Seniors key to Farmington hopes

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KEY PLAYERS for the Falcons Will the returning seniors Brian Africatough, Matt Fittparties, Steve Gallagber, Jason Tucker and Jay Jensen. They will comprise the starting unit that begins the season.

All the bad a lot of playing time, Mikel said. "They have some concern with the said. They have some concern with the player who stands out after he averaged 17-plus Gallagher [6-3] is the player who stands out after he averaged 17-plus points per game last year. Mikel has been impressed by the play of Gallagher, but doesn't want his team to rely solely on him for its offense. "He looks super in practice," Mikel said. "Probably his biggest asset is taking the hall to the basket. He has a real good first step. I can't say enough about Steve.

"If I had to single out somebody, he would be the goot og up. But I'm making sure the other guys know they have to pick up the stack, too, because Steve is not going to be able to carry the team all by himself."

Franklin hopes dashed

Livonia Franklin's hope of getting back into the Class A girls basket-ball playoffs turned into false hope.

The Patriots spent Tursday afternoon wondering if they'd get another chance after finding out Detroit Murray-Wright was disqualified for us-ing an ineligible player in last week's Class A regional played at Dear-born Edsel Ford.

born Edsel Ford.

No such they.

Despite using the ineligible player, Murray Wright did not have to forfelt regional victories over Franklin (69-65) and Dearborn Fordson. The Michigan High School Athletic Association did rule, however, that Murray Wright could not advance and meet Farmington Hills Merey in Wednesday's Class A quarterfinal, thus giving Mercy a bye into Friday's conditional.

we were on the phone all day with (MHSAA Executive Director) Jack
Roberts, trying to set up a situation where we could play Dearborn Fordson for the regional title and the winner would go on to the quarterfinal,
Franklin coach Dan Freeman said. "We said we'd make any concession
necessary, play in the Fordson gym, whatever it takes.

becessary, play in the Fordson gym, whatever it takes.

"I UNDERSTAND Jack Roberts' decision and I suppose if I was in his position I would make the same decision. But we feel we got ripped a little and it's not anything that can be remedied."

Had Frankin gotten the channe to advance further, there's no doubt senior guard Dawn Warner would have benefited in trying to secure the Miss Basketball award. Warner scored a career-high 47 points in the loss to Murray Wright.

"Players like Dawn come around once in a lifetime," Freeman said. "I feel had for the team and,"I Dawn had been able to show herself in the quarter[inals or beyond that it would have helped. You can't watch Dawn play and not vote for her.

"The problem is, at the time other coaches have ballots, other players (candidates) are getting lok and she does not have that opportunity. The coaches across the state who have not seen her play depend on what they see in the papers."

One of Farmington's strength will be its rebounding ability, Mikel said. Joining Gallagher on the front line are Jensen (6-4) and Tucker (6-3).

JENSEN, WHO just began prac-ticing this week because he had been rehabilitating a shoulder injury suf-ferred in football, averaged five points last year and Tucker three. "All there are prefix good size "All three are pretty good size kids and can jump real well," Mikel

kids and can jomp real well," Mikel said.

The Falcons have a pair of big guards in Flitpatrick (6-1) and Affierbaugh (6-2), who averaged four and three points as varsily reserves last year, respectively, Junior guard Matt April (6-1) was a top socere on the JV team with an 11-point average and will be the sixth man. Sophomore guard Scott Menser (5-1), a transfer from Redford Catholic Central, will help the team when becomes eligible in January, Mikel said.

"He handles the ball well, drives to the basket well and shoots the outside jumper. He plays real hard."

The Falcons also have depth, ac-

cording to Mikel, who said he is confident going with eight or nine players and possibly 10. Junior center John Rudolph (6-3), Junior forward Brian Far (6-0) and sophomore guard Steve Juncaj (6-0) are good reserve players.

Farmington's roster also includes juniors Dave Lehner (5-10), Jason Buha (5-11), John Comai (6-1) and Rick Vazquez (5-9). All are guards except Buha, a forward.

except Buha, a forward.

MIKEL SAID his players have been quick to pick up his philosophy, which is "to push the ball up the floor and get a decent shot off our running game. If it's not there, I want to discipline them to run an offense that will get us a high-percentage shot."

The offense will come around sooner than the defense, he added. "I think we're going to be able to run the floor pretty well. We do have pretty good shooters. The thing that is going to take some time is defense. "We don't have the overall team quickness to press the whole game,

Marlins in semifinals

so we have to pick and choose the times we can play a pressure defense."

Beling a new coach in charge of a program trying to improve, Mikel is taking things slowly in terms of expectations. One thing he wants the Falcons to do is qualify for the West-ern Lakes Activities Association playoffs, something they have never done.

playoffs, something they have never done.

"I have no specific number of wins for them," he said. "We want to make sure we're competitive every time we step on the floor. I told the kids I'd be happy with a 500 season. "My goal is to get the program back on a winning note. Any time you have a program that has been down, one of the things you have to deal with is a losing attitude. We need to think about winning instead of being on the losing end."

