

Redford gets win over CC

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For 32 minutes, Catholic Central showed it could play with top-ranked Detroit Redford.

But for 13 minutes of the second half, the Shamrocks couldn't shoot with Redford's Dion Harris. And that stretch proved to be the difference as the Huskies knocked host CC out of the Class A playoffs with a 64-53 district semifinal win on Thursday.

"We felt good going into the half (up 30-29), CC coach Rick Coratti said. "We felt good coming out of halftime. We had good shots; we just didn't hit them."

Actually, there were more reasons than cold shooting and a hot Harris, who wound up leading all scorers with 28 points. The Huskies (19-1) held CC's leading scorer, Ryan Ciesky, to just eight points and the Shamrocks' bench to just a point. It didn't hurt Redford that it was 21-for-36 from the line and 9-of-12 through the first three quarters, before CC had to foul to catch up.

And it didn't help CC (17-4) that it was 4-for-10 from the line and missed the front end of three one-and-ones.

"In the first half they ran us ragged," said Huskies' coach Derrick McDowell. "They started



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Hoop scene: CC's Tom Jakacki of Farmington (14) reaches for a rebound in a tournament game Thursday.

missing in the second half and we started making them. I thought we did a better job of playing defense in the second half. We got the shots we wanted and got the ball to Dion."

Mark Willoughby, Tom Jakacki and Anthony Coratti did the bulk of CC's scoring, with 23, 11 and 10 points, respectively. But 27 of their points came in the first half as they led the Shamrocks to the 30-29 lead.

Momentum switched in a big way in the third quarter. Harris scored 11 points, while CC could-

n't buy a basket. Ciesky and Coratti hit three, but that was the only scoring as the Shamrocks went 2-for-9 in the period, and made four turnovers.

It didn't get any better in the fourth. Willoughby hit his head on the floor and had to leave the game. Without their leading scorer, the Shamrocks struggled and missed their next eight shots. Willoughby came back into the game and nailed a 3-pointer with 3:10 to play to end the drought, but the damage was done.

Ocelots take regional crown

BY BRAD EMOUS
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Any doubt about the Schoolcraft men's basketball team being able to compete with the top junior college teams in the country was erased Thursday.

The host Ocelots stormed past fabled Vincennes (Ind.) with an impressive 87-64 victory to claim its first NJCAA Region 12 title.

Schoolcraft (30-2) is just one win away from making the cut for the 16-team National Junior College Athletic Association Division I tournament (March 18-24) in Hutchinson, Kan.

At 2 today, Schoolcraft will host Region 13 champ Geogebie of Ironwood, Mich., sporting a 21-8 record, for the right to advance.

Vincennes, ranked No. 7 in the NJCAA and winners of 30 of 37 Region championships, was overwhelmed by Schoolcraft's relentless pressure defense and fierce rebounding.

The Trailblazers, who bowed at 26-5 overall, were outplayed in nearly every facet of the game.

"Overall I thought our team hustle was a little better than theirs and we were able to play defense for 40 minutes," said Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs, who has orchestrated a remarkable four-year record of 103-21 and has the Ocelots on the verge of their first trip to the nationals. "We played the way we expected to play at home and being that it was for a Region championship."

"This is certainly our biggest win in school history and it was nice to see all the people in our

BASKETBALL

administration there who have helped support us."

Vincennes had no answers for Region 12 MVP Sam Hoskin.

The 6-foot-8, 260-pound center from Redford Bishop Borgese via transfer from Eastern Kentucky University, poured in a game-high 27 points on 10-of-17 shooting.

Guard Derrick Bird added 18 points, while point-guard Dave McGlowen added 15. Starting forward Kanan Weir also came up big with 12 points.

Meanwhile, the Ocelots held Vincennes leading scorer Andre Horton to just two points after the 5-10 guard had 30 points the night before in a 94-74 semifinal win over Lansing.

The other starting guard, Jon Knoche, laid a goose egg in the scorebook.

"I thought our guard play was very good," Briggs said. "Derrick Bird and Mike Peek did a heck of a job on him (Horton). He (Horton) didn't get a good look at the basket all night."

Schoolcraft trailed only once in the game, 5-4 at the 16:57 mark of the opening half.

Weir's three-pointer at the buzzer to end the half coming out of a timeout gave Schoolcraft a 36-22 halftime cushion.

"I knew that was a good sign when Keenan hit that 'three' from the corner," Briggs said. "That gave us some momentum for the second half because for about five minutes our offense was at a standstill with Sam and Derrick out of the game."

The 6-6 Weir, inserted into the lineup recently as a defensive stopper and rebounder, came up with a pair of "threes."

"If I'm open, I can shoot it," the Detroit King product said. "I just play a role and do whatever it takes to help the team."

"We ran a 'Down-4' play at the end of the half where we spread it out and let Mike Peek penetrate. He got me the ball and once I got me feet set, I shot it and it went in."

