Canton cagers fall shy of win

Four games into the season, and al-ready Plymouth Canton's basketball team can be labeled 'hard-levs.' The Chiefs proved it Tuesday against usting Walled Lake Central, a team they had little reason to believe they could match up with. And yet with just a minute left to play, Canton trailed by a single point.

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Gold at upset be at hand? Chief coach Tom Niemi decided to play for the last shot, letting the clock wind down to at the partial shot, betting the clock wind down to at the partial shot, how wanted, we got the shot we wanted, we got the shot we wanted, said Niemi But as Joe Hies pat up the final attempt, he was hammered and a whistle sounded. Officials' rulling: Mies stepped out of bounds. Central's ball, and Central's ball, and Central's ballgame by a 46-45 score.

AN UNHAPPY ENDING after a valiant Canton effort. The way the game started, it appeared it might be one long evening for the Chiefs. They had a tall order to fill in trying to stop the Vikings' 6-foot-9 Daran Edmonds. We will be supported to the Chiefs and the Vikings' 6-foot-9 Daran Edmonds. We will be supported to the Chiefs they had a tall order to fill in trying to stop the Vikings' foot-9 bearing the Chiefs and the Chiefs they exch stand 6-2. In the first quarter Edmonds had his way, pumping in 10 points. But in the second period we made some help-side adjustments and piayed yery strong man-to-man defense, Niemi explained, and that helped limit Edmonds point production to four.

Those adjustments also allowed the Chiefs to get back into the game. After trailing 18-13 at the first quarter's conclusion, Canton pulled to within one (31-50) at the half.

THE CHIEF DEFENSE was even more effective in the second half, hold-ing Central to 15 points. They also shut out Edmonds completely.

But the effort wasn't enough to keep a three-game losing skid from reaching four (0-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association). Central is 2-1.

"Detensively, I thought we played very well," said Niemi. "We used some full-court zone presses, then fell back into our man-to-man. It proved very effective.

"I was very pleased with our effort." Edmonds '14 points led Central. Kev-in Harreld and Mike Kohler contributed 11 apiece.

Miss topped all scorers with 18 points. Canton outrebounded the taller Vikings 21-18, but free throws spelled the difference: Central made 20 of 27 to five of 13 for the Chiefs.

SALEM 73. W.L. WESTERN 53:
Playing at other of the Walted Lake school is never easy. Playing at the school is never easy. Playing at the beautiful to the Walted Lake schools in back observed in back observed in back of the school in the schoo

"Both games were tough, both were dog fights," said Salem coach Bob Bro-die. "I thought we handled it well. I'm glad to get out of there with two wins."

Salem's 37-25 halftime lead grew by a point after three quarters (53-40). The Rocks finished strong, outscoring the Warriors 20-13 in the fourth.

Kearis totaled 16 points, mestly from long range. Mike Hale balanced Kearis' outside attack with an Inside game that accounted for 27 points (10 in the fourth quarter) and 12 rebounds. Antonio Diaz added 12 points to the Rock offense.

Western (1-1 in the WLAA) got 13 points from Eric Hall and 12 from Kev-in Walters.

Observerland sports people

Basketball, Bible bounce south

Playing basketball in El Saivador over the holidays may not be your idea of a good time, but Dan Brandel thinks it's a splendid idea.

"I hear it's not as bad as they say it is," said Brandel, "but I guess I'll find out firsthand."

is," said Brandel, "but I guess I'll find ut I fished."
Brandel, the mens coach last year at William Tyndale College in Farmington, will lead six players to El Saivador and Guatemala. They leave Dec. 25, return Jan. 6, and in between play 21 — count 'em. 21 — games. His six players, former college play-ris from throughout the United States, will be joined by six players from the national team of the country they are in. "We played six games in 48 hours last summer in the Philippines," said Brandel, a Farmington resident and a 1969 graduate of Southfield High. And the record for Sports Ambassadors is nine games 168 hours." And they though they had it tough in the NBA.

SPORTS AMBASSADORS began in 1952 as a non-denominational way to preach the Christian gospel abroad. The first trip was to Talwan. Since then, more than 1,000 athletes have played more than 3,100 games in 64 countries.

Brandel, who was born in Africa to missionary parents, is making his sec-

ond trip for Sports Ambassadors, a non-profit organization based in a suburb of San Jose, Callf. This summer he went to the Philippines for six weeks, also as coach.

"At halftime, we'd have one of our guys play the trumpet — "Sweet Georgia Brown" — and another guy would juggle basketballs. The rest of us would line up in a semi-circle facility the crowd. We're not singers, but we'd like to sing for you," we'd tell them," said Brandel, whose brother Mark is the gifts varsity coach at Plymouth Christian. "The first chorus

'I love (basketball). There are principles in the Bible that can help people with their game and with their lives. Emotion and attitude play an important part in the game, and my job as coach is to use those principles to help the players deal with those emotions and attitudes.'

- Dan Brandel Sports Ambassadors coach

we'd sing in English and the second chorus we'd sing in their native lan-guage. They'd go nuts over that, It'd freak them out. Then we gave testi-mony of God in our lives." Literature would be passed out, in-cluding coupons for a Bible study course.

Brandel. 34, has been active in Youth for Christ. Previously, he taught Bible class and was varsity coach of the boys and girls team at Your Christian. coach of the boys and girls team at Flint Christian.

I fell in love with not only coach-ing but with teaching," he said. He has

both as teacher and coach.

BRANDEL SAID that the circumsiances vary greatly from game to game. One night you might be playing before thousands in a university, the next day before dozens on an outdoor court in the rain.

Last summer we played at a high school that was the biggest I've ever seen in my life — and I graduated in a class of 1,000, ne said. "The Philippines are obsessed with basketbail. There are courts everywhere. This newspaper (the Observer & Eccentric), if it were in the Philippines, would have a court outside so the employees could play on their lunch, hour. And they would be playing.

The proper of the observer are properly the country of the property of the players and with their lives. Emotion and attitude play an imporrant part in the game, and my job as coach is to use those principles to help the players deal with those emotions and attitude."

Players interested in future trips becaute the property of the players deal with those emotions and attitudes.

tions and attitudes."
Players interested in future trips abroad can write for an application to: Sports Ambasaders, 25 Corning Avenue, Milpitas, Calif. 9503.
There is one drawback. Players must pay their way to share the gospel. If costs \$3,000 each for the Philipipless trip and \$1,500 for the trip to Central America.

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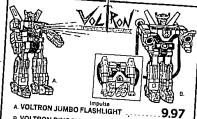


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