

Hoop from C1

ball in this league, she's as good a player as we've run into.

"She's a rare player and I think she probably has to be a Miss Basketball candidate going into next season. I think she's that good."

The Hawks were pretty good Tuesday, too. Kelly Taylor led Harrison with 13 points, and Ayana Richmond followed with 12. Both girls made two threes.

Becky Zak and Kim Washington added seven points apiece. Gayle Ternes clipped in five and Emily Jackson four.

"Kelly and Ayana both have a lot of offensive ability, and we've really been after Ayana to assert herself more," Mantyla said. "We've stressed balanced scoring to develop depth on this team."

McComb attempted 14 shots, not including the times she was fouled, but made 13 of 17 free throws.

Staci Russell scored seven points for North; Christina Colombo, Kelly McKeon and Jehan Hindo added four apiece.

"Sam was crashing the boards, getting rebounds and getting fouled that way," North coach Linda Perkins said. "When she had the ball, she made good passes to her teammates, and her teammates were stepping up and doing the best they could."

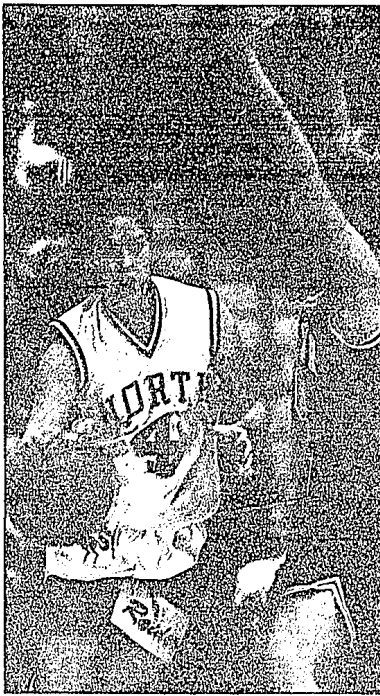
"We had designated screeners, trying to free her up more; we just struggled with it. (The Hawks) did a great job on us defensively."

The Raiders led 21-19 at half-time and 31-27 late in the third quarter, and it was still anybody's game despite the Hawks holding a 37-33 lead entering the first period.

But the game did begin to turn in Harrison's favor when Ternes and Taylor hit back-to-back threes to put their team on top, 33-31.

Richmond followed a hook shot by North's Meghan Callahan with a pair of layups to put Harrison in front at the end of the third quarter.

The Hawks also shot better in



Roadblock: North Farmington's Kelly McKeon looks for a way around Harrison defender Maggie Condini.

the second half. After going 0-for-12 in the second quarter and 6-for-27 (.185) in the first half, Harrison was 12-of-27 (.444) in the second half and finished the game shooting 32 percent (17-of-54).

"When their threes weren't dropping, they were getting three and four rebounds," Perkins said. "We have to do a better job on the defensive boards."

"We know they're coached to shoot the three. We practice that defensively. I thought my kids did a pretty good job with their press; we handled it fairly well. We just struggled in the half court with some fundamental decisions. But I thought my kids played hard."

Harrison's deeper bench became a factor in the fourth quarter, too. First, it allowed the Hawks to overcome foul trouble and, secondly, it seemed to wear down the Raiders, who were without starting post player Catherine Audette, who is

out with a broken thumb. Harrison post player Maggie Condini fouled out at the end of the third quarter, and Karolyn Knutson, Ternes and Becky Zak, another post player, had four fouls in the fourth.

"We had hoped that could be the difference in the game," Mantyla said. "We've been pretty hard on our second team the last couple weeks, and they really responded. Not only did they play well tonight, but they've pushed the first team in practice, and we needed that to happen."

"In the fourth quarter, Jenny Wingert played some big minutes after Maggie fouled out. Kim Washington had her best game of the season, and Emily Jackson has been sick the last two days but made a big contribution. We got some big minutes from Erica Davis and Kristina Hill, too. We needed everybody tonight."

Harrison's lead grew steadily in the fourth quarter until it reached an insurmountable, 61-36 with 2½ minutes remaining.

A three-point play by Taylor and two free throws by Washington began to put some distance between the teams, 42-35.

Richmond sank another three, and Jackson, Wingert, Washington and Zak scored the last of the Harrison points to close out the win.

The Raiders, who shot 27 percent from the floor (11-of-41), made 18 of 30 free throws and the Hawks 14 of 26.

Both teams are 6-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 10-4 overall.

Falcons like taste of victory

"It's been a long time since we've won a game," said coach Kristin Wright. "We've been in a losing streak for a while, and it's nice to have a win, even if it's just a close one. We're going to keep working hard and trying to improve ourselves."

BASKETBALL

and only had one win in the last two years combined.

"We've had two seasons where this year. The kids are starting to believe, and people are starting to respect us."

Farmington got off to a 10-4 start and suspended its margin to 25-17 by halftime.

