

Raiders charge past John Glenn in final quarter

If North Farmington's girls basketball team proved anything Tuesday at Westland John Glenn, it was that the Raiders can spread like a California burrito.

And that's what carried the Raiders to a 69-57 triumph, ending a three-game losing streak against Glenn.

The player most responsible for North's intense play, most evident in its 27-16 fourth-quarter surge, was Donna O'Brien.

"Donna played inspired ball," said Raider coach Greg Caplin, "which got the rest of the kids fired up."

That she did, O'Brien finished with 21 points (a career high) and 13 rebounds. Nine of her points came in the pivotal final quarter.

She got plenty of help. Eve Clear had 16 points and six steals, Kim Gurecki netted 13 points and seven assists and Vikki Semons totalled 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Sarah Moorey and Janet Ternes scored 17 points apiece for Glenn. Christina Hoffman added 16.

What made the difference for North — besides O'Brien's leadership — was its teamwork.

"The kids know when we're playing together as a team we're going to win," Caplin said. "(Glenn) kept pressing us in the fourth quarter, and we kept getting 3-on-2 or 3-on-1 breaks."

The Raiders capitalized on most of those chances, which helps explain their 52 percent floor shooting (32-of-62).

North is now 6-3 overall and 2-2 in the Lakes Division. Glenn is also 2-2 in the Lakes and 5-3 overall.

LADYWOOD 48, MERCY 37: Yvonne Barnett tallied a game-high 20 points, propelling Livonia Ladywood past Farmington Hills Mercy Tuesday at Mercy.

The 5-foot-4 Barnett went inside and outside to help hand the host Marlias their eighth defeat in nine games. Chris Laiberte and Sarah Adnina each added eight points.

Ladywood is 5-3 overall and 2-1 in the Catholic League's Central Division. Jenny Clinton and Joanne Stephens

basketball

added 12 and 10 points, respectively, for Mercy.

Ladywood led 16-17 at intermission before Mercy cut the margin to 34-30 after three quarters. The Blazers then out-scored their opponent 14-7 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"We executed better tonight, especially on offense in second quarter," first-year Ladywood coach Ken Bechard said. "We went to Yvonne in the low-post. We got her open a lot on the weak side."

CHURCHILL 49, HARRISON 36: The Farmington Harrison Hawks looked better at Livonia Churchill Tuesday, but their record didn't reflect it as they lost for the ninth-straight time.

"Harrison played real well," Churchill coach Dave Wagner said. "I don't think I did a good job preparing my team for this basketball game."

The Hawks led 16-10 after one quarter, thanks to Karem Najarian points. But Najarian managed just three more in the next three quarters to finish with a team-high nine. Davey Hlad added eight.

The Chargers (4-3 overall) took control with a 14-3 second-quarter surge. "I just think we started playing better," said Van Wagner. "Our press became more effective."

Churchill was led by Lori Place with 14 points and seven assists and Joann Atkin with 13 points and seven rebounds.

SALEM 72, FARMINGTON 19: Plymouth Salem thoroughly outclassed Farmington Tuesday on the Falcons' home court, never surrendering more than six points in a quarter.

Salem's record is 6-3 overall, 5-0 in the Lakes Division. Farmington dipped to 2-7 overall, 1-4 in the Lakes.

Jill Ealey outscored Farmington herself, putting in 20 points. Terry King matched the Falcon total, scoring 19, and Sarah Huelte had 18. Erika Hatcher's six points topped the rest of the team.

Four shooting ruined the Falcons. They hit just seven of 33 floor shots (13½ percent) and only five of 17 free throws (41 percent).

