

Falcons will battle Spartans for Churchill district crown

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

(the school closes in June), trailed most of the game until the final two minutes.

our three biggest kids in there, but we didn't get the board.

We shot only 30 percent in the first half and that really kills you."

KYLE MUTZ, a 6-foot-4 junior center, led Farmington (11-11) with 16 points. Feenstra and Bill Robinson added 12 and 10, respectively.

Sal Demillo paced Bentley with 14, while Schneider added 9.

In the first game, Stevenson built a 19-14 halftime lead against cold-shooting Franklin.

The Patriots pulled within 8 midway through the final period, but couldn't get over the hump.

Matt Burdiss, apparently recovered from a late season ankle injury, led the Spartans with 16 points. Guard Ed Gilbert contributed 14 and center Bob Shuka had 12. Dan Palmisano contributed 8 off the bench in the late going.

Franklin point-guard Tom Phillips scored a game-high 20 points. Tim McGilivray added 14 and Jeff McCaw netted 9.

THAT'S WHEN senior center Pat Schneider came alive, scoring a basket with exactly two minutes left to make it 40-40.

Farmington's Bruce Kratt answered Bentley's rebound right back with a 3-point play, giving Bentley a 43-41 edge with 1:24 remaining.

In the 42-second mark, Feenstra hit a 15-foot jumper to put the Falcons back on top, but Schneider was in the right position again with 13 seconds to go, grabbing Steve Carl's miss to put Bentley in winning position, 45-44.

Roy called a timeout, setting up a final shot.

Kratt launched a 20-footer that missed with five seconds. The ball got tipped with Feenstra getting the rebound in the key and putting up the game-winner at the horn.

"We played the percentages," said Bentley coach Tom Niemi, whose team bowed out with a 7-13 record. "We had

Benley, which played its final game

Defense triggers Falcon comeback over Churchill

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

For the better part of three quarters today, the Livonia Churchill basketball squad had a way with the visiting Farmington team.

Dominating nearly every phase of the game, especially rebounding, shooting percentage and intensity, Churchill built up a 15-point lead with four minutes left in the third quarter.

Then Farmington woke up. Falcon coach Richard Roy scrapped the lackluster zone defense his team had been playing for a charged-up man-to-man.

The result: Farmington outscored Churchill 30-10 the rest of the way, winning the first-round state Class A district tournament game 53-51.

"Really, we only played about 12 minutes in this game," Roy said. "Churchill was just killing us out here. But, we've done this before. We've come back several times this year. Generally, every point we score comes off our defense. If we play good defense, we'll score."

CHURCHILL, WITH Mike Hermanson and Mickey Katscher doing much

of the damage, looked invincible in the first half. The Chargers dominated the boards at both ends and scored at will.

On the night, Hermanson finished with 18 points, 5 rebounds and 4 blocked shots. Katscher scored 12 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and dished 5 assists.

But once Farmington went to man-to-man, the scoring stopped.

"I felt real good when they went to man," said Churchill coach Don Albertson. "I thought we would match up well against it. I thought we'd get a lot of open shots inside. But, I didn't like our shot selection. When you have a 12-point lead, you have to be more patient with the basketball. We didn't do that and we lost."

Kyle Mutz was Farmington's hot-hand in this game. Roy said.

The 6-foot-4 junior pumped in 18 points, including 6 key markers in the final quarter.

But, the catalyst for the Falcon attack was Bruce Kratt. Kratt hit a pair of long-range bombs at the end of the third quarter that helped away the momentum away from Churchill. He finished with 10 points. But, more impor-

tantly, he grabbed 7 rebounds and dealt out 7 flashy assists.

ALSO CONTRIBUTING mightily to Farmington's attack was 6-3 strongman Bill Robinson. Despite playing most of the game in foul trouble, Robinson scored 10 points and grabbed 5 rebounds.

The Falcons (10-11) ran off a 10-4 spurt at the beginning of the fourth quarter to tie the game at 47 with 3:40 left. Neither team scored in their next three possessions.

With 2:54 left, Churchill's Scott Hille was slapped with a technical foul for protesting the official's call. Still, the Falcons couldn't assume the lead.

Finally, after a pair of missed Churchill shots, Mutz was fouled with 1:57 left. He calmly sank a pair of free throws and that started a successful parade of Falcons to the free throw line. Dwayne Kratt and Greg Feenstra connected on clutch 1-and-1 opportunities in the final minute to keep Churchill at bay.

"The kids really took a gut check in that final quarter," said Roy.

Churchill ends its season at 8-13.

North spikers garner Lakeland district

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The North Farmington volleyball team trudged through the North gymnasium Saturday just as Farmington Athletic Director Ron Holland was about to hand out league medals to the area gymnasts who had just finished competing.

The gym grew quiet. All eyes focused on the intruding volleyball players.

"Did you win?" a gymnast inquired.

Nancy Cothran, a North senior, responded with a thumbs up, and coach Sandy Lubieniecki came in and held the trophy high for all to see.

The gym erupted with applause. A league title in gymnastics and a state Class A district volleyball championship in the same day — party time in North Farmington.

