

GC West Clips Riverside 65-63 To Remain Unbeaten



It has been a long, hard battle for Garden City West, but the Tiger cagers finally have climbed back to .500 basketball.

Chris Babler's crew dropped its first three games and sported a 2-5 mark before the holiday break, losing to such teams as Ann Arbor Pioneer and Brother Rice.

WEST OPENED '73 with a tough loss to rival Garden City East, but it has been a different story since.

The Tigers slipped by Riverside for their fourth straight Tri-River victory to stand at 6-0 in the league, 66 out of 100 over all at 6-4.

Being on top of the Tri-River is nothing new for Babler and his crew. The Tigers have won the league three times in the last five years and finished second the other two.

"Some people might think that we play weak teams in our league, that our league is weak overall because of our

defeated in the Tri-River with Riverside hit 21 of 51 for 47 percent.

RIVERSIDE LED after one quarter, 18-16, and held on to a 3-5 margin at the half.

Babler switched from a man-to-man to a zone in the second quarter and West went on to take a 51-46 advantage after three periods.

Riverside drove down court and missed on a short jumper, Mark Kibourn hauling in the rebound for West.

The Tigers stalled and with 14 seconds left on the clock, started a set-pattern play.

But like all things that win, the play was broken and Paul Tatra didn't pass to an open Kibourn. Instead, he hit a 16-foot jumper to give West a two-point margin.

Riverside called a quick time out with three seconds remaining, but a full length of the court pass went astray and the Tigers had come from behind to do it again.

WEST HIT 28 of 56 for 50 percent from the field and Riverside hit 21 of 51 for 47 percent.

Kibourn collected 11 rebounds in leading West to a 30-20 margin.

West travels to Cherry Hill Friday.

CHERRY HILL is sporting a 4-2 league mark and is the one team West has not played yet in the Tri-River.

"This has to be a pivotal game for us," said Babler. "We then have Kennedy the following week. If we can win these two, things will be looking mighty pretty."

RIVERSIDE (65) FG FT TP B. Carr 4 4 4 12 Tatro 6 5 0 10 Kibourn 6 2 2 14 Kinsvater 6 0 0 12 Gosh 2 1 2 5 Gosh 2 1 2 5 Totals 28 51 65

RIVERSIDE (63) FG FT TP Adams 4 5 6 13 Bator 2 0 0 4 Oats 3 0 0 6 Wing 5 7 9 17 Scaccia 2 2 4 6 Purdy 1 1 2 3 Lints 4 0 0 8 Schupre 3 0 1 Totals 24 35 63

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WL Central Tips Falcons, 65-60



Farmington High gradually ran out of steam and manpower as it fell to Walled Lake Central, 65-60, in an Inter-Lakes Conference basketball clash.

The 29 Falcons saw a 17-10 first quarter lead dwindle to 22-27 at the half, and they fell behind after three quarters, 45-43.

"We completely outplayed Central in the first quarter," said first year Coach Bruce Brown.

Farmington hit seven of 16, with Jim Easthorne, Dennis Hagen and Jeff Herman

netting four points each. These same three later all fouled out in the fourth period, with more than two minutes remaining.

Farmington managed to hold on to the lead at the half, 22-27, but Central's "Mr. Everything," Randy McLean, hit two free throws at the end of the third period to put Central up, 45-43.

McLEAN WOUND up 15 for 18 at the line and hit 11 field goals for a game high of 37 points.

With 2:10 remaining, Farmington found itself back on top, 26-26, but Central got Easthorne, Hagen and Herman all to foul out and the Falcons didn't have anything left to stay with McLean.

"I was really pleased with our performance," said Brown. "Even though we have dropped our last two games, I have seen a tremendous improvement."

The Falcons travel to Waterford Mott Friday for a non-league clash.

WL CENTRAL (65) Imhoff 5 1 5 11 Ashby 6 3 4 7 McLean 11 15 18 37 Long 2 0 2 2 Harper 2 0 2 2 Totals 22 21 35 65

FARMINGTON (60) Easthorne 5 0 1 10 Merra 0 0 0 0 Hagen 4 2 2 10 Drake 4 1 1 9 Montgomery 4 1 2 9 Clancy 1 0 0 2 Love 0 0 0 5 Herman 5 0 0 5 Totals 23 14 19 60

CENTRAL 10 17 18 20 65 FARMINGTON 17 16 11 17 60

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HOWD THAT HAPPEN? Churchill's Brian Veasey seems to be pondering this question after getting flipped in Suburban Hockey League action with Bentley. (Observer photos by Tom Donoghue)

Ready For Hawk Showdown

Churchill Edges Mott

Don Forest made good only two of five from the free throw line against Waterford Mott, but they turned out to be two points Churchill needed to defeat Mott, 52-51.

It was a key Western Six basketball triumph for the now 7-3 Chargers who stand 2-1 in the league, tied for first with Harrison and Walled Lake Western.

MOTT SLIPPED to 2-2. Now comes an early six showdown when the defending champion Churchill squad hosts Farmington Harrison Friday.

Churchill's first half against Mott was almost a repeat of the contest with Walled Lake Central. In fact, the entire game was almost an instant replay for Charger Coach Pat Montagano.

Against Central, his squad all but ran Walled Lake of the court but ran out of gas in the closing moments to lose, 64-54.

CHURCHILL FOUND it's reserve tank against Mott.

Phil Damaska and Don Phillips hit for 11 and six points respectively in the first period to give the Chargers a 17-16 lead after building up an 11-0 score.

Mott rebounded to win the second half, 17-16, but Montagano was pleased with

his defense, allotting Mott only 23 shots in the opening half.

CHURCHILL LED at the half, 23-23.

Both teams traded buckets in the third stanza, each scoring 12 points but the tank was nearing empty.

"We couldn't buy a basket in the fourth quarter," said Montagano. "We were missing all sorts of key layups."

Dgn Braun was the lone Charger to find the hoop with two field goals and a free throw and the scoreboard read 50-49 in favor of Churchill when Forest stepped to the free throw line.

He was zero for three at that time.

Forest made good both attempts and Churchill went up, 52-49.

WITH 30 SECONDS remaining, Mark Lawrence closed it one again on a short jumper.

Then, with nine seconds left and up by one, Churchill was called for a three second violation.

Lawrence got the call for Mott, and went up for a 25 foot jumper. Churchill's Mark Stieloff.

"Size-wise we can neutralize Harrison," said Montagano. "Stieloff has to be the best big man in the Western Six but it will take more than one good player to beat us."

Churchill hit 21 of 57 from the floor for 36 percent with Mott getting the best in this department with 45 percent on 24 of 52.

BRAUN and Reed hauled in 12 rebounds apiece to pace Churchill to a 41-27 board advantage.

Now comes Harrison and 6-8 Stieloff.

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