

Harrison survives rally by Vikes

Farmington Hills Harrison survived a late, three-point shooting demonstration by host Walled Lake Central to earn a Western Lakes Activities Association basketball victory Tuesday, 74-72.

The Hawks are 6-1 in the league and 11-2 overall. Central is 2-6 and 5-9.

Harrison was ahead by 17 points with six minutes to play when the Vikings began hitting triples. Christian Emert made seven treys and scored a game-high 27 points for Central.

"In the third quarter, we made a lot of good trips down the floor," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, "and we made a lot of defensive stops." The Hawks led 55-46 entering the fourth quarter.

"Then the three-point show began. It was a 'W' on the road, survival of the fittest."

The Vikings got within 74-71 with four seconds to play. Central missed a free throw opportunity, but Harrison fouled on the rebound.

Chris McFarlane made the front end of the ensuing one-and-one but missed the second on purpose. The Hawks were fouled and also missed their free throw but held on as time expired.

Senior forward Andrew Smith scored 24 points to lead Harrison. Junior guards Dan Hight added 12 points, including six in the fourth quarter, and Roy Granger 11.

Joe Sharpe and Ryan Dowd added 15 points apiece for the Vikings, who outscored Harrison 26-19 in the final period.

NORTH FARMINGTON lost its best hope for victory Tuesday when senior forward Chris White suffered an ankle injury in the second quarter.

White, who scored 18 points in the first half, missed the entire second half, and the Raiders lost to visiting Plymouth Canton, 70-61.

North is 3-4 in the WLLA and 4-9 overall. The Chiefs are 7-5 and 9-6.

White made his first six shots, all from three-point range, as the Raiders took a 39-28 halftime lead. But without him on the court, Canton outscored North 18-8 in the third quarter to lead 56-47 entering the fourth.

"We played good man-to-man defense in the fourth," Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner said. "Our first-half defense was awful. It was a nice win, coming off a tough week."

The Chiefs, who lost to Plymouth Salem and Farmington Hills Harrison last week, were led by senior forward Brett Howell, who had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Kevin Holmes, another senior forward, scored 14 points, and sophomore guards Mike Stafford and Derrick McDonald chipped in 13 and 10, respectively. McDonald also had 11 assists.

The Raiders also led 16 points from junior guard Jon Sturtz and 13 from senior center Bill Chwalk.

NORTHVILLE TURNED a 10-point halftime lead into a 60-39 victory over host Farmington Tuesday.

The Mustangs are 5-3 in the WLLA and 9-5 overall. The Falcons dropped to 0-7 and 1-12.

Northville led 28-18 at halftime and outscored Farmington 32-21 in the second half. The Mustangs held a 42-31 lead after three quarters and created a 18-8 margin in the final.

Paul McGredie scored 20 points and Ryan Huzjak 16 to lead Northville. The Falcons were led by junior forward Steve Gallagher with 17 points and senior forward John Wilson with 11.

Eagles in control

The NAIA District 23 men's basketball season is now half over, and St. Mary's College has in its possession what it always wanted.

It's own destiny.

The Eagles earned that honor Saturday night at Grand Rapids Baptist. They had not won on the Comets' court in four previous tries, but this time they used a 21-6 second-half run to pull away to a 113-95 triumph.

The win left St. Mary's with a 6-0 district record (17-9 overall). Baptist, which lost last Thursday at Aquinas, slipped to 4-2 in the district (16-8 overall).

So the Eagles are the only unbeaten team in district play. That gives them a cushion, but they still must play at Northwood Institute Saturday, at defending champion Siena Heights Wednesday and at Aquinas Feb. 21. They host Baptist Feb. 18.

Speaking of hosting: In a sense, St. Mary's won't be — perhaps for the remainder of the season. A pipe broke in Dombrowski Fieldhouse Jan. 28, flooding the court.

THE DAMAGE means the floor must be replaced, and that means that the Eagles — in the midst of their most successful season in coach Glen Donahue's four-year tenure — will be forced to play the rest of their home games at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes campus.

"It's really a disaster for us," said Donahue. "It's going to take at least a month to (fix). We might be able to get our playoffs in there."

