

WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Monday, Dec. 28
PCA at Lenawee Tourney, TBA.
(Roundball Classic at 1:30 a.m.)
Redford CC vs. Cincy Hughes, 1:45.
Borgess vs. Del. Douglas, 4 p.m.
Salmon vs. Del. Northern, 6 p.m.
(Riverdew Gab. Richard Tourney)
St. Agatha vs. Tay. Kennedy, 6 p.m.
Grosse Ile vs. Riv. Richard, 7:30 p.m.
(Trevana City Central Tourney)
Sag. Arthur Hill vs. Holland, 8 p.m.
Canton vs. T.C. Central, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 29
T.C. Central Tourney, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
PCA at Lenawee Tourney, TBA.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
Riv. Richard Tourney, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
(Superintendent's Classic at Cobo)
Wayne vs. Del. Cass Tech, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 26
(Schoolcraft Christmas Tournament)
Conecota vs. Wadoness, 5 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. St. Clair (O.H.), 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27
Schoolcraft Tourney, 3 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 2
First Matt at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
Oakland CC at Delta, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Saturday, Dec. 26
(Schoolcraft Christmas Tourney)
Schoolcraft vs. Elgin (H.), 1 p.m.
Lakeland vs. Wadoness (H.), 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27
Schoolcraft Tourney, 1 & 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 29
(Taylor, Ind. Univ. Tournament)
Metolena vs. Ohio Dominican, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30
Taylor Univ. Tourney, 3 & 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 2
First Matt at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
Oakland CC at Delta, 3 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Sunday, Dec. 27
(UD-Jessie Tourney at City Arena)
Red. United vs. S. Lyon, 4 p.m.
U.D. Jesuit vs. Lansing CC, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 28
U.D. Tourney at City Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 30
Churchill at G.P. South, 7:25 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 27
Whalers at Brampton, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Ply. Whalers vs. London
at Compuware Arena, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 30
Whalers at Owen Sound, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 26
Portage Northern Tourney, TBA.

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Redford Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
W. Bloomfield Inv., 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 30
UM Dearborn Tourney, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 2
W.L. Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 30
Salmon Invitational, 9 a.m.
TBA — Time to be announced.

Hawks, now 3-0, hammer Knights

There was no stopping senior Andrew Burt and his Farmington teammates in the first half Monday.

The Hawks dominated the first two quarters, leading 43-24 at halftime over host Oak Park, en route to a 79-68 victory in boys basketball.

Burt had to leave the game temporarily in the second quarter after being cut on the left eyelid.

He continued playing with a bandage on the injury, which later required stitches, and still led Harrison with 15 points and nine rebounds.

Twelve players scored for the Hawks, who finished the December part of their schedule 3-0.

Junior Joe Hundley supported Burt's effort with 14 points and seven rebounds. He also had two blocks.

Seniors Ricky Bryant, Lemar Wilson and Matt Reed contributed 10, nine and six points, respectively.

Senior point guard Dave Pesci had 12 assists and added a three-point field goal. Bryant also had four assists.

Jonathon Oliver scored 23 points for Oak Park (1-4).

Burt scored 10 points in the first quarter as the Hawks grabbed a 21-9 lead and outscored the Knights 22-15 in the second. Oak Park had a 42-36 edge in the second half.

"We're 3-0 and some guys haven't had the (football) helmet off very long," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "It's a real good feeling. We've got some real tough games coming back (in January).

BASKETBALL

"But we have 12 guys who can play; so you don't have to be a star on our team. You just have to be able to contribute."

N. FARMINGTON 87, SEA HOLM 25: The host Raiders held the visiting Maples to single-digit scoring in each of the last three quarters Tuesday and coasted to a 57-25 victory.

North Farmington heads into the holiday break with a 3-1 record. Seaholm falls to 1-4 overall.

Junior guard Phil Watha scored a game-high 16 points, which included five three-point baskets, to lead the Raiders, who also received 12 points from junior center Emir Medunjanin.

Kyle Fenton sank three triples and scored nine points for the Maples, who trailed 19-11 after one quarter, 24-13 at halftime and 42-19 at the end of three periods.

S. LATHROP 52, BELLEVILLE 49: Sound team chemistry and balanced scoring are positive traits for a basketball team.

Southfield Lathrop has benefited from both during the first month of the boys season. The Chargers enter the holiday break with a 4-0 mark, the latest triumph coming against non-league foe Belleville Tuesday.

Junior post player Kenny Moore had a double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds and Solomon Edwards added 18 points to help the Chargers down the visiting Tigers, 52-49.

Lathrop also received 15 points from Antoine Johnson and 10 points from Brandon Edwards. C.J. Grantham tossed in 13 points for Belleville, last season's Class A runner-up.

"This is a good win for us," Lathrop coach Mike Avery said. "We built a double-digit lead and Belleville cut it down to about eight points or so. But we hit some big shots down the stretch."



Picture perfect: North Farmington junior center Emir Medunjanin demonstrates how to execute a jump shot.

Trojans fall shy on road

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

If Livonia Clarenceville had played the first 16 minutes like it played the last 16 Tuesday night it wouldn't be 1-3.

But the Trojans didn't, so previously winless Dearborn Heights Crestwood was able to pile up enough of a first-half lead to claim a 64-60 victory.

"We've got to have a sustained effort," coach Bill Dyer said. "We've got to have 32 minutes of consistent effort a night, or close to it."

BASKETBALL

"The key is we've got to come out ready. We've got good players. But they don't know how to come out and get started."

"We're young; we don't quite know how to do it yet."

There's a reason Crestwood hadn't won in three starts, even if the bigger Chargers play in the Michigan Mega Conference Cold Division.

