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throws.

"He's been our best foul shooter the last three years. When we get in that situation, the kids know we're going to get the ball in Matt's hands."

"We had a great look at the end," Negoshian said. "They doubled Phil. Emir kicked it ahead, and Brian had a wide-open look. You can't ask for more than that. The kids worked hard and fought to stay in it."

Matt Mikel led Farmington with 12 points, which included two threes. Senior Mark Green added eight.

Medunjanin scored a game-high 13 points for North. Watha, who made two threes, had 11 points. Shulman and Mike Patterson added five apiece.

"We played man (defense) straight up with emphasis on Emir and Watha," Mikel said. "We tried to isolate Emir one-on-one, and Justin Mitus did a good job until he got in foul trouble. Mike Griffie came in and did a good job, too."

"Chad (Seaborn) had the job of guarding Phil. We told him 'Don't leave him to give any help. Stay with him all the time, because they like to pass it in

and pass it out.' We didn't want to give Phil any open looks."

"Farmington played a great game; (the Falcons) played great defense and deserved to win," Negoshian said. "I thought they did a very good job on Phil and Emir. They came ready to play and they played hard."

Farmington scored the last six points of the first quarter to lead 11-6. North scored the first 12 of the second to take the biggest lead for either team, 18-11.

The Falcons rallied to tie, 21-21, but Watha hit a last-second three to put the Raiders on top at halftime, 24-21.

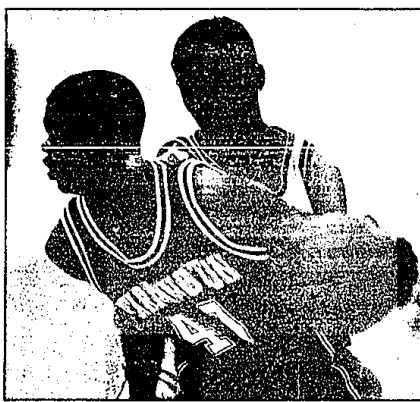
Mike Patterson's putback basket late in the third quarter gave North a 34-33 lead heading into the finale.

Farmington shot 49 percent from the floor (16-of-33), making seven of 12 triples and made five of seven free throws.

North was 15-of-36 from the field for 42 percent. The Raiders were 5-of-14 from three-point distance and 6-of-12 at the line.

In the two days prior to the game, the Falcons had one-hour practices each day due to volleyball and wrestling matches.

"We didn't feel we got the kind



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEXLER

Prep hoops: Farmington's Mike Griffie looks for the next pass while being guarded by North's Phil Watha.

of work in we needed to get in for this game, but I couldn't ask any more from the kids," Mikel said. "They just played their hearts out."

"Tom has a nice club and, obviously, his team will be there right to the finish. This Western Lakes will probably go right down to the last week."

Trojans, Warriors clash for top spot

The Road to the

First place in the Metro Conference boys basketball race and Observerland bragging rights are at stake Tuesday as Livonia Classical (9-4, 4-0) travels to Lutheran High Westland (7-9, 2-0). Game time is 7 p.m.

On Friday, Clarks Summit won its seventh in a row behind the late-game heroics of Rick Burack in a 55-50 win at Harper Woods.

Lutheran Westland, behind Charlie Hunt's 25 points, also kept pace with a 57-50 triumph at Glenfield Hills Cranbrook.

Burack, the 6-foot-3-point forward, finished with 21 points and five assists. He also had the game-winning

shot with nine seconds left

and came to within three feet of the basket. Clarks Summit won 55-50 with 11:10 left and one second on a play by Steve Wilson (15 points) and Eric Haskins (10 points) and a free throw by Burack.

Clarks Summit's senior forward Corey Moore led the Warriors with a game-high 24 points. In Lutheran Westland's 57-50 triumph over Glenfield Hills, Haskins contributed 11 points, including a couple of key baskets during the final quarter to spark a comeback. Haskins also had 10 assists. Moore had 18 points for Clarks Summit. Steve Wilson scored 14. Cranbrook led 50-41 at halftime.

Salem basketball player dies after collapsing at halftime

BY C.J. BEHAN

Salem, Mass., Jan. 29 (UPI)—A 17-year-old basketball player died after collapsing at halftime during a game Friday.

The importance of this game was getting over the 500 mark—a big victory.

