

# Sports

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(P.10)

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## Sophomore lifts Raiders to 2-point win



By Bill Parker  
staff writer

North Farmington's Kim Gurecki is a rookie on the Raider basketball team, but she plays like a seasoned veteran.

Tuesday night the sophomore guard led the Raiders to a 42-40 victory over host Livonia Franklin in a Western Lakes Activities Association game.

Not only did she score a team-high 14 points, but she also had six steals and her pesky defensive play caused a couple of Patriot turnovers.

"She's a good one," North coach Greg Capling said. "She runs the show for us and she is only a 10th grader. She's young, so she makes some mistakes but she makes up for them with her speed and quickness. She was a little flustered in the first half but she played real well in the second half."

Real well, indeed. With North trailing 19-18 at the half, Gurecki put the Raiders on top 20-19 with a steal and a basket to open the third quarter.

Moments later, her second theft of the half resulted in a Debbie Weintraub basket as North pulled ahead 22-19. And when Franklin's Renee Picard closed the gap to one, 22-21, Gurecki turned another steal into a basket to keep North's lead intact, 24-21.

FRANKLIN FINALLY caught up with 1:42 remaining in the third. Cathy Cruz intercepted a Raider pass and fed Cathy Curnow at the basket to give the Patriots a 31-30 lead.

But a free throw by Donna O'Brien, and back-to-back baskets by Suzi Butcher and Missy Boscowan at the close of the third quarter, pushed the Raiders back into the lead, 35-31.

In the fourth quarter Gurecki again came up with the key baskets. Rose O'Bey pulled Franklin to

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within two, 35-33, early in the quarter. Gurecki then popped one in from the top of the key and added an inside bucket off a steal by O'Brien for a 39-33 Raider lead.

Gurecki added a basket late in the game and O'Brien nailed the top half of a one-and-one with 20 remaining in the game to seal the victory.

O'Bey canned a three-pointer with time running out on Franklin for the final basket of the game.

"We came out and stood around on defense," Franklin coach Dan Freeman said. "We weren't ready to play. I was not at all happy with the defense tonight. We just stood around too much. We were reacting instead of acting. We were always a step too late. The defense should control the action and we didn't."

BUTCHER DUMPED IN six of her 10 points on the evening in the first quarter, leading the Raiders to a 10-8 lead.

But Franklin ran off eight unanswered points at the start of the second quarter to take a 16-10 advantage. Curnow pumped in two baskets and O'Bey and Picard added one each.

North tied it up at 16-16 on a basket by Jennie Bjorj with 3:28 remaining in the half. Gurecki added a basket late in the quarter, but Cruz dumped in three free throws down the stretch for a 19-18 Franklin lead at the half.

O'Bey finished with 21 for the Patriots, who fell to 4-2 overall, 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

North improved to 5-2, 2-1 with the victory.

Livonia Franklin's Cathy Cruz is trapped by North Farmington's Donna O'Brien (left) and Kim Gurecki during Tuesday's game. Gurecki's defensive effort resulted in a steal. The Raiders went on to claim a 42-40 victory in a Western Lakes divisional crossover game. More girls basketball results are on Page 2D.

## North becomes victim as Canton ends slump

Plymouth Canton's soccer fortunes took a turn for the better Monday, but at the expense of another hard-luck team in North Farmington.

The Chiefs, who had lost four games by one-goal margins, had things go the other way as they blanked the Raiders 1-0.

As it has in most games, Canton controlled play, according to coach Mike Morgan, and outlasted the host team, 26-8. But North goalie Roger Johnson was equal to the task on all but one occasion.

"I think you could tell" both teams had lost some close games, said Raiders coach Cathy Cole, adding

the latest game "seemed to be an omen for the whole season."

"Both teams played their hearts out. It came down to the last few minutes. We left a person open and they capitalized on it. Unfortunately, it was Canton."

The Chiefs got the game's only goal on center-halfback Jim Haddes' header following a cross pass from Jerry Stansel midway in the second half.

"That's one," said Morgan, meaning Canton needs more wins to balance the ledger. Naturally, he and the Chiefs hope the victory will be the start of a strong finish.

"The state tournament is three

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weeks off," Morgan said. "We've got three league games left, and I think it's a good time. We might have turned the corner."

The victory was costly for Canton, however. After scoring his goal, Haddes suffered a broken wrist, and forward Todd Nichols injured an ankle. Plus, center-halfback Rick Menary is sidelined by a knee injury.

Marty Adamian played the entire game in goal for the Chiefs, 3-4 in the Western Lakes and 4-7 overall, and earned his first shutout.

Despite the loss, Cole complimented the play of her sophomore goalie, Johnson.

"He's been doing a great job," she said. "We don't have an offensive threat, and the defense has been keeping us in games. Unfortunately, with that kind of pressure on the defense, they're going to slip one past eventually."

Al Riddock, Jeff Juliano, Brett Willis and Pete Keller also played well for the Raiders, 1-4 in the league and 2-6 overall, Cole said.

In games played last week, North defeated Wallied Lake Western 3-0 and lost to Livonia Stevenson 8-0. Tim McMin scored two goals and assisted on one by Keller. Todd Menary also had an assist. Kurt Will's three goals lifted Stevenson past the Raiders.

FARMINGTON 11, W.L. CENTRAL 6: The Falcons moved above 500 in league play with their shutout victory.

Farmington, 4-3-1 in the Western Lakes, was led by Joey Crowe's three-goal performance. Steve Lee and Pete Fraunheim had two goals and one assist apiece, and Scott Seabolt added a goal and two assists.



North Farmington's Joel Lattin tries to maintain control of the ball while opponent Jeff Tutor waits for an opportunity to take it away. Plymouth Canton edged the Raiders 1-0.

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