

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Whalers lose to Sting

After the Plymouth Whalers had edged a tough Guelph Storm team by a goal Wednesday to close to within two points of the Ontario Hockey League-leading Erie Otters, coach Pete DeBoer flatly stated his team would have to win 11 of 12 remaining games to finish on top in the OHL.

The realization of that goal took a hit 24 hours later, when the Whalers visited Sarnia.

After a scoreless first period, the Sting scored twice in the second half and added an insurance goal with 49 seconds left for a 3-2 win over Plymouth.

The loss left the Whalers at 38-12-4-5, Sarnia is 22-28-7-1.

Specialty teams made the difference for the Sting. Their first goal was a short-handed one, scored by Alexander Buturlin 6:56 into the second period. Kris Newbury gave Sarnia a 2-0 lead with a power-play goal at 13:59 of the second.

Chad Wiseman helped the Whalers narrow the gap to 2-1 with a goal at 11:34 of the third period, assisted by Bryan Thompson. But Sarnia all but clinched the win when Maxim Rybin scored with 49 seconds to play.

Stephen Weiss helped pull the Whalers closer, scoring his 36th of the season (from Tomas Kurka), but it came with just seven seconds left.

Ambassador commits

Marc Norrington, a forward for the Compuware Ambassadors, has committed to attend Northern Michigan University in the fall. Norrington joins former Ambassador teammates Craig Kowalecki and Alex Sawruk, current members of the Wildcats' hockey team.

A 6-foot, 181-pound forward from Grand Blanc, Norrington has four goals and 11 assists this season for 15 points in 37 games.

"This is a great opportunity for Marc, and the entire Compuware organization is excited about his decision to attend Northern Michigan," said Compuware assistant coach Marc Fakler. "He is a smart player who gives a solid effort each time he steps onto the ice, and he will be a welcome addition to the program."

Wesa paces OCC win

Debbie Wesa scored a game-high 24 points Wednesday to lead the Oakland Community College women's basketball team to a come-from-behind win over visiting Wayne CC, 64-63.

The Raiders trailed at halftime, 39-27, but rallied in the second half and outscored the Wildcats, 37-24.

Wesa hit nine of 19 field goals and four of six free throws. She also had a team-high 14 rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Jennifer Tuttle scored 12 points for OCC, which improved to 7-9 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 11-14 overall.

Shannon Storm, who had nine rebounds, and Michelle Blake added nine points apiece for the Lady Raiders and Kate Reed eight.

Jenno Porter netted 23 points and Tiffanie Alston 20 for Wayne, 1-14 and 2-16. Alston had 15 rebounds.

Wayne downs Oakland

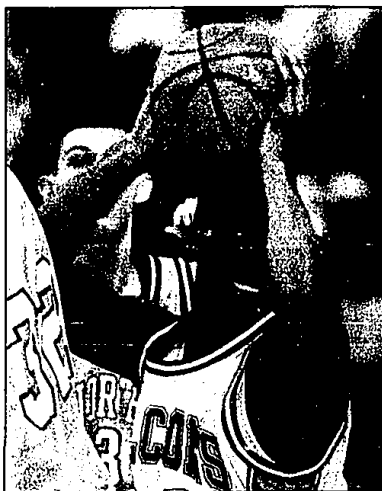
Wayne County Community College-Detroit pulled away in the second half Wednesday to a 107-86 win over host Oakland CC in men's basketball.

The Wildcats held a 38-30 lead at halftime and outscored the Raiders in the second half, 69-55.

Ryan Bennett scored 27 points to lead Wayne, 6-8 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 12-11 overall.

Marcus Clark tossed in 18 for the winners, Nanyanke Walton 12, Derrick Thomas 11 and Emory Love 10.

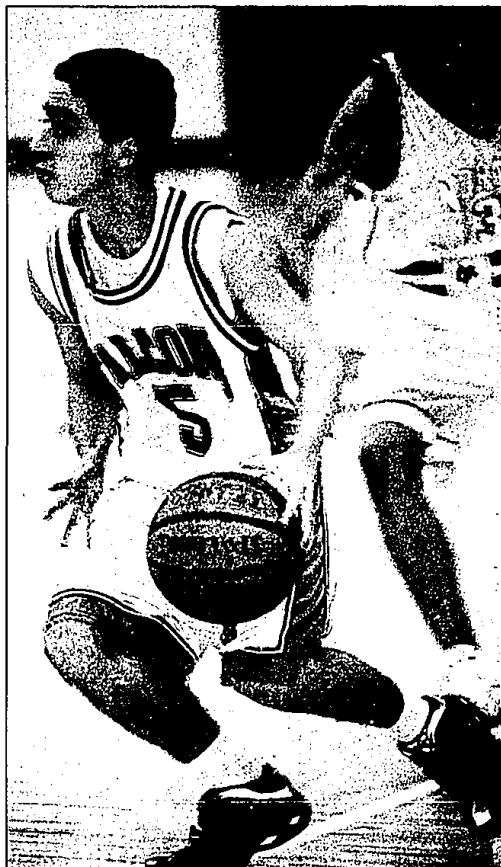
OCC had also had five players in double figures. Kevin Williams Jr. led with 24 points; Damon Allison had 23, Jason Washington 12, William Motley 11 and Cornelius Stanford 10.



