

Rocks survive 2nd-half rally by Chiefs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

There was more at stake on the basketball court Tuesday night than first place in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The top teams in the WLAA are located in Centennial Educational Park, so campus pride was as much a motivating factor in the clash between league heavyweights.

Plymouth Salem, the first-place team, managed to retain the title belt but only after it withstood a relentless second-half counterattack by Plymouth Canton, 56-53.

The Rocks almost ran away with the game early, leading 31-21 at halftime, but Canton rallied to win the second half 32-27 and nearly the game.

"They were two separate halves of basketball," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We told the guys at halftime 'This is a good basketball game, and they're going to make some great runs at you.' We say it all the time, but you have to weather the storm."

"CANTON IS the team to beat in this league. Playing in their gym and with the nice winning streak they had going, it took a great effort to win the game." Salem, rated No. 6 in the state, is 6-0 in the WLAA and 11-1 overall. The Chiefs, who

had a five-game win streak snapped, slipped to 6-1 and 8-5.

Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner believes his team made a point with a favorable, second-half showing.

"We've been in Salem's shadow all year," he said. "I always knew we had a good team, and I think we showed it tonight."

"Our program has come a long way, and we feel we're on the verge of becoming one of the better programs in the area."

K.C. Kirkpatrick came off the bench in place of freshman starter James Head to score 18 points and lead the Rocks. Central Michigan recruit Jake Baker tossed in 16 points, which included 7-of-8 free throw shooting, with CHU coaches Charlie Coles and Bob Sippel looking on.

Sophomore Mike Stafford was the only Canton player in double figures with 15 points, which included three triples, but the Chiefs had good balance. Kevin Holmes added nine points, Derrick McDonald eight, Brett Howell seven, Jon Paupore six and Karl Wukle five.

A PAIR OF three-point baskets by Stafford and one by Paupore kept the Chiefs within a point or two down the stretch, 48-47, 52-50 and 54-53.

basketball

Following the Paupore basket with 12 seconds to play, Kirkpatrick took a feed from Baker on the break for a slam dunk and a three-point margin. But he was given a technical foul for hanging on the rim. Stafford missed both free throws but still had a chance to tie the game with a triple that rimmed the iron at the buzzer.

"Nine times out of 10, he makes that last shot," Van Wagoner said. "We had our best three-point shooter coming off a screen, and that one was half way down. The next one he's going to make."

Canton outscored the Rocks 12-3 to begin the second half and closed to 34-33. The Chiefs never had the lead, but it remained a tight game for the duration. Following a triple by Baker (34-24), Canton ran off the next nine points, most of them by Holmes, who had six of his nine in the third quarter.

"Early in the game it looked as if no one else wanted the ball, but Kevin took charge," Van Wagoner said.

Kirkpatrick made back-to-back baskets and Head added a deuce at the buzzer to keep Salem in front 40-36 after three periods.

"We got into a situation where we were just spectators," said Brodie of his team's second-half play. "When you play tentatively and don't go to the glass hard, you're going to be in trouble, and Canton did a good job of controlling the tempo."

THE ROCKS were 4-of-12 from the floor in the third quarter and committed six turnovers.

"Canton played an extended 1-2-2 zone, and our problem was not that we didn't know how to deal with it," Brodie said. "We just didn't attack it right."

Baskets by McDonald and Stafford tied the score at 40-40 and 42-42 early in the final period, but Baker stole the ball and was fouled on the breakaway. His free throws and John Hoffmeyer's layup gave Salem a 46-42 lead.

Salem stayed a step ahead of the three-point shooting Chiefs with a clutch triple by Mike Mulder and free throws from Baker.

"You're always concerned but as long as you're ahead in the game," Brodie said. "You feel you have the upper hand. We were able to dictate what we wanted to do and what they had to do on defense because we were up. 'On the one hand, I feel good about what we did in the second half,'" Van Wagoner said. "I'm a little disappointed we didn't play very well in the first half."

