



Long overdue vacation

Yeah, it's been a long time since the University of Wisconsin's football team has made a trip to the Rose Bowl — after the 1962 season, to be precise. And it's been nearly that long since Ron Krueger, Plymouth Salem's wrestling coach, has taken a vacation.

He'll finally take that overdue break when he heads west to watch the Badgers and his son Lee, a senior middle guard, tackle UCLA in Pasadena, Calif.

"I haven't been on a vacation since my honeymoon," said Krueger. He'll celebrate his silver anniversary (that's 25 years) in the very near future.

So what's on his first vacation agenda in nearly 25 years?

"We're just going to see California," said Krueger, "while everybody's back here shoveling snow."

"We're hoping we don't run into an earthquake or a fire or a mudslide. That big fault that's out there, I know it's just been waiting for me."

Hopefully, Wisconsin will return victorious, with the Kruegers intact and in tow. And just as hopefully, it won't be nearly as long between trips — for both the bowl-bound Badgers and the Kruegers.

Hawks spikers win

The Farmington Harrison volleyball team will take a 6-0-1 record with them into the holiday break.

"The girls are feeling real good about themselves," said Coach Ron Shortt, after the Hawks whipped Novi 15-2, 6-15, 15-6 Wednesday.

Shortt played his starters in only games one and three against Novi, and in game one never rotated his back row to the front.

"There wasn't a whole lot of hitting," Shortt said. "Novi had trouble returning our serves."

Maggie Chavez had eight service aces, Amanda Ault had five and Carey Perkins two. Ault (five) and Perkins (four) also combined on nine kills. Erica Green came off the bench to score three kills in five hits.

The Hawks return to action Jan. 8 at the West Bloomfield Invitational.

Win streak ends for Falcons



An 18-point hole proved too deep for Farmington, even with a 19-point effort from Stan Lewis, as its season-opening three-game win streak came to a halt at Birmingham Seaholm Thursday night.

By STEVE STEIN
STAFF WRITER

One of the characteristics of a good basketball team is its ability to rebound from a tough defeat. Birmingham Seaholm passed that litmus test Thursday, turning back visiting Farmington 66-59 in an early season showdown of surprise squads. The victory gave the Maples a 3-1 record.

Farmington also is 3-1 after the loss. Now the Falcons will get an opportunity to test their mettle when they host Birmingham Groves on Tuesday.

Seaholm fell 60-48 at Bloomfield Hills Lahser two days before the Maples took on Farmington. Coach Dave Watkins worried that another loss would dash the confidence of his young team.

"We had such a bad shooting night against Lahser (29 percent), and sometimes it's difficult to bounce back from a game like that," Watkins said. "But I have to give credit to our two seniors — Tim Beagen and Sean Golden — for not letting the guys get down."

"The kids really had their hearts set on going 5-0 before the break and proving that our victory over Southfield-Lathrup wasn't a fluke. Back-to-back losses would have been a setback."

"So this was a huge game for us for many reasons. Neither us or Farmington got a lot of ink in the pre-season, but I think these are two pretty good teams. We have a lot of respect for Farmington."

While Seaholm is relying heavily on youth, Farmington is looking to veterans. There are nine seniors on Coach Denny Mikel's roster, and he

has four returning starters from last year's 8-12 team.

"Even though we play in a tough league (the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association), we're optimistic," Mikel said. "We're not very big, but we have experience and quickness. We can make things happen."

Thursday's contest was a non-leaguer, but the teams battled like they were intracity rivals.

"I guess it was because we came into the game undefeated," Mikel said. "We just fell too far behind. We tried to come back, but the hole was too deep."

"If anything positive came out of this game, I'd say it was the fact that our kids didn't quit."

Seaholm, which shot 55 percent from the floor, led 19-13 at the end of the first quarter and 37-23 at halftime, thanks mainly to an 11-0 run midway through the second period.

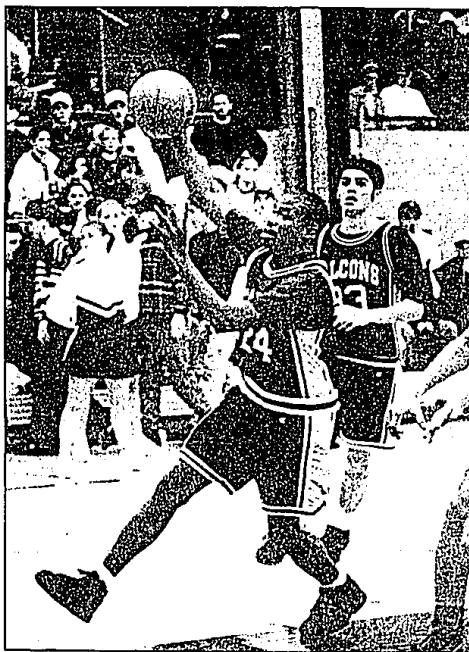
The lead reached 18 points twice in the third quarter before Farmington cut it to 52-40 heading into the final eight minutes.

