

Rats claim OT win over Raiders, 48-47

North Farmington's season opener in girls basketball Thursday ended in a heartbreaking, overtime loss at Ann Arbor Huron, 48-47.

BASKETBALL

time pulled the Raiders within a point, 48-47.

KETERING 57, HARRISON 48: For the second straight game, Farmington Harrison senior Ari Ault scored a game-high 18 points Thursday, but Waterford Kettering still prevailed in the end.

Ault, who also had five assists, sank four three-point field goals and made 11 of 18 free throws. Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said, "In the big games, you have to make free throws to win, and (Kettering) shot better. We missed more than they attempted."

Allison Keebaugh scored 14 points for the Captains, Haley Siedo 13 and Devon Hillstrom eight.

Kettering raced to a 17-7 lead in the first quarter and led 24-24 at halftime, 44-33 at the end of three periods.

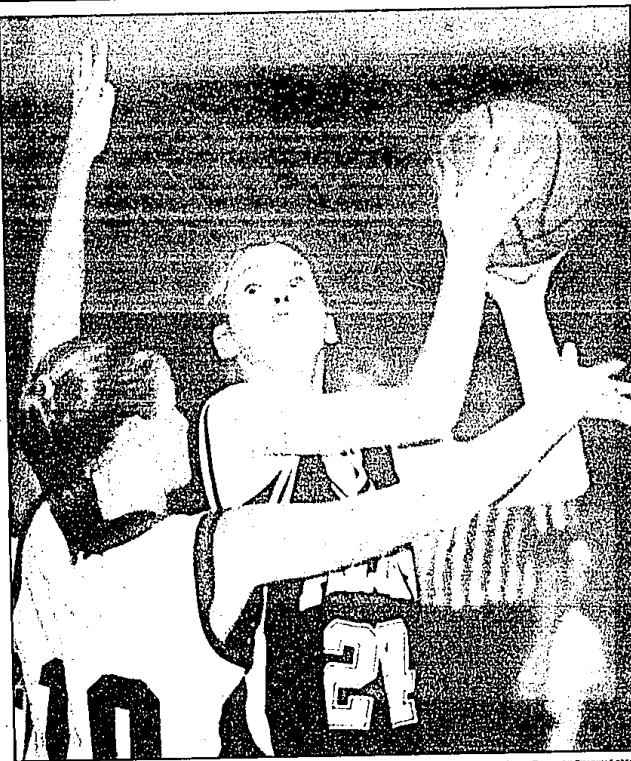
"Our girls played unbelievably hard," Mantyla said. "Kettering has an outstanding team. (The Captains) have good size; they handle the ball, and they made big shots when they had to. But we made a couple strong runs at them."

BERKLEY 53, FARMINGTON 20: Junior forward Lisa Hill scored a game-high 15 points to pace the host Bears to a season-opening win Thursday over the Falcons.

Berkley led 17-7 after one quarter and 36-18 at halftime. The Bears outscored the Falcons in the final quarter, 11-0.

Senior Beth Jager was Farmington's leading scorer with 12 points. Juniors Megan O'Rear and Julie Rotenbber added five points apiece.

Junior guard Erica Wright scored eight points for Berkley.



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Going to the hoop: Senior Beth Jager takes the ball to the basket over Berkley's Theresa Kolley Thursday. Jager scored 12 points in a losing cause for the Falcons.

Samantha McComb scored a game-high 24 points, which included four three-point baskets and 8-of-10 shooting at the free-throw line, to lead the Raiders.

Senior Katie Vihtelic, who fouled out in the first minute of the fourth quarter, tossed in 13 points and sophomore Brittany Vihtelic seven.

McComb and Katie Vihtelic had seven rebounds each, Brittany Vihtelic six. McComb also had six assists, two steals and one block.

The Raiders were minus a second starter at crunch time. Sophomore guard Staci Russell sprained an ankle early in the second half and didn't return to the game.

"We had only one returning starter on the floor (after Vihtelic fouled out), and the kids did a pretty good job of executing," North coach Linda Perkins said.

"It was a hard-fought game. Katie Gaffney played relentless defense and caused at least three turnovers at key times. She did a great job on defense."

Tabitha Pool scored 18 points and Rachel Reid 11 for the River Rats, who made their season debut, too.

North led 12-3 after one quarter, but Huron closed within five at halftime, 25-20. The River Rats were ahead by one after three periods, 33-32. It was 41-41 at the end of regulation play.

McComb's three-pointers with 12 seconds remaining in over-

Canton prevails in battle of area basketball powers

Her first varsity game and already Plymouth Canton sophomore guard Anne Morrell has listened to her coach at a key time and done exactly opposite.

A primadonna in the making? Hardly.

What Morrell did midway through the fourth quarter of Canton's 45-43 win Thursday over Redford Bishop Borgess led to a basket and praise from Bob Blohm, one of the state's most respected coaches whose strategy works nine times out of 10 and sometimes more.

This time, Morrell had a better idea. Her back-door cut off an out-of-bounds pass from center Janell Twietmoyer, surprised the Spartans and gave Canton a 39-32 lead with 4:50 left, starting the Chiefs on a 6-2 run.

"I just looked where they lined up and I knew our play was not going to work, so I switched up and went opposite," said Morrell, who finished with four points.

Blohm was glad she improvised.

"You've got to read it and play," Blohm said. "I like players like that."

Borgess rallied late but a shot that would have forced overtime rolled off as time expired.

The season opener in Borgess' steamy gym was the start of a rugged stretch for the Chiefs, who start three sophomores to go with seniors Elise Thornell and Twietmoyer.

Canton has upcoming dates with state powers Flint Northern, Birmingham Marian and Flint Powers as well as games against formidable Catholic League opponents Farmington

Hills Mercy and Harper Woods Rogers.