If Clarenceville had started the game playing the same kind of in-your-face, floor-burn defense it displayed in the final two quarters the result would have been more lopsided the other way.

Trailing 42-24 at the half, Clarenceville came out in a full-court trapping defense. Crestwood broke it four times in the first two minutes to take a 51-28 lead.

It would have been easy for the Trojans to sink home at that point, but they didn't.

"We felt we weren't aggressive enough in the first half," Dyer said. "We wanted to get up the floor and play a little. We wanted to make them make mistakes."

Corey McKendry hit a three-pointer to trigger a 10-point run that got Clarenceville thinking it could do the unthinkable.

Clarenceville closed the quarter with seven unanswered points to cut the margin to a workable 52-45 entering the final eight minutes of play.

Rick Burack had six of his 16 points in the third quarter while McKendry scored all five of his and Scott Wain five of his 16.

Rick Murphy knocked down three straight triples on three trips down the floor for Clarenceville to slice the deficit to 60-58 with 2:12 to play.

A free throw by Brian Stefanski made it 61-58 with 2:04 left and Joe Keough drilled two left-handed free throws with 1:22 left to cut it to 61-60.

"We made a couple of mental mistakes," Dyer said of what happened next.

Joe Federa made a free throw with 34 seconds to play and Jason Trybuski made a layup off a steal by Matt Behrens with 10 seconds to play to seal the decision.

"We've got ability," Dyer said. "We just have to stay committed. We have athletic kids. We have to take it to somebody."

Murphy ended up with 11 points while Scott Carr and Keough also had five points. Seven Trojans scored.

Behrens and Federa paced Crestwood with a dozen points apiece. Trybuski and Kyle Steger scored eight each and Geoff Ploch had seven.

North from C1

"These girls are definitely student-athletes," she said. "I can't think of one who isn't taking at least one AP (advanced placement) course. They're a bright group of ladies. There's nobody with less than a three point, and I'm sure they're way above that."

The Raiders, who split with host Harrison but lost to Milford and Troy on Dec. 12, will compete in the West Bloomfield Invitational on Tuesday, Dec. 29. The WLLA schedule begins Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Northville.

"This is one of the tougher leagues I've observed, but there's also been a lot of (coaching) changes; so I think anything is possible," Diebold said. "If every team has talent, it's a pretty fair game. We're aiming for .500 but basically taking it one game at a time."

Falcons from page C1

points, 44-38, in the fourth.

Farmington scored the next 10, half on free throws, to regain a comfortable margin at 54-38 with 15 minutes to play.

Matt Mikel, who scored all of his points in the second half,

added four more free throws and was 5-of-6 at the line overall. Milus had 10 second-half points, Dyer said.

"I think we found a good combination in the fourth quarter, and things started clicking for

us," Mikel said.

"Toward the end of the game, we spread the floor, advanced the ball up the floor and got some baskets. Before that, we were playing a little tentative and not looking to advance the ball against the press."

"I thought Matt did a good job and got the ball to the open man after we broke the press. I thought we did a pretty good job of protecting the lead once we got it, as far as spreading the floor and getting good shot opportunities."

Seven other players scored for the Falcons and all 13 played.

"With the season being early, we're trying to get a lot of different people some playing time, so we can establish a rotation and see what we've got when we get into our league," Mikel said.


"I think everybody has played in every game, so I think we're getting a pretty good idea."

The Falcons wanted to run more than they did, Mikel added, but Farmington played a zone defense in the first half, causing the smaller Crockett team to take a slower, deliberate approach on offense.

"We did a little switching of defenses, and that might have confused our kids in some situations," Mikel said.

"We just didn't seem aggressive at times; we were thinking instead of reacting. But the season is young and we wanted to see what worked for us."

"We played a straight-up man in the second half after trying a lot of zone combinations, so maybe the man defense was the difference."



1998-99 HOCKEY LOVERS PACKAGES

Catch 3 Action Packed Red Wings Games

PACKAGE I
February 17 vs. San Jose
March 26 vs. Tampa Bay
April 2 vs. Chicago

Plus... 7 DAYS OF COLLEGE HOCKEY

DECEMBER 26 & 27
34th Annual Great Lakes Invitational
FEBRUARY 6
Michigan State vs. Lake Superior State
FEBRUARY 20
Michigan vs. Michigan State
MARCH 19 & 20
CCHA Championship
APRIL 10
North American College Hockey Championship


COLLEGE HOCKEY AT "THE JOE"

ORDER NOW, call: (313) 396-7575

Enter to win Detroit Red Wings Tickets!

Check out today's classified section to find out how you can register to win standing room only tickets!

— Observer & Eccentric



Buy One Ticket Get One Free

Throughout the month of December!

FREE CAR BONANZA!

This Saturday, December 26 7:30PM

vs. Manitoba Moose
10 used cars will be given away throughout the game!


VIPERS VALUE NIGHTS


EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY HOME GAME
(INCLUDES: 1 TICKET, 1 HOT DOG, 1 T-SHIRT & 1 SOUVENIR)


VIPE-BEAR BEAN MASCOT GIVEAWAY!

This Sunday, December 27 8PM

vs. Manitoba Moose
*To first 4,000 fans 14 and under.

Courtesy of: 

Call Now! (248) 377-0100
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT 

Present this ad at the Palace Box Office or at any  outlet and receive one FREE ticket for each 10 tickets purchased at the same price. Subject to availability. Coupon not redeemable for cash. Good for \$15 and \$10 tickets. Good for the following games: 12/28, 12/29 & 12/30.

visit our website at www.palacecenter.com