

North tops Harrison in thriller



Raiders celebrate victory: North Farmington players Matt Kelmigian (right), Albert Deljosevic (left) and Emir Medunjanin congratulate each other Tuesday after their victory over Harrison, 47-45.

North Farmington built a big lead early, then had to survive a second-half rally by Farmington Harrison to earn a 47-45 victory in boys basketball Tuesday.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domears@oe.homecomm.net

For the first 20-plus minutes Tuesday, it appeared North Farmington was on its way to a blowout victory over host Farmington Harrison in boys basketball.

If that seemed terribly unlikely in a game between two quality teams, it was in the end, what transpired was what everyone expected — a close, exciting game.

The Raiders still managed to win, but barely. The Hawks gobbled up a 20-point deficit with an impressive second-half comeback, but the Raiders eked out a 47-45 victory in the final seconds.

BASKETBALL

"It's a good thing they didn't kick an extra point or something," North coach Tom Negoshian said when a reporter observed the Raiders had squandered the near equivalent of a three-touch-down lead. "If they had kicked a field goal, we would have lost."

After leading by 15 at halftime and 41-21 midway in the third quarter, North eventually needed a late basket by junior Emir Medunjanin to win the game.

The 6-foot-6 center grabbed a rebound on a missed shot by teammate Albert Deljosevic and scored with three seconds remaining to break a 45-45 tie.

Deljosevic drove the lane and put a shot off the glass. Medunjanin was in the right spot to make the play and decide a frenzied fourth quarter of action.

"We call it a 33 and we try to get a roll out of it," Negoshian said. "Emir rolled and got the putback. We got a little lucky; if we don't get the roll, we don't get the putback."

"We ran a stack with three guys up high; I was down low posting," Medunjanin said. "(Deljosevic) calls the play and I come up. He came off my screen; I sealed my guy; Albert shot and I got the rebound."

Harrison still had one last chance, inbounding the ball with 2.2 seconds left. Dave Pesci passed to Andrew Bull at midcourt, and Bull flung the ball to Brian Nelson in the right corner. Nelson's shot was off the mark, however.

"It was a nice comeback," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, "but if we keep on this way I'll make a tape — 'nice comeback' — and stay home and watch the Home and Garden Channel."

Please see BASKETBALL, C4

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gymnasts finish 2nd

Senior Brook Rubin and freshman Chelsea Keesling led Farmington's unified gymnastics team to a second-place finish Saturday in the Hartland Invitational.

The host Eagles won the competition with a 143.2 team score. Farmington scored 137.45 and third-place Northville-Novi 134.6.

"It was a pretty good meet for us," Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said. "Our high score last year was 138 at the regional, so we're about where we finished last year."

Rubin won the Division II all-around competition with a 34.45 score, finishing first on the uneven bars (8.9) and second on balance beam (8.3).

Keesling was second in the Division I all-around with a 36.9 total, setting team records on bars (second) and floor exercise (first) with 9.55 scores in both. She also was second on vault (9.2) and beam (8.6).

Farmington's Lauren Ouellette was fourth (83.3) and Anna Clark ninth (32.5) in Division II all-around.

Ouellette finished fourth on bars (8.6), eighth on vault (8.7) and 10th on beam (7.65). Clark was ninth on floor (8.85), 10th on vault (8.6) and 10th on bars (8.1).

Other teams competing at Hartland were Freeland (133.4), St. Johns (12.53), Dearborn Edsel Ford (122.5), Vassar (119.9), Walled Lake (117.8), Bloomfield Hills (109) and Mason (106.7).

Mahoney wins contest

Samantha Mahoney, a student at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills, won her age group in the southeast district finals of the Elks Hoop Shoot, the annual free-throw shooting contest sponsored by the Elks.

Mahoney advances to the state finals on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Royal Oak Kimball High School. The winners of the state contest move on to the regionals in March. The regional takes place in Rochester and the national finals in Massachusetts.

Mahoney and five other youths represented the Farmington Elks Lodge in district competition against local winners from seven other Elks lodges. Brittany Sundheimer, Stefanie Licavoli, Jeff Entin, Anthony Jappaya and Kevin Downey also participated.

Fastpitch clinic at MU

Madonna University will conduct a girls fastpitch softball clinic from 2-4 p.m. for six consecutive Sundays.

The clinic is \$20 per session or \$80 for all six weeks. It consists of sessions on hitting, bunting, infield/outfield, baserunning, pitching/catching and defensive positions.

Pitchers and catchers are required to stay an additional half-hour. Pre-registration is required with sessions limited to 30 girls each. For more information, call coach Al White at (734) 432-5783 or (734) 495-3719 or assistant coach Dave Brubaker at (248) 666-3238.

