

Deljosevic makes point for Raiders

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Senior Albert Deljosevic had never been on the winning side in a district tournament game, but he was able to do something about that Thursday night.

His free throw with no time on the clock gave North Farmington a 44-43 victory over West Bloomfield in a post-season Class A contest.

The victory lifted the Raiders into the championship game Friday against Farmington at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

"I started on the varsity for three years (at Clarencville in Livonia) and never won a district game," Deljosevic said. "This is like the biggest thing for me. I didn't want to end my career not winning a district game."

After a missed shot by the Lakers, Deljosevic dribbled up the left side of the court and was fouled in front of the North bench while shooting as time expired.

Deljosevic calmly made the first free throw — the only one necessary.

There was a moment of hesitation by Deljosevic, the other players and the crowd, but the sight of the officials running to

BASKETBALL

the locker room signaled the game was over.

"A lot of crazy things happen at the end of basketball games," West Bloomfield coach Barry Bernhard said. "I've been around basketball a long time and seen a lot of finishes, but the referees shouldn't decide the end of the game."

"My kids played hard. To win 13 games, that's a good season. It's too bad it ended that way."

There's seemed little doubt by the principles involved the foul was legitimate and occurred before the buzzer.

"(The opposing player) hit me on top of the head, so it was pretty obvious," Deljosevic said, adding he was surprised the call was made. "Usually, they don't call a foul at the end of the game; they let the players decide it."

"It's a tough way for (the Lakers) to lose and an exciting way for us to win," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "It was a great call by the official."

"Albert didn't have a great look (on the shot), but they went after him and, to the official's credit, he made the call."

With West Bloomfield leading by five, 39-34, midway in the fourth quarter, Deljosevic took charge for the Raiders.

The senior point guard scored eight of his team's last 10 points to finish with 12 and lead North in scoring.

"He did a great job for us," Negoshian said. "He made a big-time three, a couple running one-handers and the free throw to win it."

Deljosevic's layup and three tied the score at 39 and again at 41 with a baseline shot. An Adrian Bridges layup, with an assist by Deljosevic, gave North the lead with 2:46 to play.

Brandon Grant's free throws for the Lakers tied the score again. After an exchange of turnovers, each team missed a shot.

North (17-4) got the rebound off the West Bloomfield miss and the ball to Deljosevic, who made the winning free throw.

Phil Watha scored 10 points for the Raiders; Emir Medunjanin and Bridges posted eight apiece and Mike Patterson six.

Matt Wilde scored a game-high 22 points for West Bloomfield (13-9). Grant added six, Cordney Petty five, Jonathan Merritt and Luke Filar four

apiece. In a low-scoring, defensive struggle, North led 11-7 after one quarter and 24-20 at halftime, but West Bloomfield was ahead after three periods, 32-30.

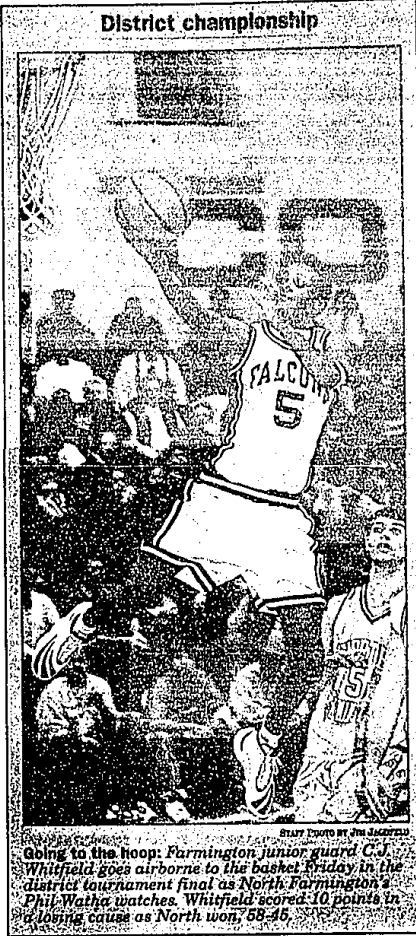
"I think they're a very good defensive team, too," Negoshian said of the Lakers. "They did a very good job in the post. They have three solid, big kids, a great shooter in (Wilde) and their guards handle the ball well."

Negoshian meant it as a compliment when he said his players thought West Bloomfield would be among the top five or six teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Raiders tied with Walled Lake Western for the WLAA regular-season championship, but the top half of the league was well balanced.

"They would have been one of those teams in our league fighting it out for the championship, and that's our kids giving them a lot of credit," Negoshian said.

North was 15-of-49 (.306) from the floor and West Bloomfield 13-of-40 (.325). The Raiders made 11 of 17 free throws and three of 17 threes; the Lakers made 14 of 20 and three of 10, respectively.



Going to the hoop: Farmington junior guard C.J. Whitfield goes airborne to the basket Friday in the district tournament final as North Farmington's Phil Watha watches. Whitfield scored 10 points in a losing cause as North won, 58-46.

Rypkowski paces Salem to district crown

BY C.J. RISBAK
STAFF WRITER

What Novi wanted, it got. The Wildcats had absorbed a lot from Plymouth Salem in their district final Friday at Plymouth Canton, and they were hanging in there. They trailed by four after three quarters (47-43) and, with 4:28 remaining, it was still a five-point game.

But one thing Novi couldn't do was contain all of the Rocks' various weapons, and in the end, it led to their demise — 62-53.

The district championship was Salem's second in three years, and it sends the Rocks (18-4) to the regional at Birmingham

Groves to play Detroit Northern at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The final is 7 p.m. Thursday at Groves.

