

Moore's buzzer-beater lifts CC to win

BY STEVE KOWALEKI
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Catholic Central junior guard Nick Moore made two free throws with 3.5 seconds left Wednesday to tie host Southfield, 72-72, in a Class A boys basketball district semifinal game.

Before anyone could say overtime, Moore provided an encore.

Incredibly, Moore made a steal from a Southfield guard at half-court, turned and heaved the ball before the buzzer sounded straight through the basket to give CC a 75-72 win.

Being an 80 percent free throw shooter, his two swishes at the free throw line were far more predictable than the half-court shot.

BASKETBALL

"A shot like that is once in a lifetime," Moore said. "When I let it go I see it on the line and I just kept running to the baseline (before getting mobbed by his teammates). I knew I could hit the free throws and I went to the line calmly. We're glad to get it in regulation. The crowd was rowdy and they were feeding off it."

Moore can tell his children about his heroics and even show them the film as the Channel 7 television crew was there.

He might also need to show it to CC senior guard Joe Jonna, just to refresh his memory. Jonna had to leave the game with a groggy head after a first-

half collision.

He returned late in the fourth quarter and finished with 10 points after making a three-point shot during the Shamrocks' rally.

The win sends CC, 17-4 overall, to Friday's district final to play Detroit Redford. Redford eliminated the Shamrocks in last year's district final and lost in the Class A title game to Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills.

Moore and senior center Chris Young led CC with 17 points each. Don Slankster had 13 and Joe Jonna 10. Rob Sparks contributed nine.

Southfield guard Joe Shephard, a Central Michigan signee, had a game-high 26.

"I used to play (AAU) with Shephard and knew he's a hell of

a player," Moore said. "I talked to him last week on the phone and he told me he's tired of seeing us beat Southfield over the years."

CC enjoyed a 12-point first-half lead but Southfield caught the Shamrocks after Young went to the bench with foul trouble in the second quarter.

Southfield held a 49-48 lead through three quarters and led for 7 minutes 55.5 seconds of the fourth.

Young scored seven points in the final two minutes, including two dunks, to rally the Shamrocks back from a 68-63 deficit.

Southfield still led 69-65 after Michael Mitchell split a pair of free throws with just over a minute left. A three-point play by Young cut the deficit to 69-68

before Southfield went back ahead by three seconds later with a layup to break a full-court press.

Young followed with a dunk with 13.6 seconds later to make the CC deficit 71-70 and Mitchell split two more free throws to set the stage for Moore's heroics.

CC coach Rick Coratti can't get anymore gray hairs from these last-second outcomes but he might have a few sleepless nights.

"When Nick went to the foul line for two free throws I said 'We're going to overtake,'" Coratti said. "I felt in that situation he'd hit them. (Moore's) heaven was looking good and I said 'That has a chance of going in.'"

More than a chance.

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decided to take it right in (to the basket).

"And good old Lemar! That's why we've won 18 games. You can't concentrate on one guy. If you leave Louis alone because he's an all-state tackle, he goes and gets six, seven, eight points on you."

"They're a team that has consistently found a way to win all year," Swinehart said of the Hawks. "You're going to be as good as your seniors, and Mike has a nice group of seniors."

"Lewis stepped up big. He works hard; he battles; he's intense. I have a lot of respect for him and the way he plays the game."

"For much of the game, it seemed as if the teams were playing in slow-motion. Turnovers and missed shots, especially early in the game, helped to keep the score low."

"The score was tied at halftime, 17-17, but Harrison made five of seven third-quarter shots to take a 30-26 lead."

"They are the hardest team for us to match up with," Teuchman said. "They play four guards and one time Lewis was guarding a guard."

"The casual basketball fan can't see the real match-up problems we have with those guys."

Hopkins plays defense against one of their guards. They're faster than he is, and they're running him through picks. Then he has to play offense and he's tired. Fortunately, we play 10, 11 guys."

Just as in the first game, the Hawks played on their heels and allowed North to set the pace, he added.

"That's the way we wanted it," Swinehart said. "If it's a low-scoring game, we knew we could be in it, and you're looking at two of the better defensive teams in Oakland County."

"We wanted it to be close. It was and the shot didn't fall at the end."

Falcons rally in finale

The situation didn't look good for Farmington, which trailed 36-29 after three quarters and was unable to that point to make a run at West Bloomfield.

But the Falcons (14-7) came to life in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Lakers, 28-15.

Farmington had little success until then at getting the ball to its ace, senior center Trevor Gaines, but he busted loose for 15 of his game-high 27 points in the last period.

"We just decided we were going to get out of our zone and

change to a man-to-man defense," Farmington coach Donny Mikel said.

"It was a gamble because West Bloomfield is a little quicker than us, but it seemed West Bloomfield was content to still shoot perimeter shots instead of taking the ball to the basket on us. Fortunately for us, they weren't hitting them like they were early in the game."

"Basically, we said, at the end of the third, 'The game is getting away from us; now is the time to step up.'"

After making nine of 25 shots through three quarters, the Falcons were 9-of-15 in the fourth to finish just under 60 percent for the game.

Gaines, who also had 15 rebounds and five blocked shots, and Justin Milus controlled the defensive glass and got Farmington into a transition game in the last period.

Milus finished with 12 points, Matt Mikel seven and Matt Orr five. Brandon Grant scored 14 points, Cordney Petty 13, Randy Weselman nine (all in the first half) and Matt Wilde seven for West Bloomfield (10-12).

