

Head paces Salem victory

By C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Power vs. perimeter.
Plymouth Salem had the power, courtesy of James Head. That translated into a boys basketball victory over Plymouth Canton: 64-37 Friday at Salem.

"It was just a case of tonight, James Head came up big," Canton coach Dave VanWagoner said. "We didn't have an answer for James."

"Tonight we ran into a Big Ten basketball player who played like one."

The Chiefs, now 2-4 overall and 0-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, tried to offset Head's power game with Matt Paupore's outside shooting prowess. It nearly worked, but not quite. Head finished with 27 points and 10 rebounds. Paupore totaled 25 points.

Although Head controlled the game down the stretch — he scored 13 of the Rocks' 21 fourth-quarter points, converting 5-of-6 shots from the field — he wasn't nearly as effective in the first half. "He was stepping out on the perimeter too much early on," said Salem coach Bob Brodie.

Considering Canton's weakness is its lack of height — Paupore and Ron Ostach are having the 6-6 Head, who's headed for Iowa, on the outside offensively certainly suited the Chiefs. Head took just seven first-half shots, making

BASKETBALL

four — one a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer.

Fortunately for Salem, Paupore got off to a slow start, too. He was 3-of-12 from the floor, scoring eight to Head's 10 first-half points.

Head's triple to end the half came five seconds after Canton's Rob Radney had scored to narrow Salem's lead to two. The Rocks, plagued by the Chiefs' perimeter quickness throughout the game, left the court at the half with a 29-24 lead.

They didn't keep it, though. They were consistent in their turnovers, committing 15 in each half, and that allowed Canton to keep it close. When Paupore started finding the range in the third quarter — he converted two threes and had eight points in the period — the Chiefs forced Salem to make some changes.

That left others open for shots. Radney scored twice in the final minute of the third, capping an 8-2 run in the last 2:15 and pushing Canton into a 44-43 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Enter Head, who had attempted just nine shots (making six) from the floor before his fourth-quarter surge. Canton's last lead came on a Paupore jumper with 7:16 left in the game, making it 46-45. Sanjeev Seth regained the lead for Salem with a basket 30

seconds later, and Head insured it by scoring the Rocks' next seven points in an 11-2 run.

James McDonald, a 6-4 junior, added 14 points for Salem. Canton got 10 from Radney.

"It was a good, solid game for James," said Brodie afterward. Not that he wasn't without concerns: "I was worried about (Paupore) finding the range, I was worried about their quickness, I was worried about our turning it over too much."

"We've turned it over a lot this season. But we're inexperienced, really. Plus we're an up-tempo team, so we're going to have a lot of turnovers."

"But I don't care if we turn it over 50 times, as long as we get the win."

The Rocks got that, improving their record to 6-1.

■ **PCA 55, BETHESDA 50:** A strong second half enabled Plymouth Christian Academy to open its Michigan Independent Athletic Conference season with a road victory Friday at Warren Bethesda.

The Eagles improved their record to 5-1 overall. Bethesda is 0-5, 0-1 in the MIAC.

Jamie Neil's 18 points paced PCA. Aaron Jones had 12 and Dan House contributed eight points, 13 rebounds and five assists. Bethesda got 13 points apiece from John Anderson and Andre Butler; Matt Marchesi added 10.

Rockets stand tall in 66-61 triumph

By BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

There were trees everywhere Friday night, but somehow Westland John Glenn found its way through the forest.

It was a battle of tall timber Friday, as the host Rockets had enough to beat Northville in a battle of unbeaten boys basketball giants, 66-61.

"I felt we played well and beat a good ballclub," said Glenn coach Mike Schutte, whose team is 3-0 overall. "I knew coming in that we had to play smart and we did for the most part. We made good choices with our passes and we were patient with our offense. Only a couple times did we get out of sync."

Tony Goins, a 6-foot-4 senior forward, led the victors with 22 points, including three triples, to go along with five blocked shots. Guy Rucker, Glenn's 6-foot-9 junior center, also played big, scoring 14 points (including a pair of dunks) to go along with four blocks and 13 rebounds.

The Rockets also got a lift from sophomore guard Albert Jones. The left-hander played a steady backcourt game, finishing with 14 points and five assists.

"We expect Albert to play like this all season because he has the instincts for the game and he likes to play," Schutte said. "He's a hard worker and a great kid."

Northville, sporting a 5-0 record heading into the early season showdown, trailed 20-11 after one quarter as Rucker connected for three straight turnarounds over Northville's 6-9 center Josh Williams.

