

# Raiders boost confidence in victory over Bulldogs

The confidence level of the players on the North Farmington girls basketball team has to be sky high following a major victory Thursday.

The Raiders defeated previously-unbeaten Brighton, a much bigger Class A school, in the loser's gym, 43-40. Both teams are 2-1 overall.

Senior Katie Vihelcic scored a game-high 22 points and "was awesome on the boards," according to coach Linda Perkins, with 13 rebounds.

Sophomores Samantha McComb finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals and six assists. Sophomore Brittany Vihelcic accounted for North's remaining two points.

Katie Vihelcic had 10 points in the second quarter when the Raiders outscored the Bulldogs 17-8 to erase a first-quarter deficit of 13-10 and take a 27-21 halftime lead.

"She was going hard to the hoop and Samantha had some good assists to her, hitting her down court and posting up," Perkins said.

"(McComb) does a good job of getting the ball to her and letting her know when she's playing with her back to the basket, how the defense is playing her."

The Raiders extended their lead to 35-25 after three quarters and withstood a Brighton rally in the final period in which the Bulldogs had a 15-8 advantage.

"We just tried to maintain the lead by taking care of the ball," Perkins said, adding Katie Vihelcic and McComb never came out of the game. "We were trying to slow it up and take some minutes off the clock. The kids did a good job of holding up."

Libby Voshell scored 13 points and Brittany Henson, the younger sister of University of Michigan freshman quarterback Drew Henson, nine for the Bulldogs, who were 6-of-13 shooting free throws. The Raiders were 14-of-19 at the line.

"It was a great victory and a great team effort," Perkins said, adding North's other varsity players — Katie Gaffey, Christi-

## BASKETBALL

na Colombo, Kelly McKeon and Courtney Camp — made key contributions as well.

"Even though the stats don't reflect that the other players, they did a great job playing their roles. They did a good job taking care of the ball, running the motion offense and doing the basics right. I'm very proud of everyone tonight."

"(The win) really showed our girls what they're capable of doing."

**NOVI 81, HARRISON 47:** The Wildcats had the final say Thursday after the host Hawks had rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter and taken the lead. Harrison trailed 40-26 at the end of the third period but outscored Novi 23-8 to claim a one-point lead with 1:48 remaining.

Senior Ali Ault scored 11 of her 14 points in the fourth quarter and sophomore Kelly Taylor seven of her game-high 19 points.

Furthermore, Harrison made its comeback without senior Ari Ault, who fouled out early in the final period, and junior Cassie Jamison, who missed the game due to illness.

In addition to Ali Ault and Taylor, senior Charlotte Blashfield, sophomore Kerilyn Knutson and junior Ciera Colbert were on the floor for the Hawks during their rally.

"It was an unbelievable comeback with that five and without Ari Ault," Harrison coach Pete Mantyle said. "We struggled for a long time, but we were able to put a group together that played well."

After the Hawks took the lead, Ali Ault fouled out, too. Harrison missed two wide-open shots and committed two turnovers, opening the way for Novi to score the last five points and win the game.

Knutson added seven and Ari Ault six points for the Hawks (1-3). Susie Roble followed with 13 points and Carrie Brankiewicz had 12. Brankiewicz also had 14 rebounds and Drennan 13.

"Jessie just took over the game in the fourth quarter," coach Dave Collins said, adding Brennan had 10 points in that quarter as Mercy outscored Pioneer, 19-14, to cement the victory.

"Nobody was in foul trouble and we played well in every quarter. Scoring 60 points on the road is a good offensive sign."

Angie Filicchia scored 12 points and Sarah Blacksher nine for the Pioneers (2-3).

The Marlins, who were 12-17 at the free-throw line, trailed 13-10 after one quarter but led 28-25 at halftime and 41-35 at the end of three periods.

In their first game Tuesday at Grosse Pointe South, the Marlins trailed but fell one point short, losing to the Blue Devils, 55-54.

Fouls were a problem for Mercy as Brennan and Roble sat on the bench for 15 minutes each.

Roble still managed to score a game-high 18 points and Brennan 11. Brankiewicz also had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

"We were up two when Susie and Jessie went out," Collins said. "We were down 13 when they re-entered the game. That pretty much tells the story."

"When your two best players sit next to you on the bench, you're not going to win."

Collins added Brankiewicz has played two excellent all-around games as a scorer, rebounder and defender despite giving up an average of four fouls and 30 pounds at the post position.

