

# Sophomore sparks North win, 49-44 Gridders from page C1

North Farmington recorded an important Western Lakes Activities Association victory in boys basketball Tuesday.

Behind a 22-point effort by sophomore center Emir Medunjanin, the host Raiders stayed in the hunt for a WLLA playoff berth by defeating Walled Lake Western, 49-44.

North rebounded from a sub-par performance Friday in a loss to Westland John Glenn to improve its record to 4-4 in the WLLA and 8-6 overall.

The Raiders trailed 11-5 after one quarter but outscored the Warriors in the second, 17-6.

Medunjanin sank a buzzer-beating, half-court shot at the end of the first half to give North a 22-17 lead.

Western trimmed the margin by two points after three periods, 33-30, but North was two points

better in the finale, 16-14.

"We picked up the pressure and extended our defense in the second quarter," North coach Brian Swinohart said, adding the Raiders forced some turnovers by doing so.

"It was a tough, physical game. We gutted it out and hit our free throws at the end."

The Raiders made 19 of 22 from the line, including all 11 attempts by Medunjanin, while the Warriors were 6-of-8.

Medunjanin also had nine rebounds. North senior guard Dan Singer added 13 points and had five assists.

Wes Hanzel scored 18 points and Ben Dewar 10 for Western, 6-3 in the WLLA and 8-6 overall.

CLARENCEVILLE 50, HARPER Woods 45: Defense sparked offense Tuesday as Clarenceville rolled to pick up the

metro Conference victory at Harper Woods. The Trojans trailed 34-22 at halftime but dominated the second half.

The second half hero was junior guard Albert DeJovicic, who scored 14 of his game-high 19 points after halftime. He hit six of eight free throws in the fourth quarter.

Rick Murphy added 16 points, while Justin Villanueva netted 13 for the Trojans (5-8 overall, 3-8 in the Metro).

Harper Woods (2-9 in the Metro), which made just eight of 23 foul shots, received 12 points from Dino Sipas.

REDFORD CC 64, NOTRE DAME 61: Redford Catholic Central received a scare Tuesday but was able to escape host Harper Woods Notre Dame with the slim victory.

Trailing 48-43 entering the fourth quarter, the Shamrocks rallied and took the lead with just over a minute remaining on a Nick Moore free throw.

Moore, a junior guard who finished with 16 points, hit four free throws in the final 1:30 for CC.

The Shamrocks improved to 12-2

overall and 8-1 in the Catholic League. Notre Dame dropped to 8-6 and 3-6.

Senior center Chris Young scored eight of his team-high 21 points in the fourth quarter for CC. Senior guard Joe Jounas added 17. Notre Dame got a game-high 32 points from senior guard Whitney Robinson.

On Saturday, CC edged host Bridgeport 70-73 as Moore (17 points) scored what proved to be the game-winner in 19 seconds remaining. Young added 15 points. The loss dropped class B state-ranked Bridgeport to 10-2.

RICE 66, BURGESS 74: Jon Poyer scored 25 points Tuesday to lead Rice while Ron Austin (12), Leon McDonald (12) and Chris Petty (10) all contributed double-digit scoring efforts.

Bishop Burgess was led by Aaron Jesup's 31 points. Sam Hoskin added 21.

Rice led 22-13 after one quarter and thwarted a Burgess (5-4 Central Division) fourth-quarter comeback by outscoring the Spartans 30-29.

The Warriors (10-5, 6-3) have a pivotal matchup Friday at Catholic Central.

Michigan Tech and Pennsylvania had expressed interest in him for football.

"I kinda knew I was going to Michigan all along," Moundros said. "But it's still exciting, because to go there and play football is like a dream come true."

"Last year I started considering other places, but I always had my heart set on Michigan — and football is like a bonus."

He and his family attended the Rose Bowl Jan. 1 and watched the Wolverines defeat Washington State to complete a 12-0 season.

"It was just an unbelievable feeling, to be a Michigan fan in the crowd, not to mention what it would be like to be a player," he said.

Moundros rushed for a single-season school record of 1,399 yards and scored 13 touchdowns on 226 carries while helping the Raiders to a 6-3 record last fall.

He also returned punts and kickoffs, and his two-year total of 3,254 all-purpose yards is a career record, too.

Moundros also played part time in the defensive secondary, but the Raiders usually rested him because they counted on him to carry the load offensively.

