

# Patriots rely on defense to capture tournament title

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin's girls basketball team is going to hang its hat on defense.

Franklin had a first-quarter shutout Tuesday night, a 20-3 halftime lead but had to call on its defense in the fourth quarter to earn a 42-24 victory over host Redford Union and win the championship of the RU/Franklin Invitational tournament.

## BASKETBALL

Redford Thurston defeated Westland John Glenn, 43-34, earlier in the evening for third place.

The Patriots were up, 24-3, with 7:17 left in the third quarter but the Panthers rallied to pull to 27-16 at the end of the period and 27-20 with 6:08 to play. Then coach Mary Kay Whalen's team picked up its

defense again.

"Our defense keeps us in ball games," Whalen said after improving her career record at Franklin to 2-0. "That's what we're trying to do."

"That's what we've been working to keep us going. It's going to take us some time to get our offense going. But the effort alone is worth watching."

Senior guard Jenie D'Annunzio led the Patriots with 13 points, junior center Ashley McCall had 12 and senior guard

Gabrielle Nixon added nine. Sophomore center Martina Franklin led the Panthers with 12 points, all coming in the second half.

"She was a half-hour late so she sat the first half," RU coach Jim Novicka said. "She sat Monday because she was late to practice. She needs to pay a little more attention to detail."

The RU gym was 10 degrees above hot, which took its toll in both games, and it's worth noting that both participants in

Monday's triple-overtime game were defeated on Tuesday.

"I think we were a little bit tired," said Novicka, whose team is 1-1. "Possibly. And maybe the girls thought it was going to be easy all the time. Well, it's not."

Franklin forced 22 first-half turnovers with its pesky defense. The Patriots shortened the court just often enough to keep the Panthers guessing.

THURSTON 43, JOHN GLENN 34: The Eagles jumped out strong, 11-1, after

one quarter and turned back the Rockets in the second half to square their record at 3-1.

"We're already as good as last year," ginned coach Mike Schutte of Redford Thurston. "We matched our win output."

It was something the girls needed. They needed a good tournament to show they'd improved over last year."

Junior Alexandra Dooley led the Eagles with 14 points, while Angie Dehio and Libby Carter had six each.

Junior center Sara Yreac had John Glenn with 18 points, guard Krystal Davis scored eight and sophomore guard Jennifer Thauvette had five.

## Hoop from D1

better with every game, and that's really what we're trying to do."

FARMINGTON 47, DONDERO 32: The Falcons began the new season the right way Tuesday with a victory over host Royal Oak Dondero.

Senior Randin Brown led Farmington in scoring with 20 points; senior Julie Kimmel had 13 points and 15 rebounds, and sophomore Brittaney Coleman contributed 12 points and six steals.

Brown also had four assists, and junior Jaria Atkins supported the team effort with seven rebounds and three blocks.

Seniors Lindsey Abbott and Kelsey Gulsbert and juniors Deanna Gauer and Melissa Patterson "did a good job of filling their roles and doing what they had to do," Farmington coach Scott Lowe said.

"We're pretty happy with the results. The girls played good defense in the zone and did well overall."

The Falcons held quarter leads of 13-5, 25-16 and 39-21.

KETTERING 41, HARRISON 33: The visiting Captains from Waterford Kettering took a 10-point lead in the first quarter and survived a Harrison rally in the fourth to win the season opener Tuesday.

Kristen Kluka scored seven points to pace the Hawks, who were minus their top returning scorer in Ayana Richmond, who didn't play due to a sprained ankle.

Katie Ross and Jessica Condeni added six points apiece. Maggie Condeni had five points, four rebounds and three assists. Kluka and Jessica Condeni also had four rebounds each.

Harrison got within four points in the fourth quarter, but Kettering held on to win.

Amanda Martin had 15 points and Jenny Jacques eight to lead the Captains, who made six of 10 free throws.

The Hawks, who were 7-0 at the line, trailed after each quarter — 16-6, 20-17 and 30-25.

BENEDICTINE 69, MERCY 50: Mercy coach Kristin Wright-Guinn knows from first-hand experience why Detroit Benedictine has one of the top teams in the state and is favored to win the Class C state title.

The Ravens, bolstered by five transfers from perennial Class C contender Redford Bishop Borgess, dominated the host Marlinis in the season opener Tuesday.

"Wow, what a team they have," Wright-Guinn said. "Benedictine dictated the whole game. We had to our credit some spots of good play, but we couldn't sustain it."

"(The Ravens) just really controlled the entire game. They're fun to watch; they're an outstanding team."

Mercy junior Whitney Johnson scored a game-high 20 points; junior Barb Mocha added 13 and junior Alex Marshall seven. Junior Deirdre Jones had eight rebounds and four steals.

Six-foot-2 senior center Joel Clyburn, one of the transfers from Borgess, led Benedictine with 17 points. Rachelle Hampton scored 15. Crystal Young and Enca Cotton nine apiece.

The Ravens jumped to a 21-6 lead in the first quarter and were ahead at halftime, 42-22. It was 55-31 at the end of three periods.

Benedictine made 21 of 39 free throws, Mercy five of 16.

"Obviously, it's a tough start, but the positive is we did do some things well and we know what we need to work on," Wright-Guinn said. "The Marlinis are still positive and I think we're going to be competitive."

COUNTRY DAY 64, LADYWOOD 30: It was no contest Tuesday as Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day rolled over Livonia Ladywood in the first round of the Eccentric Tip-Off Classic at Troy Athens.

Carrie Moore led a balanced Country Day attack with 14 points. Brittney Dixon and Elise Morrison added nine apiece. Guard Kim Wilburn had eight points, eight assists and 12 steals.

Ladywood, which fell behind 20-4 after one quarter, got 10 points from senior center Liz Obrecht and seven from senior forward Jara Beumel.

HAZEL PARK 65, CLARENCEVILLE 34: Stephanie Wentworth poured in 23 points and Michelle Osterhood added 13 to lead the Vikings past host Livonia Clarenceville in the season opener for both teams Tuesday.

Jessica Bartley added 15 rebounds for Hazel Park, which led 30-15 at halftime and 53-31 after three quarters.

"We broke down defensively, and they got some easy buckets," said first-year Clarenceville coach Maurice Bartley of the 23-6 Hazel Park. Run in the third quarter.

Clarenceville was 11-of-12 from the free throw line, while the Vikings were 22-of-38.

Senior Lora Baeske had nine points to lead Clarenceville, while sophomore Lindsay Lowrey added eight points and 15 rebounds.

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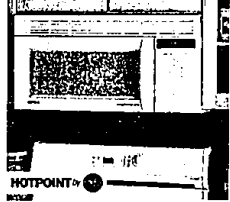
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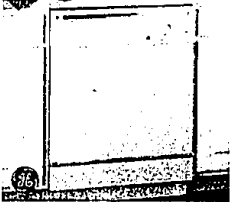
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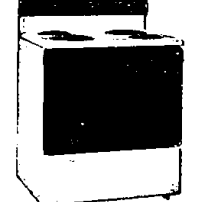


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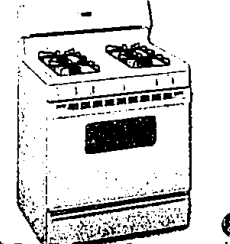


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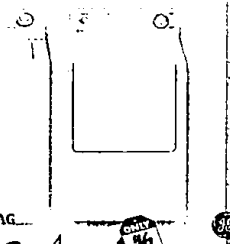


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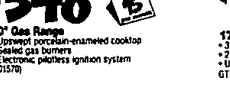


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