The Falcons added another five points to the margin in the third quarter before the Chargers increased six points off their

shot in the fourth quarter. Junior Danielle Lewis led Farmington with 17 points and 19 rebounds, and sophomore Randall Brown scored 18 points and had six rebounds. Eighth grader Julie Kimmel had 17 rebounds and Kimmie (Wheat) grabbed eight. Senior forward Kristin Berry passed Cheryl with 15 points, and sophomore guard Vanessa McComb added 12. Farmington is 2-11 overall and 2-0 in the WLA. Chargers led 3-10 and 9-9.

Marlins earn much-needed win

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BASKETBALL

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls basketball team figured it's a perfect time for a win, even if it is too late to make the Catholic League playoffs.

The Marlins led all the way Tuesday and beat host Redford Bishop Borgess, 59-51, in the second-best Catholic League Central Division game.

The win broke a four-game losing streak and moved Mercy's division record to 3-6 overall, keeping alive its hope for a berth in Catholic League playoffs with a home date remaining against undefeated Dearborn Divine Child on Friday.

The Marlins (8-7) may have to upset the Falcons, ranked No. 1 in Class B, just to earn the fourth and final division seed. Regardless of what happens, beating a team like Borgess, the Class C state champion in three of the last six years, should help the Marlins' confidence heading into the state tournament.

Borgess, which already clinched a Catholic League playoff berth, in 5-2 overall and tied for second with Livonia Ladywood at 5-4 in the division.

Mercy started the Central Division race with three straight wins before losing its last six, including a three-point decision to Ladywood on Friday.

"The girls are finally believing

in themselves," first-year Mercy coach Kristin Wright said. "I'm their third coach in four years, and they're just getting used to the way I coach. We've won some and lost some this year. This is the time of year to win some and take that into the state tournament."

The Marlins featured a balanced scoring attack, led by senior guard Julie Kimmel with 18 points, including four baskets from three-point range.

Also scoring in double figures was senior guard Nuverre Naumi with 14 points and senior forward Carrie Brankiewicz with 10; she had 11 rebounds, too. Sophomore forward Ashley Hambell added nine points.

But arguably the biggest basket of the night came from senior forward Kristy Ramsey (four points) early in the final period.

The Spartans started the fourth quarter with consecutive baskets by Joci Clyburn and DeShawna Hoskins, cutting the deficit to 44-39.

Wright called a timeout and the play went to Ramsey, who missed her first attempt but reached high for the rebound and made the put back for the seven-point lead.

"We worked on that play all the time in practice," said Wright, though admitting the

play doesn't call for Ramsey to miss the shot, then get the rebound and score.

Ramsey added a blocked shot minutes later that led to a driving basket by Bobbie and she altered another Borgess shot down the stretch. Bobbie's basket gave Mercy a 57-45 lead and ended a 13-6 run that included a three-point play by Brankiewicz off a neat pass from Liz Cash.

Brankiewicz said Wright's coaching methods allow the Marlins to show more energy down the stretch.

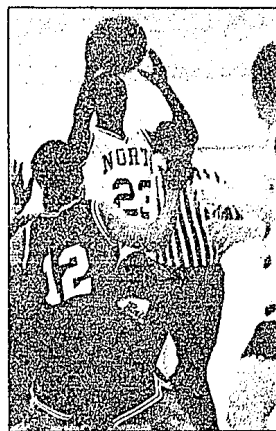
"We went into the summer feeling like we were behind a year or two, but coach has given us a tough work ethic and we're well conditioned; that's exactly what we need," she said.

The Spartans, who won the first meeting 52-42, were led by Clyburn and Amber Taylor with 10 points each. Thanks to nine first-half points by Bobbie, all on triples, the Marlins led 19-12 31-25 after the first two quarters.

Bobbie added 11 more points in the second half after Borgess coach Dave Mann advised more attention be given her.

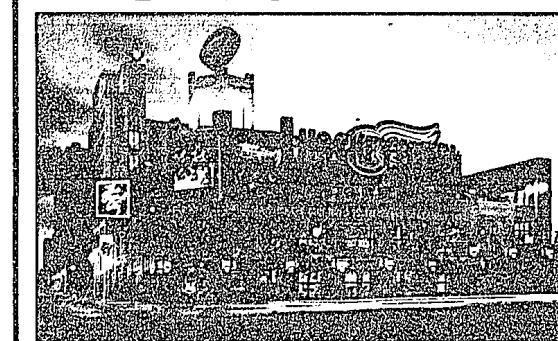
"The kid can knock down shots and I'd like to believe she shoots a slightly lower percentage when she's guarded, but I might be wrong because she scored 11 in the second half," Mann said.

"What hurt us is we got open players down court on the fast break and we can't deliver the ball to them."



Air mail: Staci Russell drops a pass over Kim Washington to Jehan Hindo.

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