

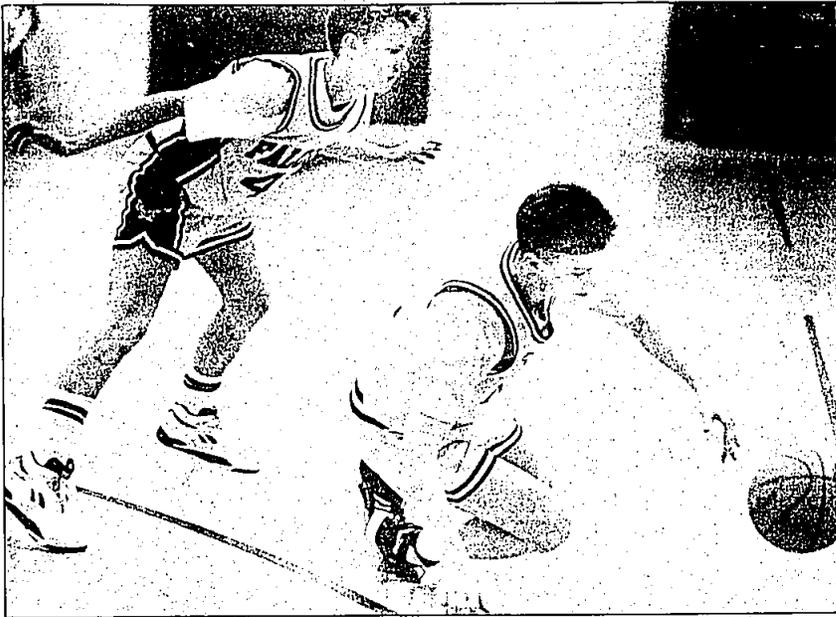
Sports

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(F11)



Mark Temple of North Farmington hits the floor, diving ahead of Farmington's John Comal, to win possession of a loose ball. The Raiders won the game finale 68-39 to gain their eighth victory.

Raiders post hoop victory

By Darron A. Nichols
staff writer

North Farmington finally woke up in the fourth quarter Friday, outscoring Farmington 27-8 for a 68-39 boys basketball win.

"I think both teams played a little lazy in the first half," North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian said. "We got a good spurt to start the fourth quarter, and the next time I looked we were up 25."

"The key was shooting the ball. We shot extremely well in the fourth quarter."

North Farmington, which completed the regular season 8-12 overall, was led by senior guard Mark Temple, who scored 19 points. Senior guard Brian Lee added 13 while junior Todd Anderson chipped in eight.

Senior forward Matt Fitzpatrick led Farmington with 19 points, including five three-pointers. Junior guard Brian Farr added six, but senior forward Steve Gallagher was held to only one point.

THE FALCONS finished the regular season 3-17 overall.

"Steve Gallagher being held to one point was part of the picture of how we lost, but it wasn't the whole reason why we lost," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "It hurt (because) he's one of our more experienced players, but I don't think he took a lot of shots."

"They shot the ball well and we didn't. We have not been a good shooting team all season."

North Farmington broke the game open with an 12-1 run to open the fourth quarter.

With the Raiders ahead 39-31 at the end of the third, Dean Pennala started the decisive surge with a layup, and Temple scored on a three-point play before Gallagher hit a free throw to make the score 44-32 with 6:48 remaining.

North Farmington scored eight straight points to push the lead to 52-32 before Brian Farr ended the run with a basket at 5:07.

THE RAIDERS outscored Farmington 14-5 for the final margin.

"I think we made them rush a few shots," Negoshian said. "The missed shots got our running game going, and the kids made some shots."

North Farmington trailed once during the game, 3-2. The Raiders led 15-8 after the first quarter and 27-17 at halftime.

Senior forward Brian Afferbaugh and Fitzpatrick accounted for nine unanswered Farmington points to start the third quarter, cutting the North lead to 27-26 with 4:57 left.

Fitzpatrick opened the quarter, connecting on a try. A basket by Afferbaugh and a pair of free throws by Fitzpatrick cut the lead to 27-24.

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Heard paces Chiefs past Hawks, 64-59

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Hal Heard is a major reason why Plymouth Canton has been so successful in boys basketball this year, and he demonstrated that again Saturday night at Northville High School.

The 6-foot-4 senior scored a game-high 23 points and hauled down 11 rebounds to lead the Chiefs to a 64-59 victory over Farmington Hills Harrison in the Western Lakes Activities Association consolation game.

