

Mercy cagers set sights on Class A crown

By JOHN BOZZO

Littleton, Farmington and Lady of Mercy entered the quarterfinal tournament of the 1976-77 basketball season with a 14-14 record, including one consolation game.

Mercy will face 1976-77 Marist West in the quarterfinal which is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Hazel Park. Mercy's coach, Larry Baker, said Marist West is a very good team.

The Knights, led by the 6-foot-10-inch Sam Sisk, had a 20-14 record in the regular season. They were defeated by Littleton in the consolation game.

Four quarters of action will be played in the quarterfinal. Mercy will play Marist West in the quarterfinal. The game will be played at Hazel Park.

Littleton and Lady of Mercy are the top two teams in the tournament. Littleton has a 14-14 record and Lady of Mercy has a 14-14 record.

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The meet was an exhibition. North Farmington and Hawk matmen participated in the meet.

At 11, Harris has Duran, Crable and Gentry. Harris has a record of 10-10.

John Doe, Harris's top scorer, has 10 points. Harris has a record of 10-10.

Tall teams worry us," Baker continued. "We don't do well against tall teams. I was disappointed with the slow first quarter. Afterwards the girls started running the press and scoring points off it."

Mercy drew first blood in that slow first quarter behind a Suzanne Brown basket. However, Labar put together back-to-back baskets by Cathy Overberg and Mary Williams to take a two-point lead at 1-11.

K.D. Harris tied the score with a 20-foot shot one minute later and then Katie McNamee put the Marlins ahead by a shot with 2:23 left in the first period.

BETWEEN THE TIME Labar took and

led the lead, the Knights committed four turnovers, one foul, and failed to capitalize on seven scoring opportunities. By the end of the period, Labar had 10 turnovers and six fouls.

Mercy was equally inept with five fouls and eight turnovers in the opening period, but the Marlins made their shots count with Harte and Diane Dietz each scoring a basket in the final two minutes of the opening quarter, and Brown dropping in two more baskets during that time, including one of the buzzer. Finally, Mercy accumulated 13 turnovers, eight into the second 15:00.

After it had passed a 42-foot mark in the first period, Labar only scored one more point, a free throw by Claudia Murray, before the period ended.

Labar pulled within eight points of Mercy in the early moments of the second quarter with three consecutive baskets, two by Oklich and one by Murray, before the Marlins turned on their scoring machine and led the Knights.

Their scored eight points in the period and Harte continued her fine outside shooting with two 22-footers and two free throws.

Labar coach John Hansen commiserated Mercy following the loss. "They have a dynamic team," he added that

Diane Dietz is the best all-around girls basketball player he has seen this season.

HANSEN MAINTAINED that his Knights could have played with the Marlins if the officials had not taken the game away from us.

I think the officiating was absolutely terrible," Hansen said. "That's main one of the officials should stay in the kitchen. She had absolutely no place on the basketball floor."

They took us out of the game when it was 4-4," Hansen said. "I think they made a difference in that part of the game."

Hansen admitted that his team had some mental breakdowns and said he believes it

depicts a more instead of man-to-man defense against the Marlins because he didn't think the Knights could contain Dietz in a man-to-man defense.

When you win 23 games you have to have some pride not to give up," Hansen said of his Knights. "I never felt at any time during this season that we gave up. This team had spirit in it and it showed up tonight."

I can't say much about my girls. However, if my girls had never had any kind of tournament experience and they were new to this, they should be much closer to it. I would expect them to be much better than the girls tonight."

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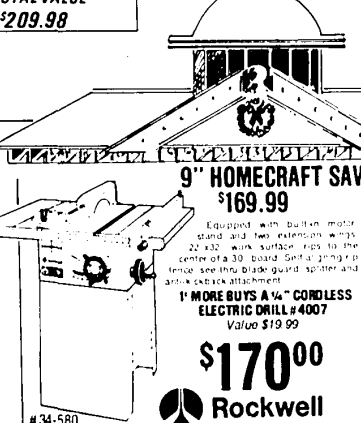


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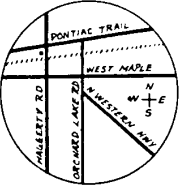
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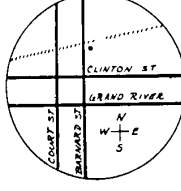
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