

# Mercy rips Canton, wins district title

By TOM BAER

One matchup in the Warren Fitzgerald girls' basketball regional should prove interesting to Southfield and Farmington fans.

On Thursday, Dec. 4, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy will play Southfield High School at 7:30 p.m. Both Southfield and Mercy added district titles to their fine seasons last week. Southfield defeated Allen Park to win its own district, while Mercy stopped Plymouth Canton, 82-29, to take the Farmington High district.

"I'm not taking Southfield lightly—I'm not taking any team lightly at this point," said Larry Baker, Mercy's first-year coach who has guided the Marlins to a 16-2 record this season.

The Mercy-Canton game was no contest right from the start. Mercy established a 22-7 lead after one quarter and then outscored Canton, 40-22, for the remainder of the game. Mercy's zone press, used for the first half, turned the trick, according to Baker. "Our press forced a lot of Canton

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turnovers," he said. "But we turned the ball over a lot, too. Canton was a very scrappy team—very aggressive. Canton gave us our toughest tournament game."

Mercy's K.D. Harte continued her impressive scoring with 18 points on seven field goals and four free throws. She's been a consistent scorer all season and has been especially effective in the district, providing a total of 43 points in the three games. "She's been playing very good ball," Baker said. "She's very quick and she drives to the basket very well. She also has a very quick jump shot. She gets it off very quickly.

She's scored well in the tournaments because she does well with our fast break. She also does well against a man-to-man defense because of her quickness."

Miss Harte had plenty of scoring help. Lynn Yadach and Diane Dietz added 10 and eight points respectively. Earlier last week, Mercy defeated Wayne Memorial, 75-20, to advance to the district final. Katie McNamara scored 13 points for the winners, and teammate Leslie Sims added 10. Mercy raced to a 17-2 lead after the first quarter to put the game out of reach.



Mercy's Katie McNamara (15) shoots above a forest of arms during the Canton game.



Lynn Yadach (52) looks worried, but her team had no problems with Canton.

### 'Things look better' at Harrison

## Depth, savvy could help Hawks

Farmington Harrison basketball coach Bob Sutter is counting on depth and experience to help his club improve on its 7-12 overall record last year.

"Things look better this year," said Sutter, whose team opens its season on Tuesday at non-league Oak Park High. "We have quite a few kids back from last year, especially our front

line people, and we've improved at the guard spots."

Sutter is sure to miss 6-4 Bob Mason, who led the team in rebounds last season. "Mason was a horse in there, but we have a kid from the reserves, Brian Gilbert, who is really working hard," Sutter said. "He's 6-5 and should help us a lot. He plays much the same same type of game as Mason did."

Harrison's two leading scorers, Mark Brozak (6-4) and Mike Styles (6-3), are among the returnees. Lou Vujak (6-2), who's "pretty strong and jumps real well," according to Sutter, and Jeff Otto (6-0), who's beginning his third year on the varsity, complete Harrison's starting unit.

Team depth could be a factor in Harrison's success this season, according to Sutter.

"I really feel that we have a great bench," he said. "We have some good juniors like Larry Pump (6-2) and Greg Mithaik (6-2). I hope to be more aggressive this year because of our bench. Last year, we had to be a little careful, especially at the guard spots

Now we can be more aggressive because we have more kids."

HARRISON, WHICH compiled a 5-5 record in the Western Six League last year, opens league play at home on Dec. 12 against defending champion Northville High. Last season, Harrison upset Northville on the Mustangs court.

"I think Livonia Churchill looks good in the league this season," Sutter said. "They had a bad season last year, but they have some good people back. Waterford Mott also looks good. They beat us twice last season, and they were playing quite a few juniors."

And Sutter isn't counting Harrison out of the league race.

"I believe we have a chance to win the league," he said. "Our kids will be tough if they can learn to play together and believe in themselves."

Harrison has a tough non-league game on Jan. 6 when Highland Park, the Class A state champion, invades the Hawks' gym. Last year, Highland Park slaughtered Harrison, 94-52, at

the St. Benedict Recreation Center in Highland Park.

"We like to play Highland Park," Sutter said. "Darrell Pursiful is a great coach. He does a great job with his kids. Playing against a team like Highland Park, with their quickness and their ability, has to help us. Being destroyed by them might hurt our confidence, but overall playing them has to help us."

Neil Redford will coach Harrison's reserve team this season.

Date	Location	Time
Dec 2	at Oak Park	8 p.m.
Dec 5	at N. Farmington	8 p.m.
Dec 12	Northville	8 p.m.
Dec 16	Farmington	8 p.m.
Dec 19	at W.L. Western	8 p.m.
Dec 22-23	Tournament	Jan 6
	Highland Park	8 p.m.
Jan 9	at Churchill	8 p.m.
Jan 16	at Plymouth Canton	8 p.m.
Jan 20	at Thurston	8 p.m.
Jan 23	at Mott	8 p.m.
Jan 27	at Kettering	8 p.m.
Jan 30	at Northville	8 p.m.
Feb 3	at Seaborn	8 p.m.
Feb 6	at W.L. Western	8 p.m.
Feb 13	at Churchill	8 p.m.
Feb 17	at Franklin	8 p.m.
Feb 20	at Plymouth Canton	8 p.m.
Feb 27	at Mott	8 p.m.

### Steinhaus: league champ

Steinhaus, unbeaten in Farmington Touch Football League play, won the league playoff by beating Mike & Tom Pub, 20-19, Nov. 23 at Farmington City Park. Earlier in the playoffs, Steinhaus stopped Bolton, 19-12.

### Area tankers pace Eastern

Two area swimmers helped Eastern Michigan University make a strong showing in the Michigan Collegiate Swimming Relays at Central Michigan University Nov. 22.

Buck Crosthwaite, a freshman who graduated from Southfield-Lathrup, swam on Eastern's 400-yard freestyle relay, which won in 3:19.32. Bruce Howell, a sophomore from Farmington Harrison, swam a leg on Eastern's 400-yard medley relay, which finished second in 3:00.70.



HARRISON COACH BOB SUTTER

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