



North wins close game this time, 57-56

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

"I can't take this stuff," said North Farmington basketball coach Tom Negoshian. Not that the final result of the Raiders' game at Redford Union displeased him. No, not at all.

North had just collected its first victory of the young season. And as Negoshian described it, "A win's a win. It goes into the left column."

The scenario the Raiders have adopted for their games is what bothered Negoshian. RU climbed back from a 12-point first-half deficit to within a basket of victory before succumbing, 57-56.

Such last-second dramatics are becoming commonplace for North. In its three games, the total number of points separating the

winner from the loser is four. North lost to Berkley 51-49 and to Birmingham Seaholm 49-48.

At least the Raiders were on the winning side. Which is more than RU coach Tip Smathers could boast.

"This was a tough loss," said Smathers. "We're going to have to work on execution-type things. In a close game, those things really count."

IN A CLOSE game, those kinds of things are magnified. There weren't any real mistakes committed by the Panthers down the stretch that upset Smathers. Indeed, they may have followed instructions too closely.

The final seconds provided a prime example. Bill Malecki's short jumper with :10 remaining would have given RU the lead, but it banged off the side of the backboard and

basketball

was boarded by North's Bill Chwalik. Chwalik was fouled by Paul Nowak with :06 to play.

Chwalik's first free throw in the one-and-one was woefully short. RU got possession, and Malecki sped upcourt for a final shot. But before he could get it off, timeout was called — at the other end of the court, by his own teammate, who was following orders.

"We wanted a timeout right away, after their (free throw)," explained Smathers. "But we didn't get it." Instead of letting Malecki get a shot off against a defense in disarray, the Panthers

stuck to instructions and finally got their timeout — but with just :03 to go.

THE ENSUING inbound play was similar, according to Smathers. The Panthers followed instructions exactly, with no deviations. When the first two options on the play broke down, RU's Chris Mulka went to the third. Instead of taking a shot, he lofted a pass toward Malecki; the buzzer sounded before a shot could be attempted.

"The kids scrapped," Smathers added, obviously pleased with the comeback effort. Indeed, RU's zone defense smothered the Raiders, holding them to two points in the final 4:40. North added the Panther rally by committing a pair of turnovers and missing two one-and-ones in the last four minutes.

The RU comeback actually started in the final 90 seconds of the third quarter. Trailing

50-41, Mulka scored three baskets to bring RU to within 50-47 entering the final period. A 5-3 Raider spurt to start the fourth put them up 55-49 before the Panthers hit-fated rally.

"The game of basketball is spurts," said a philosophical Negoshian. "We ran into a really bad spurt at the end."

Fortunately, North got enough at the beginning — nine first-quarter points from Chris White and eight from Mark Temple — to open up a 23-16 lead after one quarter. Malecki's 12 points in the period was all that kept RU close.

White finished with 20 points for North, with Chwalik chipping in 16 and Temple 10. Mulka and Malecki each netted 18 points for the Panthers. Jason Gagnon's nine rebounds topped RU, which slipped to 1-3.



Tom Bonner will serve as co-captain of the Farmington swim team and is expected to be one of the team's leading sprint

freestylers. Coach Ross Bandy has the largest swim squad in school history with 38 members.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Falcons win over Canton in dual meet

wrestling

Farmington produced some encouraging results in its first wrestling dual meet Wednesday.

The Falcons are expected to be one of the stronger teams in the area this year, and their 43-24 victory over Plymouth Canton supports that contention.

"We're coming off a 3-13 season, but we've got everybody back," Farmington coach Al Beyer said. "I expected to be improved, and it appears we're on the right track."

"We had a good performance from the team in general tonight."

Farmington won four of the last five bouts to erase a 19-21 deficit and win the match going away.

Chris Krest pinned Bill Buslepp in 1:08 of their 152-pound contest to put the Falcons back on top, 25-21.

Mike Palle pinned Chad Oetina (1:03) at 160, the Chiefs were void at 185 and Farmington's Larry Malchiff pinned Matt Hirsch (0:15) at heavyweight.

After Canton's Andy Strahan pinned (3:30) Paul Anderson in the 103 bout, the Falcons won the next four weights to take a 19-6 lead.

John Lane pinned (5:02) Matt Berris at 112, Rob Sutton decisively (1:11) Matt Armstrong at 119, Jon Duff pinned (1:04) David Yack at 125 and Steve LeMieux defeated (6-1) Jim Carnes at 130.

