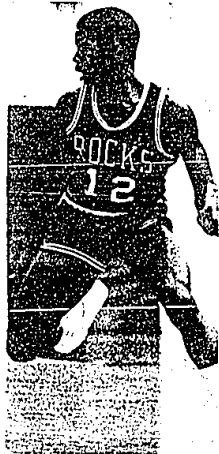




Farmington's Dwayne Kratt works the ball upcourt against Salem's Mike White.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Rocks bury Falcons; North triumphs again

There was very little Farmington did right Tuesday night. And very little that Plymouth Salem did wrong.

Five players reached double figures in scoring for the Rocks, who dominated Farmington 75-40 in a Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) basketball game at Farmington.

"Salem did anything they wanted to," said Farmington coach Rich Roy. "We knew they were a good shooting team. We were hoping to play some defense, but we didn't."

"They beat us in every aspect of the game."

The Rocks led 16-8 after one quarter and kept pulling further ahead. At the half it was 35-19 and after three periods Salem led 50-21.

Erich Hartnett's 16 points was best for the Rocks, who also won the WLAA's Lakes Division with a 9-1 mark (12-2 overall). But there was no lack of firepower for Salem: Jeff Arnold had 14, Mike White 13, Rick Berber 12 and Craig Morton 10.

In contrast, no one for the Falcons (3-11

basketball

overall, 1-9 in the WLAA) reached double figures in scoring. Tim Carruthers was high for Farmington with nine.

N. FARMINGTON 53, BRIGHTON 52: Rick Pennala canned the first of two free throws with two seconds left to lift North Farmington to a come-from-behind home-court victory over Brighton Tuesday.

The Raiders trailed 44-40 entering the final quarter. Despite a poor shooting game (22 of 64 from the field, 34 percent) North managed to catch Brighton.

The game was knotted at 52 with 16 seconds remaining when Bob Chwalik pilfered the ball and got it to Pennala, who was fouled when he drove through the lane.

"We didn't shoot well, but we still won, so I'm happy," said Raider coach Tom Negoshian. "We worked for the good shot in

the final seconds and he was fouled.

"Rick played well. They went man-to-man and he handled the pressure."

Pennala finished with 16 points and seven assists. Rick Anderson netted 14 points and six rebounds and Chwalik had eight points and six rebounds. Erin Doan pumped in 13 points for Brighton.

The win pushed North over the 500 mark for the first time this season at 8-7. The Raiders are 7-1 since Jan. 1.

W.L. WESTERN 79, HARRISON 77 (OT): Farmington Harrison had a pair of chances to tie the game in the final 14 seconds but failed to capitalize in losing at Walled Lake Western Tuesday.

The Hawks trailed by six with 2:18 to go in regulation but fought back to tie it. The Warriors misfired on their final shot of the fourth quarter to force the overtime.

Western led by two with 14 seconds left and Harrison guard Brian Hickey was at the free throw line with a one-and-one opportunity. He missed, but the Hawks forced a jump ball with their press defense. The ball was tipped back to Hickey, whose 30-foot shot at the buzzer circled the rim and fell out.

"I'm disappointed for the players," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "They played so hard, they came so close. We're 3-11 in the book but we've only played one bad ball game all year."

What OU wants in coach

S. 88 LINES By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

Whether Lee Frederick deserved to be ousted as Oakland University men's basketball coach is immaterial.

Now the question is: Who's next in line? Just about every basketball coach in southeastern Michigan has had his name thrown into the race as a replacement for Frederick, who was notified early in December that his contract would not be renewed.

And that's about half as many contacts as OU athletic director Dr. Paul Hartman has received from the rest of the country.

"A number of people from this area have applied," Hartman said. "But we've had applications from as far away as New Hampshire, Miami and Hawaii."

Helping sort through the applications to find suitable candidates are a pair of six-person search committees appointed by Hartman. Each committee includes coaches, a basketball player and a faculty member.

HARTMAN HAS LAID out his criteria for the new coach, which should eliminate several candidates and aid his committees. What he is looking for is:

- Someone with college coaching experience.
- A proven recruiter.

