

Pilots soar past Shamrocks

By Darren A. Nichols
staff writer

At game time Tuesday, the Redford Catholic Central gymnasium was so cold that most of the fans seemed to be shivering. By the end, Warren De La Salle senior guard Bernie Burnett warmed up the gym, connecting on eight three-point shots in leading the Pilots to an 85-78 win over the Shamrocks.

Burnett led all scorers with 33 points. "He (Burnett) can light it up," De La Salle coach Tim Turner said. "He's our second leading scorer and he's been in the low 20s before, but he's never shot the ball this well. If he couldn't shoot well, I wouldn't give him the freedom to do let him shoot."

Said Burnett: "We had the day off yesterday, and I came out in warm-ups today and said to teammate Craig Abraham that my shot was not feeling that good. I guess I was wrong. Every once in a while you get that feeling like you can hit anything. I got some good picks and some good passes from my point guard."

De La Salle raised its record to 8-2 overall and 5-0 in the Catholic League Central Division. CC is 3-7 overall and 1-4.

De La Salle took an 18-15 first quarter lead, before breaking the game open with a 30-18 second quarter run.

BURNETT OPENED the second quarter with two consecutive three-

basketball

pointers to give the Pilots a 26-17 advantage. The Pilots, sparked by two baskets by junior forward Kevin Moncrie, then went on a 10-4 run that put them ahead 34-19 with 5:14 left in the half.

De La Salle led 48-33 at halftime. "We broke the game open in the second quarter," Turner said. "We have a crazy style of play. We like to press and run and try to make people turn the ball over. It forces the other team to always play fast. When they break the press, most of the time, they shoot the ball quick."

The Pilots' full-court press forced CC into 20 turnovers in the game. CC coach Bernie Holowicki agreed the press frustrated the Shamrocks in the second quarter.

"They got something like eight points in a row and they kind of rattled us," he said. "I think the press took its toll. We had people trying to dribble through the press. We had a game plan to be just a step closer. We felt we had a good chance if we did that."

De La Salle continued to roll most of the third quarter, taking a 64-58 lead with 5:33 left.

CC ended the quarter with a 12-6 run that cut the lead to 71-58. Junior forward Bob Kummer, who finished with 16 points, had four points during the run.

A CC 10-2 rally midway through the fourth quarter gave the Pilots a

brief scare, as the Shamrocks cut the lead to seven on a Bob Schneider basket with 3:19 remaining.

IT WAS AS close as the CC would get, as De La Salle guard Larry Benson hit six of seven free throws to put the Pilots ahead 11 points with 1:07 left.

"I was upset with myself," Turner said. "I did some thing I should not have done."

"I put in some funky defenses just to take a look at them. I should have stayed in the press or man-to-man. I think I put a freeze on the ball a little early, too."

Holowicki added, "We went to our press in the fourth quarter and they threw the ball all around. Teams that press don't like to be pressed. I was pleased with the second half (performance) because the kids scrapped and hustled. At the end of the first quarter and in the early second quarter, we were standing around."

Schneider, a sophomore guard, led CC with 20 points. Junior forward Chad Varga also had 20 points and five rebounds. Kummer led with nine rebounds and five assists and senior forward Steve Whitlow chipped in 12 points and three rebounds.

Benson contributed 25 points for De La Salle.

"A good coach won't let his kids quit and their kids hung in there and they fought to come back when we thought the game was over," Turner said. "They played a great second half."



Chris White watches the ball roll on the rim after driving to the basket. North Farmington won the game 53-43 over visiting Northville.

Hawks post win over Glenn

Farmington Hills Harrison fought off a basketball rally by host Westland John Glenn and cruised to an easy Western Lakes Activities Association victory Tuesday, 76-66.

The win brings Harrison's record to 7-2 overall and 2-1 in the WLA. Glenn fell to 2-7 and 1-3.

The Hawks jumped out to a 26-9 lead after one quarter and Glenn never recovered. Senior forward Andy Smith led Harrison with 27 points, 11 in the first quarter. Paul Gilyvdis added 22 points, including 10-of-13 free throw shooting.

Gilyvdis made eight of 11 free throws in the fourth quarter as Glenn outscored Harrison 23 in the final quarter to make the score respectable.

Senior forward Gamal Ahmed scored 21 points before fouling out for Glenn. Teammate Jackie Howard contributed 17 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter for the Rockets. Junior forward Kevin Champion scored all of his nine points in the fourth quarter.

FRANKLIN 71, FARMINGTON 65: Farmington outscored Livonia Franklin in the second half, but it was too late as the Patriots rolled to the WLA. win on the road.

The win improved Franklin to 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the league. Farmington is 1-8 overall and winless in three WLAAs.

The Patriots got 24 points and four steals from junior guard Keith Roberts and 16 points out of senior co-captain Steve Swatch.

Franklin coach Rod Hanna wasn't pleased to see the Patriots outscore 23-18 in the fourth quarter, but he was excited by the play of Steve Swatch.

"He's coming on," Hanna said. "It's helping us inside and we expect that from our seniors. Keith had a decent game and so did Dave Roman (12 points, eight assists and five steals), and Russ Koberly (12 rebounds). We concentrated with getting the ball inside and I was happy with Russ' intensity."

For Farmington, Steve Gallagher scored a game-high 28 points. Bob Cook added 13 points for the Falcons, who fell behind 22-17 after one quarter and 43-28 at halftime.

Farmington cut the lead to four with about a minute remaining in the game, but the Patriots fended off the Falcons' charge.

CLARENCEVILLE 66, LUTHERAN WEST 65: Senior forward Dan Nunnery had 31 points and 18 rebounds Tuesday as Livonia Clarenceville won its first Metro Conference game against two losses.

With 11 seconds ahead and the Trojans ahead, 64-63, Nunnery made two free throws to seal the outcome. The win pushed Clarenceville to 4-5 overall. Detroit Lutheran West slipped to 1-8 overall and 0-4 in the Metro.

Senior guard Kendrick Harrington and senior center Ryan Hindmarsh were the other double figure scorers for the Trojans, finishing with 18 and 10 points, respectively. Harrington finished with seven assists and was instrumental in leading the Trojans to a seven-point lead midway through the third quarter.

Clarenceville led 17-11 after one quarter.

North tops Mustangs

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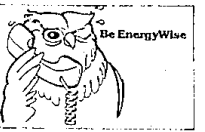
enough. It was very good execution on our part."

Matt Schramm scored 12 points to lead the Mustangs, Ryan Huzyak scored 11 and Paul McCreadie added 10. Northville shot a respectable 45 percent but had only 29 shots and made 13.

The Raiders were 17-of-41 from the floor and 15-of-26 at the line. Northville made 16-of-20 free throws.

Negoshian added the Raiders have the tough part of their schedule ahead, and all are league games. Thus, he emphasized the importance of the latest win.

"It's still all about getting into the playoffs," he said. Eight of 12 teams will qualify. "We think there will be three, four teams at the top and everybody else will be dog fighting for the other spots. We really have to plug away to get in."



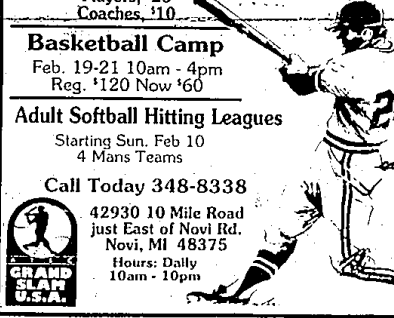
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