Two years in a row

Mercy girls fall again in state finals

A group of sad-faced Farmington Our Lady of Mercy cheerleaders and basketball players gathered at center court and unfurled a banner.

It was the Michigan High School Athletic Association's runners-up award-emblematic of the second-best class A girls basketball team in the state. Mercy's girls have seen that banner before.

For the second straight season, Mercy fought all the way to the A finals, only to lose.

Last year, Detroit Dominican nipped Mercy by one point. Last Saturday Detroit Northeastern, powered by the explosive Williams sisters, overpowered the Marlins, 67-62, at East Kentwood High near Grand Rapids.

Northeastern's girls had their moment of glory at center court. Coach Brenda Gatlin said: "In Detroit, we've known that Northeastern has been No. 1 for the past three years. Now the whole state knows it."

Mercy made the finals by topping a tough Marquette High team, 62-57, last Friday in the semi-finals at South Christian. Northeastern beat Dominican in the semis.

In the finals, Mercy fell behind, 12-10, after one quarter, but came roaring back to go up by ten points, 26-10, midway through the second quarter. Mercy's guard combination of Judeen Bartos and K.D. Harte paced the comeback by scoring a total of 16 points in the quarter. The Marlins led 30-28 at half.

But Mercy started making turnovers (24 over four quarters), and Northeastern's Helen Williams started scoring (31 points, all coming in the last three quarters). Sister Sheila, a husky 5-8 center, added 22 points and pulled down 24 rebounds to help the Falcons control the boards.

Helen Williams continued her hot scoring during the quater when Northeastern outpointed Mercy, 24-17.

Mercy made a valiant comeback in the fourth quarter. Northeastern led by five going into the stanza and then spread the margin to nine (59-50) before Mercy started a steady comeback. With :50 left, substitute Leslie Sims made a basket to pull the Marlins to within two points, 62-60. But then Helen and Sheila each hit a bucket to seal the victory.

Miss Bartos paced mercy with 21 points, most coming on long shots. The 5-4 senior guard wasn't around for the finish, however. She required hospitalization after being hit in the face by a basketball on an in-bounds play in the fourth quarter.

Miss Harte and Jean Otto each scored 10 points, and Karen Gilhooley added nine.

Against Marquette, Mercy trailed for 3½ quarters. Miss Harte, who led the scorers with 21 points, scored a filed goal with 4:21 left in the game to give the Marlins a 52-51 lead. Miss Bartos, Diane Dietz and Mary Pat Hammell each added six points.

Coach Larry Baker's Mercy girls finished the season with a 20-3 record. Northeastern (20-0) had beaten Mercy, 88-41, in the Detroit PSL-Catholic league championship game at the University of Detroit Memorial building in November.

Northeastern-Mercy

Northeastern (67): Sheila Williams 9, 4-4, 22; Helen Williams 13, 5-9, 31; Cynthia Appling 2, 0-0, 4; Katherine Reid 2, 1-2, 5; Sylvia Jackson 2, 1-2, 5; Patricia Bowden 0, 0-1, 1.
Totals: 28, 11-17, 67

Mercy (62): Judeen Bartos 10, 1-2, 21; K.D. Harte 4, 2-3, 10; Karen Gilhooley 4, 1-2, 9; Diane Dietz 4, 0-0, 8; Jean Otto 3, 0-1, 10; Leslie Sims 1, 0-0, 2; Katie McNamara 1, 0-0, 2.
Total fouls: Mercy 20, Northeastern 13

Northeastern	10	18	20	15	—67
Mercy	12	18	17	15	—62

Mercy—Marquette

Mercy (62): Judeen Bartos 3, 0-0, 6; Diane Dietz 3, 0-0, 6; Karen Gilhooley 2, 1-2, 5; K.D. Harte 9, 3-5, 21; Jean Otto 2, 1-2, 5; Mary Pat Hammell 3, 0-0, 6; Katie McNamara 6, 1-2, 13.
Totals: 28, 6-11, 62

Marquette (57): Shelly Chapman 5, 5-8, 15; Karon Kreuger 5, 3-4, 13; Laurie Niles 4, 6-8, 14; Janet Hopkins 5, 2-2, 12; Kim Grokean 1, 1-3, 3; Cheryl Aho 0, 0-1, 0.
Totals: 20, 17-24, 57.
Total fouls: Marquette 14, Mercy 21
Fouled out: Gilhooley (Mercy)

Mercy	7	18	16	21	—62
Marquette	16	18	11	12	—57

Farmington overwhelmed by Stevenson's height, defense

Livonia Stevenson's height, experience and zone defense proved too much for a determined Farmington High basketball team Friday night. The Spartans dominated the court from the first moment of play, finally trouncing the Falcons, 69-45.

Spartan coach George Van Wagoner said after scouting the Falcons he elected to use a zone defense.

