

Lakers surprise Southeastern, reach Class A semis

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

PREP BASKETBALL

With five minutes to go in Tuesday night's Class A quarterfinal game, the West Bloomfield Lakers clung to a 44-41 lead over favored Detroit Southeastern and lost power forward Ed Richardson, who fouled out.

Into the game for coach Larry Moore stepped 6-7 junior forward Julian Frazier, who had the unenviable task of coming in cold against the Junglers' mammoth front court - led by 6-10 Walter Waters.

What happened after that helped propel the Lakers to a 56-50 victory over Southeastern (18-6) at Ferndale High School.

West Bloomfield (22-4) will play at 1 p.m. Friday against Flint Carman-Ainsworth for a berth in Saturday's 4 p.m. Class

A championship game. The state semifinal and final games will be played at Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University.

With 2:30 remaining and the Lakers up 49-48, Frazier jumped high to pick off a Jungler's pass in the West Bloomfield end. About a minute later, he came out of nowhere to reject a field-goal attempt by Waters, who managed just six points in the contest.

The third big play from Frazier down the stretch was another block near the Lakers basket, with just under one minute remaining.

"I knew I had to do something to help my team, and blocking shots was the way to go," said Frazier, in the middle of the Lakers' on-court celebration.

"We're just peaking at the right time."

West Bloomfield had many other contributors, however. ■ Senior Mando Martin scored 16 points, including seven in a row to kick off the Lakers' second-half rally from a 26-24 intermission deficit.

■ Senior Kyle Flanchaum scored 10 and made yet another important defensive play for West Bloomfield, intercepting a Southeastern pass in the Lakers zone with just under one minute to play, when a Jungler's basket could have made it a one-point game.

■ Before he fouled out, Richardson (6 points) came through with a big offensive rebound and put-back early in the fourth to increase West Bloomfield's lead to 44-40.

■ And there was ferocious defense by senior forward-center Kevin Lamb, senior Vince Berry and junior guard David

Merritt (14 points). Their combined efforts helped tire out Waters, senior Brandon Crittenden (10 points) and 6-8 junior Rashawn Marshall (5 points).

Their defense also kept Southeastern point guard Brandon Jenkins to 15 points. Jenkins was selected eighth in voting for the Mr. Basketball award, presented by prep coaches.

According to Moore, and several of his players, the Lakers continued on their mission of proving wrong those prognosticators who never gave the squad much credit from the pre-season on.

"They've been picking against us all season and we thrive on that," Moore said. "We know what we're capable of doing, especially defensively. We played another great defensive game. We took the two guys away from Groves (Vova

Severovas, Giordan Watson) and took the two big guys away tonight. And they've been shutting down teams' defenses all year."

Berry (5 points) said every newspaper came out predicting the Lakers to lose, first to Groves in the regional final and then to Southeastern. "We've felt that (lack of respect) the whole year. We came out and shocked the world."

Moore noticed his offense was misfiring during the first half, rushing many shots and altering others because of the presence of Waters and company.

But West Bloomfield trailed by just one basket, and the Lakers' coach told his players they still had a good chance to come out victorious if they began playing the way they can. "I told them it really was a tie game going into halftime, and that we didn't play a good first

half offensively," Moore said. "We were standing around and it was only 26-24, and so we worked on a few things at halftime."

About the clutch play by Frazier, who missed much of this season with an injured elbow, Moore told the players. "This could be your breakout game," that he could be working toward next year and he rose to the challenge.

The second half was a see-saw affair.

With Southeastern ahead 40-39, Merritt hit a key to give West Bloomfield another lead. Next came a key play, as the Junglers had a basket nullified due to an offensive foul.

Merritt hit two foul shots with 2:46 left to put the Lakers ahead to stay, 48-49, followed by a driving layup through the paint by Martin.

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The members of the Farmington Gymnastics Center team are (front) Marlee Fink, (first row, left to right) Danielle Bressi, Lauren Doffo, Kelly McKay, Jill Guffey, (second row) Chelsea Foss, Elana Cooke, Kristin Nagle, (third row) Emily Rito, Nicole Dahl, Courtney Smith, Makenna Pohl, Kelsey Twigg, Tori Roney and Kylea Pohl.

GYMNASTICS

The Farmington Gymnastics Center team participated in the American Tumbler meet Feb. 8 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Lauren Duda placed first in Level 7 all-around. Rachel Wasson third, Jill Happelmeier fourth, Adrienne McHenry fifth and Laura Merritt seventh. Following are the Farmington girls' scores.

LEVEL 7 RESULTS

All-Around: Lauren Duda, 33.775; Rachel Wasson, 33.675; Jill Happelmeier, 33.640; Adrienne McHenry, 33.275; Laura Merritt, 32.700; Jacqueline Gazette, 32.650; Emily Luxon, 31.950.

