

# SPORTS

Thursday, December 22, 1977 (F11C)

## Mercy shakes off second-best status

By TOM BAER

Maybe all Farmington Our Lady of Mercy needed was a change of scene — Michigan State's Jensen Fieldhouse instead of a high school gym in suburban Grand Rapids.

Or maybe Mercy's girls just got fed up with advancing all the way to the Class A state basketball finals only to lose the big game.

Anyway, after three years of reaching the finals and then losing, Mercy finally won the Class A state championship, whipping Detroit Mumford, 63-52, last Saturday before 3,285 spectators in Jensen's tournament's first year on the MSU campus.

And for once there was no long, silent bus ride back to Farmington Hills. Instead, coach Larry Baker and his Mercy girls were whooping it up at the Pretzel Bell in East Lansing after the game. "I was numb after the game, and I still am, I think," said Baker, who has endured two of the past three tournament disappointments. "It just seemed too good to be true."

Mercy, which finished a 25-0 season with the win over Mumford, had to overcome a determined Grand Blanc team, 61-55, in the Class A semifinal game last Friday at Lansing Eastern High.

"It was almost a storybook situation with both of these victories being so close," Baker said. "We lose the lead in the one game (the semifinal against Grand Blanc) and then come back and kind of hang on for the win. And then on Saturday we come rushing back after looking so bad at the beginning of the game."

MUMFORD ESTABLISHED a six-point lead (16-10) after the first quarter and then upped the lead to nine (25-16) in the second quarter.

"It looked like the last couple of years all over again," Baker said. "But our kids snapped out of it and really took charge."

Mercy stayed within striking range thanks to its hot outside shooting. Diane Dietz, a 5-foot-8 senior forward, and Sue Brown, a 5-6 guard, were especially effective from the outside. But Mercy really turned things around when it went to a full-court press in the second quarter.

The pressure seemed to rattle Mumford. One of its players took a shot at the wrong basket, and the Mustangs had trouble getting the ball inbound.

"Mumford was floating up those long passes against our press, and (Katie) McNamara and Dietz were just eating them up back there," Baker said.

McNamara, Mercy's tallest girl at 5-10, finished with a game-high 21 points, hitting on nine of 15 field goal attempts and making three of three free throws. Brown finished with 15 points, and Dietz had 14.

Debra Walker, Mumford's outstanding 5-9 center, scored 19 points and pulled down 16 rebounds to help Mumford maintain a slight (36-33) edge on the boards.

MERCY'S VICTORY over Grand Blanc, a come-from-behind effort, deserves some mention.

Mercy held a 10-point lead (47-37) after three quarters, but Grand Blanc, led by center Vicki Smith, fought back to tie the game and take a two-point lead (55-53) with 2:40 left to play.

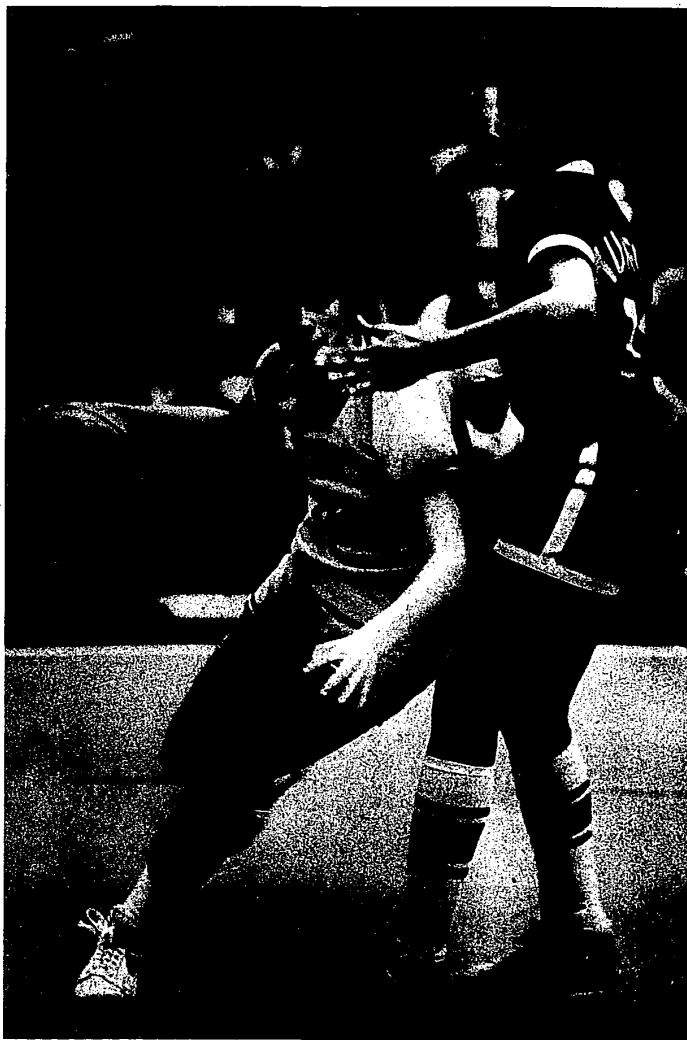
But then Dietz hit a short jumper, drew a foul on the shot, and completed the three-point play. With 1:28 left, Mercy got a key ball possession when Brown drew a charging foul. With just 46 seconds left, Brown made two free throws to give Mercy a 60-56 lead.

