

Sports

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SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

Balance on beam

Jameelah Gater of North Farmington performs on the balance beam Monday in the city gymnastics meet with Farmington. Har-

ison doesn't have a team this year. The Raiders won the triangular, which included Royal Oak Dondoro. See story on Page 2D.

Hawks deny upset in rout of Falcons

By Neal Zipser
staff writer

Last year, Farmington visited the Farmington Harrison gymnasium and — after making two free throws after the buzzer — left with a 69-68 upset victory.

The Falcons visited the same gym again Tuesday in search of another upset, but this time the only question still in doubt in the fourth quarter was who would score the Hawks' 100th point.

The answer for trivia fans was junior Ben Pinsky, whose free throw with a minute remaining put Harrison at the century mark and helped lift the Hawks to a 102-55 victory.

The 102 points broke the Harrison record of 93 points for most points scored in a game. It was junior Duan'te Anderson's four-point play that broke the old mark.

The Hawks improved to 9-2 overall and 4-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Farmington fell to 1-10 overall and 0-5 in the WLAA.

"THEY ARE a good ball club with a lot of good athletes," Falcon coach Bob Kaump said. "Tonight they outmuscled us. We got whipped and have to regroup for Friday's game against North Farmington."

The contest was reasonably close after the first quarter, with Harrison holding a 30-21 lead. But the Hawks' tight man-to-man defense, full-court pressure and fast tempo, combined with Farmington's sloppy ball-handling and passing, did the Falcons. Harrison had a 49-14 scoring advantage in the second and third quarters.

"It's good to have a game like this for the bench," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "The bench practices as hard as the starters and deserves some playing time. Tonight was a good win because we executed well down the entire bench."

Warriors nip N. Farmington

Walled Lake Western, behind sophomore Matt Engott's 19 points, defeated visiting North Farmington 48-43 Tuesday in a Western Lakes Activities Association basketball game.

Sophomores Brent Mackowiak and Jason Henshaw contributed 10 points each for Western, 9-7 overall and 2-4 in the league.

Senior center Bill Chwalik tallied 15 points for North, 4-7 and 2-3. Senior forward Chris White added 10.

The Warriors enjoyed a 25-20 halftime lead and a 35-29 advantage after three quarters.

It was Harrison's starting front line that doomed Farmington. Seniors Andrew Smith (19 points) and Blazo Sarcevic (12) and juniors Paul Gilydis (16) and Andy Fitzpatrick (17) were too big and strong for the Falcons.

HARRISON JUMPED out to a 10-2 lead, sparked by two jumpers from Fitzpatrick and two layups from Gilydis. Farmington stayed close, thanks to a 12-point quarter from junior forward Steve Gallagher. The Falcons also helped themselves at the free throw line, converting 8-of-10 first-quarter attempts. For the game, Farmington made 26 of their 40 foul shots (65 percent).

Harrison scored the first nine points of the second quarter and dominated the boards, collecting 15 rebounds. The Falcons could only manage three foul goals in the period while committing six turnovers.

The Hawks led 53-29 at halftime.

"We had to take a gut check after the first quarter," Teachman said. "We gave up 21 points in the first quarter, which is too much to give up if you want to win a championship. They responded in the next two quarters."

Teachman credited Smith for stepping up defensively and junior point guard Dan Hight for running the offense. Ironically, Hight was the only Hawk not to score.

"Smith is the inspiration of this team," Teachman said. "When you have an all-star who wants to contribute, it's even more amazing. Hight runs the show and is happy with that. He is the team surgeon."

HARRISON PUT any Falcon comeback hopes to rest with a dominating 26-6 third quarter.

"What I did at halftime was put on the board 'defense erate offense,' and that happened," Teachman said. "We were trying to control the ball and attack their press," Kaump said. "But we didn't protect the ball and never got that chance."

The fourth quarter belonged to each team's respective bench. Anderson put on an offensive show, scoring 10 points, including two three-pointers, in the second triple. Anderson was fouled and nailed the free throw for a four-point play.

"It's a nice game to have," Smith said. "They beat us last year after the buzzer and this game meant a lot to us."

"We talked about last year in practice and I told them that Farmington was in a no-hesitate situation," Teachman said. "They came out scrapping and to their credit they made us step out game up."

Gallagher led the Falcons with 21 points. Junior Jason Tucker and senior Bob Cook added nine and seven points, respectively, for Farmington.

