

Swimmers headed for state finals

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington and Farmington are looking forward to the state finals in boys swimming this weekend for good reason.

"The Raiders are taking a small but talented group of swimmers to Ypsilanti for the two-day meet and expect to do well.

Farmington will be represented by possibly its largest-ever number of state qualifiers, certainly the most in recent memory.

North's Karl Kozicki and Jonathan Kershaw are solid contenders who scored at state last year.

Kozicki will swim the individual medley and 500-yard freestyle. Kershaw the 200 and 100 freestyles. Kozicki was sixth in the 500 and eighth in the IM last year, and Kershaw placed sixth in the backstroke and 11th in the 200 freestyle.

Drew Sophia is entered in the IM and breaststroke. Steve Bocknek the 50 freestyle and Adam

Kammer the breaststroke. Bocknek and Kammer will combine with Kershaw and Kozicki to comprise North's medley and 400 freestyle relay teams.

"We have the possibility of winning four individual events between Kozicki and Kershaw," North coach Jon Teal said.

"They're really strong contenders in their events.

"We were unranked, but I think it's a pretty sure thing we're going to be up there in the top 10 (teams). Our medley relay should place in the top six."

The freestyle is pretty wide open, but we have as good a chance as anyone else. It just depends if our swimmers step up."

With four of the five qualifiers having been there previously, the Raiders are confident as well as eager to prove themselves. Teal added:

"We're a very strong championship-meet team, and we're going to fare well just because we're

very talented on the top end. I think we'll surprise some people.

"I don't think our dual-meet record was very reflective of how good this team is, and the guys want to show some people how good they are."

Farmington has qualified Jon Reed in the 500 freestyle, Scott Brown in the backstroke and Don Boyer in the 50 freestyle.

The Raiders also will compete in the three relays. Coach Ross Bandy was unsure of the combinations early in the week, but the group of potential relay swimmers includes Boyer, Reed, Brown, Kevin Yoder, Reed, Craig Mathie, Chris Prump and Mark Kurzer.

"It really looks good for us," Bandy said, adding it has been at least 10 years since the Falcons qualified as many individuals and relays. "It's hard to say, but we look to do well. Sometimes you walk through the door and think you're going to burn it up."

Farmington has already had its best season in some time, finishing 8-3 in dual meets and half a point out of first place in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

"It's been a real positive season for us," said Bandy, who's in his ninth year at Farmington. "I had more fun this year than I've ever had. We have a young team — most are sophomores and juniors — and I think we're up and coming."



JOHN STORMLAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
State qualifier: North Farmington's Adam Kammer will compete in the breast stroke and two relays this weekend in the state finals.

Another close loss ends OCC season

Fortunately for the Oakland Community College men's basketball team, there will be no more close losses this season.

The Raiders ended their season with an 89-85 loss Wednesday to No. 8-ranked Kalamazoo Valley College in a National Junior College Athletic Association Region 12 playoff game at Macomb Community College. OCC grew accustomed to close losses this season, losing two games in overtime and one at the buzzer during the last week of the regular season.

OCC finished the season 15-14 overall.

"I'm a little disappointed in our final record but we got beat by an awful lot of good teams and we played with them," OCC coach Lynn Reed said. "We were in the hunt for this one and with a couple breaks here and there, could have won."

All five OCC starters scored in double figures but the Raiders' bench failed to score.

OCC made 20-of-25 free throws but missed a pair of free throws and a layup late in the game. Trailing 87-85 and trying to send the game to OT, OCC missed an eight-foot jump shot and also missed the put-back.

OCC outrebounded Kalamazoo 38-32 and committed only

nine turnovers. The Raiders were 30-58 from the field compared to Kalamazoo's 35-64.

Forward Bill Knight, one of three OCC starters playing their final game as sophomores, led the Raiders with 18 points on 7-9 field goals, 4-4 free throws and nine rebounds.

Reed said Knight "totally outplayed" Kalamazoo's star Scott Hunter.

Troy Coleman, also playing his final game, led the Raiders with 23 points on 9-15 shooting. Freshman guard Craig Martin had 21 points, sophomore Kevin Woodmore had 12 points and freshman Willie Payne scored 11 points with 11 rebounds.

Sophomores Ray Moreland (Southfield Lathrup and Bill Thurston (Rochester) also played their last games for OCC.

Reed is hoping his next recruiting class will help OCC get back to where it was in the late '80s when the Raiders won a national championship and reached the Region 12 final.

"I'm looking for veterans out of the service, kids that have gone away to school and come back, 21, 22 year olds," Reed said. "I'm also looking for sleepers like Knight and Raabe Reviere, who are good examples."

MSU before being arrested in April 1991 on federal charges of cocaine conspiracy.

Hickman, who forfeited his scholarship after being suspended by MSU, was acquitted by a jury in November 1991.

Reports say that MSU refused to release Hickman's transcript, while billing him \$1,421 in back tuition and room and board.

Lawyers for Hickman contend he had a contract of employment with MSU.

Former Redford Bishop Burgess All-State cager Pariah Hickman has sued Michigan State University for unspecified amount of back pay for his on-court performances, according to a published report in Sunday's Detroit News.

Hickman's chief attorney, Paul Rosenbaum, said the suit was filed Friday in Lansing's Court of Claims.

The 6-foot-7 forward, who helped Burgess reach the 1988 state Class B championship game, played three seasons for

CC cagers seize opportunity to win

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Henry Ford's 6-foot-8 junior center Maurice Taylor sat out Monday's Class A boys basketball district game at Redford Catholic.

