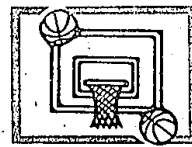


## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emmons editors/591-2312



Thursday, December 12, 1985 O&amp;E

(F19)



C.J. Risak

## When Gatt lost, Hillsdale gained

**A**MAZING HOW a little change can make a big difference. Mike Gatt is a smart guy. He's a senior at Hillsdale College, studying pre-med. He also happens to quarterback the Hillsdale football team.

At least he did for the two seasons prior to this one. Last year, however, took a heavy toll on Gatt — literally. The former Redford Catholic Central star and Livonia resident separated his shoulder in the Chargers' first game, his weight ballooned and, by season's end, he was keeping the bench company.

The writing was on the wall, and Gatt did not care for the translation.

"I was not too sure I had a starting position coming into the season," he said. "I felt I had to do something different to get my confidence back."

Gatt blamed his woes on his weight. Last summer he attacked the problem.

HE RAN, he lifted weights, he played basketball, and he threw passes to receiver Dave Milsud. He also worked the night shift at a convalescent home, which proved more beneficial physically than Gatt ever dreamed.

"That threw my system off," Gatt said of his night job. "Combined with the running, the pounds just started coming off."

By the start of the season, Gatt was 20 pounds slimmer. By the end of the season, it was apparent his loss was Hillsdale's gain.

Gatt's quarterbacking has been instrumental in the Chargers 10-1 season. How good has he been? He was a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) first team selection. He led the conference in percentage of passes completed (63) and touchdowns thrown (12) and was second in yards gained (1,344).

But that only tells part of the story, the portion that assesses passing efficiency. Unlike other positions, a quarterback cannot be judged by one, or even two, sets of statistics.

Evaluate the starting collegiate quarterbacks from the Observer & Eclectic coverage area. Ask who had the best season, and you'd get powerful arguments for several of them.

FOR INSTANCE, Dave Yarema, from Birmingham Brother Rice, was unbeaten in games he played for All-American Bowl-bound Michigan State (6-0), and he is the only major college starting quarterback from our area. Bruce Crosthwaite, from Rochester, set a new Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) pass efficiency standard at Adrian. Dean Ulrich, also from Rochester, registered impressive total yardage marks at Alma.

Ken Kish, from Farmington Harrison, guided Albion into the NCAA Division III playoffs. Chris Fanzl, from Livonia Franklin, helped turn Grand Valley State's winless program into a GLIAC contender.

There were others — at least eight former O&E-area quarterbacks started sometime during the past season — but none shared Gatt's accomplishments.

Gatt won, both a GLIAC title and in the NAIA playoffs. And without him, it's certain his team would never have been so successful. None of the others can make both boasts.

GATT'S VALUE to Hillsdale became obvious in Saturday's 47-3 rout of Salem (W. Va.) College in the NAIA quarterfinals. He completed 15 of 27 passes for 198 yards, with one intercepted. Four went for touchdowns.

His contribution didn't end there. Gatt also rushed 12 times for 72 yards and another TD. So much for a weight problem.

"It definitely helped my game," Gatt said of his weight loss. "I'm moving more, not getting sacked as much. I'm getting more yards running and not taking as many hits."

If that doesn't sound like a drastic difference, delve deeper. Better yet, let Gatt explain how much his improved mobility meant to the team.

"It's a good confidence boost for the offensive line, knowing they can hold somebody out," he said. "It has a positive effect on the whole team." Certainly fewer quarterback sacks mean more successful drives, which in turn result in a greater number of points. And the team with the most points...

THAT'S WHY judging Gatt by passing totals alone would be unjust. His 72 yards running against Salem may have made the difference for Hillsdale. And get this: Of his 12 carries, 10 were quarterback sneaks.

"Their defense uncovered our center, so I just quarterback-sneaked it a lot," he said. "I tried to take them out of that defense."

Eventually Salem did switch its defense, but not until Gatt burst 18 yards up the middle for a touchdown. Such decision-making tools are another important element in a quarterback's personality.

"I was just taking advantage of what the defense gave me," said Gatt. "That's my job." Or part of it, anyway. Like picking out the right receiver, or knowing when not to throw the ball, or instantly analyzing defense and checking off plays at the line of scrimmage.