Vault: Wasson, 9.475; Duda, 9.325; Gazette, 9.3; McHenry, 8.9; Merritt, 9.45; Luxon, 9.05; Happelmeier, 8.7.

Bars: Happelmeier 9.1; Duda 8.8; Wasson 8.75; Merritt 8.75; McHenry 8.65; Gazette 8.75; Luxon 8.65.

Beam: McHenry 8.35; Wasson 8.3; Gazette 7.9; Duda 7.75; Luxon 7.7; Happelmeier 7.3; Merritt 7.1.

Floor: Duda 9.1; Happelmeier 8.5; Merritt 8.4; McHenry 8.375; Wasson 8.15; Gazette 7.95; Luxon 7.95.

LEVEL 8 RESULTS

All-Around: Nicole Dunn 35.1; Wendy Ross 34.1; Amanda Perrelli 34.2; Caitlin McPherson 33.55; Kelly Weickel 33.525; Jenna Benoit 33.175; Sarah Tomkovich 32.325.

Vault: Perrelli 8.95; McPherson 8.85; Ross 8.7; Dunn 8.65; Benoit 8.05; Weickel 8.375; Weickel 8.3.

Bars: Dunn 8.25; Tomkovich 8.65; Perrelli 8.415; Ross 8.415; Benoit 8.05; Weickel 7.9; McPherson 7.825.

Beam: Dunn 8.175; McPherson 8.775; Weickel 8.775; Perrelli 8.3; Benoit 8.25; Ross 8.25; Tomkovich 7.75.

Floor: Ross 8.075; Dunn 8.6; McPherson 8.6; Weickel 8.55; Perrelli 8.475; Benoit 8.45; Tomkovich 7.625.

LEVEL 9 RESULTS

All-Around: Michelle Jordan 33.95; Calista Harbaugh 32.725; Keri Monstrola 31.30.

Vault: Monstrola 9.05; Jordan 8.55; Harbaugh 8.525.

Bars: Jordan 8.7; Harbaugh 8.075.

Monstrola 7.25.

Beam: Jordan 8.175; Harbaugh 8.025; Monstrola 7.05.

Floor: Jordan 8.525; Harbaugh 8.1; Monstrola 7.95.

LEVEL 10 RESULTS

Shelby Grubeck: 8.25 vault, 8.75 bars, 8.1 beam, 8.65 floor, 33.625 all-around.

WINTEREST CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

Feb. 8-9 at Farmington Gymnastics Center. Club teams from Kalamazoo, Westland, Lansing, Warren, Hartland, West Bloomfield, Rochester and downriver competed.

Farmington's Level 6 and 9 teams placed first. Level 8 second, Level 7 third and Level 5 fourth. Following are the Farmington girls' scores.

LEVEL 5 RESULTS

Vault: Lindsay Mack 9.2; Jennifer O'Neil 8.85; Jessica Wolfe 8.8; Chloe Presley 8.65; Jackie Efrusy 8.6; Joel Domszy 8.6; Samantha Kohl 8.4; Christy Slowinski 8.35; Courtney Kieba 8.1; Megan Novack 8.05; Michelle Pitt 7.9.

Bars: Presley 9.1; O'Neil 9.0; Novack 8.0; Pitt 8.8; Mack 8.8; Wolfe 8.6; Slowinski 8.15; Efrusy 8.1; Domszy 8.05; Kohl 8.0; Kieba 7.95.

Beam: Kohl 9.2; Novack 9.05; Mack 8.8; O'Neil 8.775; Pitt 8.3; Kieba 8.2; Presley 8.025; Slowinski 8.025; Efrusy 8.0; Domszy 7.75; Wolfe 7.4.

Floor: Presley 9.0; O'Neil 8.9; Novack 8.8; Efrusy 8.7; Kohl 8.5; Wolfe 8.5; Kohl 8.5; Domszy 8.3; Pitt 8.25; Slowinski 8.15; Mack 7.8.

All-Around: O'Neil 35.525; Novack 34.50; Presley 34.875; Mack 34.6; Kohl 34.1; Efrusy 33.4; Wolfe 33.3; Pitt 33.25; Kieba 32.8; Slowinski 32.7; Domszy 32.7.

LEVEL 9 RESULTS

Vault: Tori Roney 9.075; Kristin Nagle 9.025; Makenna Pohl 9.0; Keri Monstrola 8.9; Calista Foss 8.875; Michelle Jordan 8.85; Kelsey Twigg 8.75; Nicole Dahl 8.65; Calista Harbaugh 8.5; Jill Guffey 8.5; Courtney Smith 8.5; Kelly McKay 8.4; Marlee Fink 8.35; Emily Rito 8.35; Lauren Ruffolo 8.3; Kylea Pohl 8.25; Elana Cooke 8.2.

