

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1993

Mott comeback tops Harrison

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Buha to receive award

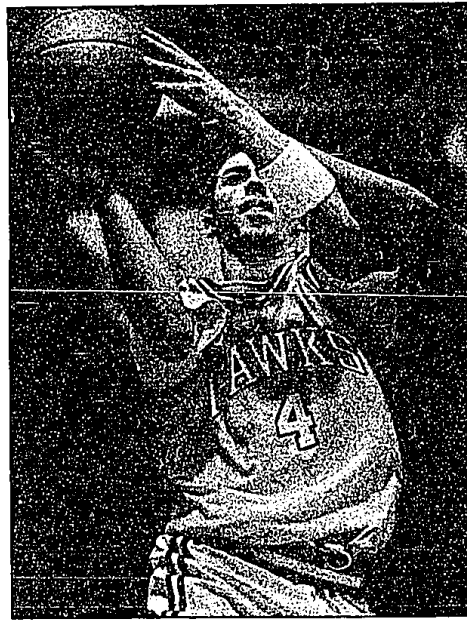
Farmington High senior and champion golfer Jason Buha will be honored at halftime of the varsity basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Farmington.

Falcons win swim meet

Farmington ran its dual-meet swim record to 4-1 with a 103-82 victory Tuesday over host Berkley.

Youth soccer sign-up

Registrations forms for the Farmington Soccer Club's spring season are available at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and the Farmington Hills YMCA.



Hawk heartbreak: Keye Smith scored 17 points for Harrison, but the Hawks lost by a point to Waterford Mott Tuesday.



Harrison and North Farmington suffered a pair of frustrating and heartbreaking defeats in non-league basketball Tuesday night, but Farmington won again to improve its overall record to 5-3.

The frustration continues for the Farmington Harrison basketball team.

Host Waterford Mott battered the Hawks with a barrage of three-pointers in the final 1:30 Tuesday night to obliterate a 69-60 deficit and pull out a 76-75 win.

"It was unbelievable," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "Five of their last six buckets were triples. And we knew who would be taking the shots and we had him pretty well defended."

Doing most of the dead-eye shooting for Mott was Will Martin, who tallied 31 earlier this season against North Farmington. He drained three triples in the final minute, including the game-winner with seven seconds left.

"He finished with 18 points: nine in the first 31 minutes and nine more in the final minute," said Teachman.

"In retrospect, we made a coaching error that I wasn't even aware of until afterwards. We only had four team fouls in the second half. We could have fouled twice on the in-bounds play (without sending Mott to the free-throw line). But we don't have that in our game strategy because it rarely happens. But it'll be in the back of my mind now."

Harrison helped the Mott rally by turning the ball over twice in the final minute.

"We were in a delay," Teachman said. "Just mental fatigue."

The other thing that went sour for the Hawks was the defense. After holding Livonia Stevenson to just 41 points last Friday, the Hawks yielded 61 points to Mott in the second half.

Scott Goddard and Joe Andrews also scored 18 points for Mott (2-6). For the Hawks (1-7), Keye Smith

scored 17, Jeremy Teachman and Calvin Pruitt scored 12 each and Ryan Cahill added 11.

SEAHOLM 47, NORTH 42 (OT): Speaking of frustration.

North Farmington wasted an amazing individual effort by senior Barry Regan.

Trailing host Birmingham Seaholm by five points with 15 seconds left, Regan threw pulled the Raiders within a point. After the Raiders forced a turnover, Regan was fouled again and sank one of two free throws to force overtime.

But that was the last hurrah for North. Seaholm scored five quick points to retake command of the game in overtime. North managed just a pair of free throws.

Evan Ellis scored 14 points to lead the Raiders (6-3).

Seaholm (5-4) was paced by Jason Hanson (12 points) and Sean Golden (11).

FARMINGTON 65, GROVES 58: Farmington coach Denny Mikel had been worried about his team's inability to make free throws late in close games.

Worry no more. The Falcons knocked down eight of 13 from the stripe in the final quarter, five of six in the final minutes, to stave off host Birmingham Groves. Matt April hit the final four in a row.