"Trevor always gets the accolades, but it was a team effort," coach Mikel said, adding a number of players subbed in and

played well. "In the fourth quarter, we had three sophomores and a freshman on the floor at one time, and all of them did a good job."

The Falcons struggled from the start and led just once in the second quarter when Gaines, Orr and Milus combined for a 6-0 run that put Farmington on top, 16-14.

The Lakers quickly erased their deficit and led 27-21 at halftime as Grant and Petty scored six points each in the second quarter.

"We couldn't get in sync," Mikel said. "It seemed like we were playing at a very slow speed. We seemed to be playing very cautiously."

"In the fourth quarter, we decided we needed to go out, match up and play some pressure defense. That's the way it's been all year. It seems the defense triggers our offense."

"People might wonder 'Why don't you play aggressive all the time?' We're the kind of team that has to put it on and take it off."

"We got the momentum on our side at the end again. If you've got it on your side at the end, the chances are good you're going to win."

"We've had some real inconsis-

tent quarters this year and some quarters when we've just blown people out."

Farmington outscored West Bloomfield 11-2 to start the fourth quarter. As he did Friday in a come-from-behind win over Walled Lake Central, Gaines scored six straight points to put the Falcons ahead for only the second time, 40-38.

His free throws later made it 48-42, but the Lakers stayed close, 50-48, when Petty made a three with a minute remaining.

"When it's crunch time, Trevor says we're not going to lose and he's going to do anything he can to get us a win," Mikel said. "We get the ball to him and he makes the shot; he gets the putbacks and big rebounds. He's been a rock, and he's played that way all year."

Matt Mikel scored the rest of Farmington's points, sinking five of six free throws. He's shooting 85 percent (35-of-41) at the line for the season.

Farmington was 18-of-40 from the floor and 13-of-23 at the line; West Bloomfield was 22-of-60 and 4-of-7.

Harrison made 16 of 38 field goals and six of 12 free throws. North sank 14 of 50 attempts from the floor and 10 of 12 free throws.

BASKETBALL

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.
ALL-WLAA BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

ALL-CONFERENCE: Todd Negoshian, senior, Walled Lake Central; Matt Derocher, senior, Farmington; Harrison: Andy Power, senior, Plymouth Salem; Jeff McElroy, senior, Plymouth Salem; Trevor Gaines, senior, Farmington; Eric Jones, sophomore, Westland John Glenn.

ALL-WESTERN DIVISION: David Teradeda, senior, Northville; Corey Cook, senior, Livonia Churchill; Joe Cortellini, junior, Plymouth Canton; Ben Dwyer, junior, Walled Lake Western; Karsten Smatt, senior, Farmington; Harrison: Jared Hopkins, senior, Farmington; Harrison: ALL-LAKES DIVISION: Dwayne Patel, senior, Plymouth Salem; Ray Louisa, senior, North Farmington; Emil Medunjanin, sophomore, North Farmington; Stephen Lawson, junior, Westland John Glenn; Cory Heitsch, junior, Walled Lake Central.

ALL-CATHOLIC LEAGUE
CENTRAL DIVISION

All-Catholic: Sam Hoskin, senior, Redford Bishop Borgess; Aaron Jessup, senior, Redford Bishop Borgess; Nick Moore, junior, Redford Catholic Central; Jon Poyer, senior, Birmingham Brother Rice; Whitney Robinson, senior, Harper Woods Notre Dame; Chris Young, senior, Redford Catholic Central.

All-Leagues: Vince Alexander, junior, University of Detroit-Jesuit; Ron Austin, senior, Birmingham Brother Rice; Andy Dold, senior, Harper Woods Notre Dame; Joe Jonna, senior, Redford Catholic Central; Kevin Jordan, senior, Redford Bishop Borgess; J.P. Sullivan, senior, Birmingham Brother Rice.

All-Academic: Joe Clinton, senior, University of Detroit-Jesuit; John Lemerato, senior, Warren DeLaSalle; John Marchand, senior, Harper Woods Notre Dame; Matt McDonald, senior, Birmingham Brother Rice; Don Slankster, senior, Redford Catholic Central; James Williams, senior, Redford Bishop Borgess.

Coach of the Year: Rick Coratti, Redford CC.

C/D WEST DIVISION

All-Catholic: Jamal Harrison, senior, Detroit Loyola; Dallas Logan, sophomore, Detroit Loyola; William Moore, senior, Detroit Loyola; Mark Russ, senior, Dearborn St. Agatha; Ian Winchester, senior, Redford St. Agatha.

All-Leagues: Donavan Allen, senior, Redford St. Agatha; Cerde Enrique, senior, Wyandotte Mount Carmel; Jessie Holloway, sophomore, Taylor Light and Life; Eric Jones, senior, Redford St. Agatha; Jason Siller, junior, Detroit Loyola; Travis Spencer, sophomore, Dearborn St. Agatha.

All-Academic: Will Bloomfield, senior, Wyandotte Mount Carmel; Pat Cavanaugh, senior, Dearborn St. Agatha; Chris Holloway, senior, Taylor Light and Life; Gregory Pauldo, junior, Detroit Loyola; Kevin Smith, senior, Redford St. Agatha.

Coach of the Year: Robert Brown, Detroit Loyola.

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