North administrator and freshman football coach Rick Jones met U-M recruiting coordinator Bobby Morrison at the all-state banquet late last year and told him about Moundros and his interest in U-M.

Morrison asked to see some tapes and later called Moundros, asking him to come out for the team as a walk-on.

When Moundros visited U-M for an engineering information day, Morrison gave him a tour of the football facilities.

The national champion Wolverines are said to have the No. 1 recruiting class in the country, and Moundros has a realistic outlook as to what his role will be as a walk-on.

"It'll be tough, but I'm sure I'll be able to deal with it," he said. "Even if I have a scout team role, that will be fine with me. I'll look to get better and improve."

"Maybe by my senior year, I'll be playing. I understand my role there. I'll just try to get better and take it one step at a time."

**'I understand my role there. I'll just try to get better and take it one step at a time.'**

**Kirk Moundros**  
—N. Farmington football player

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"We have to get some other guys to step up and make some shots when they're open. We outscored them from the floor, but the foul-line situation didn't help us."

The Falcons made 17 of 66 shots from the floor and the Hawks 14 of 50. But Harrison was 16-of-23 shooting free throws and Farmington 4-of-6.

Gaines picked up two fouls in the first quarter and didn't start the second. But he was whistled for just one more and finished the game.

"We wanted to go right at him," Teachman said. "When you give him space, he can block your shot. We were getting in on him and scoring. We went away from that to a non-attacking, standing-and-shooting offense."

The Hawks looked ready to finish off the Falcons early, going on a 14-0 run late in the first quarter to take a 22-9 lead.

Derocher and Smartt sank three-pointers in the last minute before Ron Freeman made a layup at the buzzer for Farmington.

The Falcons came roaring back after that to make it a close, interesting contest, while the Hawks seemed to be hanging on and doing just enough to stay

ahead.

"We did exactly what we wanted to do in the first quarter and it showed," Teachman said. "We took it to the rim and then we became tentative the next two quarters."

"Obviously, (the Harrison players) thought the Trevor Gaines machine was going to kick in. What a player he is! We played well against him, and he still did whatever is necessary to win the game. You have to like that."

While Harrison made just two of 25 shots in the second and third periods combined after shooting 8-of-13 in the opener, Farmington was making a comeback.

Gaines finished with 15 first-half points as the Falcons climbed within three at halftime, 28-25.

Harrison missed every shot but its last one of the second quarter (1-of-15) by Burt with eight seconds left. The Hawks were scoreless in the period until Burt made two free throws at 2:13.

"I wish I could say we did something special," Mikel said. "We just decided to go out and play. Trevor obviously had a good second quarter and got us

back on a roll, and Harrison went a little cold, too. We picked up the tempo and had some momentum going, and Harrison lost it a bit."

The Hawks made it difficult for Gaines to get the ball inside as Lewis fronted him most of the game and got help from Derocher, Jared Hopkins and others.

"They were doubling down on him a lot," Mikel said, adding the Hawks played a combination of man-to-man defense on Gaines and point guard Matt Mikel and a three-man zone. "So we moved (Gaines) outside. He's effective outside but more effective inside."

"We had guys with open shots and couldn't make the shots. That's kinda what it boils down to."

Farmington was just 2-of-14 from the floor in the third quarter, and neither team displayed much offense with Harrison still leading at the end, 33-30.

"I think we were rooting for the clock instead of our side of the scoreboard," Teachman said. "We were waiting for the numbers on the clock to run down instead of the numbers on the scoreboard to go up."

A goaltending call on Gaines

in the final period gave Harrison a 39-32 lead, but Gaines and senior Ryan Gargol scored to make it a three-point difference.

The Hawks used a timeout to set up a play that resulted in Jerrard Johnson making a backdoor layup. That was followed by a Derocher basket for a 43-36 lead with 2:11 remaining.

Gaines kept the Falcons alive, 45-41, with a triple with a half minute to play. The Hawks missed two free throws after that but managed to hang on and win.

"It may have been the refusal-to-lose thing cropping up again," Teachman said.

"A lot of these guys have been with us 3-4 years and I believe in them. I believe they'll do the things necessary to win ball games in the clutch."

Kareem missed those two free throws, but he came down and got a rebound with Gaines on his back. In his mind, he had to make up for the missed free throws.

"They're not 12-2 for nothing," Mikel said. "They're a good ball club; they have nice athletes. They have a little more experience in the players they play. That all figures into the picture."

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