

Mustangs shock Rocks in final, 71-65

BY NEAL ZIPERER
STAFF WRITER

The long hours of basketball practice started nearly five months ago, and the long hours put in by the veteran Plymouth Salem squad proved to be well worth it.

The senior-laden team cruised through its regular season, winning 17 of its 20 games. But all that hard work came unraveled in a two-minute span Friday.

The Rocks, heavy favorites in the Class A district at Novi, were upset by Northville, 71-65.

Senior David Terakedis poured in 39 points for the Mustangs, including 14 in the decisive fourth quarter. The guard, who holds the school record for career points, hit 12 of 14 free throws down the stretch.

The Mustangs (12-10) won their first district title since 1982. They advance to Wednesday's regional semifinals at Salem to play Detroit Central.

"It's time for a new banner (in

BASKETBALL

the gym), Northville coach Scott Baldwin said.

"But I'm not surprised at all. I'm absolutely delighted with the team. We needed big games from our senior guards (Terakedis and Kelly Bingley), and we got huge games from them."

Junior center Marshall Knapp added 18 points for Northville. Bingley chipped in seven.

Salem (19-4) was led by forward Jeff McKinn, who ended his career with 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists. Eshvin Patel and Tony Janesewski added 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Senior guard Matt Mair, who had been one of Salem's hottest players the last three games, was limited to six points before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

Senior guard Andy Power, playing with a sprained ankle, finished with nine points, nailing three of 11 triples.

"I thought we had a chance," Terakedis said. "We've been up and down all year and, with Power hurt, I knew we had a chance."

The Rocks defeated the Mustangs, 63-43, in January and, for three quarters Friday, it appeared they were on their way to a second victory.

The Rocks took a 54-44 lead with 7:03 remaining, but a three-pointer by Terakedis ignited an 11-0 run by the Mustangs.

"We were up by 10 but it didn't seem like it," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We were skating on thin ice in the fourth quarter, like we have this whole district."

Brodie referred to Salem's sluggish, 47-34 victory over Novi on Monday and its 44-42 thriller over Canton on Wednesday.

In Northville's rally, Salem committed four consecutive turnovers. Knapp hit three baskets and Bingley a big triple.

"We switched from zone to a man defense in the fourth quar-

ter and our kids responded," Baldwin said.

"We didn't attack well and they got nine points off our turnovers," Brodie said. "That run shocked us. I tried to get them to call a time out, but it all happened so fast."

"It caught us back on our heels. We just didn't do a good job taking care of the ball."

A jumper by Knapp gave the Mustangs the lead for good at 58-57 with 3:30 left. Terakedis scored the last 11 points for Northville — all from the free-throw line.

"We tried to play different defenses on him," Brodie said, "but we'd put a shoulder on him when he drove and he'd score or get fouled."

Northville outscored Salem 30-16 in the fourth quarter.

"We didn't take them lightly," Brodie said. "In the districts, no lead is safe, and records don't matter. You can see that in our last two games."



District tourney: Joe Jonna of Farmington and Catholic Central protects the ball from Redford's Sideeq Haqq.

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Farmington won without a big point total from senior center Trevor Gaines, who was well under his 20-plus average with 12 points. But he was dominant at the defensive end with six blocks and 20 rebounds.

Sophomore Justin Milus tossed in 21 points, including the winning basket in the final half minute. Senior Matt Orr and sophomore Todd Anthony added eight points apiece, including two triples.

Junior Lamar Wilson led the Hawks with 10 points. Senior Matt Derocher scored eight, junior Andrew Burt seven, seniors Jerrard Johnson and Jared Hopkins six each.

Orr figured prominently in the outcome, making two big plays in the final minute. With the score tied at 41, he tossed an alley-oop pass to Milus for a back-door layup with 27.5 seconds remaining.

"I saw Brian Lewis go to double team Trevor, and Justin was pointing in the sky, so I threw it to him, and he put it in," Orr said. "It was communication, eye contact."

Harrison had trouble setting up for a final shot but got the

ball to senior Kareem Smart in the low post. Orr moved in from the wing to knock his shot away and guarantee Farmington the victory.

(Smart) got right under the basket," Orr said. "My man was on the three-point line, so I dropped down. He pump-faked and that gave me enough time to get there. When he brought it up a second time, I hit it from behind."

The Hawks took charge of the scoreboard in the third quarter, leading 34-25 at the end, and seemed on their way to winning the school's first district title when Andrew Burt extended the lead to 38-26 with just over five minutes remaining.

But it was all Falcons after that. As it did Wednesday when it rallied from a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat West Bloomfield, 55-51, Farmington switched from a zone defense to a man-to-man.

"It was getting late," Mikel said. "The game was starting to get away from us. We couldn't sit in the zone. We had to try to create some turnovers and change the momentum of the game."

The Falcons did that, starting with back-to-back threes by Anthony and Orr. Two free throws by Gaines put Farmington back in the game, trailing 38-34 with 2 1/2 minutes to play.

Farmington went to a full-court press and forced consecutive turnovers on two Harrison inbound plays.