Mikel said he expects defending WLAA champ Plymouth Salem to be "super again," Walled Lake Central to have a "ince team" and North to be "always competitive" with (long-time friend) Tom (Negoshlan coaching) there."

Eagles capture tourney trophy

been avenged.

The Eagles saw to that with a determined 107-90 trouncing of Western Ontario in the championship game of the Western Ontario Tournament

Onlardo in the championship game of the Western Onlardo is outnesseen, Saturday.

The victory improved their record to 5-1; Western Onlardo is 10-3. On. Nov. 20 at 51. Mary's, Western Onlardo handed the Eagles their only; defeat, 33-90.

"We kind of avenged that one little mark on our ledger," said St. Mary's coach Glen Donahue. "Defense was the key. We set the tempo this time. And they did not play as well this time."

The Eagles started slowly, trailing 35-25 with nine minutes left in the little than they did not play only they first half, but they finished with a 32-10 run to take a 57-45 lead at halfilme. Their strong play continued into the second half; with six minutes left, they were up 102-72 before coasting to the win.

GARTH HOWARD'S 27 points paced St. Mary's, 1eff Suspeck added:
23, Jimmy Bolden had 17 (and nine assists), and Mare Eversley finished:
with 11, John Vermeeren topped Western Ontario with 18 points, John
Lynch, who burned the Eagles for 23 points in their first meeting, was
held to eight this time.
Bolden was named tournament MVP. Howard joined him on the alltournament team.

tournament team.

In Friday's tourney opener, the Eagles defeated Waterloo University
105-98. Waterloo led 90-86 with five minutes left before St. Mary's defense took over, limiting the Canadian team to eight points the rest of the

way.

Bolden's 28 points was best for the Eagles, Howard had 19, Brian Koscielski had 18 and Suspeck scored 12. Pat Tellord poured in 28 for Waterloo (7-8). Alex Uroscyle had 28, St. Mary's travels to the Grand Valley State Tournament this weekend. The Eagles play Ashland University at 6 p.m. Friday, with Grand Valley meeting Northwood Institute at 8 p.m. The consolation game is at 1 p.m. Saturday, with the championship following at 3 p.m.

OCC cagers fall shy

Despite a superlative effort from Rashe Reviere, Oskland Community College's men's basketball team failed to upend top-ranked Lansing CC Saturday, failing 106-97 in Lansing. The defeat dropped CCC to 2-5; Lansing, the No. 1-rated team in the NJCAA Division II, remained unbeaten after three games. The Raifers kept it close throughout, trailing 48-45 at the half. Reviere descrived the credit; the sophomore tied a school record by scoring 52 points.

52 points.

Unfortunately, he didn't get much support. Kharl Maxwell was the only other Raider to reach double figures in scoring, he had 10. Dale Kraft was next with eight.

Free throws spelled the difference. Lansing connected on 27-0f-39 from the line; OCC was just 11-0f-18.

The Raiders travel to the Macomb CC Tournament this weekend, opening against Lake Michigan CC Friday.

Continued from Page 1

Alpena was planning to play with only five players after it suspended seven this week for disciplinary reasons. When two more suspended, the Wildeats had to forfeit.

sons. When two more suspended, the Wildcash and to forfeit.

"It's certainly with the incentive of being in the Flual Four and something we do with enthusiasm." Baker said of his soculing mission. "We'll be as prepared as we possibly can be for our next game.

"It's also an advantage not to be scouted at this point. I can't fault any opponent If they hadn't been tracking us before the quarterfinals, because Murray-Wright appeared to be the favorite."

BAKER LEARNED Sunday that Murray-Wright appeared to be the favorite.

BAKER LEARNED Sunday that Murray-Wright tor live days when suddenly everything was put on hold.
"We had a strong practice (Tuesday), because we had to finish our preparation for Murray-Wright, but we all knew our next opponent would be either Alpean or Saglinaw." Baker said.

He added the uncertainty of the

He added the uncertainty of the

"I've been refreshed around the players, because they're still enthu-slastic about winning the regional championship and the opportunity to practice this week when so many

others aren't, "Baker said.

The negative side is that it will be
1's weeks between games for the
darlins. The positive aspect is Mercy has time to work and prepare for
its next opponent instead of having
one day between games without having seen the other team, he said.

The Marlins (16-8), who last
reached the semilinals in 1944 and
lost to Benton Harbor, are no less excited about being one of the Final
Four teams despite the circumstances that put them there, Baker
said.

"THERE'S CERTAINLY nothing
to be asharmed of. We're delighted to
be going. We didn't ask for a type. We
were ready to play (in the quarterfinal), and I think I'm taking a team
that is playing its best basketball of
the year. We won't look over our
shoulders with any regrets."
Mercy lost 47-22 to Saginaw early
in the season in a game the Marlins
believe they could have won.

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