- Someone good in public relations.
- A person of high character.

But the Pioneer AD said that while college coaching experience was preferred, those with proven high school records will still be considered.

"We're going to look at everyone," Hartman said. "Anyone who's a proven coach and has high character we're going to look at."

What won't be sacrificed, according to Hartman, is character.

"We don't want to be a bandit program," he said. "We don't want to be up one year and down the next. We want a consistent, high quality program."

THERE ARE SOME attractive changes at OU that should help lure a proven coach, such as increased finances: OU is investing more money in its athletic budget. And that translates into more scholarships for a coach to work with.

"There is more money because we have an administration that cares," Hartman said. "If the university is going to compete in Division II, it will have to invest in that level of program."

"That includes scholarships."

In addition, Hartman said he plans on giving his new coach "three to four years to prove himself. I think it takes that long to build a program."

So the new coach will have something to

work with, since basketball is one of OU's top areas of emphasis. That's where a lot of the new investment will go. Building local interest in OU basketball is at the top of Hartman's "Things to Do" list.

But that doesn't mean he favors hiring a local candidate as his new coach.

"I think it would be great if that were to happen and it would help the program," he said. "But we're committed to finding the best coach we can."

"What I think people are going to come and see is a good team. Like the adage says: No one supports a loser. People like to be associated with a winner."

HARTMAN IS FACING a self-imposed deadline in his search. By mid-February his list should be scaled down to a dozen or less. He plans on submitting his choice to OU president Dr. Joseph Champagne by the end of February.

"March is the most critical recruiting period," Hartman said. "We need to get the new coach in here with enough time to get started."

That doesn't leave much time. But a steady stream of applications have been pouring in — nearly 40 by the end of last week, according to Hartman, with more still to be processed.

And somewhere in that pile is a name that may soon rest atop Pioneer basketball fortunes.

OLSM falls in OT to Saginaw Valley

Devaroe Bridges sank a 15-foot jumper with five seconds left in overtime and with it sank Orchard Lake St. Mary's hopes for victory Saturday.

Bridges' shot boosted Saginaw Valley to a 56-55 win at OLSM, dropping the Eagles to 10-11 for the season.

Saginaw Valley led by a point at halftime (27-26) but St. Mary took the lead down the stretch in the second half. The Cardinals' Dan Farley connected with 24 seconds left in regulation to force the overtime.

The Eagles had their chances at both the end of regulation and in the final seconds of overtime. But both opportunities went awry, as Larry Brundirakis missed with 17 seconds left in regulation and Brian Gressinger's 20-foot jumper bounced out at the end of the game.

Joe Warrington topped all scorers with 18 points for St. Mary. David Howard added 14 and David James eight. Mark Oates' 16 points was best for Saginaw Valley, with Steve Schmock adding 14 and Bridges 11.

The Eagles are idle until Monday when they travel to Spring Arbor.

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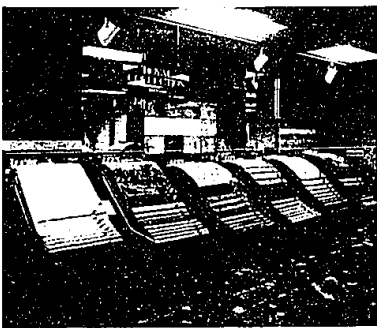
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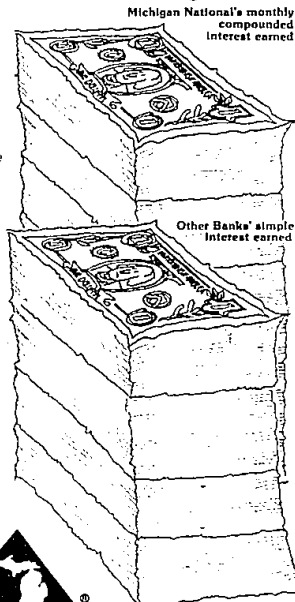
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