The Rocks went on a 21-5 run that gave them a 25-9 lead with 4½ minutes left in the first half. Baker had six first-quarter points and 6-5 teammate Cliff Lee five as Salem went inside effectively.

CANTON, ON the other hand, had no inside game early and rarely got a second rebound. Stafford scored seven points in the last four minutes as the Chiefs climbed within 10 at halftime.

"We were real lucky to go in only 10 down at halftime," Van Wagoner said, adding it could easily have been a 20-point difference.

"We just stood around. We weren't setting any screens or getting any movement. In the second half, we moved some people around and set some screens."

Lee added seven points for Salem, which visits Livonia Stevenson on Friday. The Chiefs have a key Western Division game with Farmington Hills Harrison at Canton.

Huron tops Zebras

Ann Arbor Huron outscored Wayne Memorial 21-10 in the fourth quarter Tuesday en route to a 58-43 non-league basketball win.

The Zebras fell to 9-4 overall, while the River Rats improved to 11-2. Greg Hartman scored 20 points for Wayne, 15 coming in the first half as Wayne led 27-24. (Lee Williams and Rick Barns added eight points apiece.)

Huron outscored the Zebras 13-8 in the third quarter to gain a 37-34 advantage. "We played a great game, but they were us down," Wayne coach Dan Henry said. "We were really fired up, but they brought in some people that had rested through the third quarter and they really took it to us."

Dave Brown paced the River Rats offensively, scoring 15 points. Eric Cultiver added 14 points, scoring seven in the pivotal fourth quarter.

FRANKLIN 62, W.L. CENTRAL: Livonia Franklin, behind 22 points and six rebounds Tuesday from junior guard Keith Roberts, defeated visiting Walled Lake Central.

The Patriots are 8-4 overall and 4-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Senior center Steve McCoil chipped in 12 points and five rebounds for the winners.

The Vikings, who were outscored 21-8 in the fourth quarter, got 10 points from sophomore center Chris McFarlane.

REDFORD CC 76, U-D JESUIT 64: Junior forward Chad Varga tallied 29 points and 10 rebounds Tuesday to pace Redford Catholic Central to a Catholic League Central Division victory over visiting University of Detroit Jesuit.

The Shamrocks outlasted 49-48 after three quarters, but outscored the Cubs 28-15 in the final period to secure the win.

"Steve Whitlow did a good job of breaking their press in the fourth quarter," CC coach Bernie Holwick said. "He showed great senior leadership."

Whitlow, a guard, finished with eight points. Junior forward Bob Kummer scored 23 points and pulled down 15 rebounds for the Shamrocks.

CC is 5-7 overall and 3-4 in the league. The Cubs are 4-3 in the league.

Senior guard Michael Jackson led U-D Jesuit with 21 points.

NORTHVILLE 49, JOHN GLENN 42: Forward Paul McCreedie scored 17 points Tuesday to lead host Northville to a WLAA win over Westland John Glenn.

The Rockets are 2-9 overall and 1-6 in the league.

Senior forward Glenn Ahnold tallied 15 points to lead Glenn, which converted just one of nine free throws.

The Mustangs led 25-22 at halftime.

Patience pays off for Stevenson

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Like Wayne Fontes, Livonia Stevenson basketball coach Jim McIntyre is modifying his run-and-shoot offense.

The Spartans, once the area's answer to Loyola Marymount and the Denver Nuggets, proved they can still run, but also showed patience Tuesday's 67-56 victory at Livonia Churchill.

It was the Spartans' fifth win in their last six games. It also averaged a 52-47 home-court loss to their city rivals back on Dec. 14.

"It was one one of the better fourth-quarter games we've played except for about a three-minute stretch in the second quarter when we got into their (Churchill's) tempo," McIntyre said. "We were a little hesitant to run-and-shoot against them because of the rebounding advantage."

The Spartans proved they could play a little half-court basketball, as well as running the break, pulling off some timely pick-and-roll and backdoor lob plays for layups.

