

Salem wins WLAA tournament hoops crown in overtime

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

One of these days, maybe, the Michigan High School Athletic Association will get it right.

But until it does, we'll be treated to extraordinary high school district basketball tournament openers such as Wednesday's Plymouth Salem vs. Plymouth Canton tussle at Novi.

It's the kind of battle which should not take place until the regional finals or later — provided both teams make it that far.

Canton and Salem staged a preview of Wednesday's mutual MHSAA tournament opener Nov. 10 at Livonia Franklin, the championship game of the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

Salem won, 45-36, but was forced into overtime to break Canton's 10-game winning streak.

Tiffany Grubaugh scored 22 points and made a game-breaking steal and layup with 1:36 left in overtime to give the state-ranked Rocks (19-1) a 38-34 lead. She also scored all nine of her team's third-quarter points.

Janine Guastella paced the Chiefs (14-9) with 16 points and Anne Morrell played exceptional defense and contributed seven key points, including a pair of baskets that forced the overtime.

The district game "is going to be just like that," Coach Fred Thomann said. "It's going to be a battle between two teams playing solid defense; that play the game the way you're supposed to play it. Two teams that defense, pass the ball and work hard."

"I hope it's a repeat," Coach Bob Blohm of Canton said. "I hope we can get back into it."

"It's going to be a large order. It's a tough district and Plymouth Salem has beaten everybody there. They're a good team — and good teams seem to do what they have to do to win."

Both teams played their typical stick-tight, in your shirt defense.

Blohm opened with Morrell guarding Grubaugh, relieving her with Christina Kieseloff,

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Amanda Lentz, Guastella and Ashley Williams. In spite of the 22 points, collectively they did as good a job as can be done on an All-State caliber Division I player.

"Tiffany Grubaugh is a good a player as there is going right now," Thomann said.

"They did a nice job of getting the ball to her," Blohm said, "especially early in the game. She's a great player and a candidate for All-State."

Kelly Jaskot, who had five points, guarded Guastella along with Katie Kelly, Dawn Allen, Lindsay Klemmer and others. Guastella worked several nice give-and-go plays and rolling off picks. She showed a nice sense of where her teammates are.

"They create matchup problems for you with their guard play," Thomann said.

Blohm was running his girls in and out in an effort to create mismatch problems, keep his players fresh and take advantage of situations.

Canton played an excellent third quarter after trailing, 20-18, at halftime. Had it made more than 3-of-8 free throws (it was only 5-of-17 in the game), it would have been ahead instead of trailing by a point, 29-28.

Both teams kept the other off the scoreboard for nearly three minutes of the fourth quarter. Guastella snuck between two players for a layup to give her team a 30-29 lead at 5:13 but Bree Pastalaniec, who had 10 points, powered in a layup and converted a free throw when fouled.

Morrell went baseline for a layup with 3:52 to go to tie the score at 33 before Grubaugh made a brilliant spin move on the baseline to set up a layup with 2:09 to go.

Morrell forced overtime with 53 seconds to go with a driving layup down the lane. The Chiefs

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BASKETBALL

1999 ALL-WESTERN LAKES GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS

All-Conference: Samantha McCarty, junior, North Farmington; Tiffany Grubaugh, senior, Salem; Janine Guastella, senior, Canton; Kelly Jaskot, sophomore, Salem; Kelly Taylor, junior, Harrison.

All-Lakes: Stephanie Grew, junior, Stevenson; Stephanie Grew, sophomore, John Glen; Samantha Grew, senior, John Glen; Brad Russell, junior, North Farmington; Dawn Allen, junior, Salem; Bree Pastalaniec, senior, Salem.

All-Western Division: Becky Zak, junior, Harrison; Kristen Burgess, sophomore, W.L. Western; Tara Kottel, senior, Franklin; Amanda Lentz, junior, Canton; Emily Carbutt, junior, Northville; Katie Hammond, senior, Northville; Anne Morrell, junior, Canton.

Unpollable Mention: Lindsay Klemmer, senior, Morrice; senior, Northville; Meredith Hase, senior, South Co.; junior, Dundee; Christina Kieseloff, junior, Ashley Williams, junior, Harrison; Karlyn Knutson, junior, Emily Jackson, senior, Gayle Tarnes, junior, Ayana Richmond, sophomore; Maggie Condenti, freshman, N. Farmington; Christina Colombo, junior, John Glen; LaToya Chandler, senior, Lacey Calderino, junior, Sarah Pack, junior; Nicole Panyard, senior, Franklin; Lisa Bello, junior, Li Corcoran, senior; Blaine Kelle, senior, Clifty Fox, senior; W.L. Central; Amanda Smith, junior, Stacy Erikman, junior; Karielle Tait, Julie Kimmel, sophomore, Danielle Lewis, junior; W.L. Western; Maria Agnew, senior, Cary Cooper, senior; Shantel Stacey, senior, Dwayne Doffo, sophomore.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE CHAMPION/ALL-STATE: Crystal Andrews, Marian; Bonnie Baker, Allen Park; Carrie Brankiewicz, Mercy; Kris Grew, Maria; Sarah Vassini, DeWitt; Chelle Giddick, Riverview; Michelle and Melissa Harkness, Ladywood; Natalie Jankins, Regina; Tami Miller, DePue; Jerry O'Rourke, Portage; N.D. Prep.