Mercy tournament champ for 3rd time

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

An extra month of practice and competition seems to have made a difference for the Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball team.

When the Marlins won the Madonna College tournament in late December, coach Tim DeBeliso was worried about his team's defensive inconsistencies. Mercy won its third tournament Saturday, and sound defense was a key reason for the success.

In a clash between Observerland powers, the No. 4-rated Marlins won the Lavonia Stevenson tournament with a 15-1, 15-9 victory over the host team, which is ranked No. 9 in Class A this week.

"I was very nervous about the defense early on and I'm a little more confident now," DeBeliso said. "We have to keep up our aggressiveness because defense really is an attitude."

"Overall, our passing on serve reception and defense was good. I really thought it was the difference. I was happy with what I saw, and this is the time of year you have to start making some leaps if you're going to get better."

MERCY IS 29-2-2 overall and the Spartans 16-5-1. Stevenson coach Lee Cagle also was pleased with his team's tournament performance.

"By making it to the final, the girls experienced something they haven't experienced in three years," he said. "I believe it's really important to do that, because once you get there you know what it takes to get there again."

The teams began the day facing each other in pool play, with Mercy winning 15-10, 15-6.

The Marlins added wins over Mount Clemens 1-Anse Creuse (15-1, 15-4), Dearborn Edsel Ford (15-1, 15-8) and Saline (15-7, 15-1). Stevenson also defeated Saline (15-7, 15-1).

volleyball

Spartans fall in final match

L'Anse Creuse (15-1, 15-5) and Edsel Ford (15-9, 15-7).

In the semifinals, Mercy trounced Catholic League rival Harper Woods Regina 15-6, 15-4, while the Spartans, in what Cagle called an outstanding match, eliminated perennial power Temperance Bedford 15-11, 15-5.

"See Bell and Andrea Wittrock just destroyed the ball on the outside," Cagle said. "I think it was the best match we've played all year. As a result, we attacked ferociously on the outside."

"We didn't play error free, we just didn't let the errors bother us."

BELL HAD nine kills out of 24 attacks in the Bedford match, Wittrock five out of 16. Stevenson didn't miss a serve, either. "Every one was a colossal hit, so Bedford had to expend a great deal of energy to handle those hits," Cagle said.

Defense was the telling factor in the final, he added. Mercy capitalized on Stevenson's difficulties with serve reception before the Spartans played better in the second game.

DeBeliso was pleased with his team's defense especially in pool play, because the Marlins were minus two starters early in the day while Susie Atchinson and Nora Hand took the ACT test.

"We had a couple kids come through very well," DeBeliso said. "It was the kind of tournament ev-

erybody had a hand in, because we had to rely on a couple people who hadn't had a lot of playing time."

Jill Eveleth, who usually divides the setting duties with Atchinson, did all of the setting and Karen Kivela picked up the slack for Nora Hand in the back row. Eveleth had only nine errors out of 129 sets, leading to 47 assists, and Shannon Golf played a full rotation, too.

Maureen Paulin was voted the most valuable player of the tournament, and teammates Karen Pinkerton and Gail Murie also made the all-tournament team.

PAULIN WAS Mercy's leading attacker with 37 kills. She had only three hitting errors in 76 attempts and had a kill percentage of .447. Pinkerton had 28 kills and 57 attacks (403), Murie 24 and 44 (363) and Laure DeMattia 24 and 42 (452).

Furthermore, the Marlins made only nine serving errors out of 235 serves for 96 percent serving.

"That's been one of our strong suits all year," DeBeliso said. "We seem to give people problems if we're serving well. It's another offensive weapon that people overlook, and it's proven to be very, very effective for us."

Bell was the top attacker for Stevenson. She recorded 28 kills and was 83-of-91 spiking. In the final, she had 17 attacks and 10 kills with no errors. Bell also had 11 aces while going 43-of-50 on the service line overall.

The Spartans divided their attacks among five players, so no one other than Bell had a substantial number of kills. Wittrock was 47-of-50 spiking with 10 kills, Teresa Sario 43-of-50 with nine kills and Alecia Smith 23-of-30 with eight kills.

Patty Diamond set the ball for the hitters and had 75 assists in the tournament. She also recorded 34 digs. Laura Zatorski was the leading passer, an serve reception and excelled on defense with 55 digs.




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