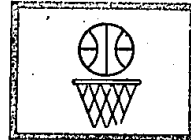


Sports

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(F1C)



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Steve Bambach (No.3) and Rick Anderson, both of North Farmington, try to save the elusive ball

from going out of bounds. North prevailed in a key Northwest Suburban League game, 58-56.

Chwalik shot beats Cougars at buzzer

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

For more than three quarters of Friday's basketball game North Farmington was in the flow, its lead drifting higher and higher in its "must win" game against Northwest Suburban League (NSL) rival Garden City.

But suddenly the tide that carried the Raiders to an 11-point bulge ebbed, shifting in favor of Garden City. The Raiders' advantage started melting away.

Yet it was North that created on the last wave of points, edging the Cougars on Bob Chwalik's 12-foot jumper with just one second left, 58-56 at North.

The victory was a big one for the Raiders—bigger than even coach Tom Negoshian imagined at game's end.

"KNOCK OFF THURSTON and Glenn at your place for me, will ya?" he hollered to Garden City coach Bob Dropp long after the North gymnasium had cleared. For a moment the pair chatted about each others chances for the NSL title.

"I think three losses can win it," said Negoshian, whose team is 5-2 in league play. "And I think Redford Union will beat someone yet."

Dropp, whose team fell to 3-3, disagreed. "I don't think there's enough parity throughout the league (for three losses to win it)," he said.

Dropp was wrong.

Neither coach knew it at the time,

but NSL co-leader Redford Thurston was the victim of a colossal upset Friday, 59-45 at the hands of RU. It was Redford Union's first win of the season and ended a 33-game losing streak. That makes Westland John Glenn the NSL leader at 5-1. North is a half-game behind, with Thurston next (4-2) and then Garden City.

IF THERE IS A TEAM that might be considered a favorite, it should be North. The Raiders were 1-6 before the Christmas break, but have turned it around since to win six of their last seven, including a victory over Glenn.

Against the Cougars, North built its lead with outstanding shooting. The Raiders hit their first three shots of the game, eight of 11 in the opening quarter and 13 of 22 in the first half to claim a 33-24 lead.

Only Scott McCloskey kept the Cougars in the hunt. McCloskey poured in 10 second-quarter points and had 14 of his game-high 25 in the first half.

North kept up its torrid shooting in the third quarter, making nine of 14 to go up by 10, 48-38, entering the final eight minutes.

BUT AFTER TWO MINUTES of the last quarter, the tide changed. North was up by 11 but in foul trouble, with its big man, Chwalik, saddled with four. Garden City took advantage of the Raiders' problems to score 13 straight points, five by McCloskey and four

from Paul Krol. North helped by missing five free throws in the stretch.

Krol's basket with 30 seconds to play gave the Cougars a 50-54 lead. But North, without a point for nearly five minutes, answered with Rick Anderson's jumper to tie it at 56.

Krol, trying to force the ball into McCloskey's foot and North's Rick Pennala grabbed the loose ball. The Raiders called time out with 25 seconds left.

North worked the ball to a wide-open Chwalik who put up his game-winning jumper from the paint near the free throw line.

"THAT WAS A VERY big ball game for us," said Negoshian, his face half buried in a towel. "I knew it would be a dogfight when we got into foul trouble. That was because our midlegs were trying to rebound with them."

Dropp called North's impressive shooting (27 of 47, 57.7 percent) the difference.

"We kept changing up our defenses, from a 2-3 zone to a half-court trap to a man-to-man, and they just kept on hitting," the Cougar coach said.

McCloskey led Garden City with 11 bounds. Krol bagged 12 points, Dave Hayden had nine and Kevin Sheridan made six steals.

Anderson led North with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Scott Draper had 15 points and Chwalik 10 points and nine rebounds.

Falcons, Hawks hit the skids

Walled Lake Central reeled off 10 consecutive points without an answer Friday and never looked back in a 59-41 Western Lakes Conference basketball win over Farmington.

Clark Cook led the winners with 20 points. Scott Norris and Tom Cummings added 14 and 13, respectively.

Trailing by only two, 20-18, midway through the second quarter, the Vikings got hot and took a 32-20 halftime lead.

During the second period, Central hit 11-of-11 free throws.

Bill Robinson scored 12 points in a

losing cause for Farmington, now 3-10 overall and 1-9 in league play.

Central, meanwhile, is 10-3 overall and 7-3 in the Western Lakes.

CHURCHILL 84, HARRISON 58: The Chargers were charged up Friday, using a fast-break attack to unravel the Hawks.

Harrison led 20-12 after one quarter, but foul problems put Churchill ahead for keeps. The Chargers then went on a 26-10 tear in the second period and were never headed.

Senior guard John Gryzbek drilled home 30 points to lead Churchill and all scorers. He hit 12-of-14 from the line and was 9-of-18 from the floor.

As a team, Churchill made 32-of-40 free throws compared with Harrison's 18-of-27.

Also contributing to the win were Steve Judawikis, 17 points and 11 rebounds; Craig Hunter, 13 points; and Mike Panginis, nine points (eight in the

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Raiders romp

North matmen capture city title

wrestling

"We have got some outstanding kids," said O'Leary. "From 119 to 138, we're as tough as anybody. We felt we had something to prove out here and we accomplished our mission."

