

Spartans down Canton, 56-51

Revenge is motive for Stevenson cagers

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Livonia Stevenson, currently the hottest basketball team in the Observer area, avenged an earlier loss to Plymouth Canton, taking a 56-51 decision at the Chiefs' gym Tuesday night.

It was the Spartans' eighth straight victory and 12th in 15 decisions overall.

More impressively, the road victory came after an emotional Inter Lakes League triumph over rival Pontiac

Northland last Friday night.

The last time Stevenson lost was at Christmas time, falling to these same Chiefs by 20 points in the Churchill Christmas Classic.

Both squads entered the non-league contest with identical 11-3 records, among the best in the area. Although the spread was only five points, Stevenson was in control most of the game.

The Spartans took the lead late in the first quarter and held the advantage

until Canton tied the score and went ahead 43-41 and 45-43 early in the fourth period.

Stevenson broke a 45-45 tie seconds later, however, reeling off the next nine points to close out the victory.

And the result couldn't have been nicer for Spartan coach George VanWagoner.

"They had poise," the Spartan mentor said about his squad. "I have to give them credit. They played well, especially on the other team's floor."

"All the guys played well. If you slight any of them, you're making a mistake. I think we have the making of a good ballclub here."

Dave Hall led Stevenson's scoring attack with 13 points, although he hit only five of 14 shots from the floor.

Evan Lyall and Paul Garner added 12 points each to the Spartans' balanced scoring attack. Garner, playing an exceptional inside game, also registered 14 rebounds.

Jim Harkrader, the Spartan player-maker, scored eight.

Canton coach Craig Bell also said he was pleased with his club's poise on the court, although he was disappointed with his Chiefs' inability to penetrate Stevenson's two zone defenses.

"They (Stevenson) played zone all night and didn't let us get into the flow of our offense. Stevenson has been successful all year with zone, but I think it was a compliment to our kids they didn't play man-to-man."

"I thought we broke down in key rebounding situations. We could have got-

ten some second shots at the basket."

Stevenson outrebounded Canton 28-17.

The Chiefs were led by Butch King's 22 points, but the Chiefs' leading scorer hit only 10 of 25 shots from the floor and added two free throws. Dave Visser, a junior, added 12.

The center Mike Gollnick, who was home in bed with a 104-degree temperature. His rebounding strength was sorely missed by the Chiefs.

"I know they (Canton) had a kid hurting but you have to beat the kids they put out on the floor," VanWagoner said.

King put Canton into an early 6-2 lead, hitting his first three shots of the night. The Chiefs missed their next 13 shots, however, as Stevenson took the

lead until Canton's small rally in the second half.

The Stevenson junior varsity also defeated Canton's JV squad in the preliminary game, 48-41.

Cage standings

Following are the won-lost standings for the teams in the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department's Men's Basketball League. Standings reflect games played through Feb. 1.

LEAGUE STANDINGS — Skyline Diamonds, 4-0; Home Base Bombers, 4-0; Dealey's Pub & Grill, 3-1; Paul Isaacs & Associates, 2-3; 2-5; Brown's, 1-3; Digital, 1-3; Hewlett Packard, 1-3; Samson Tours, 0-4.

RECENT GAMES — Brown 53, Digital 36; Skyline Diamonds 72, Hewlett Packard 44; Dealey's Pub & Grill 73, Samson Tours 51; Home Base Bombers 83, Paul Isaacs & Associates 69.

OCC tops Macomb

It didn't matter that Walker D. Russell, the former Pontiac Central basketball whiz who has been averaging 21.3 points a game for Oakland Community College, had an off day last Saturday.

Russell collected only two points, but several teammates filled the void as OCC bested Macomb Community College, 72-64, in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Johnny Keel, a 6-3 forward, paced the winners with 28 points on 13 field goals and two free throws, and 12 rebounds. Kurt James, OCC's 6-7 center, followed with 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Darryl Herring added eight points.

Gordon Koschial and Jeff Zatkoff scored 18 and 16 points, respectively,

for Macomb, which trailed by five points (38-33) at halftime.

The victory boosted coach Tom McPhillips' OCC club to 17-4 overall and 12-3 in the Eastern Conference. The Oakland squad is currently in second place in the league behind Schoolcraft, which has a 12-2 record.

OCC plays next on Saturday, Feb. 10, at Highland Park Community College. Game time is 8 p.m.

OCC 72 — MACOMB 64
OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (7) — Anthony Russell 2, 0-4; Darryl Herring 4, 0-4; Walker D. Russell 1, 0-2; Kurt James 8, 0-4; Jeff Zatkoff 13, 2-2; 2-2; Gordon Koschial 18, 0-4; David Lee 1, 0-1; Darryl Herring 2, 2-4; TOTALS: 72-64, 22-17.

MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE (4) — Gordon Koschial 8, 0-4; 18; Ron Test 4, 1-4; Jeff Zatkoff 6, 4-4; 16; Tom James 16, 0-4; 22; 2-2; 1-1, 1-1; Sam Pagano 6, 0-4; 12; TOTALS: 64-72, 12-2.

TOTAL FOULS — Macomb 18, OCC 15. FOULED OUT — Zatkoff (OCC), HALLING (OCC), OCC 28, Macomb 32.

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Schoolcraft cagers win

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE ROLLED over Monroe Community College Monday, 98-74, in an Eastern Conference (Michigan Community College Athletic Association) basketball clash.

Six Ocelot players reached double figures during the game. Robert McLarin paced Schoolcraft with 20 points, while Dennis Watley added 19.

Eric Watson 17, Hoy Monk 16, Terry Possey 12 and Mike Brady 10.

Monroe jumped out to a 10-4 lead before the Ocelots could get their game rolling. Schoolcraft coach Ron Hall told his squad to run and gun it and that's what turned the tide. Schoolcraft was in front at the intermission, 59-26.

The victory gives the Ocelots a 12-2 league record and a 15-3 overall mark.

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