In the fourth quarter they pulled the ball out and worked the clock to protect their lead.

"We've extended ourselves to try to make teams play longer on de-

fense," said McIntyre, whose team is 6-5 overall. "They understand if we're patient enough, good things will happen."

STEVENSON HAD five players score in double figures.

Junior guard Matt Grodzicki paced the winners with 18 points, while senior guard Phil Woods and senior forward Dan Gibbons each added 14. Junior forward Colin Stockton contributed 11, while 6-foot-4 junior center Tony Stojov came off the bench to score 10.

"We're looking toward improving each game and we've been doing that," McIntyre said. "These kids work very hard in practice. I'm real proud of these kids. It's been a while of an effort within our first 11 games. We're making inroads."

The loss left Churchill with an identical 6-5 overall record.

The Chargers were led by 6-7 senior center Handy Calenterra, who paced all scorers with 23 points. Mike Thomas added 15, while Brian D. Johnson contributed 13. Only one other Churchill player scored. (Jeremiah Karolak contributed four.)

Churchill committed 24 turnovers and shot only 38.7 percent from the field (19 of 49). Stevenson, meanwhile, hit 50 percent from the field

(25 of 50) and had 17 turnovers.

"IT WAS A tough night," Churchill coach Fred Price said. "They (Stevenson) were doing a good job with the transition game and getting people behind us. We had trouble getting back defensively. I'll have to look at the (video) tape to see how many easy layups we gave up."

"If you take away their transition game, it's a different game. But that's part of it. We tried to get more people involved in the offense, but we turned it over more than we have the last couple of games."

The Spartans jumped out quickly, taking a 19-13 first-quarter advantage.

They led by as many as 12 with 3:31 left in the half (on a basket by Woods), but Churchill cut the deficit to five at halftime thanks to a three-point play by Thomas with 1:21 to play, 35-30.

The third quarter was all Stevenson.

Woods scored on a back-door play with a second remaining in the period to make it 53-39.

The Spartans then increased their lead to 56-39 on a three-point play by Stockton to start the final quarter.

CHURCHILL, however, pulled off a six-point play when Gibbons was

hit by referee Dave Flammer for a technical foul. Calenterra made four straight free throws and Johnson hit a short jumper to slice the lead to 11.

The Chargers then pulled within eight, 60-52, with 2:50 to go on another Johnson heup, but the Spartans were able to milk the clock down the stretch and go to the free throw line, hitting nine of 11 foul shots in the final quarter.

"We're willing to back off and make teams come out," McIntyre said. "We press with the intent of wanting to do things up-tempo, not with the intent of to steal (the ball) and score. Last year we flew people at teams. This year we've changed and how we're applying it (the press)."

The defending Western Lakes Activities Association playoff champs meet once-beaten Plymouth Salem Friday at home.

Churchill, meanwhile, will host Walled Lake Western.

"I'm disappointed with our rebounding. We should have dominated the boards," Price said. "I thought with our lineup, and with their lineup, we'd do a better job. They got a lot of loose balls off the fumble or rebound."

They (Stevenson) were able to outlet the ball deep and alley-oop."

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During flu season thousands of children are stricken with insulin-dependent diabetes. These children are usually between the ages of 5 and 16.

Unfortunately, many parents and emergency-room personnel often confuse the warning signs of diabetes with the flu. Or, in some cases, urinary tract infection.

The major warning signs for diabetes to watch out for are: frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, dramatic weight loss, nausea and vomiting. As well as irritability, weakness and fatigue. Generally, these symptoms appear over a three or four week period, but don't appear as suddenly as flu symptoms.

If the child is not treated immediately, his or her blood sugar can go out of control leading to what is called diabetic ketoacidosis. Which in turn can lead to diabetic coma. The warning signs for diabetic ketoacidosis include excessive urination, great thirst, stomach pain, nausea and vomiting, dehydration which can lead to dry lips and sunken eyes, rapid breathing, followed by sleepiness.

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