Canton, however, won the next three bouts to regain the lead, 21-19. Justin Reed pinned (1:09) Dave Cillard at 135, Joe Hunter won a decision (16-8) over Jason Holiday at 140 and Liam Rentz scored a technical fall (16-0) over Joe Goudeseune at 145. At 171, George Young of Canton defeated Steve Walter 10-4.

FARMINGTON HILLS Harrison gave up two voids and three pins at five of the first seven weight classes Wednesday and lost to Livonia Stevenson 23-5.

The Hawks fell behind 30-9 after the 140-pound bout and couldn't catch Stevenson despite winning four of the last six bouts.

"We wrestled well," Harrison coach Darrell Thush said. "With-out the voids, we would have been ahead (33-30). If we had split the other two (voids), it would have been pretty even."

Of the 11 weights that we wrestled, we won six of them, and five of the kids we put on the mat wrestled their first high school matches. It was a lot closer than the score was."

Stevenson's Brian Berci (1:27), Brian Mitchell (5:20) and Adam Carriere (1:40) scored early pins at 112, 135 and 140 pounds, respectively.

Bob Carter (1:18) and Ryan Carriere (1:30) won by void as the Spartans took a 30-9 lead.

Harrison's James Miller pinned his 103-pound opponent, and Doug Whitten won an 11-6 decision at 125.

Stevenson increased its advantage 42-21 with a pair of 101 pins by Doug Carnack (1:52) and Chris Lehl (1:17).

Gary Devine (1:45), Mark Gloetzer (1:00), Todd Lytwynuk (1:03) and heavyweights Mike Gloetzer recorded pins for Harrison. Devine stopped his opponent in 3:33, Mark Gloetzer 3:28, Lytwynuk 1:11 and Mike Gloetzer 0:18.

NORTHVILLE DEALT North Farmington a 52-31 in dual meet wrestling Wednesday.

Sophomore Jared Lawrence, North's 152-pounder, ran his early-season record to 5-0 with a 7-4 decision over Jeff Todd.

The Raiders started with Mark

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— Al Beyer
Farmington coach

McDonald winning the 103-pound bout by pinning Phil DiPrima in 4:39, but Northville, expected to be a contender for the Western Lakes Activities Association title, won the next seven bouts to take a commanding lead.

North's Aaron Lawrence pinned Brandon Cuadra in 57 seconds at 160, and heavyweight David Deacon pinned Northville's Jon Gottl in 3:39.

Northville winners were Matt Allison (1:12), pin at 2:22; Jiro Kamcock (1:19), pin at 4:52; Dave Kovacovich (1:25), pin at 4:30; Kevin Khaaban (1:30), pin at 3:30; Brandon Mardossian (1:35), 15-2 decision; Mike Moore (1:40), pin at 2:40; Scott Slevert (1:45), pin at 9:48; Jeff Lower (1:17), pin at 1:26; and Jason Vertrees (1:09), pin at 0:41.

PLYMOUTH VALENT obviously did a lot of things right in its first wrestling dual meet Wednesday.

The Rocks, who crushed Livonia Churchill 66-5, achieved every one of their nine individual victories by pinning the opposition. Furthermore, all but one of the pins happened in less than three minutes.

"Right now the young kids know a couple of positions to get into, and they happen to be pinning," Salem coach Ron Krueger said. "So that's good."

"When you have a lot of young kids, you don't know what's going to happen, but when we fell we happened to fall on top of them."

The fastest pin of the match was the first. Freshman John Moran pinned Jason Samelko in 12 seconds into the 103-pound bout. Scott Martin followed with a 46-second pin over Scott Gibson at 112.

Veteran wrestlers pinning for Salem included Dan Bonnett in 2:35 over Matt Cooper at 119, Jeff Sumate in 5:34 over Andy Brown at 140, Jeff Coleman in 1:10 over Ryan Beversdorf at 145 and Charlie Appleman in 2:41 over Jeff Bellale at 171.

Sophomore Dan Phillips (1:30) pinned Jim Hendon in 2:51, and sophomore Tom Baker (1:00) pinned Mike Shanlikin in 2:41. Freshman Jeff Martin ended his 155-pound match with Sam Adams with a pin at 1:40.

Salem sophomore Wade Langdon and senior Ken Coker were forfeit winners when the Chargers voided the 185 and heavyweight divisions, respectively.

Churchill's only wins were a pair of decisions. Craig Shipley (1:25) edged Chad Wilson 9-6, and Rod Karadakis (1:12) defeated freshman Nate Obudinski 6-1.