"When you're in a groove, everything seems to go your way," said Gatt. And make no mistake, he is definitely in a groove — a lighter, quicker, harder-to-track (for defenses, at least) groove.

Hillsdale will battle Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colo., Saturday in an NAIA semifinal clash.

## Mercy's best not enough

## Wildcat role players get better of Marlins

By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

There is no justice in basketball. None.

It was proven last night, and Farmington Hills Mercy was the victim. The Marlins were robbed. And at this time of year, too, when people are supposed to be kind and generous toward one another.

There were no such merciful feelings for Mercy this Christmas. The Marlins lost their state quarterfinal contest to two-time defending Class A champion Flint Northwestern 41-36 at Waterford Mott.

Perhaps it wasn't so much that Mercy lost. It was the way it happened. If an official blew a call, or Northwestern got all the breaks, or even if the Marlins bounced up and gave the game away, there would be something to peg the loss on.

THAT DIDN'T happen. Mercy played terrific basketball, committing just 13 turnovers and limiting two-time all-star Tonya Edwards to eight points.

That's what made the result so unjust. Because as sharp as Mercy performed, Northwestern was even better.

Mercy coach Larry Baker knew it. "The only good thing about this is if you have to lose, go out playing intense basketball against the best."

The Marlins are out, finishing at 19-5. Northwestern is on its way to Kalamazoo, armed with a 24-1 record in its hunt for a third-consecutive title.

Mercy's triangle-zone-and-two defense — with three Marlins playing zone and Yvette Maison and Michelle Fryatt playing person-to-person against Edwards and Stephanie Tipton — kept Northwestern off-balance throughout the game.

BUT THE LADY Wildcats never panicked or wavered. They also never fell behind by more than four points, which helped, and they committed just six turnovers.

"We didn't really lose our composure," said Northwestern coach Roger Zoll. "We managed to find the open person on offense. We were patient and that paid off."

It did, but the dividends were slow to materialize. Mercy led 11-10 after one quarter, thanks to five points by Miley Duczynski and four by Yvette Maison. The Marlins maintained their one-point

advantage at the half, 20-19, in spite of poor floor shooting (three of 12).

The turning point came midway through the third quarter. Sparked by Shanta Burks' three baskets, Northwestern outscored Mercy 10-2 in the final five minutes of the period to forge a 30-26 lead.

If there was a pivotal play in the game, it came with 2:31 left in the third quarter. Maison spun past one defender, drove into the lane and banked in a short shot that would have tied the score at 26-all. But Maison ran into Burks and was called for an offensive foul, her fourth personal of the game.

MAISON NEVER fouled out, but she never drove the lane again, either.

Burks hit two free throws early in the final period to extend Northwestern's lead to six, but Mercy answered with baskets by Duczynski and Maison to pull to within two. The Lady Wildcats went into an effective stall, and Mercy was forced to foul to gain possession.

Edwards, Tipton and Lawanda Skinner went to the free throw line in a four-minute span and sank six-straight foul shots. Northwestern hit 11 of 13 free throws in the final quarter, which accounted for all its points.

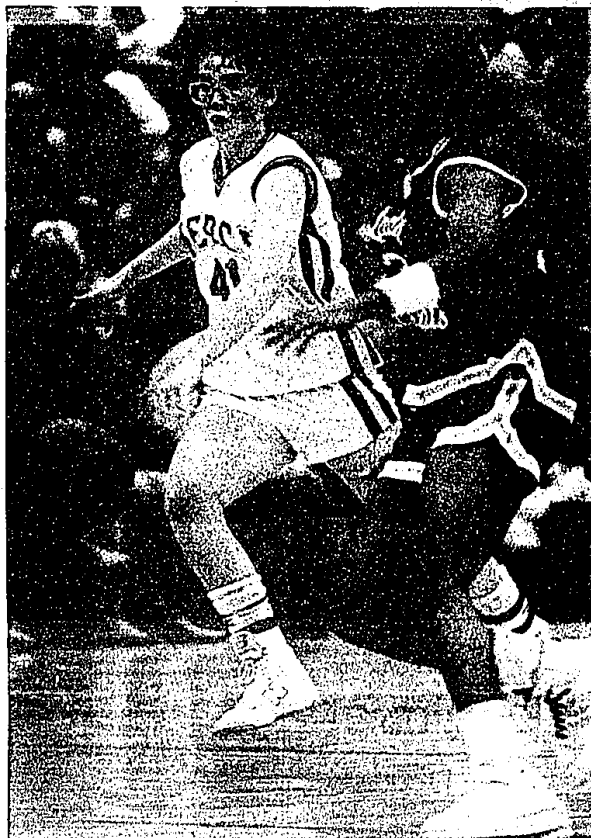
"It was an outstanding game," summarized Baker. "Both teams played excellent defense. It came down to them shooting a little better than we did. Both teams shut down the other's big scorers, but their support players came through."

