

Mercy wins at buzzer; North tops Glenn



Terri Nalodka hit a layup late in the game to bring Mercy even with Regina. The Marlin then won it at the buzzer.

DAN O'NEILL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry Baker is smiling again.

The personable Farmington Hills Mercy basketball coach has deeded the long face much of this season while his team took turns being brilliant and bad.

But Thursday night's dramatic, come-from-behind 46-44 win against Harper Woods Regina put Baker a bit more at ease.

"Regina came at us with relentless pressure," Baker said. "We earned our spurs. We showed a lot of character in the final 50 seconds. This could be a turning point in our season."

Mercy led by nine going into the final quarter, but Regina rallied off 13 straight points to go up 44-40 with 50 seconds left to play.

Yvette Mason drained two free throws to pull the Marlin within a basket. Regina gave the ball back and Mercy's Terri Nalodka tied the game with a power layup with 35 seconds left.

Terri Ford intelligently stopped a sure Regina layup with a foul that sent her to the bench with five. She was replaced by Margaret DeMatia.

With 15 seconds left, Baker called a timeout to cool the Regina foul shooter. The move was successful. The foul shot was missed.

With seven seconds left, Baker huddled with his troops and set up the final play.

Michelle Fryatt drove to the basket, but her shot circled the rim and fell out. DeMatia, in perfect position, rebounded the miss and scored the winning basket.

Mason led the Marlin with 12 points and Missy Ducynski, despite foul trouble, added nine.

Jodie Majcherek led Regina (3-5 in the Catholic League, 6-8 overall) with 17.

Mercy is 7-1 in the league, 11-3 overall.

N. FARMINGTON 43, JOHN GLENN 46: Raider coach Greg Grodzicki has said all along that his team may not win the league title but they had better not be taken for granted.

Westland John Glenn bore the brunt of that Thursday night.

Glenn led North 10-39 with 39 seconds left. Sandy Spain scored on a pretty, out-of-bounds play to put North up by a point. Glenn missed its next shot.

Heather McPhillips then salted the win away by calmly sinking a pair of free throws with one second left.

"Sandy's only basket of the game turned out to be the game-winner," Grodzicki said. "I had a lot of confidence in her on that play."

McPhillips led North with 15 points. Senior Nancy Cothran added 14. But the key was the play of junior guard Jean Anzlovar. Making her first start of the season, Anzlovar contributed five assists and four steals.

Stacy Graham scored 13 for Glenn (7-4 in the Western Lakes, 9-4 overall). Glenn's leading scorer Jenny Okon was limited to six points by the North defense.

North is 7-5 in the league, 9-5 overall.

W.L. CENTRAL 51, FARMINGTON 41: A 16-4, second-quarter surge gave Walpole Central just enough cushion to outlast Farmington Thursday.

WESTERN LAKES GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

LAKES DIVISION	
Plymouth Salem	11-1
Walpole Central	9-3
West John Glenn	8-4
North Farmington	7-5
Livonia Stevenson	2-10
Farmington	1-11
WESTERN DIVISION	
Plymouth Canton	11-1
Livonia Churchill	7-5
Livonia Franklin	6-6
Walpole Western	5-7
Northville	5-7
Farmington Junction	0-12

"That was a deep hole," Farmington coach Diana Schwartz said. "We tried to climb out, and we almost did. I'm pleased. This was one of our better games. Extremely physical though, we should have brought our helmets and shoulder pads."

The Falcons were paced by Stacy Swanderick and Patti Matthews who each scored 10 points. Matthews also grabbed eight rebounds.

Central (9-3 in the Western Lakes, 10-4 overall) got 10 points from Amy Freeman, Diana Bolls and Pam Fitzgerald.

Farmington is 1-11 in the league, 1-13 overall.

NORTHVILLE 44, HARRISON 39: The score after one quarter was 3-0 in favor of Northville, but the Mustangs settled the issue with a 17-3 burst in the second quarter.

Tricia Ducker scored 17 for Northville.

Winless Harrison got eight points from Jennifer Hughes.

sports shorts

STINGRAY SWIMATHON

The Farmington Hills-based Michigan Stingray Swim Association is sponsoring a swimathon Friday, Nov. 1, at Farmington Harrison High School.

The event will help provide funds to keep the swim club afloat. The Stingrays have 130 swimmers in the program, many of whom are of national caliber.

Those interested in sponsoring a swimmer can call Bill Morton at 661-0517. Swimmers will swim up to 200 lengths.

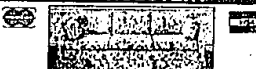
YOUTH HOOPS

The Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, recreation division, will offer a youth basketball program for boys and girls grades 4-8.

Clinics for children and coaches will take place Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at area high schools with practices beginning the week of Dec. 9. Games will be played Saturday mornings at Oakland Community College.

The cost per participant is \$15. Registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 23. Fees can be paid at the recreation office, 31555 11 Mile. Call 474-0115, Ext. 288 for more information.

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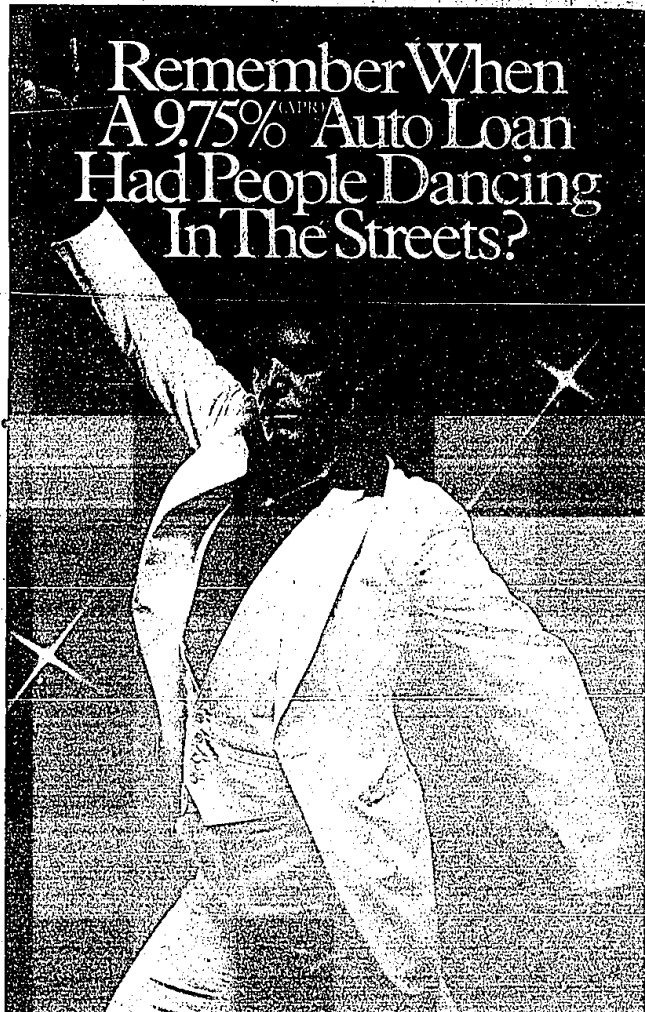
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This seminar will be held at the BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE, 500 S. Towerwood St., Suite 100. Seating will be served beginning at 7 P.M. Please call Linda Holliday at 546-3200 for reservations.



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