

Hawks buckled by Mercy-less pressure; Falcons nip Lakers

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

Lionie Hines knows exactly how the Farmington Harrison girls basketball team felt Monday night. She'd been there. She still remembers the pain of being burned by the heat of a Farmington Hills Mercy defense.

"It's just something that you've never faced before," she said. "It intimidates you and takes you out of your game. It forces you to make a mental adjustment that is just impossible to make."

Back in 1984, Hines (who was Lonnie Payne then) was one of the best guards in Observerland when her Livonia Bentley team was dismantled by Mercy's unrelenting pressure defense in a Class A district game. It was the last game of her prep career.

Hines, now an assistant coach at Mercy, must've had flashbacks on Monday watching Mercy confound and then pound the Hawks, 52-30, in a Class A district opener at Harrison.

"Oh yeah, it looked real familiar," she said. "Kind of nice to be on the other side of it."

Harrison came into the game with a 13-7 record and looking to become the first Farmington Public School team ever to defeat Mercy. And early in the fourth quarter, with the score tied at 29, it looked like it might happen.

"We were right there," said Harrison coach Pete Mantyla.

Then they weren't.

Mercy's full-court press, operating at a frenetic pace all night, kicked into hyperdrive for the final 7 1/2 minutes. It forced 14 turn-

overs and allowed just one field goal, triggering a game-winning 23-6 run.

"They just broke us down," Mantyla said. "With pressure that great, it's really difficult to make decisions and identify who is open and where everybody is on the court. They just completely took us out of our game."

Harrison was badgered into 38 turnovers in the game and managed less than 10 shots from the floor in three of the four quarters. They scored just two field goals in the final 13 minutes.

"Our intention was to give Harrison pressure like they've never seen before," said Mercy coach Larry Baker, whose team is now 9-12. "I've said before that this is the best defensive team I've had in three years, and I don't say that lightly. These kids really believe in it now."

Here's a taste of how the Mercy defense ruined the Hawks: ■ First quarter, Harrison jumped ahead 5-2 then was held scoreless for four minutes, spanning 16 possessions in which it managed five shots and committed 11 turnovers.

■ Third quarter, Harrison went back in front 25-24 with 4:51 left thanks to a nine-point spree by senior Carey Perkins, who finished with a game-high 16 points and 10 rebounds. But the Hawks managed just one more basket in the quarter and nine more turnovers.

"We kind of shot ourselves in the foot with all our fouling in the second quarter," Baker said. "But in the second half we were able to



Surrounded: Mercy's Julie Angell is locked in by Harrison defenders Amanda Ault (23) and Kelly LaCosse during Mercy's win Monday.

re-establish the pressure without making a lot of fouls.

"The biggest nuisance to the Hawks was junior Mitali Rudbeck. She is the key to our press," Baker said. "She is kind of a wild-card player. We just turn her loose and let her take some gambles."

She made seven steals on the night including four in the fourth quarter. She also led the Marlins with 13 points. Liz Weber, four steals and eight points, and Glenda Lee, three steals, also played big parts in the fourth quarter for Mercy.

"We covered a lot of ground with a lot of hustle," Baker said. "That was a blue-chip effort."

Julie Angell clipped in 12 points and seven rebounds.

For Harrison, it was a sudden exit from an excellent season.

no regrets about this season, other than I wish we could've won tonight."

■ FARMINGTON 33, W. BLOOMFIELD 30: It isn't a game film that coach John Ventura will likely replay too often, but it is a victory he'll gladly accept.

"We just didn't play well with the lead," Ventura said. "Of course, we're not accustomed to playing with a lead."

Taking advantage of 25 West Bloomfield turnovers, Farmington took a 27-15 lead into the final quarter. And proceeded to go scoreless for the next 5 1/2 minutes.

Two baskets by junior Andrea Solter (22 points) put the Falcons up 52-26 with less than a minute left. But they missed two free throws and turned the ball over three times. With 10 seconds left, West Bloomfield was down by two and had the ball.

Alas, their final shot missed the mark and the Falcons (7-14) escaped.

Harrison from page 1B

the rest of the way. "I was happy with the defense last week against Northville," Herrington said. "We got (line-backer) Nick Williams back and that made a difference. But we aren't real big and we need to play with a lot of emotion and intensity. With this group, we're never quite sure what we are going to get."

Air time?

Harrison faces a major challenge on the other side of the ball, as well. Fraser's defense, led by all-state candidate Kris Masti (6-3, 237), has allowed just 83 points in 11 games and more than one touchdown in just two.

"Our defense is very similar to John's," Barr said. "We like to fly to the ball. But we'll get a big test this week. I know John will present us with some new things and some very good things."

Herrington actually isn't sure how he's going to attack Fraser.

"You look at the films and you think maybe they are vulnerable to the pass, but the only team to really hurt them passing was Utica Eisenhower and they hurt a lot of people," Herrington said. "We have to keep all our options open and let the game determine which ones we use."