"Hal has done a great job, but it was just a total team effort," Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner said. "It's a very meaningful win for us, a great way to finish off the regular season."

Canton finished with a regular-season school record of 16 wins as opposed to four losses. The Hawks are 14-6.

"We're really proud of the season we just had," Van Wagoner said. "We're just thrilled with this win, because Harrison is a very good team. Our kids kept their composure, played smart basketball and made their free throws at the end."

HEARD, WHO is averaging 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Canton's ability to adapt on defense to everything the Hawks tried to do were the key factors in the game, according to Harrison coach Mike Teachman.

"We just couldn't stop (Heard)," he said. "We had good defensive position on him, but his individual ability allowed him to beat the defense. He feathers the ball to the basket and, if it's not all net, it's so soft it will

drop."

At the offensive end, the Hawks "ran just about every offense we had, and it would work for two or three times," Teachman added, "and then their defense would stop it."

Mike Stafford was next with 13 points for Canton, Derrick McDonald nine and Tony Coshatt seven. Paul Gilvudis scored 18 to pace the Hawks, who also got 11 from Andy Fitzpatrick, nine from Mike Pesei and seven from Duante Anderson.

Except for an 11-0 run that gave Harrison a 15-8 lead, the game was close all the way. Canton, which made its first four shots to lead 8-4, closed to within 17-16 after one quarter, led 35-34 at halftime and trailed 46-45 going into the finale.

Heard, who has a fluid post move in which

he turns and flicks the ball toward the basket, scored consecutive deuces -- on a turnaround shot and a rebound of a teammate's miss -- to put Canton in front 58-57 with 2½ minutes left.

FESCI, WHO had six points in the fourth quarter, got a putback to restore the lead to Harrison, but 6-7 guard Mike Brennan took a no-look pass from Coshatt underneath for a layup that put the Chiefs in front to stay with 1½ minutes remaining, 60-59.

After an exchange of turnovers, the Hawks had a chance to go ahead, but Brennan blocked a Gilvudis shot in front of the basket. Heard and McDonald made two free throws each to secure the Canton victory.

"The turning point was our halftime discussion," Van Wagoner said. "We got after them about having pride in the program."

The coaches feel they have a lot of pride in the program, and we wanted to make sure the players did, too."

After shooting 14 of 34 in the first half, the Hawks made 11 of 30 in the second and hit 39 percent on their shots overall. Canton was 26 of 59 for 44 percent.

"I thought Heard was the difference," Teachman said, "and, secondly, their team defense really collapsed on us at the end and forced us to take some shots we shouldn't have been taking."

"We had one pass and tried to shoot the ball over two guys. In the third when we were successful, we were passing the ball better. Stafford hit some key shots, too. If he doesn't make them (from outside), we can collapse, too."

Raiders get 2nd in WLAA

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Salem coach Chuck Olson paid a high compliment to Livonia Stevenson swimmer Bryan Morrison when he observed that his last name includes the letters o-r-r-i-s.

The coincidence is especially fitting since Morrison broke one of the league records held by former Salem great Ron Orris in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship meet Friday night.

Furthermore, Morrison did the same as Orris had done for his team, winning two events and leading the Spartans to their second consecutive WLAA title and fourth in eight years.

Morrison, who also helped Stevenson set records in both freestyle relays, won the 500-yard freestyle in 4:43.6 and bettered the mark of 4:42.3 set three years ago by Orris.

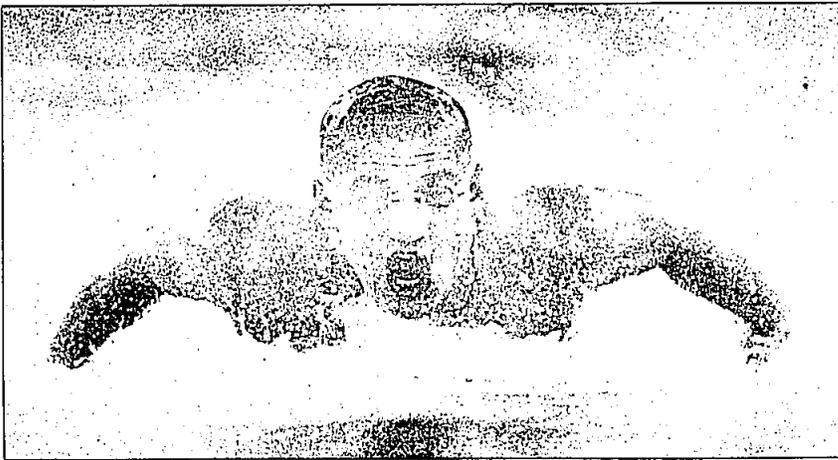
"I thought I could do it before the race, but in the middle I had my doubts," Morrison said. "I just swam as hard as I could, I gave it my all."