None of it meant very much to Plymouth Salem's basketball team Friday. The Rocks did emerge from their home game with Livonia Stevenson with a 65-55 victory.

But shortly after the game, at a gathering at one of the player's homes, Salem coach Bob Brodie and his coaching staff delivered the awful news.

Mark Bolger, one of their teammates, was dead.

Moments after Salem had

bombarded Stevenson with a 22-2 second-quarter run to open up a 37-17 halftime lead, Bolger collapsed in the locker room.

An ambulance transported Bolger to St. Mary's Hospital

in Livonia while the second half was under way. The 17-year-old player died of a heart attack.

The cause of the death was not immediately known, Brodie said. "I don't know anything," he said. "I passed away. They don't know what caused it."

Bolger was a 6-foot-3 guard who played in the junior varsity last season.

Mark McKeethy led Salem with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Andy Kozak had 12 points and Mike Trueman eight, with 14 rebounds. Keshay McChristian scored 14, Mike Lenardson 13 and Harland Beverly 12 for Stevenson.

Salem is 8-5 overall, 3-3 in the Western Lakes. Stevenson is 2-9 and 0-5.

Hawks lose in OT second time in week

Farmington Harrison scored the last basket in regulation—a short banker by Joe Handley with two seconds left, knotting the score at 56.

But Plymouth Canton recovered to outscore the Hawks 10-6 in overtime and get the win in boys basketball Friday at Harrison, 60-61.

Canton improved its Western Lakes Activities Association record to 3-2; the Chiefs are 4-7 overall. Harrison slipped to 7-4 and 2-3.

Free throws ended up playing a pivotal role. Canton converted 23 of 31 at the line (74 percent), including eight of 10 in overtime. Harrison made nine of 13 (69 percent).

Oliver Wolcott and Kenny Nether were the key contributors at the line. Wolcott gave the Chiefs a two-point lead with two from the stripe in the closing seconds of regulation, and he made

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four straight in OT. Nether was 3-of-4 from the line in OT.

For the game, Wolcott was 8-of-8 and Nether 10-of-13.

"He was (the difference)," Canton coach Dan Young said of Wolcott's performance. "He's starting to really come on; he's playing with confidence."

There were others, however. Nether finished with 20 points and 18 rebounds, the latter one off the school record held by Rob Johnson.

Nether also had three assists and two blocked shots. Wolcott scored 14 points and Jason Waidmann had 13.

"We got good play from our bench, too," said Young, noting three players off the bench scored 10 points apiece. "All the guys coming off the bench gave us good minutes."

The game was close throughout, with the Chiefs leading 12-9 after one quarter and Harrison up 24-21 at the half. Canton regained the lead after three quarters, 33-32.

The final quarter was a shootout, the Hawks outscoring the Chiefs by one, 24-23.

"We got the ball inside but didn't get any stops on defense," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said.

Nick Hall topped Harrison with 15 points; he also had 10 rebounds and five assists. Brian Nelson and Terrill Mayberry scored 10 apiece.

REDFORD CC 69, UO JESUIT 59: The pieces are slowly starting to come together for Redford Catholic Central. CC entertained the University of Detroit-Jesuit Friday night and pinned a 10-point loss on the Cubs.

Junior Ryan Celosky led the Shamrocks (7-5, 5-1) with 26 points. Senior Rob Sparks scored 17 and junior Antho-

ny Coratti had 15. Jevon Caldwell-Gross led UD (9-4, 3-3) with 16 points.

"We're playing a little better with our guys getting healthier," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Sparks is able to play more minutes and is getting close to being able to go a full game."

Matt Loukas is coming off mononucleosis; he's starting to get a little stronger. This is his second week back and he's lost quite a bit of weight.

W.L. WESTERN 78, CHURCHILL 75: Jenera Dawood and Chris Howder combined for 18 of Walled Lake Western's 24 fourth-quarter points in a WLA victory over visiting Livonia Churchill.

Dawood finished with 26 points, while Brandon Routhier and Howder contributed 18 and 16, respectively, for the Warriors (8-3, 4-1).

Senior John Bennett scored 29 for the Chargers (9-5, 3-2), including 19 in the second half. He connected on six triples.

Randall Boleboje and Brad Bescoe added 11 and nine, respectively, for Churchill, which trailed 47-33 midway through the final quarter before making a 19-5 run to tie it at 52-51 after three.

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spending a dime.

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