Powerlifting seminars

The Fourth Annual Powerlifting Conference will be Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 30 and 31, at the Windham Garden Hotel in Romulus. Seminars will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Among the featured speakers on the topics of powerlifting, nutrition and strength programs will be Mark Phillips — 1997 USA's Strongest Man and University of Nevada-Las Vegas strength coach; Carrie Boudreau — IPF Women's World Champion and world record holder; Horace Lane — 1996 IPF World Bench Press Champion and world record holder; Dr. Mauro Di Pasquale — nutritionist for power and Olympic lifters and WWF wrestler; Ernie Frantz — APF President, world champion and world record holder; Rob Wagner — world record squat and strength coach for the University of Pennsylvania; Ray Becemerio — WDPF World Champion and USAFL National Champion.

For ticket information, call C.J. Batten at (734) 946-0860.

Marlins seek coach

Mercy High School is searching for a varsity basketball coach. Applicants should call the Mercy athletic office at (248) 476-2836 or more information.



Key player: Brian Shulman scored 10 points for North.



Crowd pleaser: Senior Andrew Burt tries to motivate the home crowd during Harrison's second-half comeback against North.

Harrison's Bryant to play for Buckeyes

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domears@oe.homecomm.net

Michigan-Ohio State football games took on added significance this week for the Bryant family of Farmington Hills.

The reason is Don and Joan Bryant will have a son playing for each team when the Buckeyes and Wolverines meet next November. Harrison High School senior Ricky Bryant, a consensus all-stater and one of Michigan's blue-chip prospects, accepted a scholarship offer Sunday from Ohio State.

He will join his older brother, Kevin, who has a year of eligibility remaining at Michigan, in the college ranks next fall.

Bryant, who visits his brother and the U-M campus regularly, said he won't have trouble changing allegiances from maize and blue to scarlet

FOOTBALL

and gray.

"Actually, Ohio is where I started playing football," Bryant said, adding he played Little League ball for the Wee Oaks in Centerville near Dayton. "So it's like going back to my beginnings."

"My parents and friends will have to learn a new fight song, (Harrison) coach (John) Harrison is already up to doing it. He said he wants to learn it. I'm the first one from Harrison to go to Ohio State."

The 6-foot, 160-pound Bryant, whose family moved back to Michigan when he was in the sixth grade, chose OSU over U-M despite the opportunity to stay closer to home and be in the same program with Kevin.

"There's no controversy between my

brother and me," he said. "We're real close and he wants the best for me."

"He doesn't want me to go through what he did where he had to wait so many years to play. That's why I was weighing my options. He committed early and I didn't want to do that."

Bryant chose the Buckeyes because he believes he'll have a chance to play sooner based on their personnel situation.

"It's the perfect time for a receiver to come in there, because they lose David Boston, Dee Miller and another senior receiver," he said. "Also, they didn't recruit a receiver last year."

"There's a gap between years, so the guys I'll be competing with are walk-ons. So it looks pretty good for me playing my first year."

"I really liked the receivers coach (Chuck Stobart). He's the one who

Please see BRYANT, C5



Ricky Bryant: Blue-chip recruit headed to Columbus, Ohio.

Falcons sweep Raiders in WLAA opener

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domears@oe.homecomm.net

The first game went so well Farmington High's volleyball team had it almost too easy Monday.

So coach Anne Badynee anticipated stiffer resistance and the host Falcons were ready for what rival North Farmington threw at them in the second game.

After squashing the Raiders 15-2 in the opener, the Falcons rallied to win the next game 15-12 and clinch the victory in their first Western Lakes Activities Association match.

"North played a tough game," Badynee said. "They

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

showed us a lot of different things, which is good for us to see. The second game was a battle and the girls hung in there."

"We knew North would settle down and show us more stuff. That's what we have to work on. That's what makes you a better team."

The second game started the opposite of the first as the Raiders took the initial lead and were ahead 10-7 on four straight service points by Giselle Moses. Kelly McKeon had a scoping return that fell in ca

the Farmington side and Jessica Glovak a tip kill for the ninth and 10th points.

But the Falcons got two back on Tricia Krause serves, the second being an ace, and scored five in a row with Meghan O'Rear on the service line.

A kill by Moses stopped the rally. Kelly Downey's block and Glovak's kill put the Raiders within two, 14-12, before Emilie Villemonte cut short the North effort with a well-placed spike.

After two more sideouts, Farmington's Jamie Jakacki served the winning point, which resulted from a North communication error.

Please see VOLLEYBALL, C5