The four-team district tournament begins March 4. But St. Mary's, which right now would be the host team throughout the playoffs, may not even be able to claim its hard-earned home-court advantage.

Not that the Eagles have had much trouble on the road. Saturday's win over Baptist proved that. St. Mary's led by a single point at halftime (53-52) after the Comets rallied, trimming a deficit that had reached nine (48-39) with 4:35 left.

THE GAME remained close until the 17:17 mark. With the Eagles up 58-56, James Gillespie scored to start the 21-6 run. He added a three-pointer, then finished off the spurt with a three-point play on a dunk. St. Mary's led 79-62 with 12:51 to play when it ended; Gillespie had added 10 points during the run. Baptist never got closer than 13 after that.

Gillespie finished with 32 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals. Jeff Suspek, who scored his 1,000 career point in a loss to Daemen College last Thursday, added 17 against Baptist. Jimmy Bolden contributed 16 and Brian Kosciuszki got 12. Kevin Nicfield tallied seven points and a team-high eight rebounds.

For the Comets, Matt Miller had 34 points, Brad Richards scored 18, Doug Muxlow had 17 and Todd Bayle added 13.

St. Mary's will host Concordia College at OCC's Highland Lakes campus tonight at 7:30 p.m. The Eagles play at Northwood at 3 p.m. Saturday.

OCC struggles to win without guards

With both backcourt starters sidelined, even St. Clair County Community College — a team that hasn't won a basketball game in three years — gave Oakland CC problems.

The Raiders, ranked third in the most recent National Junior College Athletic Association Division II poll, were without Starlin Stevens and Ed Whitaker, which is one reason they trailed St. Clair at halftime. They regrouped, however, to beat the Skippers 106-86 Saturday in Port Huron.

Stevens twisted an ankle in a win over Flint Jordan CC the previous Wednesday (Jan. 30); he is questionable for Saturday's game at Alpena CC, but should be ready after that. Whitaker's knees were bothering him, so he sat this game out.

Fortunately, OCC got on track in the second half so the absence of the guards wasn't costly. Six Raiders recorded double-figures in scoring: Devlin Bell (21), Rashe Reviere (20), Jerry Priesskorn (14), DaShawn Stewart (13), James Escoe (12) and Scott Ross (10).

ROSS LED the OCC rebounders with 12. Escoe and Bell had 11 apiece, and Priesskorn grabbed 10. Fred Hayes led the Skippers with 24 points. Rob Laming got 18 and Ken Laming added 16.

The win boosted OCC to 19-2 overall and 8-2 in the Eastern Conference, behind once-beaten Mott CC and Macomb CC.

Against Flint Jordan, the Raiders got 21 points from both Escoe and Bell to post a 90-84 triumph at OCC. Bell also had 13 boards; Escoe hauled down 11.

Priesskorn contributed 15 points and 15 rebounds, while Whitaker got 15 points, nine assists and seven steals. Reviere, in his second game since returning from an ankle injury, netted 14 points.

Rod Aldrich's 29 points paced Jordan. Darrell Dorn chipped in with 14.

The two teams ranked ahead of OCC in the NJCAA II poll are a combined 37-1. Top-ranked County College of Morris (from Randolph, N.J.) is 18-0; No. 2 Massasoit CC, from Brockton, Mass., is 19-1.

Ocelots rout Siena JV

Randy Watters got Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team started and Mitch Fyke and Kweil McGill provided the finishing touches in the Ocelots' 103-90 romp over Siena Heights' junior varsity Saturday in Adrian.

The win ended a three-game slide for SC.

SC led 46-39 at the half, thanks mainly to Watters. The sophomore forward poured in 21 points in the opening 20 minutes, but foul problems limited his playing time in the second half.

So Fyke, who had seven first-half points, and McGill, who had four, took over. Fyke rattled the Saints for 22 points in the second half and McGill added 14.

SC's lead reached 22 with seven minutes left, its largest of the game. Fyke finished with a game-high 29 points and 10 rebounds. Watters added 28 points, eight boards and four assists. McGill had 18 points and six assists and Jeff Wagner scored 12 points.

The difference in the game came at the free throw line. SC was 29-of-36 (81 percent), the Saints were just 11-of-17 (65 percent). Brent Tucker led Siena Heights with 25 points. Eric Hicks had 18 and Scott Norkey scored 15.

