



Hawks accept Redskins' charity, 69-68



Rob Cook has the Falcons on the move Friday night, but the final result had Farmington losing by six points to Seaholm, 62-56.

By Neal Zipser
staff writer

It was predictable Oak Park's fate would be decided at the free throw line.

The Knights, who converted only eight-of-21 free throws for the game (38 percent), had a chance to pull out a come-from-behind victory against host Farmington Harrison in a non-league basketball game Friday.

Senior guard Herb Taylor was fouled with .89 seconds remaining in regulation and Oak Park trailing 69-67. Taylor hit his first free throw but missed his second, and the Hawks held on to edge Oak Park 69-68.

"If he just shot decently at the line tonight, we would have won — but 'H' is a big word," said Knight coach Howard Golding, whose team fell to 5-2. "Free throws are that important. I hope the players learned tonight how important making your free throws is."

Harrison (4-2) trailed 47-46 entering the final quarter, which turned out to be an excitement-packed and controversial eight minutes.

WHILE OAK PARK struggled at the charity stripe, Hawks' coach Andrew Smith had no problem finding the bottom of the net. The 6-foot-3 senior finished with 22 points, 14 in the final quarter.

"It was obvious he was the best player on the court tonight," Harrison coach Mike Pusco said. "He probably finished with his number, 34."

Even though Smith fell two points short of his uniform number, his three-point play with 4:25 remaining ignited a 10-2 Hawk run, which put

Maples sap Falcons

Birmingham Seaholm capitalized on a 19-9 fourth-quarter run to collect a 62-56 basketball victory Friday over host Farmington.

The Falcons dropped to 1-1 overall. Seaholm improved to 3-2.

Seaholm's Scott Sheckell led all scorers with 23 points. He scored eight in the fourth quarter, including 4-for-4 shooting at the free throw line. Jack Sobly added 12 points.

For Farmington, Rob Cook led with 20 points. Matt Fitzpatrick and John Wilson added eight points apiece.

The Falcons will play Friday at Livonia Churchill in their Western Lakes Activities Association opener.

them ahead 67-58 with 2:18 left.

However, with 5:41 remaining, Harrison helped fuel the first of two Knight comebacks. Ahead 55-49, the Hawks were tagged with a technical foul for having too many players on the court. After two free throws and a Chris George jumper, Oak Park trailed by only a deuce.

Then a questionable traveling call on one of several disputed calls on the Knights in the second half — switched the momentum back to the Hawks' favor.

"The referees did not do a good job tonight, but that's something you can't control," Golding said.

OAK PARK'S Lamonte Fodren ended the 10-2 Hawk run with a layup. Harrison's Andy Fitzpatrick countered with a layup of his own, which proved to be the deciding margin, putting Harrison ahead 69-60 with just under two minutes left.

The Knights scored the next eight points. Taylor had five of the points and finished with a team-high 20. The Knights had possession of the ball with just .89 seconds left and set

basketball

Meanwhile, Fitzpatrick was enjoying the victory as much as anybody. The junior forward injured his ankle in a scrimmage game Wednesday night and came off the bench to spark the Hawks with 17 points and nine rebounds.

"SITTING ON the bench for the first quarter makes you hungry," Fitzpatrick said.

The game was close for the entire 32 minutes as Harrison kept a full-court press on which helped the Hawks make several runs.

"The press is part of our game," Teachman said. "We're such a young team (eight juniors) that we lost our composure in the fourth quarter and I had to pull the press off."

"Tonight, we did some gut-searching and had the chance to fold, but didn't. We have been worried about our intensity level, but it was there tonight."

Oak Park held a 35-34 rebounding edge and shot 52 percent from the field. The Hawks only shot 39 percent from the floor, but won the game at the free throw line, where they converted 67 percent of their attempts (14-of-21).

Teachman was also impressed with the play of his junior guards, Roy Granger and Dan Hight.

"The guards handled the pressure well the entire game," Teachman said.

Granger finished with 11 points and Hight added 12 assists. Fodren, a senior forward, tallied 18 points and 15 rebounds for Oak Park.

CC tumbles in Central Division opener

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

ReShawn Sumler hopes to receive a Division I basketball scholarship later on this spring, but Friday night he was satisfied with earning something else: a win over Redford Catholic Central.

Sumler, Redford Bishop Borgess' 6-foot-6 senior center, missed most of the second half because of foul trouble, but his supporting cast came through for a 60-54 win over the host Shamrocks.

"This is the best feeling in the world," said Sumler, who scored seven of his nine points in the first half and finished with eight rebounds. "The other players did a good job and held their own. We got the road

game out of the way. Now they've got to come to our place (Jan. 25)."

This was the Catholic-League Central Division opener for both teams. Borgess improved to 3-3 overall and the win helped avenge an embarrassing, 64-30 loss to Riverview Gabriel Richard the week before.

The Spartans' balanced attack included 16 points from senior guard Kevin Riser and 10 by junior forward Darwin Eggers. Junior Jermaine Parker matched Sumler with nine points and junior Lamar Westbrook added eight points and six rebounds.

"I'M VERY ELATED right now," Borgess coach Mike Pusco said. "We really didn't have a lot of things go wrong with our team (against Gabriel Richard). Tonight, we con-

basketball

centrated on two things: playing hard and being ready to play. They came through with flying colors on both."

With Sumler watching most of the third quarter after picking up his fourth foul, the Spartans rallied behind Riser, who scored eight third-quarter points.

Riser's three-point basket at the end of the third quarter capped an 11-4 Borgess run and gave the Spartans a 47-46 lead entering the fourth quarter. Borgess outscored CC, 6-2, to start the fourth quarter and led,

53-47 with 5:25 left on a back-door layup by Parker.