"We normally don't play zone. We usually use man-to-man, but because of the way this team (Falcons) plays and their ball patterns, we decided zone would be better."

And it was. Combined with the height advantage, the Falcons had a hard time moving into scoring territory.

By the end of the first quarter Stevenson had moved ahead 25-14 due in part to the rebounding by Stevenson's six-foot-five-inch center, Dave Haberman. The Haberman height combined with skillful shooting from Steve Gabrian and Rob Rose set a pace that was difficult for the Falcons to match. Some deceptive ball handling by guards Ron Colone and Dave Gilland only added to Falcon problems.

Rose led the Spartans with 20 points followed by Haberman with 13 and Steve Gabrian with nine.

Although the Falcons tightened their defense in the second quarter, with Randy Meiar and Rick Milhizer relentless in their pursuit of the taller Spartans, by half-time the Spartans had rolled ahead 43-24.

They maintained a 20-plus point lead throughout the second half.

Farmington coach Bruce Brown said when it was over, "We stunk and they were pretty good."

But, it was obvious that with only two seniors on the team, Brian Steusloff and Bill Stephenson, and the unexpected defense sprung by the Spartans, the Falcons couldn't do any high flying.

Falcons Mike Danna and Randy Meiar tied for scoring honors with nine points each. Bob Finnell and Brian Steusloff accounted for eight apiece.

With this victory Stevenson has a 2-1 record. They won their opening game against Redford Union and dropped the second to Garden City East.

The Falcons are 1-3 with losses to Livonia Bentley, Stevenson and Birmingham Seaholm and their single victory over Plymouth Canton.

Coach Van Wagoner conceded his victory hinged on Falcon inexperience.

"This is a young ball club with only two seniors and Brown is doing a good job with them."

The Spartan JV, undefeated in their first three games, defeated the Falcon JV, 64-50, with Jim Spala leading the scoring with 16 points. Larry Burdiss scored 11 points.

Matt Martin, Jack Lang and Jeff Hall tied for third place with eight points each.

Rick McKibben and Kevin Delp led the Falcon JV attack with 14 each, followed by Mike Bush with nine.

North Farmington-Livonia Franklin

North Farmington (50): Mark Thompson 2, 0-0, 4; Dan Werner 7, 2-4, 16; Fielding Epstein 5, 0-0, 10; John Patek 1, 0-0, 2; Mike Morrow 8, 1-2, 17; Mike Garcia 3, 3-4, 9; Kevin McCrum 0, 1-3, 1. **Totals:** 26, 7-13, 50

Livonia Franklin (55): John Lyons 1, 0-0, 2; Dan Pederson 8, 2-2, 18; Dennis Wesley 6, 8-9, 20; Sam Williams 3, 3-5, 9; John Magoulick 0, 0-1, 0; Jim Gleason 1, 0-0, 2; John Elmore 0, 0-1, 0; Dave Wilson 0, 0-1, 0; Dennis Smith 2, 0-0, 4. **Totals:** 21, 13-19, 55

Total Fouls: North Farmington 15, Livonia Franklin 14. **Fouled Out:** Pederson

N. Farmington	20	8	13	16	—49
Franklin	22	6	9	19	—55

Junior guard Dick Radtz goes up high over an awesome opponent to score two points for the Farmington Falcons. (Staff photo)

Harrison cagers let loose during third quarter to rout Northville

The key to our win definitely was our shooting in the third quarter."

Forward Mike Style led the Hawks with 18 points and guard Mike Redford added 14 and Mark Brozek 13. Brozek, the big man in the middle, led the team with five rebounds.

Both teams were evenly matched under the boards as Harrison hauled down 31 rebounds and Northville managed to grab the ball off the boards 28 times.

"Neither of us destroyed the other on the boards," the Hawk coach said. "Our guys were just standing around in the first half, relying on their height to block out and get the ball. But in the second half they really hit the boards and we started moving."

Northville's hot-handed guard Chris Armada took scoring honors for the Mustangs by hitting on four attempts from the floor and sinking 9 of 15 free-throws. His brother Tony, added six points from his forward position and hit 7 of 10 from the line.

Fouls plagued both teams as the Hawks committed 27 fouls. The Mustangs took advantage of the situation and scored on 21 of 35 shots from the foul line. Northville had 19 fouls and the Hawks went 12 for 19 at the line.

Harrison now sports a 2-1 record and heads across town Tuesday night to play city rival Farmington High School.

Harrison High School scored 34 points in the third quarter on their way to a 82-61 rout of the Northville Mustangs.

The Hawks played a tight game during the first half but came out loose in the third quarter to take a commanding lead after trailing at half-time, 27-25.

"We scored our highest total ever in the third quarter," said Harrison coach Bob Sutter after the game. "The third quarter is usually our lowest scoring period but we shot extremely well.

