

Women's basketball: Madonna University's Mahogany Fletcher, a former star at Farmington Harrison High School, chases down a loose ball in the team's victory over Spring Arbor.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HEDGECOCK

Crusaders even record at .500 with victory

Shooting well is the key to winning a basketball game — or at least one key, as last Wednesday's Madonna University-vs.-Spring Arbor women's game proved.

The Cougars outshot the host Crusaders, converting 31 of 66 from the floor (47 percent) compared to Madonna's 26-of-78 (32.1 percent). But Spring Arbor didn't outscore their opponents, losing 79-72.

The win evened Madonna's record at 9-9; the Crusaders are 4-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Spring Arbor is 10-11 overall, 1-4 in the WHAC.

Two factors offset the Cougars' considerable advantage in shooting accuracy: First, Madonna had a significant rebounding edge — 57-37, including a 30-10 margin on the offensive boards — and second, the Crusaders shot 21 more free throws.

It was an up-and-down game most of the way. Spring Arbor scored the first 11 points before, with 6:30 elapsed, Madonna scored its first basket.

The Crusaders did manage to turn it up a notch and led 36-35 at halftime. From their

they increased their pressure and led by as many as 12 in the second half before the Cougars rallied to tie it at 61-all with 6:49 left.

The game remained close until, with 3:14 remaining, freshman Mahogany Fletcher (from Farmington Harrison) nailed a three-pointer to put Madonna up 69-66. The Crusaders never again surrendered the lead.

The Crusaders' persistence paid dividends, particularly on the boards; two of them reached double figures in rebounding and a third had eight.

Kathy Pangonis led Madonna with 23 points; she also had 10 rebounds and three steals. Pangonis converted 10-of-20 shots from the floor; the only other Crusader to hit 50 percent of her shots or better was Lori Enfield (10-for-19, 10 points and two blocks).

Fletcher finished with 14 points, eight boards and six steals, and Kristi Fiorenti (Plymouth Canton) had 13 points, 10 rebounds and three steals.

For Spring Arbor, Kristin Dankert led with 17 points, six rebounds and four steals.

Portia Reilly added 16 points.

SCHOOLCRAFT MEN'S HOOPS: A fracas late in the game marred a 111-79 triumph by the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team Wednesday night against visiting Delta. Officials stopped play with 1:10 remaining when a scuffle broke out on the floor.

Two Schoolcraft players were involved in the fracas, and the punishment handed out by Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs was swift and severe.

Reserve center Dwayne Holmes has been suspended for the season, while reserve forward Keenan Weir will sit out two games.

Suspensions are also pending for the Delta players involved in the fight.

As far as the game was concerned, Schoolcraft overcame a sluggish start to improve its overall record to 14-2 and 4-1 in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Schoolcraft point-guard Dave McElown finished with a season-high 20 points, while Sam Hoskin (Redford Bishop Burgess) added 19 off the bench.

Others in double figures for the Ocelots included Nick Evola and Jevon Clark, 17 each; Weir, 16; and Emir Medunjanin (North Farmington), 11.

Delta, which slipped to 2-13 overall and 1-4 in the conference, got a game-high 25 points from Charles Underwood.

Basketball from page B1

"We feel good about the win, but we have two big games next week," Mikel said, adding the Falcons plays host to Northville Tuesday and unbeaten Walled Lake Central Friday.

"Those are two of the better teams in the (WLLA) this year, and we happen to get both of them in the same week."

N. FARMINGTON 67, JOHN GLENN 56: North Farmington outscored host Westland John Glenn by 11 points in the fourth quarter Friday to claim a 67-56 victory in boys basketball.

The Rockets led at halftime, 27-26, but the Raiders pulled even after three periods, 42-42.

North put its offense into high gear in the finale for a 25-14 advantage.

Blair Weiss and Mike Leach, who scored all of his points in the second half, led the Raiders with 14 apiece.

Mike Patterson added 12 points, and Marcus McComb did all of his scoring at the free-throw line, making 11 of 12.