SCS WOMEN could not match what Mott Community College had — a scoring guard — when the teams played Jan. 30 in Flint.

Trena Massey scored 16 of her game-high 18 points, which included 4-of-5 three-point shooting, in the second half as Mott pulled away to a

59-42 victory.

SC's guards, on the other hand, combined for just 10 points.

"We still are hurting at point guard," Lady Ocelot coach Jack Grenan said, adding Donna Gail missed her fifth straight game at that position with a twisted right ankle.

Gail, who had been averaging 14 points a game, missed seven of the first eight games with a sprained left ankle.

"She's run out of ankles now," Grenan said, "so she should be back Saturday."

NEITHER TEAM distinguished itself in the first half. The Lady Ocelots, who dropped to 1-8 in the conference and 6-10 overall, set school records for fewest points allowed and fewest points scored.

The first half ended with the teams tied 15-15.

Mott outscored SC 44-27 in the second half, however, as Massey began to find the hoop.

"They started shooting from outside, and we continued our miserable shooting, shooting under 40 percent," Grenan said. The Ocelots made 38 percent of their field goals.

Mott, 4-5 in the league, was helped by a pair of transfers from Alpena Community College, Lisa Jones and Gwen Thompson, who were not eligible to play in the first meeting (an SC win) between the teams.

Thompson tossed in 12 points, while Jones and Monica Holmes had 10 apiece. SC was led by Mo Morris and Tricia Lucas with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Sinelli eager to contribute

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soon to the Turbos lineup. In the meantime, Sinelli is finding other ways to contribute.

He's been easy to spot on the Turbos bench at Joe Louis Arena, wearing a suit and tie and holding a pen and clipboard while keeping some of the team's statistics. Detroit, which plays Sunday at Philadelphia, is in first place in the National Division with a 4-1 record.

The Turbos have taken an about-face from last year when they were 1-7 overall.

"IT IS AN ANTSY situation for me," said Sinelli, who as a rookie scored three goals and two assists and played in three of the Turbos' eight games last year. "I've built up five games worth of energy and I almost feel like grabbing a stick and playing in my coat and tie."

"But like my coach (Medo Martiniello) says, it takes 24 guys to win a championship and right now my job is taking stats. Nothing is assured, but I feel my chances are real good of making an impact once I do get back."

Though considered a professional in his sport, Sinelli still is able to work 40 hours as a manager of Mr. Sports Bar in Redford. Sinelli, who lives in Farmington Hills, is one of only three Turbos who hail from Michigan. Games and media duties he held on the weekends, making it easy for the players to commute to and from their hometowns.

Players hold jobs on the side, with one, for example, being a postal worker in Canada, and another an assembler at Ford Motor Co. Sinelli, a recent graduate of MSU, is content for the time at Mr. Sports — before heading back to graduate school,

probably next fall.

"I really like it," Sinelli said. "There are flexible hours and it allows me to give a full weekend to playing lacrosse. It's a perfect job."

Lacrosse is North America's oldest sport with origins dating back to the 1400s. Initially labeled the national sport of Canada, the MILL (originally called the Eagle League) was formed in 1987 with teams in Baltimore, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

IN '89, DETROIT and New York joined as expansion teams. Sinelli, who played outdoor lacrosse at both CC and MSU, is still getting used to the indoor game.

He remembers scoring his first goal last year when he was in front of about 14,000 fans at the LLN.

"It was such an emotional hour," said Sinelli, who commuted last year to and from the MSU campus to play. "All I could hear was the twice snap from the net as the siren gun, I almost blacked out."

"The game is set up like the game of hockey on artificial turf. I'm still in the learning stage. The ball never goes out of bounds unless it goes over the boards and you play with half the players (five instead of 10) and the game is much faster."

It also is high scoring, as evidenced by the Turbos' league-record, 26-goal output in a game earlier this year. The Turbos lead the league with 100 goals, an average of 20 a game.

The nets were widened by six inches this year (to 44 feet), and that makes Sinelli even more excited about returning to the lineup.

"Three inches on either side is a ball length and that makes it a heck of a lot easier to score," he said.

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