That was bad news for Michigan coach Steve Fisher who came to get a glimpse of Taylor, one of the state's best juniors.

And good news for CC.

Taylor and Ford's other leading scorer, 6-foot-8 senior guard Marco Hammond, were suspended for what coach William Carter called a "scrape" at school.

The Shamrocks, who trailed 31-30 at halftime, gained the lead in the third quarter and survived a late run by the Trojans to win 70-65. Carter was hoping Ford could win without his best players and have the pair ready for Wednesday's semifinal against Southfield.

"I could have played them

(Taylor and Hammond)," Carter said. "But I decided it was best for the team at this time. I couldn't wait until Wednesday, but I didn't know if there would be a Wednesday game."

The Trojans were outbounded by only one (29-28) but made only 22-of-68 shots (33 percent) compared to CC's 28-54 (48 percent).

CC's Brian Paluk, who made only 2-of-10 shots in the first half, scored 21 of his game-high 32 points in the second half.

Paluk's three-point play gave CC a 62-63 lead with 4:35 left in the game but Ford outscored the Shamrocks 12-4 in the next three minutes to cut the deficit to one, 66-65, with :58 left.

Paluk made a pair of free throws to make the score 68-65 but uncharacteristically missed two straight one-and-ones attempts in the last 20 seconds to

give Ford a chance to force overtime. But the Trojans missed consecutive three-point tries and Paluk led the game with two free throws and 10 left.

CC had seven turnovers in the last quarter.

"That's state tournament play," CC coach Bernie Holowicki said of his players' near collapse.

"The first game no one goes down easy. Ford was a very formidable opponent and they were sky high. There was a man for what he did (suspending his players for a district game)."

Fisher left before halftime so he didn't get to see the play of Paluk and CC's future star, sophomore guard Damien Baskerville, in the third quarter.

CC scored 12 straight points in the third quarter while Ford's best inside player remaining, Jermaine Johnson, was on the bench for his fourth foul. The spurt

gave CC a 49-37 lead and the Shamrocks were up 63-44 after three quarters.

Paluk scored 10 of the Shamrocks' points during their spurt. He scored on a 17-foot baseline jumper; a put-back; two straight fast break layups; and a 16-foot jumper left of the lane.

Baskerville scored seven of his 15 points in the third quarter and Andy Kummer scored the other four in the third quarter. Kummer was also key to CC's zone press which caused eight Ford turnovers in the third.

"We were not aggressive so we didn't get to be aggressive in our own gym," Holowicki said.

Senior guard Lawrence Moore, who had four three-pointers, led Ford with 23 points, 14 in the first half. Johnson, who is about 6-1 but is listed at 6-4 and plays like 6-8, added 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Shamrocks topple Blue Jays in district hoop

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

Catholic Central's recent string of postseason success against Southfield took on a new twist Wednesday evening.

The host Shamrocks spotted the favored Blue Jays an eight-point lead in what many considered to be the key clash of the Class A district. But CC overcame that early deficit to post a thrilling 50-46 victory and send Southfield home with yet another dose of district disappointment.

CC now advances to the championship game Friday evening against city rival Redford Union.

Veteran Shamrock coach Bernie Holowicki knows he will have to get his team focused on RU after Wednesday's heated, semifinal triumph over Southfield.

"This was a war against Southfield and we know we'll have another war against Redford Union," said Holowicki, whose team defeated Southfield in the district opener last year at CC.

"But this was a great win. Southfield is very talented, quick and athletic.

"All I know is that it was a great team effort for us to get back into the game," he said. "We just hustled and played good defense.

We wanted to frustrate them and it worked."

The Blue Jays, champions of the Southeastern Michigan Association, had four different players score in the hectic opening minutes as they shot out to the 8-0 advantage. Marc Gondek finally broke the CC scoring drought with a 10-foot jumper with 2:24 left in the quarter, but Southfield mustered the next two baskets for a 12-2 lead.

The Blue Jays, who held a 12-5 lead after one quarter, watched that lead slip away in the second quarter, thanks mainly to a trio of treys that put the momentum back in CC's favor. Junior Andy

Slankster hit two of those long-range bombers, while Brian Paluk added the other.

CC was up 23-20 by halftime and held a slim lead throughout the game until late in the fourth quarter, when the Blue Jays went up by one point, 43-42, on a Terry Lowe layup.

The Shamrocks, however, tallied eight of the next 10 points to ice the win and hike their overall mark to 13-9.

"It all boils down to the fact we did not shoot well and did not execute well," said Southfield coach Harry VandenBrink, whose team finished the season at 17-4. "If just thought, as a team, we played terrible.

Tournament from page 1B

ter consecutive baskets by Jaracki.

A three-point, and layup by Smith (12 points) kept the Hawks within striking range, but West Bloomfield was able to hold off Harrison by converting its foul shots.

The Lakers shot 53 percent from the floor and 65 percent from the free-throw line. The Hawks struggled at the free-throw

line, converting only five of 13 attempts (38 percent).

"That was a big key," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Not only was it a key, we didn't make ours, but we didn't get to the line enough."

"The Hawks cut a 10-point deficit with 1:23 remaining to five before time expired.

"I was worried with the way we were handling their press at the

end of the game," Matt Domke said. "We were pushing the ball up the court, which was fine, but then we should have pulled the ball out and worked the clock. Instead, we were playing into their hands."

Jaracki and Domke tallied 13 and 12 points, respectively, for the Lakers.

"This was a highly successful season for us," Teachman said.

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