The free throws preserved what Scott Menser's play had created. Menser, who led all scorers with 21 points, put the Falcons on top early with a pair of triples in the first quarter and then broke open a close game with a 10-point

See BASKETBALL, 2B

Whitlow finds place at SC



C.J. RISAK

Who's that old guy? Couldn't tell who asked that question, just some guy in the small crowd spread through the Schoolcraft College bleachers, someone watching the players warm up prior to the start of SC's game against Oakland Community College.

It wasn't difficult to figure out who he was inquiring about, though — No. 24 for the Owls, the guy with the long, dark hair and beard, with a receding hairline. All of which makes Steve Whitlow look much older than his 19 years.

Then again, everything considered, Whitlow has earned his appearance.

The Redford Catholic Central graduate from Farmington Hills is trying to pull his life back together after a trip far too close to the brink. And he's using basketball as his catalyst.

Listen to Whitlow's coach at SC, Dave Bogataj, and you find he's making the most of his opportunity. Whitlow's been in the starting lineup most of the season, although that's not saying much; the Owlets only have sev-

en players left on their roster.

But it's no exaggeration to say he's played well. According to Bogataj, the 6-5 forward is averaging about 10 points, five rebounds and five assists per game. More important, since the Eastern Conference season started, Whitlow has increased his numbers to nearly 12 points, six rebounds and six assists.

"He's so smart," Bogataj said after Whitlow helped ignite SC's second-half rally Monday in a comeback win over Adrian's junior varsity. "And he's very intense. He has a point guard's mentality, at 6-5."

Staying focused

There's no denying Bogataj has had trouble luring players with talent to SC. He's had even more trouble keeping them in school. Academics have waylaid more than one of his recruits.

Still, when Whitlow showed up at informal team workouts last summer, Bogataj had to be wary. He knew Whitlow had talent. But he also heard of the problems that had engulfed him.

"I asked him one thing," Bogataj said. "I wanted to know, do you want to play basketball?" He said yes. So I told him that, as far as I'm concerned, this is day one. We go from here."

For the past few months, that has been Whitlow's approach to life.

His problems date back further than his senior year at CC, but it was then that they first surfaced. Whitlow was kicked off CC's basketball team just prior to the Catholic League playoffs after skipping practice.

He was drinking. Heavily. And it was taking its toll.

"It really started during my junior year (at CC)," Whitlow said. "For a year there, I was playing but not making any progress. (Coach Bernie Holowicki) gave me a lot of chances.

"It was my own fault. I've never said anything bad about coach Holowicki."

Whitlow enrolled at Michigan State, giving some thought to walking on. But after one term, he dropped out of school. His problem was escalating. More trouble was lurking, dead ahead.

Whitlow was arrested for stealing a car. He was drunk at the time. He served 30 days at the Dickerson Correctional Facility in Wayne County.

Going straight

It was then that Whitlow realized it was time to turn things around — before it was too late. Basketball became his tool.

Whitlow began attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. He still does, three times a week. Three days after his release from

See WHITLOW, 2B

Hawks rally for volleyball win

Farmington Hills Harrison volleyball coach Ron Shortt was exhausted and stressed out but nonetheless enthusiastic about his team Monday night after the Hawks won a hard-fought match from Canton.

The host Chiefs won two of the first three games, 15-13 and 15-12. Harrison prevailed in the second (15-12), fourth (16-11) and fifth (16-5).

"The kids have a lot of resolve," Shortt said. "They put themselves in some bad situations, but they manage to pull themselves out of it."

"When it's do or die, the majority of the time they've been able

to turn it around. They don't give up on themselves, and I'm not about to give up on them."

Harrison had the lead in the first game, "but Canton played some great volleyball and took it away from us," Shortt said. "We struggled until the middle of the fourth game."

Senior hitter Julie Heist ignited the Hawks in the last two games, Shortt said. She had 10 of her 19 kills in those games and half of her spikes (16 of 32).

"Julie was having an OK night and really turned it on and had a great night," Shortt said.

Harrison trailed 11-7 in the fourth game before scoring the

last eight points. The Hawks jumped in front 11-2 in the fifth game.

Heist also served eight aces and Maggie Chavez six, including four in the last game. Jonny Myyasilnaki made "some phenomenal digs and chased the ball down to keep it in play several times," Shortt said.

Harrison is 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, 2-0 in the Western Division and 10-3 overall.

■ FARMINGTON The Falcons made their WLAAs See VOLLEYBALL, 4B

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