The Falcons scored within six points on two occasions late in the fourth quarter, but they couldn't get any closer.

Junior guard Drew Hayes continued his hot scoring pace for Seaholm, pouring in 23 points including 11 in the first period. He shot 9-of-16 and had four assists.

Beagen, his backcourt mate who missed all of last season because of knee surgery, had 14 points including five free throws down the stretch that kept Farmington at bay. He also had five steals and four assists.

See FALCONS, 2C



JOHN STONEMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sweet Lewis: Stan Lewis powers up for two of his team-high 19 points Thursday, but his effort wasn't enough to rally Farmington out of an 18-point hole at Seaholm.

Freshman emerges heroic in thrilling Madonna win

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

There are points in a season that define a team, a game here and there that you can look back on and say, that's the night we pulled together and became a unit; or, that's the night we began to break apart.

Friday night's 79-75 victory against Indiana Wesleyan was called that kind of benchmark for the Madonna University women's basketball team.

The Lady Crusaders appeared ripe for a fracture. They have come staggering out of the gate with a 3-5 record and started listlessly against a strong Indiana Wesleyan team that brought an 11-3 record to Livonia Friday.

"We just didn't have the intensity that we should have had," Coach Bill Potter said.

Bannon down, team up

Something else was missing, too. Shawn Bannon. She picked up two quick fouls and was on the bench for all but nine minutes of the first half.

Now, understand the severity of this. Bannon, the Livonia native and former Miss Basketball runner-up from Dearborn Divine Child, came to Madonna after starting for two seasons at Division I Central Michigan. This is the person who, by the time she leaves Madonna, will rewrite the record books for scoring, shooting percentage, assists and steals. She's averaging 18 points, four assists and four steals per game.

"She runs the show for us," is how Potter put it.

And there she was, rested on the bench. And there was Madonna.

'We look to Shawn to lead the team. When she's in there, she takes charge of the game. . . But I think we showed tonight that we don't depend only on her.'

Jill Burt
Madonna senior

na, watching Wesleyan drain three 3-pointers in the first eight minutes, falling behind by as many as seven early in the second half as well. That's when Bannon flashed her Division I skills. In a span of about seven minutes, she scored seven points, set up three other baskets with pin-point passes, made a steal and forced two other turnovers.

Her basket with 10:44 left gave Madonna its first lead since the first minute of the game, 54-53, and set up a frenetic finish that featured four ties in the final four minutes.

"I'm struggling with my shot right now," Bannon said. "And when you aren't hitting your shots, you just have to find some other way to help the team. You can't win if you're just a one-person team and we showed we aren't a one-person team."

Bannon's burst
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Hero emerges
Bannon air-balled a 3-point attempt and missed a layup late in the game. Instead of setting off a panic, it seemed to bond the team. And up stepped freshman Megan Marlatt.

Marlatt hit a triple to cut Wesleyan's lead to two, 67-65,

with 5:15 left. She knocked down another triple with 3:06 left to tie the game at 71. Then she banged home a running three-footer on the next possession to put the team up 73-71.

Then, after Burt executed a three-point play with 46 seconds left to put Madonna ahead 78-75, Marlatt locked up the victory with a free throw.

"We weren't together early in the year," Marlatt said. "We were sort of struggling with each other. But now we're definitely together. This was a big win for us."

Burt finished with 19 points, five rebounds and five assists. Marlatt had 15 points. Creelley had 12 points and Denise Williams scored 10. Cathy Morris led Wesleyan with 21 points, 12 on 3-point shots.

Bannon finished with eight points on 3-for-10 shooting, seven assists and six rebounds. Not exactly Division I stats, but was she complaining?

"It's been a hard adjustment for both me and for the other girls, but, really, I have no regrets," she said. "I still miss (the Division I) competition and sometimes here I forget some of the things that I learned playing Division I. But the biggest thing is that I've re-focused myself. I'm here because I want to be a nurse and to have fun playing basketball. This is the first time I've had fun playing since I left high school."

A defining moment for Bannon and for the Crusaders.

'You can't win if you're just a one-person team, and we showed we aren't a one-person team.'

Shawn Bannon
Madonna captain

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