"We broke their full court press and combined some good outside shooting to score 34 points. I was really pleased with our second half shooting.

"I wasn't too pleased with the way we played in the first half," he continued. "But we came on really strong in the second and really loosened up.

Harrison-Northville

Harrison (82): Mark Brozek 6, 1-1, 13; Mike Styles 8, 2-2, 18; Paul Butkunes 1, 0-1, 2; Larry Pump 2, 2-4, 6; Mike Redford 7, 0-0, 14; Jeff Otto 1, 0-1, 2; Rob Slatnick 2, 0-0, 4; Louie Vulaj 2, 0-0, 4; Brain Gilbert 4, 1-2, 9; Scott Fader 0, 4-5, 4; Paul Kolbe 1, 2-2, 4; Greg Mathiak 1, 0-1, 2.
Totals: 35, 12-19, 82

Northville (61): Chris Armada 4, 9-15, 17; Mark Graham 2, 2-4, 6; Jay Slagle 4, 0-1, 8; Tony Armada 3, 7-10, 13; Bill Piccolo 4, 1-3 1 9; Dan Ducy 1, 2-2, 4; Dave Brewer 2, 0-0, 4. **Totals:** 20, 21-35, 61

Total Fouls: Harrison 27, Northville 19
Fouled Out: Jay Slagle

Harrison	17	8	34	23	—82
Northville	12	15	6	28	—61

Rebounding is key for North in close game against Pats

North Farmington held Livonia Franklin to 14 points total offense during the middle two quarters in basketball action Friday night en route to a 50-55 victory.

The Raiders didn't exactly set the court on fire themselves offensively throughout the contest, but the cagers from North Farmington came up with key baskets at the most opportune times to secure the win.

The story of the game, from Franklin coach Robert Visser's point of view was the fact that the smaller Raiders outscrapped the Patriots on the boards and seldom allowed the Livonians more than one scoring chance each time down the court.

Franklin nosed out to a 22-20 opening quarter lead, and after a horrendous second period shooting-wise for both teams, the score was tied at 28.

The Raiders outscored the Patriots 15-8 during the third period and withstood a 19-16 Franklin scoring edge in the final stanza walk off the maplewood with the victory.

Franklin's Visser bemoaned the fact that his charges haven't coalesced as a team after four straight losses, but added he is hopeful that the Patriots' defense and shooting touch can improve in the weeks ahead.

North Farmington connected on 26 of 55 field goal attempts for a 48 per cent shooting mark in the contest., while Franklin shot a relatively cold 40 per cent, canning 21 of 49 attempts.

Franklin's Dennis Wesley and Dan Pederson paced all scorers with 20 and 18 points respectively, while North Farmington was led by Mike Morrow, with 17, Dan Werner, 16, and Fielding Epstein, 10.

North Farmington-Livonia Franklin

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Totals: 21, 13-19, 55

Total Fouls: North Farmington 15, Livonia Franklin 14
Fouled Out: Pederson

N. Farmington	20	8	13	16	—49
Franklin	22	6	9	19	—55

Sports coming up

Basketball

Tuesday (Dec. 16) University of Detroit High at **Southfield High**, Ten Mile and Labser roads, 8 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Farmington High at Farmington Harrison**, 29995 Twelve Mile Road, 8 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Southfield-Lathrup** at Livonia Stevenson, 33500 Six Mile Road, 8 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Southfield Christian** at Lutheran North, 34000 Romeo Plank Road, Macomb Township, 7:30 p.m.

Swimming

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Southfield High at Farmington High**, 32000 Shiawassee Road, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Southfield-Lathrup** at Berkley High, 2325 Catalpa, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Farmington Harrison at Dearborn Edsel Ford**, 3600 Rotunda Drive, 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Redford Union at Farmington High**, 32000 Shiawassee Road, 7 p.m.

Tuesday (Dec. 16) **Farmington Harrison** at Walled Lake Central, 2978 Commerce Road, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday (Dec. 17) **Southfield-Lathrup** at Ferndale High, 881 Pinecrest, 6:30 p.m.

Hockey

Monday (Dec. 15) **Southfield-Lathrup** at Taylor Center, Northwest Rink, 8000 Harold, 8 p.m.

Boys' Gymnastics

Wednesday (Dec. 17) Taylor Kennedy at **Farmington High**, 32000 Shiawassee Road, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday (Dec. 17) **North Farmington at Clarenceville High**, 30135 Middle Belt Road, 7:30 p.m.

Western matmen

Two area athletes are listed on Western Michigan University's varsity wrestling roster. They are Jeff Krause, a 170-pound junior from Farmington High, and Alan Crudele, a 142-pound freshman from Farmington Harrison. Western, coached by George Hobbs, wrestles next on Dec. 19 at Muskegon Community College.