

AREA SOCCER SUMMARIES

LIVONIA CRUISE

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let us know that we could win a state championship, and maybe even have an undefeated season, it was the Flint Northwestern game," Jones said. "When we won that game it gave all of us a lot of confidence."

Beecher, making his first finals appearance since 1987, pushed the Eagles to the limit on Saturday.

St. Mary's took a 51-41 lead into the fourth quarter, but senior Darius Harris scored all six of his points during a 13-3 run that allowed the Buccaneers (20-7) to tie the score, 54-54, with 2:53 remaining.

Foul trouble and three turnovers against Beecher's trapping defense were the culprits for St. Mary's.

Junior center Charles Davis (four points, 14 rebounds) fouled out with 6:38 remaining after picking up two fouls on one play.

Davis was called for an offensive foul, his fourth, while protecting a rebound and after the whistle, elbowed Darnell Carr to draw a technical and his fifth foul.

St. Mary's sixth man, senior forward Dan Clothier, then

stayed focused," said Senright, who collected a game-high 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists. "I just tried to be a leader. I told the guys to keep their heads up and that we had to pull (a victory) out."

Trailing 62-57, Grant (10 rebounds) tipped in a missed shot by Harris to pull Beecher within three points with 18.7 seconds to go. Senright was sent to the free-throw line with 9.2 seconds left, but he missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity and the Buccaneers grabbed the rebound and eventually called a time-out with 4.8 seconds showing on the clock.

The game's final play saw Harris take the ball to the top of the key and launch a desperation 3-pointer. The ball fell short of the rim and Jones was there to grab it and run out the final second.

Beecher had three players score in double figures - Grant had 18 points, Stewart 11 and Carr 10 - and forced OLSM into 17 turnovers. But the Buccaneers shot only 42 percent from the field (21-of-50) and 48 percent (15-of-31) at the free-throw

line. "We told our kids that in games like this you have to make layups and free throws," Beecher head coach Solomon Lacy Jr. said. "We didn't make layups and free throws and that was the difference in the game. The energy level was there, we just didn't make layups and free throws and that killed us. If we make seven or eight more free throws we win the game."

OLSM built an 18-6 lead four minutes into the first quarter. Beecher used a 9-2 run to get within 20-16, but senior forward Jermaine Gonzales banked in a triple at the buzzer to give the Eagles a 23-15 advantage after the opening eight minutes.

A similar situation developed in the second quarter. The Buccaneers narrowed a 10-point deficit to four points with 34 seconds left before halftime, but Jones sank a half-court shot at the horn making the score 35-28. Senright's tip jam with 57 seconds left in the third quarter gave the Eagles their biggest lead, 61-37.

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"I told Mark he's going to have to run that event a little more," Bridges said. "He can do a nice job there. We have a couple young guys who look like they might do OK."

"I don't know if it will be at (North Farmington printer) Anthony Beal's level, but we have some guys we hope will be able to help us."

Bridges believes the Falcons will be stronger in the 800 and distance events with junior Pat Lockhart and sophomores Tom Eason, Chris Tobe and Mike Batkie.

"Chris Tobe is leading the way in practice every day; he's really setting the standard," Bridges said, adding he hopes Lockhart will stay healthy after injuries have interrupted his career.

"If you work hard, you're going to make something happen, and these guys are working hard. It's really a pleasure to watch these guys practice every day. I think they're going to be the most improved part of the team."

Farmington has two good hurdles in senior Jeff Frederick, who runs the 300 race, and senior Ben Lukas, who competes in the 110s and will also help in the sprints.

Frederick, who was sixth in the WLAA and fifth in the regional, was just one 10th of a second off the school record.

Bridges looks to junior Trevor Moore to help out. Spinks is the team's top long jumper, having finished eighth in the WLAA and fifth in the regional.

"He jumped indoors three times and was over 19 feet each time, and that was without working on steps," Bridges said. "Once his knee clears up and he starts working on timing, I think he'll have a good year in the long jump."

Junior Layne Bodily was a state qualifier in the high jump, placing second in the regional, but the Falcons lack depth here again.

"(Bodily) went 6-2 last year and looks to be starting where he left off," Bridges said. "He has some big goals this year."

Frederick returns in the pole vault and is much improved after attending a winter camp, according to Bridges. Moore and junior Stephen Wayne also

return with experience. "We should be halfway decent; I think that will be a pretty fair event for us," Bridges said.

Farmington has a lot of potential in the throwing events with senior football players Tom Pascaris, Jenkins Ebiware, Rory Crittenden, Adam Alsapach and Lukas.

The Falcons have a new throwing coach in Kim Sturm, who was a Division III All-American at Siena Heights College, according to Bridges.

Farmington competes Saturday in the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational at the University of Michigan and has its first dual meet Thursday, April 6, at Farmington Harrison.

"We think we're going to be competitive," Bridges said. "If things fall into place, we might be one of the better teams (in the WLAA). Our goal is to be competitive and see what happens."


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