"We were right there, right where we wanted to be," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "But that's a very good (Salem) team. I'm proud of the way my guys played."

Aaron Rypkowski put on the first half that gave Salem a lead it never lost. The 6-foot-2 senior drained six three-pointers in the first half, scoring 14 of his team's 16 first-quarter points and 20 of the Rocks' 30 first-half markers.

Novi (11-11) had the early

lead, rattling off 11 straight points in the first quarter to open up an 11-5 lead with 3:06 to go. But Rypkowski replied, first with a steal and a layup, then positioning himself at the wing on the outside of the three-point circle and nailing three consecutive triples.

The Wildcats scored the first five points of the second quarter to tie it at 16, but now some other Rocks were awakening offensively. Each team scored six straight points. Novi tying it at 22-all on Brent Dicken's two-point shot with 2:32 left in the half.

But two more Rypkowski

threes, sandwiched around two Tony Janowski free throws, gave Salem a 30-23 halftime lead.

"He's one of the most complete players we've had in a while," said Salem coach Bob Brodie of Rypkowski. "And he can score in the clutch. He beat Belleville on a last-second shot. That's the mark of a good player."

Rypkowski finished with 25 points; Adam Wilson had 10, Rob Jones nine and Janowski eight. Novi was led by Chad Nodolini's 14 points; Sean Brialin had 12, Kyle Searnsy scored nine and Dicken netted eight.

Now comes Northern, a team Salem beat 76-62 Dec. 28.

Falcons from page D1

avenged a 73-55 loss to Harrison earlier this season.

"We used that as positive, the fact we played them earlier and lost at their place," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "The second time around sometimes the other team has a harder time getting up for a team it beat."

"The kids were positive all week. We had nothing to lose; nobody expected us to be (in the final). We used all that and got it

into the kids' heads that anything can happen. And the kids believed they could win."

Gilchrist, who scored a career-high 17 points, didn't play against Harrison on Feb. 16, because he was out of town during winter break.

The 6-foot-3 junior scored 12 points in the second half, including back-to-back triples that put the Falcons in front and ignited their torrid shooting over the

final 10-plus minutes. "Garlin's strong point is shooting the ball," Mikel said. "If there's one thing Garlin can do, it's shoot the ball, and he came through for us tonight."

Justin Milus followed with 11 points for Farmington, which made 13 of 20 second-half field goals. C.J. Whitfield and Chad Seaborn added nine apiece and Matt Mikel eight.

The Falcons, who were 6-of-12

from the floor in the third quarter and 7-of-8 in the final, made 12 of their last 15 attempts.

"We just kinda got the momentum at the right time," Mikel said. "How do you explain momentum? Sometimes you have it and sometimes you don't. We got it and ran with it."

The Hawks led 31-27 in the third period, but the Falcons finished with a 10-0 run. Following a Seaborn free throw, Gilchrist sank consecutive threes, and Whitfield capped the surge with a driving layup and three-point play.

Farmington stayed hot in the fourth quarter. The Falcons made seven straight shots before missing their final attempt to win going away.

Milus made two baskets, Whit-

field, Mikel, Gilchrist and Seaborn one each as the Falcons extended their lead to 62-34 with half the final period still to play.

"The best team won tonight," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "We pride ourselves on being a cohesive group, and we were pretty cohesive tonight. We can pass the blame around."

Andrew Burt scored a game-high 19 points for Harrison, which followed a 1-for-18 second quarter with 27-percent shooting (6-of-30) in the second half. Joe Hundley had eight points; Matt Reed, Nick Hall and Rory Huff added five apiece.

Unlike the first meeting, in which the Hawks led 21-9 after one quarter, the Falcons stayed close, trailing 14-12 at the end of the first period and 22-21 at

halftime. "In the first half, we had eight to 10 unforced turnovers," Teachman said. "That could have been a big margin, and we gave them life."

"The first time (Harrison) came out and got aggressive on us in the first quarter, and the other three were equal," Mikel said. "We worked on not letting them get a jump on us, and we worked on their trap (defense) every day in practice."

With only one senior on Farmington's team, the Falcons were looking beyond the district final Friday to next season.

"This is a good win for our program and something we can build on next year," Mikel said.

"We didn't qualify for the WLAA tournament, so we got to play teams we were better than. Even though we weren't playing the best teams in the league, we got some confidence and started to play better, and it carried over."

"I told the kids, 'It's a new season; it's 0-0 and let's see what happens.'"

The Hawks finish the season with a 13-8 record.

"It's too bad you always have to end on a loss, because this is just an outstanding group of young men," said Teachman of his players.

"They've done so much for Harrison High School as a group. It hurts right now. Hopefully, they'll be able to be young and get over it quickly."

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KENNETH E. KONOR, Attorney, 1400 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF OAKLAND, File No. 98-261496-12
Estate of BETTY ANN GRADOLPH, Decedent, Social Security Number 286-18-1063
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Independent Probate
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in the estate may be harmed or affected by the following:
The decedent, whose last known address was 1101 Glen Vista Court, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 died January 8, 1999.
An instrument dated December 9, 1998 has been admitted as the will of the decedent.
Creditor of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the independent personal representative, Paul E. Gradolph, 1101 Glen Vista Court, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304, or to both the independent personal representative and the Oakland County Probate Court, 1700 Telegraph, Pontiac, Michigan 48341, within a number of the date of publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Attorney: Kenneth E. Konor, 181410, 1400 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. Telephone: 248-645-6000.
Newspaper: Observer & Eccentric
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