

Falcons

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Six-foot junior Scott Menser rotated between the varsity and JV last season after becoming eligible in the second semester following his transfer from Redford Catholic Central.

Menser, who some people thought would have an immediate impact on the varsity last year, will contend for playing time at guard and is an excellent outside shooter.

"Maybe there was too much pressure on Scott," Mikal said. "He probably would say himself he didn't have the kind of season he would have liked. He's put in a lot of time and gone to AAU camps, and we're hoping to have a more consistent season from him."

The Falcons, who begin the season Tuesday at Waterford Kettering, also have four juniors and ex-JV players on their varsity.



BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior power: Matt April is one of four returning seniors on the Farmington basketball team.

Lansing outshoots OCC cagers

So much for scouting reports. Oakland Community College men's basketball coach Lynn Reed scouted Lansing Community College last week and came back with this report: "They can't shoot."

Wrong. Lansing drained 12 of 21 3-point attempts and 17 of 19 free throws Saturday to knock off the Raiders 95-90 before an overflow crowd at OCC.

"When I scouted them they made three of 19 three-pointers, but they made all the key shots against us," said Reed, whose team falls to 2-5. "It was a heck of

a game though. And we had a great crowd, probably one of the biggest we've ever had."

OCC's shooters weren't exactly frigid. The Raiders knocked down nine triples. Freshman Craig Martin had the hottest hand, hitting nine of 11 shots, including seven of nine from 3-point range, for a total of 29 points.

Also for OCC, Myron Banks scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds before fouling out with less than two minutes to play. Troy Coleman contributed 13 points and five assists. Kevin Woodmore had 12 points and eight assists and Bill Knight added 10 points.

For Lansing (1-1), Marcus Norris scored 24 points, 21 in the second half. Andre Taylor scored 21, 16 in the second half. The two combined for seven triples in the second half.

"We led all the way until the last four minutes of the game," Reed said. "But they got to the free-throw line and they didn't miss."

Lansing outscored OCC 17-9 from the line.

The Raiders will compete in the Macomb Community College Tournament this weekend. They play Lake Michigan at 6 p.m. on Friday.

Orioles derail Blazers in quarterfinal

By BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood got a spoonful of its own medicine Wednesday in the state Class A girls basketball quarterfinals, and the taste was all too bitter.

The Blazers fell victim to their own style of play — run, press and shoot — as the Charlotte Orioles claimed a wild 75-71 triumph before a crowd of 1,800 in Don F. Johnson Fieldhouse at Lansing Eastern High School.

Charlotte, sporting a 25-1 overall record, advances to the state semifinals Friday in a rematch against Birmingham Marian. The Orioles will try and avenge their only defeat of the season in a 5 p.m. start at Battle Creek Central High School.

Ladywood, meanwhile, bowed out of the tournament with an 18-6 overall record.

The Blazers, who buckled un-

der Charlotte's full-court pressure, could not recover from an 8-0 deficit during the opening minutes of play.

Charlotte led from start to finish, but had to hang on for the victory after nearly blowing a 16-point third-quarter advantage and a 12-point lead entering the final quarter.

"I had heard some people say we were not used to the kind of pressure they (Ladywood) were going to put on us," Charlotte coach Jerry Ernst said. "But I think it was reversed. They were not used to the kind of pressure we were going to put on them."

The Orioles, however, couldn't contain Ladywood sophomore forward Tara Overalls, who led all scorers with a game-high 33 points. She scored 11 points during the final quarter as the Blazers nearly pulled off a miraculous comeback.

They were also sparked by the play off the bench of 6-foot-3 sophomore center Anne Fogitt and 5-7 senior guard Andrea Putti.

The pair helped the Blazers chip away at Charlotte's huge lead.

And with 1:08 left, Putti's basket made it a 70-69 deficit. "We led all the way until the last four minutes of the game," Reed said. "But they got to the free-throw line and they didn't miss."

Ernst finished with a team-high 28 points, while forward Christie Brooks and guard Lindsey McLeod added 21 and 16, respectively.

Both Ernst and McLeod also hit key three-point shots down the stretch to sink Ladywood's rally.

Helowicki eyes 600th win

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

The milestone is just barely in sight; visible enough to tease you but still far enough away to foster doubt about making it.

It's like being 160 lbs. hits shy of 3,000. In a normal good year, you would make it. But do you want to put that kind of pressure on yourself in case you don't?

Catholic Central basketball coach Bernie Holowicki enters his 22nd season just 20 wins shy of becoming only the third coach in the state to amass 600 wins. Lofton Greene (River Rouge) won 739 from 1941 through 1984 and Paul Cook (Lansing Eastern) won 635 from 1949-1991.

"It isn't going to happen this year," said Holowicki, whose record stands at 580-200. "It could, you know, but I don't think it's fair to put that type of goal on the team. You don't want to put them in a position where they feel they let you down. Let's just let it happen."

Actually, 20 wins might be too much to ask a team that returns only one starter off a team that went 19-5 last year.

BASKETBALL

"We graduated at least 90 percent of our offense, so right now we are very concerned about how we are going to score our points this year," Holowicki said.

Gone are All-Area performers Chad Varga (23 points, 10 rebounds) and Bobby Kummer (21 points and eight rebounds), and starter Tommy Laco. Another starter, Christian Chichila has transferred to Livonia Stevenson.

"We aren't going to be a power team, and we won't be a great rebounding team," he said. "We should be fair defensively, and we have decent speed. We hope to play an uptempo game. If we have to set up and play a half-court game we'll be in trouble."

Senior guard Eric Justice (three points per game) is the lone returning starter. Holowicki said 6-5 senior Brian Paluk, 6-3 junior Andy Slankster, 6-4 junior Andy Kummer and 6-4 senior Jeff Gutt will round out the starting lineup. "Gutt is a first-year kid who just decided to try out," Holowicki. "In a lot of years, a kid

like that wouldn't be able to make the team. But, he's a hard worker and pretty good athlete. We've been impressed with him."

Junior Sean Gallagher (6-4) is pushing Gutt and sophomore Joe DeLong (6-3) is pushing Kummer. Senior Mark Gondek, sophomore Damian Baskerville and junior Anthony Heano are also battling for playing time.

"The thing I like about this group is that it works hard and shows a lot of heart," Holowicki said. "Sometimes you get a group like this and it overachieves. This is a very dependable group."

Unfortunately for the Shamrocks, it's a bad year to try to overachieve in the Catholic League Central Division. Redford Bishop Borgess, Warren DeLaSalle, Harper Woods Notre Dame and Birmingham Brother Rice return experienced and talented teams.

But at age 61, Holowicki seems more than ready for the challenge. "A lot of coaches my age are winding down," he said. "But I'm just winding up. I feel good. I'm enthusiastic and behind these kids 100 percent."

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