

Marlins top Borgess in playoffs

Mercy '5' -- going places again

By TOM BAER

Larry Baker has a tough act to follow as Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's first-year girls' basketball coach.

Mercy's basketball squad, under ex-coach Rose Swindinski, has been building a reputation for excellence in the Catholic League and the Class A prep ratings. The Marlins made it all the way to the A finals last season, falling to Detroit Dominican in the title game. Mercy also finished second in the Catholic League playoffs.

But then Miss Swindinski left Mercy and headed for an assistant coaching position at West Bloomfield High School. The key to the victory was a very tight press maintained through three

quarters of the game. And Baker, a basketball star during his high school days at Midland Dow, designed a new defense to stop Mary Kay Intyre, Borgess' high-scoring center.

IT WAS A defense designed especially for Borgess," Baker said. "We dropped back into a new zone defense—a 1-2-2. This time, K. D. Harte was covering Mary Kay most of the time and double teaming with Karen Gilhooly.

The strategy worked. Miss Intyre, who wrecked Mercy before by scoring 32 points, was held to just two shots and four points in the playoff game. The Borgess star went on to lead all scorers with 21 points, but 13 came in the last quarter.

Mercy's press took its toll, forcing Borgess into 26 turnovers.

Mercy took a 20-12 halftime lead and then built the margin to 19 points (41-23). Diane Dietz, a 5-8 senior center, led the winners with 20 points. Miss Harte and Miss Gilhooly each added 14 points. Jureen Bartos provided 10 more points.

"We had Diane Dietz breaking up for the ball differently than before," Baker said. "It seemed to free her a little more because she got 20 points. Jureen Bartos has a great outside shot. We kind of depend on her to keep those zone defenses honest."

Baker continued: "It was a tremendous team effort this time. We played as well as a team as we have in any game so far. The girls were very unselfish with the ball. They moved it around and hit the open girl."

By beating Borgess, Mercy earned the right to play Dominican for the Catholic League title. Dominican stopped Harger Woods Bishop Gallagher, 55-31, in the other semifinal game at Foley.

The Catholic League champion will play Detroit Northeastern, the Detroit Public School League champion, on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. in the University of Detroit Memorial Building in the first Catholic League-FSL girls' basketball championship game.

Mercy will face another rough opponent next week in the Farmington High Class A district. The Marlins meet Plymouth Salem, the champion of the Suburban Eight League, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21. Host Farmington High plays Plymouth Canton at 8:30 p.m.

"I sure I feel the pressure," Baker said. "But the girls make it easier because they're very flexible and they've been really great to work with."

Mercy (23): Jureen Bartos 4, 2, 10, K. D. Harte 6, 2, 14, Jean Otto 1, 0, 2, Diane Dietz 10, 8, 20, Karen Gilhooly 7, 0, 14, Kate McNamara 1, 2, 4, Leslie Sims 2, 1, 5, Mary Pat Hammer 1, 0, 2, Marge Larson 1, 0, 2, Lynn Vadach 0, 0, 0, Carolyn Cylkowski 0, 0, 0

Totals: 23, 7, 73

Bishop Borgess (54): Laurie Zeman 1, 2, 4, Barb Beryk 1, 1, 3, Sue Janus 5, 2, 12, Mary Kay Intyre 10, 1, 21, Margaret Madigan 2, 2, 6, Mary Gibbons 1, 0, 2

Totals: 23, 14

Farmington Mercy 20 21 18 16 73  
Bishop Borgess 12 19 12 18 54

Mercy-Borgess

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Mercy's K.D. Harte (23) stays on top of things against Borgess.



LARRY BAKER



Diane Dietz (25) scored 20 points for Mercy.

Farmington's defense results in cage victory

Victories have been few and far between for Farmington High's first-year girls' basketball team. But coach Bob Lekovish's Falcons logged their third win of the season by beating Waterford Township, 29-22, 45-34 Thursday in an Inter Lakes League game.

Earlier last week Pontiac Northern edged Farmington, 37-32, in another I.L. game.

Against Waterford, Farmington displayed a fine defense. The score was tied at 22-20 going into the last quarter. The Falcons held Waterford scoreless in that stanza and went on to win by seven points.

"We played a real tough zone, putting pressure on their guards," Lekovish said. "I thought that if we pressured their guards, they'd have trouble bringing the ball up the floor. Our press worked pretty well and they made a lot of turnovers."

With about 3:50 left in the game, we decided to go to a stall and keep running the clock down. That seemed to work too. We managed to keep the ball away from them."

Pat Fournier, a 5-6 sophomore

guard, scored eight points for the winners. Teammate Julie Lekovish, the coach's daughter, added eight points while Diane Schwartz provided four.

Teri Haskell led Waterford with seven points, Wendy Wallace and Julie Stack each had six.

