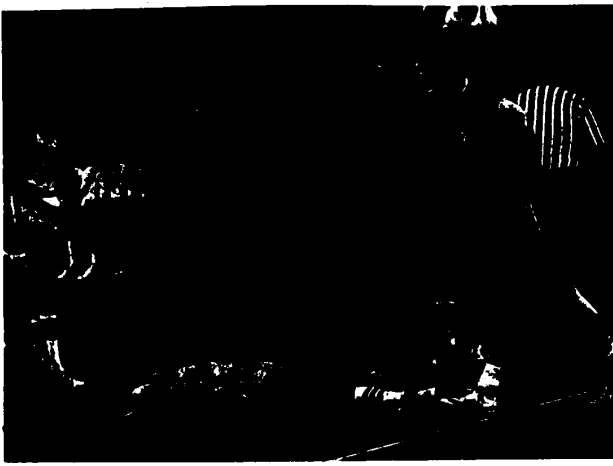


Harrison holds on to beat Farmington High



Harrison's Mark Brozek takes a spill while Farmington's Mike Danna (43) and Randy Meier look on.

Christian wins again with talented transfers

Southfield Christian's basketball team is ready for bigger things. For the past two seasons, Christian had trouble beating any team, even the newer Class D schools without established basketball programs. But what a difference a year—and several talented transfers—makes. This season Christian is 6-0, playing the same old teams.

Christian won its sixth game by trouncing Lutheran North, 77-55, last Tuesday on North's court.

Christian raced to a 22-7 lead after one quarter and then lifted the margin to 40-22 at halftime and 60-28 after three quarters.

If Christian's offense was impressive, its defense was even more so, according to coach Bruce Calderwood. "We did the job with our defense, really," he said. "We just buried

them. We had eight steals from the middle man on our zone defense. Lutheran North was so slow, and we just outran them."

Tom Marks paced Christian's offense with 20 points on eight field goals and four of five free throws. Bill Barclay, a transfer from Mount Clemens, added 17 points and played an outstanding defensive game according to Calderwood.

Christian also has some height this season with transfers Ben Lampi (6-5½) and John King (6-3½). King and Lampi scored 12 and nine points respectively and helped the Eagles out-rebound Lutheran North 43-23.

Phil Wingfield led Lutheran North with 10 points.

Christian plays next at home on Friday (Dec. 19) against Lansing Christian. Game time is 8 p.m.



Mercy's Diane Dietz muscles a shot over Northeastern's Patricia Bowden during the state Class finals.



Mercy fans go wild after the Marlins defeated Marquette in the semifinals at South Christian. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

The scorekeepers are among the busiest people at Farmington Harrison's basketball games these days. Harrison defeated city-rival Farmington High, 58-57, last Tuesday and Hawk coach Bob Sutter shuffled nine players in and out of the game. Eight Hawks made the scoring column, and all played roles in the victory.

"We do play a lot of kids and that has to help us," said Sutter, whose team climbed to 3-1 this season. "The players stay fresher, and they tend to stay on their toes. They know that if they don't play well, the coach'll take them out and put someone else in."

Farmington jumped to a 13-12 lead after one quarter, but the Hawks came back to score 22 points in the second quarter and take a 24-17 half-time lead. Scott Faeder, a 5-8 senior guard, led the comeback with six points in the quarter and 12 in the game.

"We were down, but we came back tremendously," Sutter said. "Faeder and Rob Slotnick put a lot of pressure on Farmington's defense. Slotnick played some good defense himself and Faeder took the ball to the basket real well."

Faeder didn't start the game, but his 12 points led the Hawks' balanced scoring attack. Slotnick started and provided six points.

IN THE SECOND half, Farmington was down by as many as seven points, and came as close as two. Farmington's Rick Mihizer made a three-point play with 1:30 left in the third quarter to pull the Falcons to within four, 46-42. But then Harrison's Mike Styles sank a basket to keep the Hawks ahead.

The game had an exciting finish. With 1:35 left and Harrison leading, 58-54, Mihizer fouled Mike Styles on a rebounding play. Styles swished one of two to put the Hawks up by five.

Seconds later, Farmington's Mike Danna made a layup and was fouled by Styles. Danna made the free throw, and Farmington was just two points behind, 58-57. Harrison threw the ball away with 23 seconds left. Farmington's Dick Radatz tried a long shot, which missed. Harrison controlled the ball for the remaining seconds.

Both teams were plagued by turnovers. Farmington made 23, while Harrison had 22.

"We just made too many turnovers and silly mistakes," said Farmington coach Bruce Brown, whose team fell to 1-4. "But our team played well and I'm proud of them."

Harrison missed several easy chances to boost its lead late in the game. Styles and Slotnick blew the

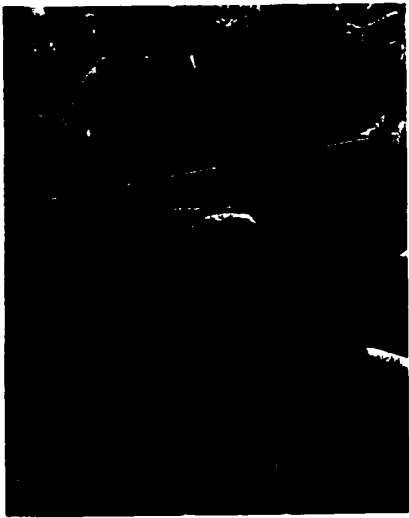
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lead ends of one-and-one free throw situations, and Lou Vulaj missed an in-the-clear layup.

"There for awhile it seemed like we were walking on eggs in the second half," Sutter said. "And some of the shots we took would be poor shots in a PE class."

Harrison plays next on Friday (Dec. 19) at Walled Lake Western in a Western Six League game. Farmington travels to Walled Lake Central for an Inter Lakes League game on Friday.



Lou Vulaj (44) guards Farmington's Dick Radatz (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Mercy: 2nd best in state

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy had to settle for second best again this season.

Mercy's girls' basketball team finished a fine season, winning the Catholic League Northwest Division and the Catholic League playoffs. Then the Marlins raced through the district, regional and quarterfinal to earn a place in the Class A state tournament in Grand Rapids.

Mercy overcame a strong Marquette High squad, 62-57, in the semifinals played at South Christian High School, and then prepared to meet an old nemesis—Detroit Northeastern—in the A finals.

Northeastern, undefeated in 20 games this season, beat Mercy, 67-62, in the finals played at East Kentwood.

Last season, Mercy advanced to the finals before losing to Detroit Dominican by one point. See additional photos on Page Three of Section A.

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