The Ocelots were just 14 of 43 from the floor (32 percent) in the opening half, but seemed to come up with every missed shot. Several times 6-4 forward Dwight Winkler kept balls alive on the offensive boards.

Vincennes, meanwhile, never made a serious challenge in the second half. The Trailblazers only got as close as 12 points.

Peek's three-pointer with 11:42 remaining gave Schoolcraft a commanding 66-39 advantage.

The Ocelots shot a blistering 20 of 31 in the second half (64.5 percent).

"(The Ocelots) just wanted it more," said Vincennes coach Dan Sparks, who has over 600 wins and is a member of the NJCAA Hall of Fame. "We have only two people who really wanted it, and nobody else stepped up."

The Trailblazers got 19 points from 6-8 center Omonivi Makun of Lagos, Nigeria.

Marshall Williams, a former Mr. Basketball from Wisconsin and transfer from North Carolina State, was the only other Vincennes player in double figures with 13.

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overall, to three points before he fouled out with 3:28 left in the game.

"Our primary goal was to try to not let them get the ball to him in the box, and I thought we did a pretty good job of that," Mikel said. "When he fouled out, that made it a lot easier to guard their perimeter players."

McComb gave the Raiders (10-12) a quick lead when he scored off a turnover at the start of the game.

The clock was down to 4:13 before Tillman put Farmington on the board. That triggered a 10-0 run while North managed just one free throw the rest of the first quarter.

But the Raiders scored the first six points of the second period to make it 10-9. Four-point plays by Layne Bodily and Barne helped Farmington to the ball near the sidcourt, allowing Bodily to knock the ball to a wide-open Griffie in the middle for a dunk.

Tillman's shot from the wing at the buzzer kept the lead at 11, 40-29, at the end of the quarter. "We made a point of saying at halftime we were playing too much catch on the perimeter and not looking for our inside people," Mikel said.

"Our inside people were saying, 'Get us the ball; we have to touch the ball,' and the kids did a better job of that in the third quarter."

North wasn't out of the game, however, despite having just five field goals through three periods. The Falcons were 7-of-11 in the third and 15-of-33 to that point; the Raiders were 1-of-10 and 5-of-28.

"The kids keep attacking the rim," North coach Tom Negrohl said, adding his team was battling a size disadvantage as well.

"If you don't shoot the ball well, that's what you have to do. The kids understand they have to attack the rim, and that gets us to the free-throw line."

"We do different things on the perimeter, because you can't just line up and compete with size. Eventually, size is going to over-

come if you're not hitting shots." A basket by Leach and two threes by McComb and Patterson trimmed the Farmington lead to 43-37 at the start of the fourth.

It was still a six-point game, 45-39, when the clock dipped below three minutes. Tillman was 6-of-8 and Matt Mikel 4-of-4 shooting free throws down the stretch to clinch the win for the

Falcons.

"In the second half, our kids made up their minds they were going to come out and play them hard," Mikel said.

An 8-for-13 fourth quarter helped raise North's overall shooting totals to 13-of-41 (32 percent). Farmington shot 47 percent (17-of-36).

The Falcons made four of 11 three-point shots and 17 of 29

free throws. The Raiders were 7-of-21 shooting the three and were 17-of-28 at the line.

"I thought we had a little spurt when we went brain dead to start the second half," Negrohl said. "We had some pretty good looks and didn't hit them."

"We talked about mental intensity, and I don't think we had it (given) the way we were supposed to rotate on the trap."

"They had some uncontested

baseline jumpers, and the whole first half we didn't give that up."

Negrohl added he is as proud of this year's team and what it was able to achieve as he was the last two North teams that won two league titles and one district championship.

BENEDICTINE 66, CLARENCEVILLE 46: "We played a great first quarter," Livonia Clarenceville coach Kevin Murphy said. "We were right with them."

Then, as Murphy described it, "We fell flat on our faces."

The result was a 17-2 run for Detroit Benedictine in the second quarter and a 16-point halftime deficit for Clarenceville, a margin too large for the Trojans (8-13) to overcome Wednesday in a district tournament game.

Tim Shaw led the Trojans with 17 points. Scott Wion had 10 and Pete Shaw eight. Brandon Proby's 15 points, including three three-pointers in the third quarter, was best for the Ravens.

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES,
MENTORING & EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
Legal Notices, Bids & Proposals

Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) is a Michigan Workforce Agency (MWA) whose service area encompasses all of Monroe County and Wayne County (excluding the City of Detroit).

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is to set forth the requirements and procedures to be followed, to submit Workforce Development Services proposals for consideration. Services will be provided to and for eligible residents of Monroe and Wayne Counties, excluding the City of Detroit. The RFP packet (hard copy, electronic transmission, or CD version) is available and may be picked up on Monday, March 12 at noon or requested from SEMCA, 8750 S. Telegraph Road, Suite 400, Taylor, Michigan, (313) 295-1200. A bidder's conference will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at 2:00 pm at SEMCA. Proposals are due at SEMCA, April 6, 2001 at noon.

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