WITH EDWARDS bottled out, the Lady Wildcats needed it. Tipton came through with 12 points and Burks netted 10.

Mercy didn't get that kind of help. Only four Marlins scored, with Duczynski getting 18 and Maison 10. Margaret DeMattia and Terri Nalodka had four each.

The only problem with our offensive execution was when they were switching defenses on us it took us too long to adjust to it," said Baker. "I have no problems on the defensive end. (Northwestern) won't get a better defensive challenge than they get today."

Zoll agreed. "Now that we've past them," he said, "I feel a lot better." It's just a shame that the Marlins, considering the game they played, shouldn't feel better about the results, too.



Yvette Maison (No. 41) drives toward the basket against Flint Northwestern's Tonya Thomas Wednesday night in Mercy's

galling, 41-36 loss in the state Class A quarterfinals at Waterford Mott.

## Kratt scores 33 as Farmington goes 2-0

When was the last time a Farmington boys basketball team began a season with two straight victories?

"It's been a long time," said veteran Falcon coach Richard Roy.

The Falcons posted victory No. 2 Tuesday night 59-47 against Waterford Kettering.

Senior Bruce Kratt was unstoppable. He hit nine-of-13 shots from the perimeter and sank 16-of-16 free throws — 33 points.

Foul shooting told the tale. Falcons, led by Kratt, hit 19-of-21 from the line, Kettering just nine-of-22.

"That's two straight games now that we've shot the ball well," Roy said.

Kyle Muts added 16 points to the Falcons' cause and Craig Petersmark grabbed six rebounds.

Tom Drees led the Captains (8-2) with 17 points and Tom Larkin scored 12.

HARRISON 55, W. BLOOMFIELD 45: The underdog Farmington Harrison team jumped ahead 11-0 in the first quarter, then fended off the burly West Bloomfield team the rest of way Tuesday to post its second consecutive victory.

"Being 2-0 is nice, especially considering the types of games we've played," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "We beat Kettering at the buzzer without the services of Ken George, then we beat a team that had the size advantage on us."

Will Lund scored 13 points to lead a balanced Hawk attack. George, the talented senior guard, added 10 points and Scott Blassell tossed in nine.

Marty Wolfe led West Bloomfield (8-2) with 14 points and Phil Okun scored 10.

N. FARMINGTON 73, REDFORD UNION 61: The North Farmington rivals might be feeling a bit like a Detroit Red Wings goaltender after Tuesday night's shootout.

The Raiders fired up 66 shots Tuesday, connecting on 27 of them.

Rick Anderson carried the hot hand for North. He scored 30 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Mike Rudin scored 15 points and Paul Wahrman added 13.

North took the game away from RU with a 24-6 third quarter. The Raiders hit 18-of-31 shots in the second half.

Jim Ragland guided the Raider offense with a strong floor game. Jim Pavlovich scored 17 and Dennis Dubart 14 for RU (8-4).

North is 2-0 on the season. OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

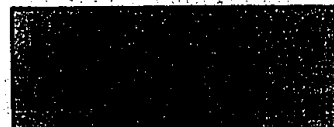
OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

They were tied at 28-all at the half. OOC took the lead for good with three minutes left, thanks in part to the defensive play of Darrel Darling.

OOC hosts St. Clair CC Friday.

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST  
MERCEDES-BENZ DEALER

**1985 FALL CLEARANCE**  
A FEW SELECT 1985 MODELS AVAILABLE  
AT SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS

**ESTATE MOTORS, LTD.**

464 SOUTH Woodward Avenue • DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM

**644-8400**

AUTHORIZED SALES SERVICE PARTS  
OPEN MONDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS UNTIL 7 P.M.