The Raiders, who are 2-4 in the WLLA and 5-4 overall, were 23-of-39 at the line.

Brent Bogle had 15 points to lead the team (11-2, 2-7), who made 13 of 20 free throws. Jeff Brantley added nine, Michael Gores and Darrell Dorris eight each.

FRANKLIN 46, HARRISON 36: Senior center Mike Copeland scored 17 points Friday and senior guard Joe Ruggiero 13 as visiting Livonia Franklin defeated Farmington Harrison, 46-36.

Senior forward LeDarius Brown was high scorer for the Hawks with 10 points. Juniors Terrell Mayberry and Matt Eisey added nine and six, respectively.

Harrison shot 28 percent (15-of-54) from the floor, which included 0-for-12 on three-point attempts.

The Hawks were 6-of-11 shooting free throws and the Patriots 15-of-24. Franklin was 11-of-13 at the line in the second half and 5-of-8 in the fourth quarter, however.

"It was a nice win on the road," Franklin coach John Senti said, "I was real pleased with some of the contributions off the bench."

"Matt Austin and John Moore did some real good things out there, and Copeland played a real good game — his best game of the year."

"Chris Patterson played a whole of a game at the point. He didn't score much (two points, five assists, four steals), but he did a good job controlling the tempo, handling the press and getting us into our offense."

The score was tied at 10 after one quarter, but Franklin went ahead at halftime, 21-17. It was 13-all in the third period; the Patriots were six better in the fourth, 12-6.

"We are struggling big time all of a

sudden," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said, adding the Hawks lost junior post player Dave Condon in practice last week with a possible ankle fracture.

"That and the fact we're not doing a good job taking care of the basketball didn't bode real well for us."

"We didn't get as many shots as we would've liked, and the ones we got were not the ones we would've wanted."

Franklin is 1-2 in the WLLA and 4-5 overall; Harrison is 0-3 and 2-7.

REDFORD CC 70, DELASALLE 60: Catholic Central took over first place in the Catholic League's Central Division on Friday night, thanks to a surprisingly easy 70-50 win over previously-unbeaten Warren De La Salle.

"It was a tremendous performance coming off injuries last Friday (against Bishop Burgess)," said assistant coach John Murray. "Ryan Celestey did a great job in playing with an injured leg. He got a lot of attention and was double-teamed."

Even though Celestey was hurt with a bad ankle and the Shamrocks (8-2, 3-0 Central) were missing center Steve Larkin with torn ankle ligaments, CC used an 18-9 advantage in the second quarter for a 34-27 lead they wouldn't lose. CC really broke it open against the Pilots (7-1, 3-1) with a 26-12 advantage in the fourth, led by Tom Jakacki scoring 15 of his 21 points in the period and punctuated by an alley-oop, tip-in dunk from Anthony Coratti.

Mark Willoughby scored 19 points with nine assists. Celestey had nine, Coratti had eight and Ron Murphy kicked in with 10 rebounds.

Tony Wickmann led the Pilots with 20 — 14 in the first half — while Brian Blaker added 12.

CLARENCEVILLE 60, UOBBETT 44: The Trojans got back on track at the expense of the Knights.

Livonia Clarenceville used a 19-13 fourth quarter Friday night to solidify its Metro Conference victory over Grosse Pointe LIGgett.

"It was a good win for us," Clarenceville coach Kevin Murphy said. "We needed it."

Tim Shaw scored 18 points and had six rebounds for the visiting Trojans. Steve Meadows scored eight points, while Scott Wion scored seven points and blocked six shots.

Murphy used 10 players in the first half and eventually all of them scored. Clarenceville (4-4, 1-1) cut its turnovers to 13, which helped.

Sophomore Josh Silverman started his first varsity game at point guard and scored three points with five assists.

Murphy was pleased with Silverman's play and that of Laterio Helen, who came off the bench to score six points.

Uggett (1-8, 0-3) was led by sophomore Thomas Greer, who scored 10 points.

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