"I just like how we came out and competed," Blohm said. "We just tried to keep in front of them and take away their drives. We made mistakes and some turnovers but it's Game 1. I think we've got to get more consistent, but where we're at from where we started, I'm happy."

Twietmoyer and sophomore guard Janine Guastella led the Chiefs with 14 points each and Thornell added eight.

The Spartans, who shot 14-of-

66 from the floor, started two freshmen and two sophomores with 5-9 senior forward Tiffany Simon, who led with 13 points. Sophomore guards Amber Taylor and DeShawnn Hoskins added nine and eight, respectively. Jon Clyburn, a 6-1 freshman, had several blocks and five points.

Borgess was taller at every position, including center where 6-2 junior Krystal Dennis roams. The Chiefs held Dennis to four points and they outrebounced the Spartans 38-29, led by Twietmoyer with 11 and Morrell and Guastella with six each.

WEEK AHEAD

- PIEP FOOTBALL**
Friday, Sept. 4
John Glenn at Oak, 4 p.m.
Arlon at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Salem at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Farmington at Novi, 7:30 p.m.
Redford Union at Churchill, 7:30 p.m.
Morroe at Canton, 7:30 p.m.
Harrison at Oxford, 7:30 p.m.
Gibraltar at Claremontville, 7:30 p.m.
Thurston at Troy Kennedy, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 5**
Luth. West at Luth. W. Mid., 1 p.m.
St. Agatha at Port St. Joseph, 1 p.m.
N. Farmington vs. D.L. St. Mary at Pontiac Silverstone, 4 p.m.
Bishop Borgess vs. Divine Child at D.H. Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Redford CC vs. A.A. Pioneer at Pontiac Silverstone, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Monday, Aug. 31
Huron Valley at Agate, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 1**
Flint Powers at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
Claremontville at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Grosse Ile, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Flint Northern at Canton, 7 p.m.
Dondero at Farmington, 7 p.m.
H. Farmington at Andover, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Troy Athens, 7 p.m.
Mercy at G.P. South, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3**
Flat Rock at Luth. W. Mid., 6:30 p.m.
Dondero at Claremontville, 6:30 p.m.
Huron Valley at Warren, 7 p.m.
Dishop Foley at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
Churchill at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Marian at Canton, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Thurston, 7 p.m.
Farmington at Milford, 7 p.m.
H. Farmington at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Novi at Harrison, 7 p.m.
St. Agatha at St. Alphonsus, TBA.
- Saturday, Sept. 5**
Truman Tip-Off Classic, 1 & 6 p.m.
- PREP BOYS SOCCER**
Monday, Aug. 31
Wayne at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m.
Garden City at Woodhaven, 4 p.m.
Churchill at N. Farmington, 5:30 p.m.
Farmington at Harrison, 5:30 p.m.
John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 2**
Ply. Christian at Luth. W. Mid., 4:30 p.m.
A.A. Pioneer at Redford CC, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 2**
Salem at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Franklin at Farmington, 5:30 p.m.
Harrison at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Canton, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Garden City, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 3**
Redford CC at U-D Jesuit, 4 p.m.
R.O. Shrine at Luth. W. Mid., 5 p.m.
Redford Union at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 4**
S'Heid Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Farmington at Redford Union, 5:30 p.m.
W. Bloomfield at N. Farm., 5:30 p.m.
Lakeland at Harrison, 5:30 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**
Saturday, Sept. 5
Schoolcraft at Prairie St. Hill, 1 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 6
S'Heid at S. Suburban Hill, 11 a.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER**
Saturday, Sept. 5
Schoolcraft at Monroe Hill, 1 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 6
Schoolcraft vs. Genesee at Monroe Toumey, noon.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**
Thursday, Sept. 3
Kellogg CC at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, Sept. 4-5

Marlins from page D1

tion and a lot of heart." Schwagle, an inside player, Connolly and Nami, both of whom are guards, are excellent shooters who can handle the ball, Collins said.

The new point guard is 5-8 junior Kristie McDonald, who was on the JV team last year.

"She lacks experience but we're going to give her the experience and we're going to grow with her running the point," Collins said. "We want to develop her into that position."

"She's an excellent defensive player, too. I think you have to have an excellent defensive player or guard, and she provides that for us."

At the fifth starting position, the Marlins will rotate 5-11 junior Kristy Ramsey and 5-8 sophomore Alexis Dunn in the post. Both are up from the JV.

"Kristy is probably the best all-round athlete," Collins said. "We're talking about speed, jumping, great hands; she just has real good athleticism."

"Alexis is going to be a very good player, also. She's quick, strong and athletic. A lack of experience early on is something I'm concerned about, but their for that."

The varsity roster includes 5-8 swing player Liz Cash, 5-8 forward Alexis Jones and 5-7 guard

Erin Carson. All are juniors who were on the JV.

"We have a nice little team," Collins said, adding he's concerned about a lack of overall size. "You could almost say we have all guards, but we'll make up for it with our quickness."

"Taller teams might ask 'How are we going to guard their size?' But that size has to turn around and guard our guards. One concern we have is rebounds, boxing people out and playing post defense, and that's something we really work at."

Collins is confident the Mar-

lins, who were 4-6 in the Catholic League's Central Division, will have a competitive team and a successful season.

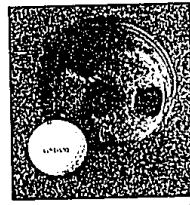
"We played very well over the summer," he said. "I thought we did very well at team camp. We beat Regina and Marian, and those are two very good basketball teams."

"I don't think you can gauge a whole lot by what you do during the summer. But you can definitely tell we're capable of playing, and (those wins) were a sign to our team that we're competitive."

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