The Falcons converted each time, Anthony hitting his double three of the quarter and Orr double pumping in the lane to put

Farmington on top, 39-38.

Gaines rebounded the missed free throw after an attempted three-point play by Orr and gave Farmington a 41-38 lead before Derocher sank a triple to tie with 1:28 remaining.

"When we were up one, after Todd Anthony hit that shot, I knew," Milus said. "We came together in the fourth quarter. That's when we play our best basketball."

"This is one of the greatest moments in my life. At the end of the third quarter, everyone's head was down a bit, but we picked it up and hit the big shots."

The score was tied at halftime, 19-19, but Hopkins got hot in the third quarter. He hit three of four shots and scored six points as Harrison outscored Farmington 15-6 to lead, 34-25.

The Hawks had found a way to win all season, Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, but this time it was the Falcons who did.

"Our 18-4 record is a funny 18-4," he said. "We didn't blow people out. We had to overachieve to win games. We play on a short margin of error, especially since we rely on the jump shot."

"(The Falcons won) by doing something they're not good at. They're a zone team. When they (switched to a man) we went back on our heels and stopped playing. You have to give them credit."

Farmington also avenged a 46-41 loss to Harrison during the regular season. Mikel and his players said they were eager for the rematch, believing the Falcons didn't play well in the first meeting.

"The seniors on this team won five games last year and four the year before," Mikel said. "That's when I wasn't a very good coach. All of a sudden, Trevor gets good and I can really coach."

The seniors had a couple long seasons, so it's a nice reward for them. It's just a great win for our kids."

Besides the loss, Teachman was sorry to see the season end because six seniors leave the program, including Lewis and Jason Sharp. Derocher, Hopkins and Lewis were four-year varsity players.

"Basketball doesn't mean a thing right now," Teachman said. "We have 15 of the greatest people I've ever been around, and I have to say it over. Every practice was pure joy because of them."

"Basketball-wise, there are some woulda, coulda, shouldas. Human being-wise, there's nothing (to regret); they gave their all."

"I probably spent 250 days in the last four years with the five senior captains, and it's hard just to lose that daily relationship. I want to be around good people — and there you are."

The Falcons made 15 of 56 field goals, including four of 23 behind the arc, and sank three of seven free throws. The Hawks were 17-of-59 from the floor, 3-of-17 from long distance and 4-of-10 at the line.

CORRECTION: A story in the March 12 edition of the Farmington Observer reported incorrect numbers regarding Farmington's shooting stats in its win over West Bloomfield. The Falcons made 21 of 50 shots for 42 percent with no three-point field goals Wednesday. They were 23-of-23 at the free-throw line as reported for a total of 55 points.

CC thumps Redford in tournament final

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Strange things are supposed to happen on a Friday the 13th.

And something did in Detroit Catholic Central's 74-56 district final victory over Detroit Redford at Southfield High School.

Saddled with foul trouble and on the bench for much of the second half, 6-foot-10 senior center Chris Young scored just seven points for CC.

But the slack was more than taken up as four Shamrocks scored in double figures. Rob Sparks led the way with 19 points, including three triples.

"When something like that happens," CC coach Rick Coratti said of Young's foul trouble, "the kids seem to come together. They played well."

The Shamrocks (18-4) face Detroit Cooley next in regional play 7 p.m. Tuesday at Dearborn Fordson.

Cooley beat CC by two points in a regional game two years ago when it was ruled that time expired before the Shamrocks were allowed to shoot three free throws.

"They're similar to Redford," Coratti said. "I think we'll have a good chance."

The district final started out as any thing but a rout Friday. CC moved ahead 11-7 in the first quarter as Don Slankster and Young scored.

The Shamrocks added to that margin by the end of the quarter and led 18-13. Redford rallied in the second, however.

Down 22-16, the Huskies' Sideeq Haqq made a pair of free

throws and nailed a three-pointer to cut the deficit to one.

Redford took the lead moments later. Senior guard Jason Washington made a three-pointer from the wing to put the Huskies up 26-24 at 4:54.

The teams took turns stealing the lead. Redford wound up with a 33-32 advantage at halftime.

Omar Ziegler, a 6-foot 5 senior, led the charge with nine first-half points. Haqq also had nine, including seven in the second quarter.

CC's hopes appeared to dim when Young picked up his fourth foul with 4:57 left in the fourth. CC led 39-35 at the time, but the game was still up for grabs.

A Slankster tip-in followed by a Joe Jonna three-pointer pushed the lead to 44-35. Redford fought back with a pair of baskets to cut the margin to five.

Jonna made sure the Huskies didn't continue their run. The senior guard drained back-to-back three-pointers to put his team up 50-35.

CC held a 12-point lead by the end of the period. That margin grew to as many as 20 in the final frame with Redford unable to mount a rally.

Coratti was proud of CC's effort and cited second-half rebounding as the difference.

"We did the same things defensively that we did in the first half," Coratti said. "But we held them to one shot. We rebounded much better in the second half."

Slankster scored 16 points, Jonna 15 and Nick Moore 12.

Haqq scored 15 points and Ziegler 13 for the Huskies (15-5).

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