

SPORTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1996

Hawks gain tourney final



Farmington Harrison advanced to the final game of the Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball tournament by defeating top-seeded Northville in a semifinal Tuesday, 51-44. Harrison will play Plymouth Salem for the title Friday.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Confidence is the trademark of a winning team, and the Farmington Harrison girls basketball team has plenty of it.

The Hawks pulled off their second upset of the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament Tuesday, sending regular-season champion Northville down to a 51-44 defeat.

Like Walled Lake Central, the team Harrison beat in the first round last week, the No. 5-seeded Hawks avenged a 60-53 loss in the semifinal game at Northville.

The Cinderella of the WLAA tournament goes to the big dance Friday.

Playing in its first championship game, Harrison (12-6) will oppose Plymouth Salem (16-3) for the title. Game time is approximately 7:45 p.m. at Walled Lake Central.

"We knew we could win," junior guard

Amy Roble said. "The coaches told us, if we won the Walled Lake Central game, we would be in the final. We knew we had the potential to beat Northville, because it was a close game last time."

"We're proud we won this game, and we look forward to the next one. It's a big accomplishment, not only for the school but the whole district."

Roble scored 16 points, Ari Ault 14 and Mahogany Fletcher 10. The Hawks were 7-of-29 from three-point range; Roble and Ault had two apiece, Ali Ault, Fletcher and Kristine Knutson one each.

"It spreads the floor when you have to come out on three real hard," Northville coach Pete Wright said. "Roble had an outstanding game with 21 points the first time, but they but didn't make the three."

Lauryn Metaj scored 17 points to lead the Mustangs. Julie Flis added 10 and Christine Herndon seven. Gina Chiasson

didn't play for the second straight game because of a sprained ankle.

"She's a big part of our offense, a four-year starter," Wright said of Chiasson. "But credit goes to Harrison. They knocked down the three-pointers and free throws when they had to."

Northville scored the last three points of the first half and the first six points of the second half to take a 26-21 lead.

But the momentum quickly shifted to Harrison, which forced several turnovers and outscored the Mustangs 12-2 in the last half of the third-quarter for a 33-28 edge. Fletcher had six points during the run; Roble, Ault and Kerstin Andrzejewski two each.

"In the first quarter, we did a decent job attacking their man defense," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "When they went to a zone, we were out of sync; it seemed we were fighting through that for 1 1/2 quarters (until the middle of the third)."

Fletcher scored four straight points, Ault five and Roble four (from three) to put the Hawks in front 46-36 with 1:49 remaining in the game.

See HOOP, C4



Alm high: Kerstin Andrzejewski tries to go over Northville's Julie Flis for a basket in the low post Tuesday.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LAMOUR

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Grid-picks champion

The fall campaign concluded Sunday, Nov. 3. That's wrong, you say? The elections weren't until Tuesday.

Yeah, but we're not talking politics. We're talking about something more important — the annual grid-picks contest.

Before a vote was ever cast on Nov. 5, Farmington Observer sports editor Dan O'Meara was declared the winner of the 1996 contest.

The deciding game was the Catholic League Prop Bowl in which Detroit Catholic Central defeated Birmingham Brother Rico, 28-0, Sunday night at the Silverdome.

O'Meara was 10-4 on the final weekend and 108-28 for the season.

Livonia/Westland sports editor and defending champion Brad Emmons finished 9-5 and 107-27.

O'Meara has won two of the last four years and holds a 7-3 advantage in the friendly, decade-long rivalry.

Vikings in Super Bowl

The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Vikings freshman football team has earned a berth in the Western Suburban Junior Football League's Super Bowl game.

The Vikings advanced to the championship game with a 12-6 playoff victory Sunday over the Ypsilanti Braves at Garden City High School.

NFWB will play the Dearborn Redskins in the Super Bowl at noon Sunday. The game will be played at Plymouth-Canton.

The Vikings defeated the Redskins 29-19 in the season opener. Both teams are 8-1.

In their first playoff game, the freshmen did all of their scoring in the first quarter.

Gary Kennedy capped a seven-play, 55-yard drive on NFWB's first possession with a 1-yard run. NFWB scored the next time and had the ball as Andy Mackellar ran 56 yards for a touchdown.

Henrik Petersen led the Viking defense with 12 tackles. Drew Kasperzak, Alex Petersen, Ray Larkins, Nick Morell and Chad Burns did the blocking on the offensive line.

Soccer coaching clinic

The Farmington Soccer Club will conduct a U.S. Soccer Federation E License coaching class from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, at Warner Middle School, located on 14 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, in Farmington. (The E License is a pre-requisite for a D license to coach Premier League teams.)

The cost is \$25 for all three sessions. (Spaces are limited so register early to insure a spot.)

Checks, which should include name, address, age and phone number, must be made payable to: Farmington Soccer Club, C/O Andrew Gordon, 38927 Plumbrook Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331.

For more information, call (810) 489-5741.

New Year's Eve Run

The 27th Annual New Year's Eve Fun Run/Walk will be Tuesday, Dec. 31, at Belle Isle.

The children's and open one-mile run/walk starts at 4 p.m. followed by the four-mile run, competitive racewalk and fitness walk at 4:30 p.m.

The entry fee (before Dec. 26) is \$12 (children under 12) and \$15 (adult). Late fees are \$15 and \$20, respectively. To be guaranteed a long-sleeved shirt, you must sign up before Dec. 23. The entry fee also includes awards, food and beverages.

For more information, call (313) 886-5560 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fax Farmington sports news to (313) 591-7279.

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