

Raiders fall in '90 debut

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The record will show Plymouth Canton defeated North Farmington 51-42 in boys basketball Tuesday night.

It won't reveal the fact North played without its best player, senior Matt Hoffman. The all-around guard was serving a one-game disciplinary suspension imposed by the school administration.

But the visiting Chiefs, who went into the game as underdogs, will take a victory regardless of the circumstances. Both teams are 2-2 overall.

"Basketball is a team game, and one player shouldn't affect the outcome of the game," Canton coach Dave Wagoner said.

"We're a real young team, and we're starting to improve every game. This gives my young kids confidence going into the division race."

CANTON'S GEOFF Allen, who scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half, said the Chiefs would have liked to play North with Hoffman in the lineup.

"I don't know how they feel about it, but I'd like to beat them with their best team on the floor," he said, "so they can't say we beat them when they were handicapped."

"We had a guy designated for him. It didn't matter. We were going to play hard any way. We won the game, so..."

Nonetheless, Allen agreed with Van Wagoner, believing the victory will serve as a confidence builder for the Chiefs as the season goes on.

"It kinda makes us feel we can beat anybody in the league," he said, "because North was supposed to be one of the top teams. After the Dearborn loss, we wanted to play hard and we've won

basketball

two in a row."

Junior guard Karl Wukie came off the bench to score a game-high 21 points — including three triples — and combine with Allen for all but 11 of Canton's points.

THE RAIDERS, who had no one in double figures, got eight points apiece from center Eric Carlson and guards Jon Sturtz and John Low. Carlson also had 12 rebounds and Bill Chwalk eight.

Without Hoffman running the offense at point guard, however, North seemed totally out of sync. The Raiders, playing their first game since Dec. 22, had a poor start with early turnovers, fouls and lack of movement on offense setting the pattern.

On top of that, Canton hit the defensive boards. Six-foot-8 Tony Coshatt grabbed 10 rebounds, 6-6 Rob Wilson eight and 6-4 Kevin Holmes six.

Furthermore, North's second-leading scorer, forward Brian Temple, left the game in the first half with an ankle injury.

"Above and beyond all that, you have to give Plymouth Canton credit," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

"You can always find reasons why something didn't happen and forget to give credit to the team that executed its game plan. Dave had a super game plan, and they played well."

CANTON DIDN'T run away with the victory,

but it was consistent and in control throughout the game. The Chiefs ran off 10 straight points after North scored the first two, and they held the lead for the duration.

"We played defense well, we broke their press and we were patient and got good shots," Van Wagoner said.

"I told the kids 'If we keep this game in the 50s, we're going to win.' I also told them 'If the game is going to be in the 80s or 90s, they're going to win.'"

Canton led 24-17 at halftime, but the Raiders made a run in the third period, shooting 7-of-12 from the floor and cutting Canton's lead to 36-35.

"I told the kids to settle down, get good shots and continue to play good man-to-man defense," Van Wagoner said. "The kids had a lot of poise."

The Chiefs reasserted themselves in the fourth. Canton ran off 10 unanswered points to lead 49-36 with 2 1/2 minutes to play. Allen scored eight points in the quarter and had six during the decisive run.

"I didn't score against South Lyon, and I worked hard in practice," Allen said. "I was really looking to score and play good defense. I just had more confidence, with coach working with me and showing me I can score."

The Raiders made only two field goals in the last quarter but had only two free throws in the first 7:38. North was 4-of-27 in the first half and went scoreless for more than five minutes in the first quarter.



Jon Sturtz of North aims for the basket while Canton's Geoff Allen tries to interfere. The Raiders lost their first game of the New Year, 51-42.

WLAA foes rise above Hawks, Falcons

Senior guard Ron Baran scored a game-high 27 points to lead Livonia Stevenson to victory Tuesday over Farmington Hills Harrison in a Western Lakes Activities Association basketball crossover, 71-46.

The Spartans improved to 3-2 overall, and the Hawks did to 4-2.

Stevenson carried a 15-point lead, 61-46, into the final quarter before Harrison rallied to within three before missing an off-balance shot in the final seconds.

