Hawks build momentum with 3rd straight victory

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Farmington Harrison won its third basketball game in a row and snapped a winless streak at home Tuesday by defeating Walled Lake Central, 58-44.

The Hawks, who were 0-4 in their own gym, have improved their record to 4-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 7-5 overall.

"We've had a nice little stretch of three games to put us in position to now play the top teams in the league," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said.

"We have (Walled Lake) Western, (Livonia) Stevenson and (Plymouth) Canton up next, so it's nice to have a little momentum going into those games."

Harrison took a 14-7 lead at the end of one quarter Tuesday and was ahead at halftime, 26-21. The Hawks outscored the Vikings in the third period by seven and extended their lead to 43-31.

Dave Condeni scored 15 points, making seven of nine free throws, and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Harrison.

Senior Bill Richeson came off the bench to score a career-high 14 points – all of them in the middle quarters.

Senior Matt Elsey added 10 points, senior Terrill Mayberry seven and senior Joe McElroy six. McElroy also had 12 rebounds and Elsey six.

Sophomore guard Brandon Cassise netted a game-high 17 points to pace the Vikings (2-5, 2-11); senior forward Maxx Morris added 14, which included a pair of threes.

"We got off to a good start, but they came back," Turnquist said. "Cassise made a couple buckets and Morris a three. That's when Richeson lit it up with eight points in the second quarter.

"At that point, he gave us the spark we definitely needed to keep Central at bay. He hit a jumper, got a couple rebounds, went to the free throw line and played really well for us."

Harrison was 13-of-16 at the line and Central 11-of-21.

W.L. WESTERN 54, JOHN GLENN 45: Bryan Verdun scored a game-high 26 points Tuesday, hitting 9 of 12 from the free throw line as host Walled Lake Western (8-5, 5-2) downed Westland John Glenn (7-5, 4-2) in a WLAA encounter.

Chris Eagle added eight points for the Warriors, who overcame a 21-19 halftime deficit.

Junior center Darnell Wilson led the Rockets with 22 points. Dwight Bankhead added eight, while Jerret Smith had six.

REDFORD CC 50, U-D JESUIT 48: Redford Catholic Central hung on for the victory Tuesday, overcoming a 31-point, 14-rebound performance by University of Detroit Jesuit's 6-foot-4 senior forward Joel Wood.

CC is 9-3 overall and 4-2 in the Catholic League's Central Division. The Cubs fall to 9-4 and 3-3.

Senior forward Ryan Clark paced the Shamrocks with 14 points, while senior forward Tom Jakecki added 13 and made a key block with just over four seconds remaining in regulation.

U-D Jesuit, inbounding the ball underneath its own basket, failed to convert a last-second attempt.

CC outscored the Cubs 33-27 in the second half.

LUTHERAN NORTH 70, CLARENCEVILLE 66: Free throws were the difference Tuesday as host Macomb Lutheran North (7-4, 2-2) posted the Metro Conference victory over Livonia Clarenceville (3-8, 1-4).

North made 25 of 35 foul shots, while Clarenceville was 5 of 16.

Joe Blanchard, who hit 11 of 12 free throws, finished with a team-high 22 points for North, which lead 41-26 at halftime and 52-44 after three quarters. Joe LaFevre added 12 for the Mustangs. Tim Shaw, a senior forward, paced Clarenceville with 22. Junior Pete Shaw contributed 16, while Glenn Garrant had 12. Josh Silvernail finished with nine assists and only two turnovers.

Canton rally tops North, 57-55

BY C.J. RISAK
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Seems clear to me: The next Western Lakes Activities Association basketball game Plymouth Canton's team is involved in, the Chiefs better bring some shovels. They'll need 'em to keep digging out of the holes they find themselves in.

On Tuesday at home against North Farmington, it seemed Canton would allow the Raiders to escape with the victory, spotting them a 10-point lead in the first quarter and again in the third quarter, and an eight-point cushion with less than three minutes left in the game.

The Chiefs managed to overcome them all, however, and escape with a 57-55 triumph.

The win evened their record at 6-6 overall, 3-3 in the WLAA. North is 5-7 overall, 2-4 in the conference.

"We needed to win one of these tight ones," said Canton coach Jeremy Rheault. "It was our turn, and now, we're just getting started. We lost in overtime to Salem and we lost to (Walled Lake) Western after coming all the way back."

This was hardly a game of *blemish-free basketball*. Both teams made enough mistakes to warrant a loss.

Certainly there was a good deal of never-say-die attitude circulating. Canton trailed 30-25 at the half and immediately dug its hole deeper, allowing the Raiders to put together a 7-2 run to start the third quarter.

Down 37-27 with 5:25 left, the Chiefs started one of their comebacks. Over the next five minutes, they outscored North 14-0 before the Raiders' Jason Neal nailed a three-pointer with 28 seconds left in the third to narrow Canton's lead to 41-40 entering the final period.

Again the Chiefs dug themselves a hole, North outscoring them 13-4 in a span of 5:15 to build a 53-45 advantage with 2:40 to play. But the Raiders were in a giving mood as well; they allowed Canton to score seven points in a 40-second span, fueling it with an offensive foul and two turnovers.

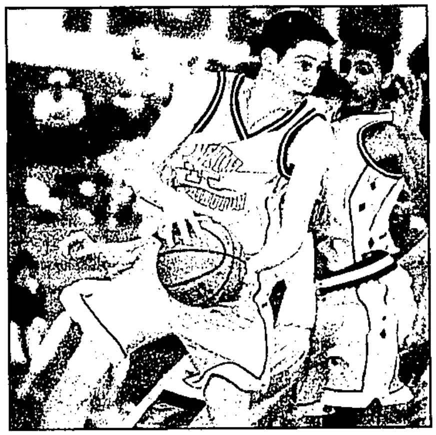
Brendan Murphy's basket with 1:29 left pulled the Chiefs to within 53-52 with 1:29 left. Mike Leach made 1-of-2 free throws with 1:13 to go — North had trouble in the fourth quarter at the line, making just 5-of-9 — to make it a two-point game, but Canton's Kyle Lasko eliminated that with a layup with :44 remaining.

The Raiders regained the lead when Neal made 1-of-2 free throws with :35 left, but it wasn't enough: Andrew Meagrow took a pass against the North pressure and put it in, getting fouled in the act. He nailed the free throw and, with 23.1 seconds left, Canton led 57-55.

The Raiders still had a chance, working the clock for one final good shot, but Billy Gazsi ruined that, intercepting a pass for the Chiefs to insure the victory.

Jason Priebe and Meagrow led the Chiefs with 17 points apiece. Priebe nailed five three-pointers in the game.

The Raiders were paced by Leach with 14 points and Neal with 12.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Basketball action: *North Farmington's Brian Johns rips down a rebound Tuesday night against Plymouth Canton.*

CC defeats Grosse Pointe

Despite a knee injury during hockey practice that took down one of Redford Catholic Central's top centers, the Shamrocks beat visiting Grosse Pointe North, 3-1, Saturday in a Michigan Interscholastic High School Hockey League game at Redford Ice Arena.

In the first period of play CC's Jeff Prough scored six minutes into the game to Ryan O'Dea and John Perkovich. Ten seconds later the Shamrocks (9-5-1, 6-1 MIHL) came through again making the score 2-0 before the second period. Dean Storm scored on assists from Jake Norwood and Mike Ryan.

North's Mike Mueller brought the score to 2-1 before the third period, but Perkovich's goal from Eric Giosa and Steve Nelson with just minutes left in the game, sealed the Norsemen's fate.

The Shamrock's goalie was Jim Blanchard, who made 21 saves.

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