The Rocks wrestle at Livonia Stevenson Wednesday night and will be host for a four-team quadrangular meet Saturday with Holt, Adrian, Flint Kearsley and Belleville.

Big turnout brightens outlook

Falcons face tough schedule

By Ray Sellock
staff writer

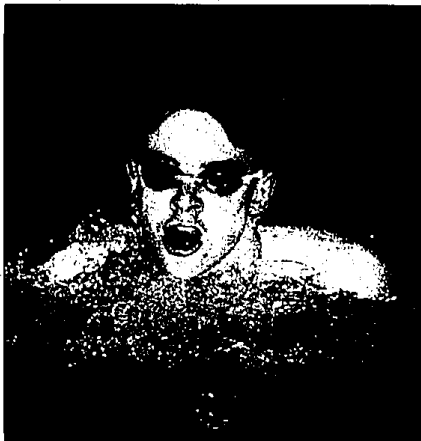
If the Farmington boys swim team looks a little larger than usual this season, it's not your imagination.

Falcon coach Ross Bandy is excited about the turnout for this year's team.

"We have 38 boys out for the squad this season," Bandy said. "That is the most we've ever had here. They're all good kids, and that's why I'm so excited about working with them."

Some of the newcomers to the team have never been involved in organized swimming, but Bandy said he welcomes the challenge of teaching the mostly freshmen group how to become good swimmers.

"With the good kids, you just give them a drill and have them go through it," Bandy said. "With these new kids, I'll have to do more coach-



Sophomore Kevin Yoder will be one of Farmington's top breaststrokers this season.

swimming

ing. It should be fun. Let's put it this way: I'd rather have these kids out for the team than not out for the team."

Farmington also returns a talented group of swimmers this season, including captains Mark Scanto and Tom Bonner.

Bandy said Scanto, a junior, is the more versatile of the two and should be able to swim almost any event.

Bonner, a senior, will compete in the sprint freestyle events.

"Scanto and Bonner are real leaders for us," Bandy said. "They are a good couple of swimmers."

Juniors Scott Frump and Rob Stauffer will also contribute for the Falcons, swimming in the relay events.

Sophomore Kevin Yoder will handle the breaststroke, and Brandon Richardson will do the diving.

Freshman Kevin Murphy and Don Boyer are also expected to contribute this season.

"We have a good team," Bandy said. "I expect Plymouth Salem, Livonia Stevenson and North Farmington to be tough in our league, and you can't forget Plymouth Canton."

Salem won the Western Lakes Activities Association meet last season with Stevenson coming in second.

North begins with swim victory

North Farmington began its boys swimming season Thursday with an impressive, 104-82 victory over visiting Novi.

The Raiders started by winning the 200-yard medley relay in 1:45.59. Jonathan Kershaw, Chris Knoche, Mike Drelles and Keith Lee comprised the unit.

It was one of just four firsts for Knoche, who also won the 200 freestyle and the 500. He swam a leg of the 400 freestyle relay, too. Knoche finished the 200 freestyle in 1:55.14, the 500 in 5:11.03. Kershaw, Lee and Drelles, the anchorman, combined to post a 3:33.08 time in the last event.

Drelles also won the butterfly with a 57.57

time, and teammate Grant Shively took first place in the breaststroke at 1:10.82.

North's John Juliano was the winner in diving, compiling a 212.80 score.

The Raiders competed Saturday in the annual Western Lakes Activities Association Relays but don't have another dual meet until Thursday, Jan. 7, when they visit Northville.

ZACK KASPRZAK won three events to pace Livonia Churchill past Redford Union, 119-86 in a boys swim meet Thursday.

Kasprzak, a junior, won the 200-yard freestyle (2:05.1), the 500 freestyle (6:04.1) and was the anchor leg of the 200 freestyle relay (1:43.8).

Junior Dave Edwards and senior Christian

Henschell also won two events apiece for Churchill, which improved to 2-0 overall. Edwards won the 50 freestyle (24.5) and 100 freestyle (56.0), while Henschell won the 100 breaststroke (1:10.1) and was also a member of the 200 freestyle relay.

Other winners were: 200 medley relay: Redford Union (D. Keyes, K. Podina, G. Mullen and J. Morris) 1:56.

200 individual medley: Jeff Danner (Churchill) 2:23.8.

Diving: Rob Moore (Churchill) 197.55. 100 butterfly: Podina (RU) 1:02.6.

400 freestyle relay: Union (Keyes, Podina, Rocseled and Giza) 4:00.9.