MORRISON WOULDN'T go so far as to put himself in the same class with Orris, but the comparisons extend beyond being a double-winner and league record-holder. Morrison is tall and lean like Orris and bears some facial resemblance to the Michigan State University swimmer.

"I don't know if he's quite Ron Orris, but he's definitely Bryan Morrison," Buckler said. "Bryan did what we knew he could do all year long."

The No. 5-ranked Spartans were season-long favorites to repeat as WLAA champs and virtually had the title clinched following the preliminaries Wednesday.

Stevenson set another WLAA



Keith Lee of North Farmington finished sixth in the butterfly final in the Western Lakes Activities Association swimming

record with its 561½-point total and finished 139 ahead of runner-up North Farmington (422½). Plymouth Salem (400) moved up to third place after being seeded sixth at the start, edging Plymouth Canton (397) and Northville (324).

"You have to win this meet on Wednesday, and you have fun on Friday -- and that's what we did," Stevenson coach Doug Buckler said.

"We knew we couldn't lose the lead we had; we felt pretty confident."

"But until it's over, it's not quite satisfying. It is when you're presented with the trophy because it's the last time all of us are going to be together at the same swim meet or place in life."

Though North Farmington won

more events -- six to Stevenson's five -- the Spartans met the meet with greater depth.

"OUR DEPTH IS what makes us a great swim team," Buckler said. "When you talk about great teams, we're one of the best."

"You're only as great as your senior leadership, and this team had it today. We lose 13 seniors, but good programs stay on top. We'll rebuild; we'll be there."

In addition to Morrison, the senior class includes captains Aaron Rieder, Aaron Carlisle, Rich Bennett, Jeff Berens and Ben Boedighelmer. Buckler also cited the efforts of seniors Eric Peterson, Ryan Freeborn and Gordy Gatewood.

finals. The Raiders fared well as a team, winning six events and placing second.

Stevenson was more than 100 points ahead entering the finals and had a much easier victory than a year ago when by 87 points over Northville.

"On the whole, nothing comes close to it," Rieder said. "It's just the greatest feeling in the world. There are always teams like Salem, so you have to be careful. You can't be too overconfident."

Morrison, who also was first in the 200 freestyle (1:44.08), Alex Goecke, Gatewood and Greg Priede won the 200 freestyle relay with a record-breaking time of 1:39.09. Northville set the previous standard two years ago (1:29.89).

The Stevenson foursome of Jeff

BUCKLER

Buckler, Gatewood, Rieder and Mor-

ison eclipsed a North Farmington record by winning the 400 freestyle in 3:17.04. The Raiders posted a 3:17.12 time in 1988.

GOECKE BROKE his own record while winning the breaststroke in 1:00.03. The three-time WLAA champion in that event went 1:01.60 last year and bettered that in the preliminaries with a 1:01.16.

"He has never lost the breaststroke in the league and he's only a junior," Buckler said. "He's another one of those great kids."

"I was real happy after breaking it in the prelims, and I felt I could do it again tonight," Goecke said, add-

Warriors get scare in hockey

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Good thing Harry Carey wasn't in the tooth because it would have been a steady stream of "Holy Cows!"

What was expected to be a mismatch was anything but on Thursday in the Class A regional hockey semifinals at the Redford Ice Arena.

Top-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice held on for dear life, going into triple overtime before beating underdog Livonia Churchill, 3-2, in what may go down as one of the all-time great state playoff games.

Brian Hartwell ended the suspense just 17 seconds into the third eight-minute OT session, notching his second goal of the night from Mitch Murlick and Josh Fryer.

The game-winner was a result of a scramble in front of Churchill goaltender Todd Henderson, who may have been screened on the play.

The puck apparently deflected off the skate of a Churchill defender and past Henderson, who stopped 34 of 37 shots.

"The game fit right up there, at least one of the best high school games I've seen," said Churchill interim coach Ron Griffin, who played under the late Bob Johnson of NCAA champion Wisconsin. "I can't ask for anything more, the kids just came up a little short."

"Todd played the best he's ever played. He played with poise, made key saves and kept us in the game."

RICE, 22-2 overall, may have been caught looking ahead to Saturday's championship game after drill-

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