After Farmington's Dave Hovey won uncontested at 98 pounds, the Raiders won the next six weight classes in a row. They took 10 of the final 12 matches.

"We were flat the whole night," said Farmington coach Barry Walsh, whose team has been hot and cold all season. "When you come out flat against your cross-town rival, you're going to get beat like that."

Jason Forge (112) and John Augustin (185), two top Falcon wrestlers, were sidelined with illness. Forge contracted bronchitis and Augustin is battling the flu.

As a result, North's Mike Zorette

(112) and Rob Benda (185) won uncontested matches. Dan Scully (119) also won on a void for North.

North dominated the contested matches as well.

PAUL COOK (105), Pat Leavy (138), and Steve Stabilein (155) all scored pins for the Raiders.

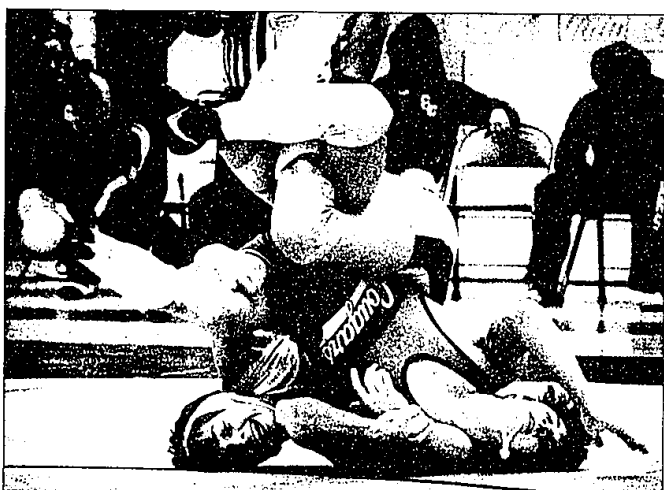
Farmington's Ab Hazen (29-1 on the year) pinned Pete Humancic in 46 seconds and Dave Cunningham pinned North's Chris McKay in 1:30.

The best match of the meet was at 198. North's Brian Hood outpointed Dan Parillo in a well-fought 11-6 decision.

Todd Brown (126) and Matt Casser (132) also won decisions for North.

Farmington (5-9) has been a busy team. The Falcons wrestled six matches last week. They beat Detroit Country Day 51-11 and lost to Milford 32-31 and Centerline 37-30 last Tuesday. They lost to Garden City 37-31 and North and beat Harrison Thursday.

Both North and Farmington were scheduled to compete in a double-dual at Catholic Central Friday night.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North's Jim Benda (left) gets tangled up with Garden City wrestler Tom Mack during Thursday

night's dual match (See story on page 3C). North won that meet and the city title Thursday.

O'Neill gets tough, Falcons respond with win

In the throes of a four-game losing streak, and with several players ill, Farmington High's volleyball team seemed in peril.

That's when first-year Falcon coach Kim O'Neill got tough. Her team had been careless in the service corner, so she set down the following edict: Players will be penalized two laps for every missed serve.

The same penalty was imposed on players who failed to go after volleys.

The team responded to O'Neill's crackdown.

The Falcons snapped the losing streak Wednesday night by beating Farmington Harrison, 15-11, 15-10. The Falcons made just two service errors

in the match and failed to get to just three Hawk volleys.

"I wasn't sure we could do it," O'Neill said. "We were practicing with just seven and eight girls all week. We had one girl out with chicken pox and some others with flu. But, we did it."

THE FLU bug also hit the Hawks hard. In fact, 18 percent of the total enrollment at Harrison was bitten by the bug last week. The volleyball team lost three key players to the virus.

But coach Ron Shortt didn't blame the loss entirely on the flu.

"Farmington played real well," said the former Falcon coach, who is in his rookie season with the Hawks. "They

volleyball

just kept control of the match and wore us down. We simply couldn't gain control. Farmington really just outlasted us."

Jill Waterman and Laura Varty played key roles in the Falcons' victory. Waterman was a force at the net, both spiking and blocking, while Varty's pounding serves kept the Hawks on the defensive. Mary Ann Kwaniewicz served well and played outstanding defense for the Falcons.

In game two, Farmington came from a 7-3 deficit to defeat the Hawks. Varty made a crucial run of six straight service points to get the Falcons back in contention.

"THIS WAS a killer for me," Shortt said. "We played well, I thought, but Farmington out-volleyed us. It was a killer because we had the lead and we were playing good, but then our passing got down a bit and theirs was better perfect."

Karen Sklar, Laurie Ambrose, Jennifer Hughes and Deanne Kool played well for the Hawks. Sklar was perfect on her serves and was successful on 80 percent of her hits.

Farmington (6-8) will host Walled Lake Western tonight and travel to No. 1-ranked Livonia Stevenson Wednesday.

NORTH FARMINGTON fought off a fiery Westland John Glenn team Wednesday to win a crucial Northwest Suburban League match, 16-14, 8-15, 15-9.

defeated league-leader Redford Thurston. The two teams battle Wednesday night.

Glenn, meanwhile, falls to 3-2 in the NSL.

"We've always had just the best matches with John Glenn through the years," North coach Sandy Lubienicki said. "Our matches are always exciting regardless of how either team had been going in the season."

This one was no exception.

IN GAME one, Glenn raced to an 11-

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