The options are: A power running game featuring Williams, who rumbled for 115 yards against Northville, a flash-and-dash running game featuring Jason Granger who has been hurt

- STATE SEMIFINALS**
Saturday
CLASS AA
- East Central (11-0) vs. Westland John Glenn (10-1) at Lansing Everett, 1:30 p.m.
 - Dearborn Fordson (10-1) vs. Sterling Heights Stevenson (10-1) at Eastern Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
- CLASS A**
- Midland (9-2) vs. Jenison (10-1) at Hooper Dome, 1 p.m.
 - Farmington Hills Harrison (9-2) vs. Fraser (10-1) at Eastern Michigan, 11:30 a.m.
- CLASS B**
- Kingsford (11-0) vs. Bedford (11-0) at Super Dome, 1 p.m.
 - Birmingham Detroit Country Day (9-2) vs. Inlay City (10-1) at Memorial Stadium, Port Huron, 1:30 p.m.
- CLASS CC**
- Montague (9-2) vs. Hartford (11-0), Hooperman Field, Grand Rapids, 1:30 a.m.
 - Grosse Ile (10-1) vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary (11-0), Lansing Section, 1:30 p.m.

blowing on a tender ankle, or a passing game featuring quarterback Joe Pesci and receiver Kevin Bryant who produced two touchdowns last week.

"They have a lot of weapons and a whole lot of speed," Barr said. "I'm sure John is worried about our power, but I'm just as concerned about his speed."

Two successful, prideful programs, two distinctive styles, two highly respected coaching staffs and only one trip to the Silverdome. Tee it up.

Mercy from page 1B

"This just makes a mockery of the Michigan High School Athletic Association," Davis said. "We were the host of this district. You would think our athletic director (Ron Holland) would get referees that were conducive to playing a fair game."

Davis said he has repeatedly asked Holland not to hire Flammer for games and consistently gave him negative evaluations.

Flammer, when told of Davis's comments, chose not to comment.

An out-of-gas North team was lambasted in the second half, outscored 38-18 and outrebounced 38-12 (66-33 in the game).

Glenda Lee scored 15 points, distributed eight assists and made four steals for Mercy. Felicia Brooks contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds and reserve Amanda Northcross chipped in with 11 rebounds and some sterling defense and floor play during the chaotic first half.

North finishes the year at 12-9.

Kelly & Brinker
JINGLE BELL RUN
ARTHRITIS.

Run the *Jingle Bell*

Sunday, December 5, '93
Oakland University

A fun, festive 5k Run & Walk
Children's Candy Cane Walk (3-7 years)
Information Hotline: 350-3030

Race entry includes: Long sleeve T-Shirt • Hot Chili Buffet • Prizes
Proceeds benefit Arthritis Foundation (Pledges or list fees, call for details)

WINTER IS COMING!

Winter Walden Ski Club

- Charter buses Saturday & Sunday to nearby slopes
- Classes for all skill levels beginner to expert
- Special Program for the younger skiers (ages 7-8)
- Professional instruction
- Small Classes

Teaching KIDS to Ski is our Business

WUU Call Harvey Rubenstein Today!
855-1075

winter walden ski club

Invest a stamp

PUEBLO 29¢

Save a bundle

For the price of a stamp, you can get the latest edition of the federal government's free Consumer Information Catalog listing more than 200 free or low-cost government publications on topics such as federal benefits, jobs, health, housing, education, cars, and much more. Our booklets will help you save money, make money, and spend it a little more wisely.

So stamp out ignorance, and write today for the latest free Catalog. Send your name and address to:

Consumer Information Center
Department 5B
Pueblo, Colorado 81009

A public service of this publication and the Consumer Information Center of the U.S. General Services Administration.

Furniture & Appliance Outlet

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS

SEARS

INCLUDES ONE-OF-A-KIND, OUT-OF-CARTON, DISCONTINUED, FLOOR SAMPLES

DENTED, SCRATCHED & RECONDITIONED ITEMS.

HURRY IN WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. NEW SHIPMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

4 days only!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS
NOV. 18 THRU NOV. 21, 1993

"Items shown represent Sears assortment. Items may vary by location."

MAKE YOUR OWN SALE...NOW TAKE

AN ADDITIONAL 20% OFF ALL... Refrigerators, Washers, Dryers, TV's, Vacuums, Ranges, Sofas, Sleepers, Loveseats, Chairs, Dining Tables & Sets, Curios, Entertainment Centers, Accent Tables, Night Stands, Dressers, Headboards and Bedding.

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET
12001 SEARS AVE.
LIVONIA
1 MILE WEST OF MIDDLEBELT
OFF PLYMOUTH ROAD
PHONE: 422-5700

ENTER OUR FREE TURKEY DRAWING

10 LUCKY CHANCES TO WIN
YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

OPEN 7 DAYS • MON.-FRI. 10 - 9 PM • SAT. 10 - 7 PM • SUNDAY 11 - 5 PM