

Soccer champions



Perfect season: The Farmington Bandits under-10 select team went undefeated during the 1996 indoor season at the Canton Soccerdomo. Team members are (front row, from left) Jason Karmolinski, Steven Besh, Aaron Helesch, Eric Hansen, Alex Gargol, Randy Ward, Ryan Gregory, (middle) Andy Baum, Greg Turcotte, Shant Bagdasarian, Chris Eliason, James Dowd and Ryan Laverty. The coaches are (back, from left) John Turcotte and Dan Besh.

Knights beat Lakers at buzzer

By CHRIS MAVER STAFF WRITER With a district championship at stake, coach Chris Drogosch put Bloomfield Hills Lahser's fate in the hands of Nathan Newman.

The 6-foot-3 senior guard drilled a jumper from the free-throw line as time expired Friday, giving the Knights a 67-65 win over host West Bloomfield in the championship game.

Lahser (18-9) will play regional tournament host Southfield-Lathrup (19-9) at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The Chargers, who rallied to beat the Knights 69-45 in the regional semis a year ago, advanced with a 68-44 win over Berkley.

"I think, definitively, we have to stop (Lathrup's) transition game," Drogosch said. "I'm sure there are a lot of other things we're going to have to do, but right now I want to savor this win."

The dramatic victory gave the Knights their second consecutive district title at West Bloomfield's expense. The Lakers (14-9) dropped a 51-40 decision to Lahser last season.

But Friday's loss will no doubt haunt West Bloomfield more. The Lakers squandered a 13-point, first-quarter lead and then watched Newman release his game-winning basket with half a second on the clock.

"There's probably nobody more deserving to make that shot than Nathan Newman," said Drogosch, whose team won for the 10th time in 12 games. "He's been just an incredible player for us. He's been our leading scorer all year — a quiet and non-assertive leading scorer — and I'm just so happy for him."

Newman's heroics started with 12.8 seconds remaining and the scored knotted at 65. Lahser had called a timeout after rebounding a West Bloomfield missed free throw, and Drogosch's plan was to let Newman take the final shot if the Lakers went man-to-man.

They did. Newman inbounded the ball to senior guard Eric Von Gries, who immediately gave it back to Newman. Newman

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backed West Bloomfield defender Chuck Mondo into the lane and attempted a jumper with three seconds left which Mondo blocked. But Newman grabbed the loose ball and hit the shot as the clock reached double zero.

Referees Larry Janis and Rick Massa immediately counted the basket and a local TV replay clearly showed Newman released

the ball in time. Von Gries paced Lahser with 19 points, 12 in the first half to help the Knights overcome a 24-11 deficit.

Senior guard Mike Furnari added 14 points, Newman 13 and senior center Rusty Suruk (seven rebounds) and junior forward Ryan Goble chipped in eight each.

Senior Jeff Wilson nailed five three-pointers and led all scorers with 20 points for West Bloomfield. Mondo scored 18 points.



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Warriors upset Vikings in final

By BILL PARKER STAFF WRITER

Senior center Mike Brooks was 8 years old playing basketball on his fifth-grade team. Head coach Pat Adams had yet to coach a basketball game and was playing AAA baseball for the San Francisco Giants.

That's how long it had been since the Walled Lake Western basketball team had won a district championship.

The drought ended Friday on the host Warriors won the title with a 64-52 upset over rival Walled Lake Central.

The victory was especially sweet for Western:

- It was Western's first district championship since 1987.
It was Western's first victory over Central in six years and Adams' first in his five-year career at Western.

It avenged Western's disappointing 60-57 loss to Central in last year's district championship.

It marked the coming of age of the Warrior basketball program.

"This is the pinnacle as far as Western is concerned," said Adams, who missed the semifinals with a severe strep and blood infection and wasn't released from the hospital until noon Friday.

"The kids now believe they can win. We've been knocking at the door the last four games against Central. The kids finally know they can win."

Western (10-13) advances to the regional tournament at Macomb Dakota to play state-ranked Chippewa Valley at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"We're going to Disneyland," joked Brooks, who scored 14 points and heaved down a game-high 10 rebounds. "This is the biggest thing that can happen to Western. Every year since I've been here we've lost to them. It's about time we beat 'em."

Western hit six of seven from the free-throw line in the closing minute to win.

Western went ahead for good, 51-48, on three free throws by junior guard Mike Massey with :54 left after he was fouled while attempting a three-point basket.

Central senior Kevin Lynch (17 points) hit two from the charity stripe to pull Central to within a point, only to have Brooks follow with pair of free throws to put Western back on top by three, 53-50.

Lynch launched a potential game-tying three with 22 seconds remaining. Mike Whiting rebounded for the Warriors, and Mike Mitchell split a pair of free

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throws with 16 seconds remaining.

"We had two goals: Don't give them any quick threes and dial down the second shot," Adams said.

"Central is an outstanding team when you allow them to shoot the quick three and pound the glass

offensively."

The Warriors accomplished both goals. Central was 0-for-6 from three-point range, although the Vikings did hit several bombs with a toe line. With Central's big man, 6-foot-6 center Ed Vick, severely limited in playing time because of an inner-ear infection, Western won the battle on the boards, 30-21.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Items for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday paper and 5 p.m. Friday for Monday.

ADULT SOFTBALL

The City of Farmington Hills is accepting new team registrations for its adult softball leagues. For information call Recreation Services at (810) 473-9670.