Title time

Key games influence division contests

By Don O'Meara
and Brad Emmons
staff writers

grid predictions

FRIDAY'S GAMES
(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

Cranbrook at Clarencville: Each team needs a win to stay in the race and remain within reach of league-leading Avondale, which has already beaten the Craneks. Cranbrook is 3-1 in the league and 4-1 overall, the Trojans 2-2 and 3-2. PICKS — Clarencville is just as hot a team as the Craneks at this point, winning their last two games. O'Meara has had the most trouble trying to figure out the Trojans, who he picked to lose the last two weeks. He's reluctant to do so again. Emms, who has had better luck with Clarencville games, likes Cranbrook this week.

Thurston at Crestwood: The host Chargers are one of the Tri-River League leaders at 3-1, and they've lost only one game to date. Thurston is in last place and still searching for its first win. PICKS — Victory is to the Eagles who the butterfly of love was to '60s singer Bob Lind — eh-ave.

Garden City at Redford Union: Observerland's two representatives in the NFL, going this week, and it appears the field is tilted in favor of the host Panthers. Besides having the better record at 3-2 overall — the Cougars are 1-4 — RU has to be full of confidence after winning that 42-37 shootout at Jackson last week. PICKS — Joe Delligau has another big day for the Panthers.

Wayne at Belleville: The Zbras have experienced their share of heartbreak, losing by a point to Monroe and a TD to Fordson and Lincoln Park. Wayne's 2-3 record belies the fact the Zbras are a good football team. The Tigers, 1-4 overall, are languishing at the bottom of the Wolverine A. PICKS — Wayne has plenty to cheer about this week.

Wald, John Glenn at Ply. Salem: Expect another bruising, low-scoring game this week between these Lakes contenders. Both teams emphasize defense, and it is defense that will determine this game. Salem can't afford a loss, but Glenn would love to have the North game to right itself and create an

other three-way tie. On the other hand, if the Rockets win, it sets up a dramatic, winner-take-all showdown for the division title next week. PICKS — Glenn squeaks by.

Farmington at Liv. Stevenson: The winless Falcons have lost five straight, the Spartans four. One streak will end this week. Stevenson, which still hasn't recovered from its injury problems, has played all three Lakes contenders in successive weeks. Farmington scored its first TD in losing 22-7 to Walked Lake Central last Friday. PICKS — Stevenson gets well this week, if only on the scoreboard.

Liv. Churchill vs. W.L. Western at W.L. Central: Both teams are 1-2 in the Western Division, so they will be jockeying for position as the league season winds down. Both teams had tough non-league opponents, both beat Canton in division play. PICKS — That yellow school bus will feel like a Cadillac to the happy Chargers following a win.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Northville at Liv. Franklin: The Patriots, 2-1 and 3-2, are the only other team in the Western Division beside Harrison with a winning record. Franklin is shaping up as the next-best team in that loop and could take another step toward locking up second place. Northville has been somewhat of a disappointment but could surprise the Patriots just as Canton surprised the Mustangs last week. PICKS — O'Meara says Franklin keeps rolling toward runner-up honors, but Emms is betting on a Northville victory.

Ply. Canton at Farm. Harrison: Unfortunately for the Chiefs, bad news follows on the heels of good. Canton registered its first win last week, and the Chiefs deserve applause for beating a good Northville team. That was the good. The bad news is Canton's next challenge is the No. 1-ranked team in Class B, undefeated Harrison, 5-0. PICKS — The Hawks need to win two games and guard against overconfidence to retain the Western Division title.

SUNDAY'S GAME

(1:30 p.m. at Pontiac Wiener Stadium)

Catholic Central vs. Brother Rice: Less than a TD usually separates these two rivals, and is the 44th annual Boys Bowl likely to be any different? Rice's how evenly they stack up: CC averages 22 points per game, Rice 22½; CC allows six points per game, Rice 4½. The Warriors and Shamrocks have been the Boys Bowl participants since 1966, and Rice lead the series 14-12-1. But the Warriors haven't beaten CC since 1984.

Coach Tom Mach is 9-6 against Rice. Al Fracassa, PICKS — It ends up being another squeaker, but O'Meara believes the Warriors are due. Emms says CC sits on some good fortune remaining in its lucky Shamrock.

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