

LAKERS FROM PAGE D1

had a couple dunks, but the Lakers also made the awkward, off-balance shot.

"Do not underestimate their talent. Ed is a very solid player. I think he's underrated for what he gets done for them. He does a lot of nice things."

The Raiders were still within 10 midway in the third quarter, 49-39, but the Lakers scored the last 12 points of the period — eight on free throws — to take a commanding, 61-39 lead into the finale. The fourth quarter was a parade of free throws.

"They're a very talented ball club," Negushian said of the Lakers, who were runners-up in the Oakland Activities Association Division II behind Birmingham Groves.

"They're probably a Division I-caliber OAA team with that much talent, open enrollment and 2,000 kids."

Richardson scored 20 points to lead West Bloomfield, which had five players in double figures. David Merritt had 14, Kyle Flancebaum 12, Mondo Martin 12 and Zach Hilbers 11.

Sean Mackler led North, the OAA Division III champion that finished 14-7, with 17 points. Marcus McComb added 11, Robert White nine, Matt Leach seven and Gary Kennedy, who played despite an ankle injury, six.

"I'm proud of our kids; they carried themselves like champions," Negushian said. The Raiders have won division titles four of the last five years, and McComb has played on three of those teams.

"I have nothing but good things to say about these kids and the four seniors (McComb, White, David Grunt and Matt Clark)."

"It's a tough year to end the year, but the kids need to remember what they accomplished. We had a great run. We won a championship and no one expected us to do that."

Overall, the Lakers shot 54 percent from the field (28-of-



Farmington senior Matt Okopy attempts a jump shot during a district game Monday at West Bloomfield.

52) and the Raiders 30 percent (18-of-60).

LANSER 64, HARRISON 52: The Knights earned a berth in the district championship game Friday opposite host West Bloomfield with their victory Wednesday over the Hawks. Lanser jumped to a 17-4 lead after one quarter and was on top at halftime, 36-14. Harrison had a 22-28 advantage in the second half.

Anthony Williams scored 20 points and Rocky Gutt 19 to lead the Knights (14-7). Nick Pittz added nine and Steve Hill six.

Brandon Giles had 16 points, Dan Williams 12 and Eric Zaiton 10 for the Hawks, who finished the season 2-19. Deante Thompson added six points.

W. BLOOMFIELD 62, FARMINGTON 30: West Bloomfield had too much offense for visiting Farmington in a district tournament game Monday.

Dave Merritt scored 11 points and Mondo Martin 13 for the Lakers, who led 28-14 at halftime and following an even third quarter (9-9) outscored the Lakers in the fourth, 25-7.

Marcus Holman had 14 points for Farmington (12-9), but no one else had more than four.

"That's the level we want to get to," Farmington coach Steve Norgrove said of the

Lakers. "They were more physical and more skilled than us. It was a wake-up call for our team, to know the level at which we need to compete next season."

"Sometimes you get a false sense of security when you're winning games. The program made great strides this year, and we want to continue that."

"The way to do that is, when you play top competition, giving them the respect they deserve and learning from those situations."

Farmington never recovered from a 12-0 deficit to start the game. The Lakers got as close as 10 points in the second half before the Lakers pulled away.

"They stood up and took us out of our offense," Norgrove said. "They pressured us into turnovers and forced us to play their style and not ours."

"The game should serve as off-season incentive for the Farmington players, according to Norgrove.

"Good players are made by the players themselves through hard work and determination," he said. "You can't just pick up a basketball a year from now and expect to compete."

"It's up to them to go home and gain the skills they need and improve the skills they have," he added. "It's the coach's job to foster that, to give them the avenues to improve, and to plan on doing that."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the 17-year-old Oakland Titans travel baseball team will take place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 8.

The site will be Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus gym on Cooley Lake Road in Commerce Township.

All positions are open. Players must be 17 or under as of July 31, 2003. For more information and directions, call Ray Merriman at (248) 626-3034.

SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS

Farmington Tennis Club is offering a series of summer camps that combine fun, skill development and competition in June, July and August.

There will be a development camp for players just entering competitive play, a competitive camp for players with match experience and a tournament camp for high school varsity and tournament players.

The cost is \$250 per week per player. The camps run 9-30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch will be provided, or students can bring their own lunch if they prefer.

There will be some off-court activities. Players should bring swing gear in addition to tennis clothes.

CAMPERS CAN SIGN UP AT THE FTC FRONT DESK, 22777 FARMINGTON RD. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CLUB AT (248) 476-3246.

SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

The Farmington Motor City Madness girls fastpitch softball teams will conduct tryouts for the 2003 spring season 1-2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Power Middle School.

Ages are determined as of Jan. 1, 2003. Players should arrive a half hour early registration. Players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and gym shoes.

Call Terry Gardner at (248) 553-7078 regarding the 12-and-under team and Bill McNeil at (248) 471-4953 for all other ages.

HOOP TOURNEY

The Milford Police Department is sponsoring its 14th Annual 3-on-3 Junior Shootout basketball tournament March 14-16 for boys and girls in grades 4-12.

The entry fee is \$60 per team (four players) and must be submitted by March 10. For more information call Rick Sharpe at (248) 584-1322.

ROCKETS GRID SIGNUP

Registration for the

Farmington Rockets football program (players and cheerleaders) will be Saturday, March 8, at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt.

Returning players and cheerleaders can register 10 a.m. to noon. Open enrollment will take place between noon and 2 p.m. Birth certificates and proof of health insurance must be provided at the time of registration. The fee is \$200. Checks should be payable to the Farmington Rockets.

Call Rockets president Ken Koozman at 478-2466 or registrar Dick Heist at 478-9341.

STINGRAYS SIGNUP

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swim team is registering swimmers for its "Spring Tune-Up," a competitive program that runs from Monday, March 24, through Friday, May 30.

Team participation is open to anyone between the ages of 6 and 18. Participants do not need to be YMCA members during the spring session only. Depending on ability, participants will swim either at the YMCA or local high school pools. E-mail Pamela Campbell at pcampbell@nomic.org or call 248-682-5636 in the evening after 7 p.m. All calls will be returned during evening hours.

Advertisement for Child Care or Camp... MAKING LIFE FUN! Includes details for Summer Impressions Day Camp, dates from June 16 to August 21, and contact information for Galyan's.

Large advertisement for Farmington Hills Fire celebrating their third consecutive Michigan Hockey Cup state title. Includes 'CONGRATULATIONS Suburban Hockey' and 'TEAM OF THE WEEK' text.

Advertisement for 'HEY HOCKEY FANS, DON'T MISS' featuring 'WHITE SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP' and 'COLLEGE HOCKEY AT THE JOE' at Joe Louis Arena. Includes logos for various hockey teams and ticket information.