Dietz scored 23 points, and Grand Blanc's Smith followed with 21, 10 coming in the fourth quarter.

"She (Smith) just made up her mind to go to the basket and we couldn't stop her," Baker said. "After the game, I was talking to one of the referees at our hotel. He asked, 'Why didn't you stop that No. 15 (Smith) from going to the basket?'"

"I answered, 'How do you ask a kid to stop someone like that? It's like asking someone to step in front of a train.'"

Mercy will graduate four of its five starting players — McNamara, Dietz, Brown and Lynn Yadach. Deanne Barfield, a 5-7 junior starter, and Gretchen Larges, a substitute who saw plenty of action this season, will return to form the nucleus of next year's team.



Mercy's Suzanne Brown (light uniform) looks determined during the Class A championship game last Saturday. (Staff as she drives around Detroit Mumford's Denise Johnson photo by Gary Friedman)

## Win holiday cage tourney

# Raiders soar to 7-0

By SIGNA METIVIER

North Farmington has added the championship trophy of the Farmington Holiday Tournament to its basketball honors this season.

North Farmington upped its overall record to 7-0 with a 60-52 victory over city-rival Farmington Raiders in the tournament final last Tuesday at Farmington High. On Monday, North ripped Redford Union, 61-59, in the tournament opener.

Mark Biehl, North Farmington's 6-foot-7 junior, paced the Raider's victory over Harrison with 19 points and 18 rebounds. Ron Nutter and Tim Mather added nine and eight points respectively.

"They were cautioned against coming out overconfident," said North Farmington coach Ken Dean, whose team had beaten Harrison by a big margin earlier this season.

"This was a good win, and it's good to go on two-week Christmas vacation with a 7-0 record."

Biehl scored nine of his 19 points in the first quarter to help North establish a 17-13 lead. North led, 34-27 at halftime.

Harrison, now 1-5 under first-year coach Mike Teachman, got 15 points from Al Shay and eight each from Pat Driscoll and Dave Turnquist.



Two North Farmington players (white uniforms) battle for a rebound against Redford Union.

NORTH NEEDED a fourth-quarter comeback to beat coach Carl Andrews' scrappy Redford Union club.

Trailing by six points (46-40) going into the last quarter, North Farmington outpinned the Panthers, 21-13. Harold Beardsley, North's 6-7 senior center, paced the comeback by scoring 10 of his 18 points in the final stanza. Beardsley dropped in six straight points in the last two minutes of play as North tied RU, gained a two-point lead with about 25 seconds left.

Then RU's Bill Miller hit a jump shot to tie the game at 59 all. With just nine seconds left to play, North's Jeff Thomas, a 6-3 senior, made a layup to provide the two-point victory.

Thomas, who led all scorers with 25 points, joined Beardsley in the fourth-quarter heroics scoring of his total in that frame.

