

SPORTS & RECREATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1997

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

LaCrosse wins MIAA honor

Kalamazoo College's Kelly LaCrosse (Farmington Harrison) was named the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Player of the Week in women's basketball for a second time last week.

The sophomore guard scored 38 points and was credited with 11 assists as the Hornets won a pair of conference games.

LaCrosse scored 15 points in a 63-57 victory over Albion and 18 (all in the first half) in a 69-54 win over Olivet.

For the week, she made 11 of 25 field goals and seven of eight free throws. She also had five steals.

LaCrosse has started all 18 games for the Hornets and is the leading scorer with 14.5 points per game. She also leads the team in assists (3.1) and steals (2.1). She is shooting .386 from the floor, .393 from three-point range and .854 at the free-throw line.

LaCrosse recorded a double-double against Adrian with 12 points and 10 assists on Jan. 16. She also had a career-high nine steals in a game with Alma on Jan. 25.

College sports update

Sophomore forward Piper Metz (Farmington Hills Mercy) is one of three players to have started all 17 games for the Albion College women's basketball team.

Metz is averaging 6.1 points and 5.3 rebounds for the Britons, who are 1-6 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and 3-14 overall.

She has been the team's leading rebounder in six games with a single-game high of eight.

Andrea DeleMonache of Farmington Hills (Livonia Ladywood) was a member of Hillsdale College's winning 400-meter relay team Feb. 1.

The Chargers won the event in 4:28.22, but Calvin College won the women's meet, 120-90.

Race for the Cure

The Sixth Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure will be Saturday, April 19, at the Delphi Zoo in Royal Oak. Organized by the 200 participants.

The Race for the Cure is a five-kilometer run/walk and one-mile fun walk that promotes breast cancer awareness, early detection and survivorship.

The entry fee is \$15 by March 28, \$18 by April 4, \$20 by April 11 and \$30 thereafter.

Entry forms will be available at Jacobson's, J.C. Penney, Pier 1 Imports, area running stores and by calling the institute at (800)-KAR-MANOS (527-6266) or the Motor City Striders hotline at (810) 644-9099.

Indoor soccer champs

The Michigan Hawks under-11 girls soccer team won the North American Regional Indoor Soccer Championship Jan. 25-26 in Fraser.

The Hawks, coached by John Buchanan, advanced to the North American National Indoor Championship March 21-23 in Kansas City, Mo.

Members of the Hawks included Celene Brockman, Nicole Cuzzillo, Erin Closser, Melissa Delbyn, Katie Henrickson, Nikki Hermann, Jill Kehler, Kelly McMann, Jenny Murray, Sophia Naum, Michelle Phillips, Jamie Poole, Marisa Sarkesian, Jennifer Szymanski, Laine Williams, Whitney Guenther and Erin Doan.

Magic's Roundball Classic

Tickets are on sale for Magic's Roundball Classic, a high school all-star basketball game, to be played at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Tickets cost \$10 and \$5. Children 12 and under and seniors 62 and over receive \$2.50 off \$10 and \$5 tickets. Groups of 15 or more receive \$2.50 off \$10 and \$5 tickets by calling the Group Sales Department at (810) 377-0100.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Palace Box Office and all TicketMaster Centers, including Hudson's Harmony House and Blockbuster Music. Tickets also may be charged by phone to Discover, American Express, Visa and MasterCard by calling (810) 645-6866.

After the first day of sales, Feb. 1, tickets may be purchased through TicketMaster Online located at www.ticketmaster.com.

Rockers soccer clinic

Interested soccer players will get their kicks out of a professional soccer clinic with members of the Detroit Rockers professional squad as guest instructors. The clinics are taught by the Franklin Fitness and Racquet Club in Southfield.

Members of the team will be in attendance each Wednesday from 4-5 p.m., giving professional instruction to boys and girls ages 6 and up.

The clinics are designed to give primary instruction in ball handling and soccer philosophy.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to attend the clinics that will run for eight weeks. If necessary, another class from 5-6 p.m. will be added to accommodate high enrollment.

For more information, call Geo Thomas from noon to 6 p.m. weekdays at (610) 352-8000.



Team catalyst: Senior Julian Cochran scored 11 points in the first half Friday for North Farmington and starred at point guard in the second half. The Raiders overcame the loss of senior Brad Rivers to injury and beat Farmington High for their third win in a row, 48-47.

Raiders win 3rd straight

■ The North Farmington boys hoop team pulled off another narrow victory, 48-47 over Farmington.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington — the team that lives and dies with the three-point shot — has been living well lately and a little bit on the edge, too.

The Raiders won their third consecutive game Friday with the help of a late triple, bolstering their image as one of the hottest boys basketball teams in Observerland.

This time it was junior Alan Penala's turn to make the big shot, hitting a three with 18 seconds remaining to beat host Farmington, 48-47.

"We must love these close games," North coach Brian Swinehart said. "These guys are a gutsy, tough group of guys."

"The nice thing about this game is that it puts us in a better position to make the (Western Lakes Activities Association) playoffs."

