

## Sports

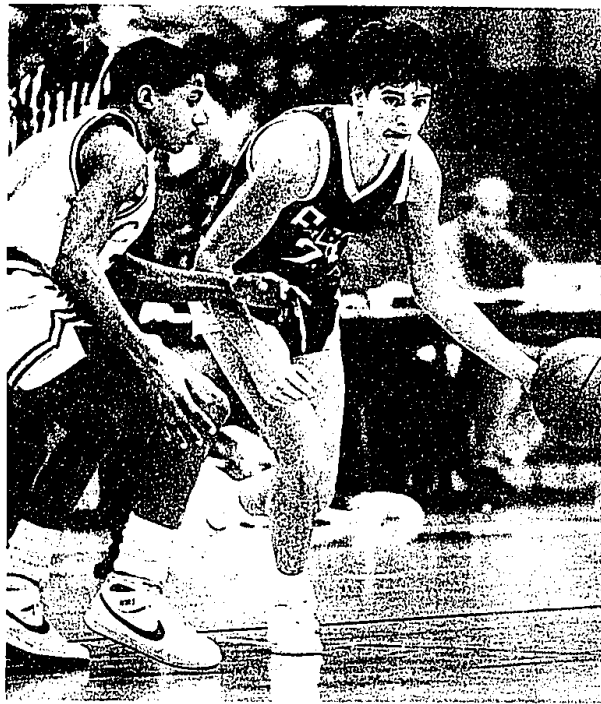
Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



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## Falcons' cage skid continues

Kratt's 28-point night for naught vs. Chiefs



BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

Senior Bruce Kratt scored 28 points Tuesday night at Canton, but Farmington came away with its fifth-straight loss.

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Both Plymouth Canton and Farmington had their own state-of-the-season addresses to give Tuesday.

And the Chiefs report a moderate upswing in their basketball season as they downed the visiting Falcons, 71-64, in Western Lakes action. For Farmington, it's a recession.

The Falcons, 4-7 WLA and 6-8 overall, have lost their last five games while Canton has posted a 7-2 mark since Christmas. The Chiefs started out the season 0-5.

Canton coach Tom Niemi said it's been a team effort which has the rejuvenated Chiefs. Farmington coach Rich Roy said it's a lack of one which has his team on the skids.

EVIDENCE PRESENTED at Tuesday's game brings validity to both statements. Canton swarmed defensively and stung Farmington for 25 turnovers. Three players for the Chiefs checked in with double-figures scoring with others contributing some fine defense.

The key, according to Niemi, was making the Falcons play the Chiefs' type of game.

"We forced them to make some long passes," Niemi said. "Farmington was a lot bigger than us. We had to make them play on the full length of the court."

Another part of the Chiefs' strategy was keeping Bruce Kratt in line by making him shoot from the line. The Falcons' 6-1 guard still tossed in a game-high 28 points, but 14 of those came on free throws.

Kyle Muts fired in 20 points for Farmington. But from there, things fell off dramatically. The next highest scorer was Steve Howell, who netted 10 points.

Tony Racka, who's shooting for \$1 million on Tuesday at the CBA All-Star game in Tampa, Fla., had only four points. The Falcons sharp-shooting guard was held scoreless in the first half.

"WE'VE GOT to get more scoring from more than just two kids (Kratt and Muts)," said Roy. "Two guys cannot carry the load."

Farmington has also been depleted by illness of late. Both Mark Stevens and Craig Petersmark have been out. Petersmark, whose presence was missed under the boards, saw limited action Tuesday.

But added Roy: "Those are not excuses. (Canton) just outplayed us." And that was done thanks to some fine outside shooting by Canton guard Joel Mies and Tyrone Reeves' drives to the basket. Mies led all Canton scorers with 21 points while Reeves sent in 19.

In the second half, Reeves was unstoppable as he scored 11 points. The 5-10 guard didn't miss a field goal in the span, hitting five-of-five attempts before fouling out.

Mies was seven-of-17 from the floor.

"(MIES) HAS BEEN an excellent floor leader this season," said Niemi. Dan Olaszewski, with 10 points, was Canton's other scorer in double figures.

For most of the game, the Chiefs maintained control. That was due in part to some fine shooting. Canton was 31-of-56 for 55 percent from the floor.

"When we did miss, they fouled us," noted Niemi. From the line, the Chiefs were 10-of-24. Mies was seven-of-10 on free throws.

Farmington, which didn't miss many shots in the early going mainly because

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## Skate champion dons new wheels

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Imagine jumping into the ring with Thomas Hearns without ever having boxed before.

Imagine competing in the Boston Marathon without ever having run a race.

These are things that you just don't consider doing — unless you are an unusually gifted athlete.

Lori O'Neill is an unusually gifted athlete. No, she won't be taking on Thomas Hearns or the Boston Marathon in the near future. But she will be taking on some of the world's top cyclists in the Tour of Texas this March.

Lori O'Neill has never competed in a United States Cycling Federation-sanctioned race in her life.

O'NEILL, A 21-year-old Farmington High grad and Oakland Community College junior, is one of six members of the Cyber-Schwinn Cycling team — the only fully sponsored female team in the state — selected to compete in the Tour of Texas. She is the only one, however, who hasn't had any previous racing experience.

"When I found out, it floored me," she said. "I said, 'Wow, should I go?' I knew I was taking a big chance. I'd have to miss school and work. I don't know if I could even compete. I knew I had never raced before."

"But I decided to do it. I know I am physically in shape, all I need is experience. And that's exactly why I am going."

O'Neill, although a novice to cycling, is no stranger to national competition. For the past five years she has been one of the nation's top roller speed skaters. In the 1983 National Sports Festival games she brought home a silver and two bronze medals. In the 1985 games, she won a gold and silver. Her gold-medal 4-lady relay team established a Sports Festival record.

THIS FALL, O'Neill became involved in cycling. It was a logical invitation for her since she used to cycle 50 miles a day, six days a week in training for skating competitions.

"I used to ride with some guys who were with the 7-11 team," she said. The 7-11 team is perhaps the most prestigious sponsor in the sport of cycling. "I



Lori O'Neill  
novice cyclist

really enjoyed it. In September, I had my doubts whether to stick to skating or try cycling. I just decided it was time to put my skates aside."

Fate was on O'Neill's side. Her riding partners were the sons of Frank Andreau, a key figure with 7-11. Andreau was impressed with O'Neill's natural ability on the bike and put her in contact with coach Mike Walden.

Walden has coached the likes of Sheila Young, Roger Young, Connie Paraskoven and Livonian Jeff Pierce — all world-class cyclists. Walden is the coach with the Cyber-Schwinn team.

"Mike called me and said he was willing to take me because of my background in athletics and because he got a good word on me from Frank Andreau," O'Neill said. "He'd never even really seen me ride."

"THE THING I like about her," said Walden, "is that she knows the ground rules of suffering. That's a real common in individual sports like cycling and skating. She's a real hearty kid with a lot of spunk."

Walden said that Cyber-Schwinn will race a four-person team at the Tour of Texas. He said that O'Neill has a good sponsor in the sport of cycling. "I

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