

Sports

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Farmington rallies but can't top North

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington needed a little extra from its basketball forwards Friday night against crosstown rival Farmington.

Chris White and Eric Dettler didn't let their teammates down as the Raiders survived a late rush by the Falcons and slipped away with a 62-60 victory.

North's starting center Eric Carlson remained sidelined by mononucleosis, and backup Bill Chwalik, still not fully recovered from an elbow injury, was in foul trouble.

White, a 6-foot-3 sophomore, and Dettler, a 6-foot-2 junior, picked up the slack in helping North finish 6-4 in the Lakes Division. The Raiders are 9-8 overall, while Farmington is 3-7 and 3-14.

White pumped in 22 points, including the go-ahead basket with 35 seconds to play, and shared game-high scoring honors with guard Matt Hoffman. He also had eight rebounds and five steals. Dettler chipped in 10 points and 10 rebounds from the opposite forward spot.

"WE HAD A quicker team tonight, so we were trying to run the ball," White said. "I gotta get the rebound, get in there and scrap a little more."

(Coach Tom Negoshian has been getting me and Dettler in there all year. In practice, we bang with the big guys. They knock us on the ground and get us ready for the game.)

White agreed he thought he played his best game. Negoshian said it was one of his best, recalling his effort the night North beat Westland John Glenn.

basketball

"I was in the game the whole time," White said. "Sometimes I daze off. All my shots were falling, and things were going well tonight."

The biggest shot White attempted was his last, and that also went in—much to the dismay of Farmington, which fought back from a 16-point deficit and had a chance to win the game in the final minute.

Mike Myers, who scored eight of his 12 points in the last three minutes, popped a triple with :53 on the clock to tie, 58-58.

ON THE RAIDERS' next possession, White got all net on a fall-away shot attempt from just right of the circle.

"That was a prayer," White said. "I just threw it up. I thought I was open, but I turned around and (Jason) Brown was right there. We bumped knees, and it knocked me off balance."

Negoshian said he didn't offer any words of wisdom for White, or Dettler, before the game. There was no special plan to compensate for the problems in the post.

"(White) just took it on himself," Negoshian said. "I didn't say much. He was playing so well. You know it is; sometimes you start coaching and screw it all up."

North opened up a six-point lead, 23-17, on White's jumper midway in the second quarter, and the Raiders were ready to blow the game open when Hoffman scored three straight

baskets late in the half. North led 35-23 at halftime.

Hoffman, who also had nine assists, sank a pair of triples in the third quarter as the Raiders increased their lead to 47-31, but Farmington didn't let it get any worse.

MYERS HIT A 3-point shot and guard Jason Browne, who also had 12 points for the Falcons, scored on a putback as the Falcons climbed within 56-52.

(Farmington coach) Bobby Kaump's team, whenever we play them, they play as hard as anyone we play all year," Negoshian said. "Their effort is second to none."

"If Chris White doesn't make that jumper maybe they win. It was that kind of ballgame."

For the first 31 minutes, the game qualified as a sleeper. But the crowd came to life in the final minute when the 6-foot-6 Myers scored from the wing to make it 58-53.

After White missed a 1-and-1, the place erupted when Myers scored his second triple to tie, and a game that had lacked emotion suddenly had plenty of it.

But it ended up being just another disappointing loss for Farmington, which has probably had more close defeats than any team in the area. The Falcons have lost seven games by five points or less.

BROWNE MISSED an off-balance shot with 15 seconds left. Dettler grabbed the rebound and was fouled, making two insurance tosses. That allowed North to let Browne to drive for a layup in the final seconds.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Bill Chwalik (center) of North Farmington and Gene Tokraks got tangled up while going after a loose ball Friday night. Other players in the photo are Farmington's Dennis Raimi (40) and

Mike Williams and North's Chris White (21), who scored the go-ahead basket in the final minute.

Lakes victory keeps Raiders perfect

North Farmington and Plymouth Salem were the combatants in a classic volleyball confrontation Wednesday.

In each of three games, no more than three points separated the teams as the visiting Raiders rallied from a first-game disaster to beat Salem in the Lakes Division rematch, 15-17, 15-13, 15-12.

The opener set the tone, according to North coach Sandy Lubieniecki, as the Raiders blew a 12-5 lead.

"We had a series of passing errors and let them back in the game," she said. "And, before we knew it, they had the game."

The same thing nearly happened again in the second game, Lubieniecki said. North had an 11-4 lead only to see the Rocks come from behind once more. The Raiders managed to hold on this time, however, sending the match to a decisive third game.

SALEM OWNED A 7-5 edge when North's Patu Gooding served three straight aces, and the Raiders, who swept the series, held the lead after that.

"They had been serving so tough on us," Lubieniecki said, "and that gave us the momentum."

"(The ace) came at the right time. I could feel the game turn a little bit even though both teams fought hard to finish it out."

Gooding also had 10 defensive digs as division-leading North stayed unbeaten with a 7-0 record. The Raiders are 9-0 against Western Lakes Activities Association opponents and 19-3 overall.

Salem, 4-3 in the Lakes and 13-8 overall, got much-needed help from Jo Wiklund, who filled in as the team's setter when Candy Wolgas was called away on family business.