But the Mustangs fought back to trail by only five, 27-22, at intermission.

Glenn — using full-court pressure, opened up a 45-36 advantage with 1:38 in the third quarter on a layup by Tariq Horne. But Northville stormed back to pull within one, 45-44, on a pair of baskets by 6-6 John Buser in the final minute.

Two consecutive layups by guard Neil Yacke gave Northville a 50-46 advantage early in the final quarter.

That's when Goins decided to go to work, down the stretch, scoring six consecutive points, including four straight free throws, to push the Rockets ahead by four, 60-56, with 2:05 to go.

Brent Washington added a key

basket with 1:13 to go and Jones nailed a pair of free throws with 37 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Buser and senior guard John Farrar led the Mustangs with 14 points apiece. Yacke chipped in with 13, while Williams contributed 10.

"It was a great high school basketball game," Northville coach Larry Taylor said. "There were three-point shots and dunks. I thought we played well. We just got into a situation at the end where we got behind and had to foul."

"Glenn had a big first quarter, but we were able to make a few adjustments. We played hard and it really came down to foul shots."



Hoop action: Senior forward Calvin Pruitt played well in the paint for Harrison but wasn't enough to stop a combination of Farmington athletes. Steve Juncaj is the defender.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 11
Huron Valley at Oak Christian, 6:30 p.m.
G.P. Uggert at Claremoreville, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Southgate, 7 p.m.
Red. Thurston at D.K. Annapolis, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Don. Fordson at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at Waterford Mott, 7:30 p.m.
South Lyon at Westland Glenn, 7:30 p.m.
A.A. Huron at Puy. Canton, 7:30 p.m.
Brighton at Puy. Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Lake Orion at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
Farm. Harrison at Mt. Lakeland, 7:30 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Flat Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Puy. Christian vs. Fair. Christian at West Middle School, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14
Claremoreville at H.W. Luth. East, 7 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Harper Woods, 7 p.m.
Red. Thurston at Merivale, 7 p.m.
Southgate at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
W.L. Central at Farm. Hansen, 7 p.m.
Puy. Salem at Luth. Church, 7:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Luth. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.
Westland Glenn at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.
N. Farmington at Puy. Canton, 7:30 p.m.
Farmington at Northville, 7:30 p.m.
Woodhaven at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.
Garden City at Don. Fordson, 7:30 p.m.
Redford CC at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop Grogan at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Immac. Concepts at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Huron Valley vs. Puy. Christian at Marshall Jr. High, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 12
Luth. Church vs. Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
Luth. Stevenson vs. Birmingham at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6:55 p.m.
Redford CC at A.A. Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14
Luth. Stevenson vs. B.L. Laher at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Luth. Franklin vs. Dexter at Ann Arbor's Yost Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
Redford CC vs. Allen Ph. Cabrini at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

Falcons from page 1C

Mike Tokar added eight apiece. "Teachman made a point of any-thing Jackson hurt Harrison with all of his points coming in the first half when the Hawks began the game focusing their defense on Menser and Juncaj."

"Mike's teams are always well prepared," Mikel said. "I thought Mike would come up with some kind of gimmick defense and he did. He went with the triangle-and-two and it worked. It confused us in the first half."

Calvin Pruitt finished with 13 points to lead Harrison, which was minus center Aaron Weiss, who had a family obligation. Charles Bambenek was next with 11, and Kevin Bambenek added nine.

It also was the second Harrison game without Nick Williams and Kevin Bryant. Williams was dismissed from the team for missing practice, according to Teachman, and Bryant subsequently quit the team.

Pruitt played aggressively on the boards, but the Falcons won the rebounding battle, too. Kevin Afterbaugh and Menser had eight rebounds each (five offensive) and Lewis five.

Harrison shot a better percentage than Farmington, but the Fal-

■ 'I think teams have to respect us more when we take the floor.'

Denny Mikel

cons had 21 more attempts because of their second and third opportunities. The Hawks shot 48 percent (22-46) and Farmington 37 (25-67).

The Falcons led 18-15 after one quarter and stretched the lead to 25-17 in the second when they began pressing. Charles Bambenek kept the Hawks close with three unanswered baskets.

Juncaj's second triple and a three-point play by Afterbaugh put Farmington ahead by nine in the third period. The Falcons led by as many as 15 points in the finale, and Harrison never got closer than eight (62-54).

"This is a big win for us," Mikel said. "I told the kids 'We always get the second headline after Harrison, so now it's your turn to step up and get the headlines. They feel good about that.'"

"I certainly hope we have the program turned around. I think teams have to respect us more when we take the floor."

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