Scarlett O'Keefe scored 14 points and Beth Henson 10 for South. Mercy made 21 of 42 free throws.

"We have a nice team," Collins added. "Ann Arbor is a very good team. For us to beat them up there and score 60 points, I was really pleased with the girls."

"I think we're going to be competitive, and I'm impressed with the way we're playing."

The Marlins will be host for the Mercy boys Classic this week. They will play Birmingham Seaholm in the first round at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday.

**STEVENSON 65, THURSTON 40:** Things keep dropping into place for the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team. The Spartans (3-1) jumped to an 18-8 lead Thursday and went to beat host Redford Thurston (1-3). Erica Cotton, a freshman guard, scored 17 points while junior guard Kelly Grenan contributed 13.

In a losing cause for the Eagles (1-3). The forwards did the damage for Stevenson. Junior Kate LeBlanc scored 18 points, Stephanie Dutz had 13 points plus eight rebounds and junior Cassie Ehlers scored 12 and had five rebounds.

The Spartans added five points to their 10-point first-quarter margin to post a 33-18 halftime lead.

## WEEK AHEAD

**PREP FOOTBALL**  
Friday, Sept. 11  
Wayne at Fordson, 7 p.m.  
Thurston at Crestwood, 7 p.m.  
Redford Union at Woodhaven, 7 p.m.  
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Franklin at Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.  
Churchill at Salem (CPI), 7:30 p.m.  
Edsel Ford at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.  
Luth. W. at Luth. East, 7:30 p.m.  
A.P. Cabini at Clarendonville, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 12  
Harrison at Farmington, 1 p.m.  
W.L. Western at N. Farm., 1 p.m.  
St. Agatha at St. Florian, 1 p.m.  
Bishop Borgosa vs. Bishop Gallagher at Roselle Memorial, 2 p.m.  
Redford CC vs. Holy Home (Ont.), at RU at West Ford, 7 p.m.  
Farmington at Farmington, 7 p.m.

**HS BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday, Sept. 8  
Bishop Borgosa at Brighton, 7 p.m.  
Ledywood at G.P. North, 7 p.m.  
Det. Urban at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Garden City at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Wyandotte at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Canton at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.  
Novi at Farmington, 7 p.m.  
N. Farm. at Waterford Mont., 7 p.m.  
Brighton at Harrison, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 9  
(Mercy Hoops Classic)  
Mercy vs. Seaholm, 7:15 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 10  
Luth. East at Luth. W. at 4:30 p.m.  
Luth. & Life at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.  
St. Lyon at Farmington, 7 p.m.  
Middletown at Farmington, 7 p.m.  
Thurston at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.  
Trenton at Garden City, 7 p.m.  
Huron Valley vs. Macomb Christian at Marshall Middle School, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11  
A.A. Pioneer at Ledywood, 7 p.m.  
Clarendonville at PCA, 7:30 p.m.  
(4th annual Schocklery Tourney)  
Country Day vs. W. Bloom., 8 p.m.  
Marion vs. Oak Park, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 12  
Bishop Borgosa at Salem, 3 p.m.  
Mercy Hoops Classic, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.  
Schocklery Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.

**BOYS SOCCER**  
Tuesday, Sept. 8  
DeLaSalle at Redford CC, 4 p.m.  
Phy. Christian at Fairlane, 4:30 p.m.  
Lathrup at Clarendonville, 7 p.m.  
Churchill at Roch. Adams, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 9  
Fordson at Garden City, 4 p.m.  
Thurston at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m.  
Clarendonville at Uggatt, 4:30 p.m.  
Wayne at Oak. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
Stevenson at N. Farm., 5:30 p.m.  
W.L. Western at Harrison, 5:30 p.m.  
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.  
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.  
Farmington at Salem (CPI), 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 10  
Luth. East at Luth. W. at 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 11  
John Glenn at Garden City, 4 p.m.  
Allen Park at Thurston, 4 p.m.  
BU at Taylor Kennedy, 4 p.m.  
PCA at Oak. Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
Agape at Luth. Western, 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 12  
Roch. Adams at Redford CC, 1 p.m.  
Canton at DeLaSalle, 3 p.m.

# Falcons dominate Patriots, Panthers

## SOCCER

Farmington scored the last four goals Wednesday to turn a one-goal lead over visiting Livonia Franklin into a 6-1 victory in boys soccer.