All-Lakes: Joel O'Connell, Amber Taylor, Bishop Burgess; Tashawna Adams, LaToya Rucker, DePue; Bobbie Bledski, Erin Hean, Notre Dame Prep; Katie Gossard, Kyle Arthur, Bishop Foley; Carrie Collier, Regina; Amber Muzza, Marian; Monica Rasch, Gabriel Richard; Lindsay Hooper, Catholic.

All-Western: Kristen Barnes, Ladywood; Tashawna Adams, DePue; Kyle Arthur, Bishop Foley; Krysta Clazewski, Notre Dame Prep; Brad Bledski, Gossard; Daniel, Catholic; Malory Henner, Divine Child; Shannon Jones, Regina; Lauren McDonnell, Marian; Monica Rasch, Gabriel Richard; Stacie Rode, Mercy.

CO DIVISION: All-Academic: Kristen Rogers and Krista Dennis, St. Agathe; Jamie Bobbitt, St. Agathe; Maureen O'Malley, Light & Life; Lisa Paszynski, Immaculate Conception; Patricia Greenlee, St. Florine; Tasha Tynan, Holy Redeemer.

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Hawks must adjust to loss of star player

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

It isn't easy for a team to forge a new identity in the last game of the regular season, but that's what Farmington Harrison's girls basketball team is faced with doing.

Coach Pete Mantyla's team lost leading scorer Kelly Taylor for the season with a severe ankle injury in Plymouth Salem's second-round victory over Harrison in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

It showed Wednesday night in the game for third place in which Northville raced out to a 21-3 lead in the first quarter before hanging on at the end for a 40-35 victory.

The loss of Taylor takes away a player the Hawks looked to for a big shot or a big assist. They spent nearly a whole season viewing Taylor as their primary scorer or feeder — and suddenly she's zapped out of the lineup.

So there's a certain amount of confusion and frustration as the team finds new solutions to old problems.

Freshman Maggie Condenti, junior Becky Zak, senior Emily Jackson and the other Hawks have to learn to take shots they might have passed up before.

East must learn to expect the others to do so, but it takes time. And time is something Harrison does not have.

"The blessing," Mantyla said, "is we've had to play good teams the last stretch of the season and in the tournament."

"But without Kelly Taylor we're going to be the underdog from here on out. If we want to extend our season, we really need some people to put their best foot forward."

The Hawks made a big stride in that direction in the second half of their game with the Mustangs. They trailed, 29-13 at the half but pulled up to 36-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Condenti scored 10 points to lead Harrison, all of them in the second half and including a 6-for-6 free throw performance.

Jackson scored all eight of her points in the second half. Becky Zak and Ayana Richmond had six points apiece.

Center Katie Hammond scored 15 points to lead Northville (12-7) while Meredith Hase had 10 and junior Mary Tanak scored seven.

Zak has asserted herself in spots this season but now will have to do so on a consistent basis. Condenti got six points against Salem, eight against North Farmington and 11 in the game before this.

"She's strong and physical," Mantyla said, "and in the second half against Northville she wanted the ball inside."



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Hoop action: Emily Jackson looks to take a shot against Northville in the WLAA consolation tournament game.

Harrison will have to practice like crazy to get the adjustments down, though, since it plays Bloomfield Hills Lahser (15-5) Monday in its state tournament opener.

"Obviously, we struggled in the first half against Northville," said Mantyla, who called five timeouts in the first 11 minutes in an effort to turn things around. "I hope that's as bad as we can play."

"But still, I thought we were a basket or a call away, at times, from turning it around."

"In the second half, we started getting responsible defensively; we started getting to some loose balls and started rebounding. And on offense, I thought we made each possession more important."

"We got a lot of leadership from Emily in the second half. And Karolyn Knutson was dependable. For us to beat people, we need a total team effort."

WAYNE MEMORIAL 55, REDFORD UNION 40: Things looked kind of bleak after Wayne Memorial fell behind 12-2 at the outset of its Mega Conference crossover game Thursday with visiting Redford Union.

But coach Wayne Woodward, searching for answers, yanked all five starters midway through the opening quarter and the result was a 20-4 run. Wayne enters district play at 4-18; RU drops to 3-17.

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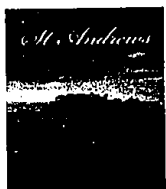
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