Express made just 19 of 30 free throws.

## Conley picks WSU



Matt Conley will play for Tartars

Farmington Hills Harrison running back Matt Conley has signed a football letter of intent with Wayne State University.

Conley, a 5-foot-11, 192-pound tailback, chose the Tartars over Ferris State and Grand Valley State. He also considered Adams State College of Colorado, Findlay (Ohio) and Dayton.

Conley, who received a tuition scholarship from Wayne, elected to attend the Detroit institution because of its academic offerings in physical therapy and business.

"It's one of the best colleges in the country for the subjects I want to study," he said.

Conley was a three-year varsity player and played on two state championship teams at Harrison. He was the star tailback for two years, though he missed several games early in his junior year with a knee injury.

Conley rushed for 976 yards and 17 touchdowns last fall, helping the Hawks to a 13-0 record and 28-27 victory over DeWitt in the Class B final. He averaged 75 yards per game and 4.5 per carry. As a junior, Conley scored six touchdowns in a state semifinal game as the Hawks blitzed Auburn Hills Avondale 47-6.

"I might have a decent chance of playing my freshman year," he said. "The running back they had last year might be ineligible, and I'm the only running back they took in this year. But I have no idea what else they have."

## Mill on East squad



Mill Coleman chosen for all-star game

The rosters have been announced for the East-West Michigan High School Football Coaches Association prep all-star football game, Saturday, July 28 at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

Representing the East squad from the Observer coverage area: Ryan Bell, a 6-foot-3, 245-pound tackle from Redford Catholic Central; Mike Coleman, a 5-9, 165-pound quarterback from Farmington Hills; Mike Cowan, a 5-11, 175-pound kicker from North Farmington; Larry Johnson, a 6-foot, 170-pound wide receiver from Wayne Memorial; Nick Kilfoer, a 6-2, 190-pound defensive end from Walled Lake Central; Dennis Parker, a 6-3, 210-pound offensive guard from Redford Bishop Borgess; Eric Slover, a 6-1, 170-pound quarterback from Westland John Glenn; and Pat Wagner, a 6-3, 215-pound offensive guard from Redford St. Agatha.

Representing the East squad from Eccentric coverage area: Ian Coleman, a 6-2, 235-pound offensive tackle from Troy Athens; Craig Fisher, a 6-2, 220-pound punter from Rochester Adams; Mark Mitchell, a 6-3, 195-pound defensive back from Troy; Mike Montico, a 5-11, 185-pound defensive back from Birmingham-Detroit Country Day; Steve Morrison, a 6-3, 210-pound linebacker from Birmingham Brother Rice.

Jim Clawson of Taylor Truman will be the East squad's head coach. He is assisted by defensive coordinator Chuck Apap (Walled Lake Western) and Bob Sutter (Harrison).

Larry Rueger of Muskegon Mona Shores will be the West squad's head coach.