Bars: Nagle 8.875; Jordan 8.5; Dahl 8.35; Twigg 8.4; Monstrola 8.3; Harbaugh 8.3; Cooke

8.25; Smith 8.2; McKay 8.2; Roney 8.1; Foss 7.8; Guffey 7.8; M Pohl 7.65; Ruffolo 7.6; K Pohl 7.35; Fink 7.25; Rito 6.3.

Beam: Jordan 9.25; Nagle 9.15; Cooke 9.0; Dahl 8.9; Smith 8.8; M Pohl 8.6; K Pohl 8.6; Harbaugh 8.55; Monstrola 8.45; Guffey 8.4; Foss 8.35; McKay 8.3; Rito 8.0; Twigg 8.0; Ruffolo 7.95; Roney 7.5; Fink 7.45.

Floor: Jordan 9.0; Cooke 8.875; Nagle 8.875; Guffey 8.85; Foss 8.85; Harbaugh 8.775; Rito 8.75; M Pohl 8.75; K Pohl 8.725; Fink 8.7; Twigg 8.6; McKay 8.5; Dahl 8.4; Ruffolo 8.4; Smith 8.35; Roney 8.35; Monstrola 8.25.

All-Around: Jordan 35.6; Nagle 34.925; Cooke 34.325; Dahl 34.3; Harbaugh 34.125; M Pohl 34.0; Monstrola 33.9; Foss 33.875; Smith 33.85; Twigg 33.75; Guffey 33.55; McKay 33.4; Roney 33.025; K Pohl 32.925; Ruffolo 32.25; Fink 21.75; Rito 31.4.

LEVEL 7 RESULTS

Vault: Lauren Duda 9.25; Rachel Wasson 9.15; Emily Luxon 9.05; Jacqueline Gazette 8.9; Bars: Wasson 8.7; Duda 8.25; Gazette 7.6; Luxon 7.25.

Beam: Wasson 9.0; Gazette 8.9; Luxon 8.95; Duda 8.15.

Floor: Wasson 8.8; Luxon 8.675; Duda 7.5; Gazette 7.25.

All-Around: Wasson 35.65; Luxon 33.525; Duda 33.1; Gazette 32.65.

LEVEL 8 RESULTS

Vault: Caitlin McPherson 8.85; Wendy Ross 8.8; Sarah Tomkovich 8.75; Nicole Dunn 8.7; Jenna Benoit 8.475; Amanda Perrelli 8.35; Kelly Weickel 8.3.

Bars: Benoit 8.8; Dunn 8.5; Ross 8.3; Tomkovich 8.1; Weickel 7.75; McPherson 7.45; Perrelli 6.75.

Beam: Weickel 9.15; McPherson 8.9; Dunn 8.75; Ross 8.7; Benoit 8.4; Perrelli 8.4; Tomkovich 8.1.

Floor: Ross 9.275; Dunn 9.2; McPherson 9.025; Weickel 9.075; Benoit 9.075; Perrelli 8.9; Tomkovich 8.65.

All-Around: Dunn 35.15; Ross 35.075; Benoit 34.75; McPherson 34.325; Weickel 34.3; Tomkovich 33.5; Perrelli 32.4.

CONGRATULATIONS

Suburban Hockey

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Observer & Eccentric

TEAM of the WEEK

LAKELAND SPIRIT

Congratulations to the Lakeland Pee Wee Spirit, Champions of the Sault Cabin Fever Tournament!

Observer & Eccentric
MICHIGAN HOCKEY

Individual registration is underway for the Suburban Spring Hockey League. West League games will be played out of Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and East League games will be played at the Oxy-Rochester Ice Arena. Call (248) 478-1000 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

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VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Madonna University will host a series of summer volleyball camps. Cost is \$120 (\$90 for youth camp). Morning sessions will be from 8:30 a.m.-noon - June 29-July 2 (Elite); noon - 7:30 (Setters); July 13-16 (Hitters). Afternoon sessions will be from 1-4 - June 29-July 2 (General Players); July 7-10 (Youth); July 13-16 (Defensive Specialty).

For more information and registration, call MU head volleyball coach and camp director Jerry Abraham evenings at (734) 254-0698 or the volleyball office at (734) 432-5612.

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CCHA Championship Weekend

Thurs., March 20	Quarter-Finals	Fri., March 21	Semi-Finals
vs.	4:00 pm	vs. Seed #4	4:00 pm
vs.	7:30 pm	vs. Seed #3	7:30 pm

*Teams will be reseeded after Thursday's games

Sat., March 22	Finals
Third Place Game	4:00 pm
Championship Game	7:30 pm

Tickets are \$25, \$20, \$16, \$13, and \$9 and are available at the following locations: all ticket locations, including the Saginaw State arena, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin. Tickets are also available by logging on to collegehockeyathletics.com or by calling (800) 444-4444. Great group rates available by calling (800) 444-4444.