Against Northern, Farmington fell behind, 13-5, after the first quarter and just couldn't catch up. Northern's Gwen Gathers led all scorers with 17 points. Teammates Ora Davis and Kathy Green each had seven. Miss Vanhusen led Farmington with 12 points, while Miss Lekovish added 10.

Farmington, now 3-10 overall and 2-8 in the league, plays next at home on Tuesday (Nov. 18) against Westland John Glenn. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Farmington will host a Class A district tournament beginning Friday (Nov. 21). Other teams: Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, Plymouth Canton, Plymouth Salem, Northvale and Wayne Memorial. Mercy plays Salem at 7 p.m. and Farmington takes on Canton at 8:30 p.m.

Farmington-Waterford

Farmington (29): Julie Moore 1, 0, 0, 3, Diane Schwartz 2, 0, 1, 4, Kathy Lekovish 0, 0, 0, 2, Liz Merrill 1, 0, 0, 2, Kathy VanDusen 1, 1, 3, 3, Julie Lekovish 4, 0, 2, 8, Sally Bird 1, 0, 0, 2, Pat Fournier 4, 0, 0, 2, Jen Wehrman 0, 0, 1, 0, Shelli Still 0, 0, 1, 0

Totals: 14, 10, 29

Waterford (22): Terri Haskell 3, 12, 7, Peggy Smith 0, 0, 1, 0, Kathy Wharstone 1, 2, 3, Wendy Wallace 3, 0, 0, 6, Julie Slack 3, 0, 1, 6, Mary Boldt 0, 0, 1, 0

Totals: 11, 4, 22

Pontiac Northern-Farmington

Pontiac Northern (37): Kathy Green 3, 1, 2, 7, Sheri Gilchrist 1, 0, 0, 2, Gwen Gathers 8, 1, 5, 17, Carol McAfee 2, 0, 0, 4, Ora Davis 2, 1, 4, 7

Totals: 16, 5, 37

Farmington (21): Julie Moore 1, 0, 0, 2, Diane Schwartz 1, 0, 0, 2, Kathy VanDusen 5, 2, 4, 12, Julie Lekovish 3, 4, 9, 10, Sally Bird 0, 0, 2, 0, Pat Fournier 2, 0, 3, 6

Totals: 12, 6, 32

Total Points: Pontiac Northern 15, Farmington 13, Fined Out: None, Pontiac Northern 12, 7, 10, 7, 37, Farmington 5, 12, 6, 9, 32

Whitmore Lake-Christian

Whitmore Lake (76): Lisa Lawastida 8, 4, 4, 20, Jo Longonecker 4, 4, 7, 12, Teri Watkins 7, 0, 3, 14, Paula Hoeft 4, 1, 2, 9, Liz Frobit 2, 2, 4, 8, Jill Longonecker 2, 1, 5, 5, Kathy Winters 1, 3, 3, 5, Kathy Harmon 1, 1, 1, 3

Totals: 20, 17, 35, 78

Southfield Christian (15): Heather Wright 0, 0, 2, 0, Robin Harris 0, 3, 4, 3, Martha Gill 3, 1, 4, 7, Barb Proctor 1, 3, 8, 5

Totals: 4, 7, 19, 15

Total Points: Southfield Christian 23, Whitmore Lake 16, Fined Out: Heather Wright and Martha Gill Christian, and from what I hear, Wyndostie has a pretty good press, too. We're going to have to work on beating the press this week."

Christian cagers collapse

It must have been very quiet for the Southfield Christian bus when the Eagles' girls' basketball team returned from Whitmore Lake High last Thursday night.

Whitmore Lake smothered Christian, 76-15, in a Class D game. The loss ended Christian's regular season at 8-5. Christian ran into foul trouble early in the game and never recovered, according to coach Dave Seils.

"Two of our best players, Heather Wright and Martha Gill, picked up three fouls by early in the second quarter," Seils said. "I had to take them out. They've both been scoring a lot of points for us this season."

Whitmore Lake raced to a 13-3 advantage after one quarter and then extended the margin to 20 points (35-9) at halftime. The winners used a press throughout the game, according to Seils.

"Whitmore Lake had a very effective full-court press for the entire game," he said. "They had a 50-point

lead and they were still pressing us in the last quarter.

Three Whitmore Lake girls finished in double figures. Lisa Lawastida fired in 20 points, Teri Watkins added 14 and Jo Longonecker 12. Miss Gill led Christian with seven points. Barb Proctor and Robin Harris chipped in 8-5. Christian ran into foul trouble early in the game and never recovered, according to coach Dave Seils.

Christian plays next in the Class D district tournament on Thursday (Nov. 20) at Detroit St. Martin DePorres High. The Eagles meet Wyndostie M. Carmel at 5:30 p.m. Allen Park Inter-City Christian and Detroit St. Hegarty are also in the district.

"I'm optimistic about our chances in the district," Seils said. "But we didn't really handle the press very well tonight (against Whitmore Lake) and from what I hear, Wyndostie has a pretty good press, too. We're going to have to work on beating the press this week."

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