The Raiders, who have won five of their last eight games, improved to 4-5 in the league and 6-9 overall.

North's latest victory was the most impressive since the Raiders achieved it without one of their top players — senior Brad Rivers, who suffered a season-ending injury earlier Friday.

At a school pep rally, Rivers suffered a broken knee and torn tendon while attempting to dunk the ball. "He jumps and I just give out on him," Swinehart said. At the hospital after x-rays were taken, "I asked him 'What did they say?' He said 'They're going to operate tonight,' and he broke down then."

"He's a great kid. It was hard to look him in the eye when he knows his high school career is done and he

See RAIDERS, D4

Hawks get better of division nemesis Chiefs

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Canton's five-year reign as Western Division champ in the Western Lakes Activities Association came to an end Friday.

Farmington Harrison displayed some of its second-half magic to rally and hold off the host Chiefs 56-52 in winning its first division title since 1989.

"This was actually the first time since the league playoffs in 1992, when we were playing to advance to the semifinals, that we've played a game for something to put in our trophy case," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

BASKETBALL

"This was all heart. It looked like we were done, trailing by 12 at one point, but the team stepped up and played huge."

The Hawks improved to 11-3 overall and 6-3 in the WLAA, while Canton slipped to 9-6 overall and 5-4 in the league.

There's a good chance the two teams will meet again in the first round of the league playoffs, which begin Feb. 25. Currently, Harrison is seeded fourth with the Chiefs fifth.

If the teams do meet, it won't be a game you want to miss if it resembles Friday's affair.

Harrison's Jerrard Johnson calmly sank two free throws with nine seconds remaining for the final margin. Canton's desperation three-point try missed as time expired.

Both teams were forced to play short-handed. Harrison's starting center, Justin Snow, sat out with a twisted ankle he suffered Thursday in a scrimmage against the JV.

The Chiefs were without Dante Scott, who has missed the past two weeks with a strained knee ligament. He is expected back this week.

It didn't appear as if it would be Harrison's night early on, as the Chiefs jumped out to a 10-2 lead. After a 6-0 run by the Hawks, Canton countered with a 7-1 rally to lead 17-9 after the first quarter.

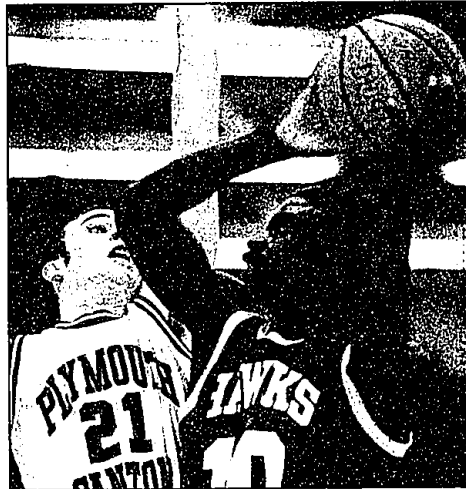
Senior forward Rob Johnson scored eight of his 16 points in the first quarter for Canton.

The Chiefs built their biggest lead at 23-11 after a pair of three-pointers by Joe Cortellini. The sophomore guard finished with a game-high 21 points.

Three straight layups by Kevin Bambenek provided a spark before halftime as Harrison cut the deficit to 29-22.

The Hawks, who committed only five turnovers in the game, switched their zone defense to man-to-man to begin the second half. The move

See HAWKS, D4



Going to the hoop: Harrison junior guard Kareem Smart looks past Canton's Nick Hurley to the basket Friday night.

North wins dual with city rival Farmington

Farmington High had the best individual performance; North Farmington had the better overall team effort.

Jeff Thomas broke yet another record in diving Thursday night, but the host Raiders won the swimming dual meet, 107-79 over the Falcons.

Thomas eclipsed the school record for a fifth time this season and broke the pool record for the second time in a week with a diving score of 320.10.

Not that it needed a break in its favor, but North gained an expected edge in the first event when Farmington was disqualified for swimming

in the wrong lane.

That enabled the Raiders to win the 200-yard medley relay and eventually the meet by a larger margin than coach Pat Duthie anticipated.

"It was fortunate that we won anyway," Duthie said. "I wouldn't want to count on one of these deals. I was glad we came up with enough points, so we didn't win the meet because of a DQ."

The Raiders were shooting for second place in the medley relay, Duthie said, figuring North couldn't beat Farmington's best relay and aiming

SWIMMING

instead for the freestyle relay.

North ended up sweeping the relays as Brandon Digia, Dan Gabriel, Matt Zald and Patrick Duthie won the 200 and 400 freestyle events in 1:35.57 and 3:32.12, respectively.

Jim Gabriel, Matt Swartz, Mark Wachsborg and Justin Hawkins gave the Raiders first place in the medley relay with a 1:51.35 time.

Among the individual stars for the Raiders was Dan Gabriel, who dropped four seconds in the IM (2:05.59) and followed his stint in the 200 relay with his best backstroke time of the season

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