Hoop action:
Mike Griffie
grabs a
rebound for
Farmington
in a game
Friday night
with North
Farmington.
Griffie and
teammate
Matt Mikel
scored 23
points each
to lead the
Falcons to a
75-59 win.



Floor scramble: North's Eric Wilder (left) and Marcus McComb (right) challenge Matt Mikel for possession of a loose ball Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL ENZELER

Sharpshooter: Junior Ryan Kosinski hit a three-point shot at the final buzzer Friday for Farmington to give his team 75 points.

Falcons take pride in hoop win



Farmington High sank 30 of 46 free throws Friday on route to a win over crosstown rival North Farmington in a Western Lakes boys consolation basketball game, 75-59. The Falcons have a 14-5 record, the Raiders 9-10.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oe.homecomm.net

Both teams would have preferred they were playing for a berth in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game Friday.

However, a pair of first-round playoff losses Tuesday precluded Farmington and North Farmington from doing that, so it was pride they were playing for in a WLAA consolation basketball game.

"That's what it was," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said after his Falcons defeated the visiting Raiders, 75-59. "We weren't playing for anything except pride tonight."

"I challenged the kids to come out and be competitive, to rebound from the loss Tuesday. We haven't lost two games back-to-back all season, and we didn't want to start tonight."

The Falcons (14-5) led virtually from start to finish, but the outcome not a foregone conclusion until well into the

fourth quarter.

North, which trailed at halftime, 39-29, used a full-court press to stir things up and get back in the game in the third quarter.

The Raiders (9-10) got within three points, 42-39, following a three-point play by Mike Leach, but the Falcons pushed their lead back to 10 at the end of the third quarter, 52-42.

North lost its go-to player when Leach, who led the Raiders with 19 points, fouled out early in the fourth, and North never had the same offensive spark after that.

"They were doing a nice job getting him the ball in the low post, and we had a tough time guarding Leach," Mikel said.

"We went to a box press with a zone.

We thought the zone would take them out of their offensive momentum, because they were doing a good job taking advantage of some of our man-to-man mismatches."

"We went to the zone, and (North coach) Tom's (Negoshian) kids had trouble shooting from outside. When they couldn't make their long shots, we were able to rebound, and that made as much difference as anything."

Free throws also made a difference. The teams combined to shoot 76, with the Falcons winning that war. Farmington sank 30 of 46, North 17 of 30.

"We were trying to steal the ball and stay in the game," Negoshian said, "and to Farmington's credit they were making their free throws."

Please see **BASKETBALL**, B5

CC to play DeLaSalle again in final

PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net

You know that old adage about how tough it is to beat a team three times in a season?

CC coach Rick Coratti does. And as far as he's concerned, his team has never played Warren DeLaSalle this season.

Oh, the Shamrocks have played the Pilots twice — and won both times. And thanks to CC's 74-63 win over Detroit DePores in Thursday's Catholic League Central-AA semifinal at Schoolcraft College, the Shamrocks will have to beat the Pilots a third time if they are to win their first league title since 1997.

"I'm not worrying about beating them three times," said Coratti, whose team plays DeLaSalle at 4 p.m. today at University of Detroit-Mercy's Calhoun Hall for the league title. "(Sunday) is the first time we're

playing them as far as I'm concerned."

CC, runner-up last year to Orchard Lake St. Mary, caught fire in the second half. Leading just 27-24 at halftime thanks to a less-than-stellar 9-for-26 shooting, the Shamrocks — who hadn't had a trademark 3-pointer in the first half — had three in the third quarter and four more in the fourth, with six from Ryan Celestey and Mark Willoughby.

"We didn't hit one in the first half and that's unheard of," said Willoughby, who wound up with 16 points on the night. "I missed four in a row and was cold shooting. But once Ryan hit a three, we both started hitting them. That's the way we've been all year. We respond when we're down."

While they weren't down after the middle of the second quarter, the Shamrocks (15-3) came out sluggish in the second half and let the Eagles (15-3) pull to within 30-29 on an inside hoop from Jason Moore.

Then CC got hot. A pair of baskets by Tom Jakacki and Willoughby, followed by a three-point play and a 3-pointer from Celestey gave CC a 40-29 lead.

Eventually, DePores whittled the lead down to 53-48 early in the fourth quarter. But that's when Willoughby and Celestey started unleashing threats, making three straight to push the lead back to 62-52.

The Eagles had one more run left in them and managed to cut the lead back to six (62-56), but Jakacki, Anthony Coratti and Celestey paced a 12-3 run over a 2:42 stretch of the late-fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Please see **SHAMROCKS**, B5

USED POOL TABLES
LADARON'S
BILLIARD & CIGAR ROOM SUPPLY
MOVING & RECOVERING
810-288-3800
100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

FLOOR MODEL CLEARANCE SALE
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!

Hippopotamus Game Room Furniture On Sale... Up To 30% Off
Your Total Gameroom Store! The best prices everyday on all your gameroom needs!