The Falcons led 2-0 lead at halftime, but the Patriots made it a one-goal difference in the first minute of the second half.

Karl Lopata scored for Farmington a short time later, "and it was all Farmington after that," coach Luke Juncaj said, adding the Falcons outshot the Patriots, 23-10.

"We played, by far, our best game of the season," he said. "I expected this to be a close game, and we really came out ready for this game and dominated."

Farmington's Tim Rais and Andrew Buck scored two goals apiece, and Nick Ramirez accounted for the other one. Buck, Ramirez and Nate Meyer also had one assist apiece.

Matt Gasparotto was in goal the whole game for the Falcons, who improved to 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Gasparotto earned his third shutout of the season Friday when Farmington riddled Redford Union, 6-0. He turned back eight shots.

Rais and Ramirez each scored twice for the Falcons, now 4-1 overall, while Buck and David Twendey notched one apiece.

Patrick Falcon had a pair of assists and Justin Gerwatowski, Ramirez, Twendey and Kenta Tashima had one each. Farmington held a 4-0 lead at the half.

After playing Farmington Harrison to a scoreless draw in the first half Monday, Ramirez and Gerwatowski scored two goals each in Farmington's 4-0 victory.

Stephen Wayne had two assists, Ramirez and Rais on each. Gasparotto was credited with the shutout. The Falcons outshot the Hawks, 24-3.

"We controlled the game in the first half but failed to finish," Juncaj said.

The Falcons opened the season in a tournament at Detroit Country Day, losing to Birmingham Seaholm 3-0 and defeating Dearborn Edsel Ford 3-0.

"We're getting better with each game," Juncaj said. "At the beginning, we didn't play aggressively enough, but the team is really improving on that and playing as a team right now."

"They'll be difficult games against the bigger schools in our league, but we're going to be competitive if we keep playing like we did this week."

**N. FARMINGTON 4, WEST BLOOM. 2:** North Farmington continued its best start Friday by doubling up visiting West Bloomfield.

The Raiders, now 7-2-1 overall, received two goals from senior Craig Hearn in the victory. But it was Chris Erickson's first goal as a varsity player with 6:29 remaining that put the game away.

"This has been a good rivalry; the last three meetings have been decided by one goal," North coach Ron Meteyer said.

Hearn scored his first goal just 33 seconds into the game after receiving a pass from Brian Horr. Viktor Juncaj made it 2-0 with a left-foot shot. Tony Munaco and Andrew Hatheway assisted.

Hearn's 15th goal of the season made it 3-1 early in the second half with Horr and Jim Gabriel drawing assists. After West Bloomfield closed the gap to 3-2, Erickson put the game away.

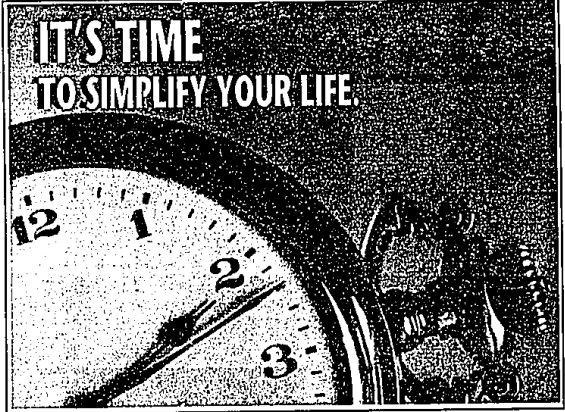
On Wednesday, North battled to a 3-3 tie at Walled Lake Western. Justin Street opened the scoring 58 seconds into the game (Juncaj assist). Erickson and Gjon Djokaj then set up Hearn for a goal.

It was 2-1 for North at the 18-minute mark, but Street was given a red card. Despite being short a man, Hearn scored on a breakaway on a play set up by Horr. Western scored two late goals for the tie.

"The kids on defense were amazing," Meteyer said. "They made some great saves. In particular, the foursome of Nat Evory, Kyle Meteyer, Andrew Hatheway and Eric Phillips played great."

On Monday, North lost to visiting Livonia Churchill, 6-1, despite outshooting the Chargers 13-12. Hearn scored North's only goal, which was assisted by Juncaj.

"We really thought we could beat them this year," Meteyer said. "We outplayed them in every way except for goals. We had six shots from inside five yards and just couldn't put it in the net."



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