

Spartans stun Churchill

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

If putting the ball in the basket is still the name of the game, then Livonia Stevenson is right on target.

The Spartans shooting 53 percent from the floor (22 of 41) and 82 percent from the free throw line (23 of 28), opened the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs Friday at home with a convincing 75-54 triumph over rival Churchill.

Stevenson, now 12-6 overall, advances to Tuesday's semifinal round at Plymouth Canton (11-7).

"We don't have the overpowering kids, but we had some excellent passing (tonight) that gave us some inside shots before they (Churchill) could react," said Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre, whose team has won eight of its last nine games. "The kids are moving the ball well right now."

The Spartans made easy shots and tough shots, including nine from three-point land.

CHURCHILL, meanwhile, was reeling from the start, falling behind 9-2 after Stevenson's 6-4 junior center Tony Stejko connected on a pair of three-pointers. Dan Gibbons also added another dunk in the run.

The Chargers, however, trailed by only four after one period, 19-15, when 6-foot-7 center

Randy Calcaterra converted a four-point play, two coming on free throws after McIntyre was assessed a technical foul for arguing a call (or lack of calls) from the bench.

But it was practically over by halftime, as the Spartans outscored Churchill 23-10.

Senior forward Dave Amey came off the bench to hit a pair of three-pointers for the Spartans, while junior guard Matt Grodzicki added six of his game-high 22 points during the assault.

And with Calcaterra sitting on the bench with three fouls for the latter stages of the second quarter, Churchill found itself facing an uphill climb, trailing 42-25 at intermission.

"We knew we were in trouble when they (Stevenson) were hitting from 22-to-23 feet out," Churchill coach Fred Price said. "They hit extremely well from the outside, let's give them credit."

STEVENSON CONTINUED to find holes in Churchill's zone defense during the third period. Gibbons and Grodzicki each hit three-pointers to give Stevenson a commanding 61-37 advantage before coasting home.

"We just didn't get things done, but we played hard," said Price, whose team fell to 10-8 overall. "We took good shots, but if they (Stevenson) still stroke it and if they continue to hit like that, that will cause anybody problems from here on out."

The Spartans used a balanced scoring attack once again, led by Grodzicki's 22. Gibbons, the 6-2 senior, added 14, while Paul Rockwood and Phil Woods contributed nine and eight, respectively.

Brian D. Johnson, a junior guard, led Churchill with 17. Calcaterra, who endured a frustrating night before fouling out, added 16.

"We just figured if we compacted the middle enough, we'd make it difficult for him (Calcaterra) to take the kind of shot he wanted to take," McIntyre said. "And I think we were able to change their rhythm before they could get it to the big kid."

IT WAS THE third meeting between the two teams.

Churchill won the first encounter, Dec. 14 at Stevenson, 62-47.

On Jan. 28, Stevenson won at Churchill, 67-56.

"They (Stevenson) are playing more physical than they were before," Price said. "They play a hustling, aggressive defense."

Churchill made only 18 of 54 shots from the floor for 33 percent.

"We took good shots," Price said. "The difference was our inability to put those good shots down."

Goalie gleams

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year (26-15-2 record, 3.15 goals-against average), and I thought things would be different than they were last year," he admitted. His overconfidence was costly — he had a 20-14-1 record and a 4.39 gaa against average.

"I learned my lesson," he said.



Bill Pye — NMU goalie

PyE'S ONE goal for this season was to be ready. "I could go into a lot of different aspects (of what I want to improve), technical stuff, but really I just want to be mentally ready," he said. The rest, he figured — including his team's record — would take care of itself.

"I knew we had a good team. I just wanted to be consistent," said Pye. "We had the talent, it was just a matter of doing it night in and night out."

There is a danger, that the team will relax now that it has clinched the WCHA regular-season title. Pye knows it. "That's why these next two games (this Friday and Saturday at Wisconsin) are so important. I want to stay sharp, be mentally ready."

He realizes what's at stake. One flat performance and all hopes for an NCAA title will come crashing down. No where is that more true

than with the last line of defense, the goalie.