Harrison made the tournament final with a 59-57 victory over Farmington High last Monday.

The game was close throughout with Harrison trailing by two points (16-14) after the first quarter, and then going up by two (48-46) after the third quarter.

Harrison went ahead, 59-55, with two minutes left in the game. Paul Bukauskas led Harrison with 20 points. Dave Turnquist added 10, and John Cable, Pete Lambert and John Tremonti each had seven.

Rick McKibbin had 14 points, and Mike Bush added 12 for Farmington.

REDFORD UNION defeated Farmington, 70-65, in the consolation game last Tuesday.

Farmington established a three-point lead (17-14) after the first quarter, and then upped the margin to seven points (27-20) at halftime.

RU came roaring back to score 25 points in the third quarter and hold Farmington to 16. Mike Petsch led the comeback, scoring 13 of his game-high 25 points in the third quarter.

McKibbin led Farmington with 24 points. Greg Kuhnlein had 11 points and Jerry Krist added 11.

Redford Union has a 3-3 record after the tournament. Coach Rich Roy's Farmington team is winless in seven starts this season.

On January 3, Farmington entertains Northville, and Harrison plays host to Highland Park. North Farmington has an important Northwest Suburban League game against Westland John Glenn on Jan. 6.

### N. FARMINGTON 4 - HARRISON 11

NORTH FARMINGTON (40) — Ron Nutter 3, 3-4, 9; Mark Thompson 1, 0-2; Tim Mather 9, 6; Mike Zumbal 1; 12; 3; Jeff Thomas 2, 3-3, 8; Dieter Rucker 2, 0-0; 4; Harold Beardsley 3, 0-1; 6; Mark Bush 1, 0-0; 18. TOTALS: 16, 18-21, 36.

HARRISON (59) — Paul Bukauskas 1, 1-1, 3; John Cable 1, 0-1, 4; Mark Delman 0, 1-2, 1; Pat Driscoll 2, 0-0, 8; Scott Henderson 1, 0-0, 2; Al Shay 4, 2-4, 16; Scott Schneider 2, 1-3, 6; John Tremonti 0, 0-1, 0; Dave Turnquist 3, 2-2, 8. TOTALS: 17, 18-21, 31.

TOTAL FOULS — N. Farmington 24, Harrison 1. FOULED OUT: Thomas (NP), N. FARMINGTON 11 11 11 11 — 44 HARRISON 11 11 11 11 — 44

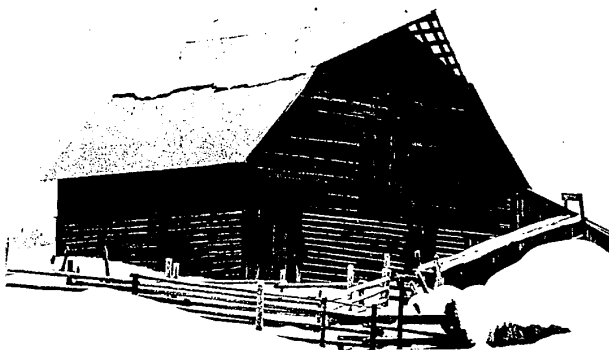
### REDFORD UNION 70 - FARMINGTON 65

REDFORD UNION (70) — Mike Petsch 9, 7-10, 33; Tom Piette 4, 0-2; 10; Jim Criswell 4, 2-4, 14; Bill Miller 2, 0-1, 13; Mario Bravo 3, 0-1, 13. TOTALS: 28, 18-26, 78.

FARMINGTON (65) — Jim Bobey 2, 0-0, 6; Mike Bush 4, 0-0, 8; Joe Haska 1, 0-0, 4; Jerry Krist 2, 2-3, 10; Greg Kuhnlein 3, 1-3, 11; Joe Magera 1, 0-0, 2; Rick McKibbin 12, 0-0, 24. TOTALS: 31, 33, 65.

TOTAL FOULS — Redford Union 7, Farmington 19. FOULED OUT: Kuhnlein (P), REDFORD UNION 11 11 11 11 — 44 FARMINGTON 11 11 11 11 — 44

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