The Spartans were outrebounded, 32-24; but they shot 50 percent from the field (25-50) and limited CC to 37 percent shooting (19-54). CC made only 4-of-14 field goals in the fourth quarter.

The loss dropped CC to 2-4 overall and leaves the Shamrocks with another tough assignment tonight at the University of Detroit Jesuit.

"We didn't deserve to win," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki. "This was a very pivotal game. It means a lot in the sense of confidence and getting on a roll. Now we've got to go into the 'Cubs' (U-D's) Den. They're a very good team.

"BORGESS GOT in its comfort zone and with their big guy (Sumler) out they took the lead on us. We made a run, they took the lead and we were tentative. We didn't shoot the shot when we were wide open. If you play scared, with handcuffs on, your game goes down. We're hurting, and I'm hurting worse."

CC wanted a fine effort by junior swingman Bob Kummer, who finished with 24 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. The Shamrocks also got a season-high 16 points from sophomore guard Bob Schneider, but continue to search for an effective point guard.

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Raiders in unfamiliar role

By Dan O'Meara
and Steve Kowalski
staff writers

North Farmington not only lost its grip on the Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics title last year, but might have a difficult time getting it back this year.

The Raiders had won 13 consecutive league titles, including five straight in the W.L.A.A., before they were unseated by Plymouth Salem.

And, unusual as it seems, North isn't the pre-season favorite for once. The Raiders face formidable opposition from the defending champion Rocks and Plymouth Canton, possibly the two best teams in the state.

"Salem and Canton are going to be tough to beat," North coach Jeff Dwyer said. "If we can score in the 130s, we can put up a fight with anybody. We're underdogs, but that doesn't mean we're out of it. We still have a good team."

The anchor on this year's team is its lone senior, Heather Kahn, one of the top gymnasts in the state. She was second in the all-around at the state meet with a 36-point total. Kahn also placed fifth on vault, seventh on bars and eighth in floor exercise.

"I expect her to be right back there," Dwyer said, adding Kahn is stronger and has better form in her routines this year.

In a triangular meet last month in which the Raiders defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer and Livonia Clarenceville, Kahn scored at least 9.0 in each event and had an all-around score of 36.2.

As the team leader, Kahn also makes a point to help her teammates, Dwyer said.

"She's a quiet competitor, but she gives advice on every event and that's going to rub off," he said. "I'm always telling the other girls if they

gymnastics



Heather Kahn
All-Observer gymnast

want to learn how to compete with Heather."

The Raiders also return junior Jameelah Gater, a member of the All-Observer second team last year. She was one of North's top four last year and also looks stronger, according to Dwyer. Gater was second in the all-around in the tri-meet, helping the Raiders compile a 129.75 team score.

"She had a lot of pressure on her as a sophomore, but she came through," Dwyer said. "I expect even more of her this year."

It was Gater's score on the balance beam that enabled the Raiders to win a regional tournament last year.

The judges allowed Gater to re-

peat her routine because of a background change she made the under-stand she would have to use that score even if it was lower than the first. She got a higher score, and it was the difference between North winning the meet and finishing second.

After those two gymnasts, the Raiders are an extremely young team. They lost an outstanding, all-area performer to graduation in Kym Heller, the state all-around champion, and senior Kristin Szutarski, another of the top four and a second-team, all-area selection, didn't come out for the team this year.

While it will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace the quality of those two, Dwyer is encouraged by a pair of freshmen, Michelle Tsai and Elyse Turner, who became the Nos. 3 and 4 performers. They were among the top five all-arounders in the first meet.

"They're a nice surprise," Dwyer said. "From what I've seen, I'm real impressed, and they have a lot of potential."

"They'll definitely help the team, which is a lot of responsibility to put on them. But they have to assume the roles of the girls we lost."

Junior Cara Pool and sophomores Kathy Williams and Janine Lawson are returning gymnasts who will provide depth. Lawson is an all-arounder. Pool does vault and floor. Williams competes on bars, vault and beam.

"They came through last year at times when we needed them for depth," Dwyer said. "They have to step in and take more weight on their shoulders."

Other returnees on the 23-person Squad are junior Kelly Morgan and sophomores Stephanie Wagner, Jenny Kahn, Michelle Zaborski and Debbie Herli.

The Raiders, who were fourth in the state, sandwiched between No. 3

Salem and No. 5 Canton, begin the bulk of their schedule Tuesday with a dual meet at Canton.

That will provide North with a major test right away in 1991, but Dwyer sees a silver lining in his team's apparent underdog status, especially at this early stage as the Raiders point for the league, regional and state meets in two months.

"It takes some of the pressure off you," Dwyer said. "I'm actually enjoying this role."

FARMINGTON

The Falcons lost only one gymnast to graduation and return six others in hopes of improving on last year's below .50th record.

Second-year coach Alicia Herpik and her 17-member squad began the season today at Northville.

"It'll be interesting," Herpik said. "Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem (Western Lakes Activities Association favorites) are one, two in the state, and North Farmington is strong as well. As long as we stay healthy and we get our freshmen conditioned, we'll be all right."

All six of the returnees are juniors, led by all-around performer Nicole Gerwatowski. An ankle injury slowed Gerwatowski near the end of last year, but Herpik said she is fully recovered.

Her strongest events are the beam, floor and bars; she's just an all-around strength," Herpik said.

The ankle has healed pretty well and, as the year goes on, she will get stronger and master her routines."

The other returnees include Sherri Vitale (all-around), Carrie Hoffman (vault, beam and bars), Suzy Takla (all-around), Kim Richardson (bars), and Janne Ekholm (beam, floor).



Nicole Gerwatowski, competing here on the balance beam last season, is the top all-around gymnast on the Farmington team.

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