"There's not too much pressure, but I've definitely got to be good," said Pye. "Every team that has won the NCAA title has had a good goalie."

"I think it's just mental preparation. I've got to be playing well."

Pye downplayed the pressure because he figured, well, what else can he do with it? It's going to be there, no matter what. Besides, he's found so much success already this season.

"To win (the WCHA) on Senior's Night was great," he said. "Whatever happens from here on out is a bonus."

The way things are going, that bonus could be a big one for Pye.

Canton clubs Pats, makes semis

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Derrick McDonald's teammates call him 'D' for short, but not just because his first name begins with that letter.

McDonald, a junior guard, led Livonia Franklin star guard Keith Roberts to seven points Friday as Canton overpowered the Patriots, 73-48, in a Western Lakes Activities Association first round playoff game.

"That's what they call me," said McDonald, when asked what the 'D' stands for. "Coach (Dave VanWagoner) says it stands for defense. The last time we played them, Roberts had like 28 against us and that really got on me — reading it in the paper and stuff."

"Coach stresses defense a lot on our team and I'm getting to like it. If we play 'D' like we did tonight, we're capable of beating anyone in the league."

Canton, which failed to qualify last year for the WLAAs playoffs, hosts Livonia Stevenson in Tuesday's semifinal. The Spartans beat Livonia Churchill, 75-54, in another first round game Friday.

The Chiefs, who improved to 11-7 overall, were never threatened, as they scored the game's first 13 points and led 19-7 after one quarter. Canton took a 40-24 lead into the locker room at halftime and raised

the margin to 59-32 after three quarters.

FIVE PLAYERS SCORED in double figures for the Chiefs, but Van Wagoner said defense was the key. The win averaged an earlier, 65-60 loss by Canton at Franklin during the regular season.

"We've been kind of pointing toward the tournaments all year and we got a good start tonight," Van Wagoner said. "We've got some guys who can really shoot the ball, but tonight the key was defense. We had 2 1/2 hour to 3 hour practices every day this week and we didn't work on offense one minute. When tournament time comes around, defense wins for you."

"Derrick is our best defensive guard. He always likes to think of himself as an offensive player. We like to think of him as a defensive player — and the offense will come around."

Franklin fell to 10-8 overall. "Canton played with intensity and we didn't," Franklin coach Rod Holmes said. "In sports, intensity is very important and we didn't show it tonight."

Senior forward Kevin Holmes led Canton with 13 points and junior center Tony Coshatt contributed 12 points and a game-high 15 rebounds. McDonald added 11 points and seven assists, while sophomore guard Mike Stafford and senior forward Brett

Howell finished with 10 points apiece for the Chiefs.

Van Wagoner praised the balance of his team and also talked about Holmes, who takes care of all the intangibles for the Chiefs.

"HOLMES HAS BEEN our most consistent player," Van Wagoner said. "He's there every game, scoring 10 or 11 points and grabbing eight or nine rebounds."

Senior guard Dave Roman, who missed practice Wednesday because of illness, was the only Patriot in double figures with 10 points. Senior John Revels added nine points, but senior Steve McCool (eight points) and Roberts combined for only 15

points.

Roberts, who also was ill and missed practice Wednesday, managed only two field goals and said he was frustrated the entire night by Canton.

"They pressured me the whole length of the court and wore the hell out of me," Roberts said. "I was dead in the third and fourth quarters. I'm still not feeling great (because of the cold) but I can't blame it on that. They played great defense and have improved a lot."

Said Holmes: "He had shots he usually makes that just didn't go in. Hey, that happens in the NBA, college and high school."

the week ahead

PREP BASKETBALL

Monday, Feb. 25

Mt. Eden at Bedford Union, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

East Catholic at Bishop Borgeson, 7 p.m.

St. Mary's at Redford CC, 7 p.m.

St. Agatha at Bishop Gallagher, 7 p.m.

St. Central at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.

St. Francis at L.W. Churchill, 7:30 p.m.

St. Farmington at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.

St. Francis at Westland Glen, 7:30 p.m.

St. Garden City at D.H. Crestwood, 7:30 p.m.