"That's every coach's nightmare when

volleyball

you run a 5-1 offense," Salem coach Betty Smith said. "I called the team together to discuss the options, and they said: 'Why don't you let Jo set?'"

"SHE SAID SHE'D give it a try, and she did an outstanding job. There was only one ball she asked for help on, and she had 69 sets."

Smith so liked Wiklund's hustle she is seriously considering a move to make her the permanent setter, though Wolgas is still the best setter in terms of ability and accuracy.

"Jo is smaller (5-foot-3) and quicker and

can get to the ball easier," she said. "The kids knew Jo was going to get to the ball, and that made them work that much harder."

"I kept her (on the team) because she's so good at defense, and I'd be kicking myself if I hadn't. She wouldn't win any prize for accuracy, but she got to every ball and put it up."

"She's such a sparkplug that she keeps the rest of the team up and going," Smith added. Courtney Knapp was 32-of-38 spiking with 14 kills for North, and Eve Claar was a perfect 26-for-26 with 10 kills. Vikki Seamons had five blocks, and her net play was exceptional, according to Lubieniecki.

WENDY WOLF was the team's top server, putting 16 of 18 chances into play. She served 12 points, including three aces. Debbie Weintraub played her usually steady

game as director of the offense, recording 21 assists.

"She continues to give us great court leadership and sets," Lubieniecki said. "Her court leadership and passing really hold the team together."

Asaka Motoyama and Maria Wordhouse had 12 kills apiece for the Rocks. Motoyama spiked 27 of 30 attempts, and Wordhouse, who also was Salem's leading server with 12 aces, was 34-of-37 hitting.

Motoyama, who added 12 digs on defense, played the best game of her career, according to Smith. Aimee Rutan added eight spikes out of as many attempts.

"Nobody hates to lose more than me," Smith said. "But when we got done I said: 'I don't like to lose, but you guys played great. If we work hard, we can still do things with the time left in the season.'"

Harrison captures mat crown

Farmington Hills Harrison is one of four teams slated to compete in the Class B wrestling regional Wednesday at Allen Park.

The Hawks, 5-11 overall, earned the trip downriver by winning a district title last Wednesday. Harrison beat Livonia Clarenceville 41-9 and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook 39-27 to take the district title.

"I was very surprised," coach Matt Gasser said. "We went with our best lineup and the kids really came through."

David Prusinski (112), Ray Pudlik (119), Ted Prusinski (125), Gary Devine (145) and Todd Lytwynuk (171) all won two matches each for Harrison.

All of them won by decision in the Clarenceville match. Dave Prusinski, Pudlik and Lytwynuk had pins in the final, Ted Prusinski and Devine victories by decision.

Solo titles by voids against Clarenceville went to Craig Durant (103), Dillon Perkins (130), Greg Supanoak (140) and Mondel Hightower (189).

Jeff Boetner (135), Matt King (169) and heavyweight Jeff Peer recorded wins against Cranbrook.

Boetner pinned Mark Evangelista, who had beaten the Harrison wrestler in two previous encounters. King won a decision, and Peer also pinned his opponent.



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Todd Jacobs of Farmington (facing) wrestles with North Farmington opponent V.J. Matul in the district tournament Wednesday at North-

ville. Jacobs won the 145-pound bout on a 5-0 decision.

Falcons finish 2nd in district

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

At the current rate, Plymouth Salem will have a monopoly on district wrestling championships before long.

In the second year of the team tournament, the Rocks captured their second such title Wednesday by pinning host Northville (49-16) and Farmington (57-16) in the final.

Salem, 23-1 in dual meets, faces defending Class A champion Redford Catholic Central in the regional semifinals Wednesday at CC.

"They ended our season last year, and I don't see them as being any weaker," Salem coach Ron Krueger said.

"They seem to be getting better and seem to have fewer holes in their lineup every time I see them. They have some good young kids and a lot of superstars."

In the championship match, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion Rocks jumped in front 30-0 after five weight classes. Farmington won three straight, but Salem cleaned up with 27 points in the last five weights.

DAN BONNETT (103), Julian Sell (125) and Mike Shumate (130) pinned their opponents, and Craig Richardson (113) and Ken Stops (119) won by void. Bonnett scored a fall in 1:55 over Matt Smith. Sell in 5:00 over Brian Link and Shumate in 3:43 over Mike Pallo.

wrestling

The Falcons trimmed Salem's lead to 30-16 with victories by Dave Monge (135), Chris Kreal (140) and Todd Jacobs (145).

Monge pinned Jeff Coleman in 1:30. Kreal overcame his record at 16-16-1 when he upset Ed Barlage with a fall (3:30) and Jacobs defeated Charlie Apigian 12-0.

Pete Israel (153) started Salem's second surge with a 6-4 decision over Steve Walter. Farmington didn't contest Steve Burlison (160) and Brian Burlison (171), both league champions who won on voids Wednesday, as well as Anthony Perkins (189). Ken Coker pinned Jody Lockman late in the heavyweight contest (5:30).

Under the previous tournament format, the team and individual tournaments were combined. The districts covered a broader area, and wrestlers also scored points for the team based on their individual performances.

"It's nice to win a district, but I look around at the crowd and see only 10 to 15 people there," Salem coach Ron Krueger said. "It's not like the old days when the gym was packed."

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