The Raiders traveled to Milford Lakeland and dominated the 8-team district to win their second district title in the last 4 years.

North beat Lakeland in the first match of the day, 15-9, 15-10. They knocked off Howell in the semifinals, 15-2, 12-15, 15-6, then destroyed Brighton 15-4, 15-8 in the finale.

"I REALLY wanted this team to win," said Lubieniecki. "This team is special. Everyone gets along so well, the first team and the second team, they work together. They really care about each other, and it was fun to see them play so well."

The Raiders were on their game. They hit well, served consistently and were solid along the back row.

"We were really ready," Lubieniecki said. "We played well right off the bat and then got better throughout the day."

Cothran had perhaps her best day at the net. She nailed 26 of 27 hits with 10 kills. She also played virtually error-free in the back row.

Donna Konjarevich, soon to become North's most prolific passer, made 18 digs throughout the day and helped control North's attack with her steady play.

Brooks Landback, North's hottest hitter in recent weeks, was 28 for 34 at the net. Julie Piolte, North's powerful 6-footer, nailed 35 of 40 spikes and 13 assists and made 17 blocks.

In the service corner, Suzette Greenberg stood out. She was successful on 41 of 43 serves and scored 17 points in the championship match with Brighton.

BUT AS HAS been the case for two years, Pat Kozicki was the glue that bonded North's play. The senior setter, a likely all-state choice, served 20 points with 10 aces, set flawlessly and intelligently, and drilled 9 ace spikes. Her tip shots kept the opposition off balance at the net in all three matches.

North will take its 29-4 record into what many coaches consider the toughest regional tournament in the state Saturday at Lansing Waverly. North will meet up with the state's No. 1 and No. 2 teams — Portage Northern and Waverly.

"We'll have a lot of fun," Lubieniecki said. "I told the girls: all you have to do is win one game and anything can happen."

FARMINGTON HARRISON closed out a productive season on a sour note.

The Hawks, after winning its pre-district match



North's Pat Kozicki played to near-perfection Saturday helping the Raiders to a district crown.

with Troy Athens (15-3, 15-8), came up flat in district play Saturday at Birmingham Groves.

Harrison was ousted in its first match by Bloomfield Hills Lakeland, 15-9, 15-9.

"We just didn't play well at all," said coach Ron Shortt. "We had a lead in the first game and blew it. It was a case where all six of our people made mistakes. But, heck, they are young and they just had a bad day. I felt real bad for them."

"We looked silly, really. We just couldn't do anything right. But I hope the kids don't lose sight of the fact that they had a super year."

Harrison finished with its first winning season in several years, 18-14. Also, they unseated North Farmington for the Farmington city championship.

Farmington's Ab Hazen (167) lost a nailbiter, 7-4, to Brighton's Mike Baker.

Plymouth Salem's Dave Dameron placed 5th at 110. His younger brother, Dennis, placed 7th at 98.

Wayne's Ed Fowler placed 5th at 132 and Farmington's Dave Hovey placed 8th at 105.

The following area wrestlers did not place at the state meet: Jim Malson (heavyweight, Plymouth Central), Brendon Rock (98, Catholic Central), Jason Wilcox (105, Catholic Central), James Benda (126, North Farmington), Mike Wilczewski (135, Catholic Central), Geno Tokars (132, Catholic Central), Dan Schimanski (138, John Glenn), Dave Sharoff (145, Wayne), Andy Ward (145, Salem), Tim Mulroy (167, Wayne) and J.B. Summers (Redford Union).

MARK ZENAS (135) was also a runner-up. He was edged by Bedford's Jeff Kaminski, 8-7. Kaminski beat Zenas 12-4 in the regional finale. Zenas finishes his season with a 4-4-3 record.

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May 1	Sunday	Chi	7:35		
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May 23	Monday	N.Y.	7:35		
May 24	Tuesday	N.Y.	7:35		
May 25	Wednesday	N.Y.	7:35		
May 26	Thursday	Tor	7:35		
May 27	Friday	Tor	7:35		
May 28	Saturday	Tor	7:35		
May 29	Sunday	Tor	7:35		
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Observerland matmen fall shy of state championships

Alas, no champions.

Twenty-one Observerland wrestlers competed Saturday in the Class A state wrestling meet at Grand Valley State College and for the first time in several years, no one came home a champion.

But there were several solid performances and one sterling team showing.

Livonia Bentley, a team that won only 3 dual meets all season, scored 43 points Saturday to place 7th in the state. (Temperance-Bedford won the state title with 115 points, Hazel Park was 2nd with 102.5.)

Bentley sent 3 wrestlers to Grand Valley, and 2 of them made it to the finals. Salem Yaffa, wrestling at 105, lost the title to Bedford's Doug Harper, 8-2. No shame though for Yaffa; Harper has won 102 consecutive matches in his career.

MARK ZENAS (135) was also a runner-up. He was edged by Bedford's Jeff Kaminski, 8-7. Kaminski beat Zenas 12-4 in the regional finale. Zenas finishes his season with a 4-4-3 record.