St. D.H. Annapolis at Luth. Western, 7:30 p.m.

St. Huron Valley vs. Allen Park Inter-City at Westland's Churchill Jr. High, 8 p.m.

St. Western Lakes senior varsity

St. Seven at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Stevenson at Fly. Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

B.H. Cranbrook at Farmington, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 28

Bishop Gallagher at Redford CC, 7 p.m.

St. Agatha at Allen Park, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 1

Chalmersville at Lutheran North, 7 p.m.

Garden City at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.

Woodhaven at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.

Monroe at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.

Westland Glen at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.

Farmington at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.

Luth. Westland at Lutheran West, 7:30 p.m.

Huron Valley at Oak. Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

St. Seven at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.

Falcons flounder

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Salem's Jake Baker, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Chris Tebbin and John Hoffmeyer contributed nine points apiece and K.C. Kirkpatrick finished with eight for the Falcons.

North had three players score nine points. Bill Chwalik, Chris White and Temple.

The Raiders, who slipped to 6-12, played at Northville at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

W.L. WESTERN 65, FARMINGTON 44: Jeff Kubik and Brent Mackowiak spurred Walled Lake Western to a 33-14 lead by halftime Friday at Farmington, and that proved to be more than the Falcons could overcome.

Kubik poured in nine points in the first quarter to lead the Warriors to an 18-9 lead; Mackowiak took over in the second, netting six points to help Western expand its advantage to 19. Both players finished with 16 in the game. Bill Hulme added nine.

For Farmington, which played the Warriors more evenly in the second half (32-30, Western), Steve Gallagher netted 14 points and Jay Jensen had 13.

The Falcons fell to 2-16 with the loss, Western improved to 8-10.

Ocelots tumble

Continued from Page 1

teams played good defense. They really did a number on Randy. And I thought we stunk offensively in the second half. We only scored 34 points."

The Ocelots (14-14 overall) trailed by 14 early in the second half before trimming the deficit to seven with 19 minutes left. They had three chances after that to trim it further, but McGill missed two free throws and a three-pointer and Walters also missed a triple-try. SC never got closer after that.

There was good news for SC, however. Mitch Fyke, who was thought to be lost for the season with a shoulder separation, returned and played 20 minutes. He scored 11 points.

Barry Quayle netted 16 points and pulled down seven rebounds for SC before fouling out with nine minutes left. Scott Meredith had six points and 11 boards.

For Macomb, Mike Moscato had 21 points, Kohler had 20 and Troy Wilcox chipped in with 18.

If SC defeated Highland Park last Saturday, then it will open the MCCA tournament tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Oakland CC.

Hawks nip Northville

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ville slowed the game down in the first half and that hurt us, but in the second half, our press sped the game up and got us back into it."

After shooting a dismal 27 percent in the first half, Harrison stepped up

its defense to take control of the second half.

"The game never got flowing," Coachman said. "We played into their tempo in the first half and walked the ball up the court. They beat us on the high post and in the low box the entire game."

"We wanted to beat them at the

guard position and we did. I told them at halftime that we have to go to the offensive boards and have to start running. You run when you play defense."

Harrison finished the night shooting 37 percent (18-48), compared to the Mustangs 35 percent (17-48). But the Hawks were outrebounded 36-25.

A year after the JOA went into effect, what's the Detroit newspaper situation in 1991?

A little more than a year ago, newspaper advertisers in Detroit got the shock of their lives. The JOA was approved, ad rates soared, and circulation dropped.

Now, a year later, overall circulation of the Free Press is down by 2,640. The News' overall circulation is down by 190,000.

Yet both newspapers are raising rates again.

Meanwhile,

largely because of all of this, a lot of newspaper advertisers are using

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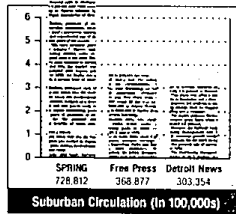
The bottom line

is this: A year after the JOA, it is clear that the newspaper situation in Detroit has changed significantly.

The newspaper situation in the SUBURBS is good.

Detroit's suburban market remains strong.

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