Rick Laven and Steve Leonard, both seniors, contributed 16 and 11, respectively, for the winners.

Mill Coleman and Andy Smith tallied 19 and 17, respectively, for Harrison.

The Hawks hit 14 of 24 free throws, while Stevenson made 10 of 15.

NORTHVILLE 64, FARMINGTON 53: Free throws spelled the difference Tuesday as the host Falcons (3-3) were controlled by the Mustangs (3-2).

Four Northville players scored in double figures led by Joe Kasey and Mike Lang with 14 each. Paul McCormick and Paul Grant contributed 13 each as the Mustangs made 21 of 25 from the charity stripe.

Farmington, just 9-of-20 from the line, was led by P.J. Green's game-high 15. Others in double figures for the Falcons, who were outscored 23-17 in the first period, included Brian Browne (10), Greg Bjedov (10) and Chris Schmid (10).

GLENN 65, FRANKLIN 63: Eric Spencer poured in a game-high 31 points Tuesday as Westland John Glenn (4-1) held off visiting Livonia Franklin (2-3) in a WLAA crossover.

Dobby Lawrence, who added 15 points, broke a 61-61 tie on a three-pointer with 1:21 remaining. Andrew Dobbins then made a late free throw to give Glenn a three-point cushion.

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Steve McCool and Mike Fineran chipped in with 12 and 10, respectively. John Santilli added eight rebounds and five assists.

SALEM 76, W.L. WESTERN 53: Junior center Jake Baker scored 20 points and snared 11 rebounds, leading the Rocks past Western in a WLAA crossover game Tuesday. Salem is 4-1 overall, the Warriors 3-5.

K.C. Kirkpatrick and Ryan Johnson added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Rocks, who jumped out to a 24-11 first-quarter lead and never looked back.

"We got out of the gates quick and did a good job against their zone (defense)," Salem coach Bob Brodie said.

Junior John Hoffmeyer came off the bench to contribute seven points and 10 rebounds for Salem.

Chris Sobolek notched a game-high 21 points for the Warriors.

REDFORD CC 51, GALLAGHER 45: The Shamrocks snapped a four-game losing streak Tuesday with a Central Division victory over visiting Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher.

Senior guard Mark Clary came off the bench to make four straight free throws to seal the CC win. The Shamrocks are now 2-5 overall, led by Dave.

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THURSTON 88, CRESTWOOD 48: Redford Thurston came back from holiday break with a vengeance Tuesday, ripping Tri-River League foe Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

All 11 players scored for the host Eagles, 4-3 overall and 5-2 in league play.

Junior guard Khari Spence poured in 27 points for Thurston. Teammate Jason Miller, a senior guard added 20.

After an 11-11, first-quarter deadlock,

Thurston went to town, outscoring the Chargers 31-15 in the second period followed by outbursts of 18-12 and 28-10 in the final two quarters.

"We stressed defense over the holidays," Thurston coach Mike Schutte said. "Off our full-court press, we were able to get steals (15) and a lot of transition baskets."

Chris Williams netted 22 points for the winless Chargers, who have lost seven straight.

EDSEL FORD 64, REDFORD UNION 55: Four free throw shooting (8-of-16) led to the Panthers' undying Tuesday, as Dearborn Edsel Ford came away with the Northwest Suburban League triumph.

Forward Derek Lowe notched a game-high 20 points for the Thunderbirds, 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the NSL. Center Matt Heiner added 16 for Edsel, which con-

netted on 15 of 21 free throws.

Dan Leszotte and Steve Nowak paced RU with 18 apiece. Sophomore Bill Malecki contributed 11 for the Panthers, 3-3 and 1-1.

Edsel, which led by only two at the intermission, outscored RU 15-6 in the third period to take a 46-38 advantage.

"They (Edsel) came out and played good defense against us (2-3 matchup zone)," RU coach Tim Smathers said. "And their three-quarter-court press bothered us some."

WAYNE 69, LINCOLN PARK 34: It was no contest Tuesday as Wayne Memorial ran its league-leading Wolverine Conference mark to 4-0 against the visiting Halesplitters.

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