Lakers frustrate Groves' title hopes

BY MARTY BUDNER

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Livonia Churchiā (E) vs Redford Union (F), 5 p.m. at Redford Arena; Redford-Delroit Catholic Central (G) vs.

Birmingham Groves had a chance to wrap up the Oakland Activities Association Division II boys basketball championship Tuesday evening on its home court. West Bloomfield wouldn't let it happen.

West Bloomfield registered a come-from-behind, 62-51 triumph to remain one game behind the division-leading Falcons with one game left on the regular-sasson schedule.

Groves leads Division II with an II-2 record, while West Bloomfield stands at 10-3. Groves concludes its season at home Friday against Troy Attensa while West Bloomfield plays on the read against Groves to chudes its season at home Friday against Troy Attensa while West Bloomfield plays on the read against Gefending Glass B state champion Auburn Hills Avondale. The Falcons can still win the division tille with a victory over the Red Hawks.

"We know Groves has a good team, but we just wanted to come over here and show everybody that the first time wasn't a fluke," said coach Larry Moore, whose Lakers defeated Groves earlier this year at West Bloomfield by three points.

"We wanted to let Groves know that strange things have happened. Before my guys went out (two players suspended for two games) we were right there with them as far as us tied for the league lead.

"We came ready to play and we wanted to show them that we play ball in West Bloomfield," he said.

menument, ne sau. The Lakers played from behind most of the game, but allied in the fourth quarter when senior guard Mando Martin canned one of two free throws with 6.7 seconds remaining to put West Bloomfield on top, 52-51. The Falcons took the ball out of bounds, but had a desperation three-point shot attempt bounce off the front of the rim. It was a somber Groves focker room afterwards.

Twe played poorly. We shot poorly and we made poor decisions, said Groves coach Bill Norton. We just haven't played this poorly. We've played well this year, but not tonight. It's extremely frustrating (not to have wrapped up the title). We have to shoot better, handle the ball better, feed the post better and compete better, he said. We have very, very high expectations (in the upcoming state tournament), and we won't go very far if we play like this.

After spotting the determined Lakers a 6-0 lead, Groves scored 10 of the next 15 points - all from senior forward Vova Severovas. The Falcons and Lakers were tied by the end of the first quarter, 14-14. Groves netted a pair of treys (Severovas and Mike Salciccioli) to begin the second of the first quarter, 14-14. Groves netted a pair of treys (Severovas and Mike Salciccioli) to begin the second of the first quarter, 14-14. Groves netted a pair of treys (Severovas and Mike Salciccioli) to begin the second pair of the four point advantage (42-38) heading into the final eight minutes and held a 49-42 lead with 4:48 remaining after senior guard Giordan Watson canned a three-pointer.

From that point on, West Bloomfield outscored the Falcons, 10-2. Junior guard David Merritt hit a three-point shot to give West Bloomfield a 51-49 lead. With 1:01 remaining, Severovas laid in a basket off an in-bounds play to tie the game at 51-49.

We came ready defensively, I thought er played a very wart, strong defensive game, add Moors. We played very wart, strong defensive game, add Moors. We came ready defensively, I thought of pairs was led by Severovas whe had a game-high 18 points and 19 re

THE WEEK AHEAD

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Western (B): 10 am, farmington Herrison vs.
Novi. 15 minutes after first match, Korth
Farmington vs. AR winner, 15 minutes after
second match; championship, 15 minutes after

BOYS BASKITBALL
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farmington at Madson. 7 p.m.
forms VOLETPALL
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at farmington light School
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farmington as All winner. 6 p.m., chungo
onthlo, 7 p.m. Farmington Unified (H), 8 pm, at Computation Thursday, Feb. 27: A 8 whitner vs. C-D winder, 5 pm, E-f winder vs. C-H winder, 6 pm, 65th games at Reddiod Area (As pm, as Reddiod Area (February 2004) (Februar

Saturday, March I Mercy vs. Northyrlie, P.30 jum

at Suburbari Transing Center DHTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Friday, Feb. 28 Ottawa at Plymouth Wilaiers, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1 Sarnia at Plymouth Whalers 7 30 p.m. GIRLS GYBRASTICS

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Ver Exhaumothis in Minimater, 1EA Hird match

BOYS HOCKLY

Division I regional fournment
(Redford Cabbic Central host)

Monday, Feb. 24 Royal Gak Kimball (A)

No Deazborn Loser Ford Bill. 5 p.m.
Bitmingham Groves (C) vs. Livonia
Stevenson (D), 8 p.m. Both games at
Redford Area.

State championships in Marquette, TBA

GYMNASTICS

FROM PAGE DI

HROM PAGE DI
were favored two years ago and
ended up second. NorthvilleNovi beat them?
Diver said it's not so frustrating, having a good teem when
Adams is grood, too. It's all about
the competition, and his gymnavts have shown they can compete with the best.
"In just thrilled that we can
compete at this level, he said.
"When you can compete with
the top teams in the state, it gets
your adrenaline going.
"It's great competition, so
that's why I keep coaching. I
think the girls thrive on that,
and it has created a great atmosphere in the gym."
Thi-Farmington has been beset
by injury and illness, making its
continued success all the more
impressive, according to Dwyer.
Alyse Quinn didn't compete in
the OAA meet due to an injury,
and Dayna Warheit probably
wouldn't have either except she

was a little less injured than Quinn.

I give her a ton of credit for just competing, Dwyer said.

That's where the depth of our team helps, because Kelly Fatrick came though strong on both the said of the said

weeks mean a lot. It's probably more of an attitude, a mental game, than it is physical right now. They're staying tough and working hard.

Tri-Farmington enters the final phase of the season and will be host for a regional meet at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Farmington Training Center.

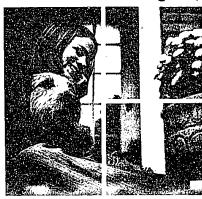
The top three teams, top eight gymnasts in each event and the top six all-arounders will qualify for the state champlonships March 7-8 at Tlymouth Canton High School.

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Beam: 2. Clara Seymour, 9.5; 5. (tie) Kelly Patrick and Lindsay Smith, 9.3; 7. Sara Houchins.

Patrick and Uniquery Service, 2017, 2017, 2019, 905.
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