CC opens up in 2nd half vs. Rice

BY DAVID SAUNDERS
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

Catholic Central followed true to form.

In the three Shamrocks victories prior to Friday's meeting with Brother Rice, CC scored more than 70 points. But after a 21-point first half, it didn't appear the Shamrocks would reach that magic figure against the host Warriors.

CC, however, shifted into high gear in the second half and exploded for 53 points en route to a 74-48 win and pin their Catholic League arch rivals with their third straight setback.

"We like a wide-open game," said CC coach Rick Coratti. "The first half was more to their advantage. I told them to keep running hard and things will open up and they did."

Shots began opening up every where in the third quarter and the Shamrocks were deadly from the field. Four different players, including two treys by Ryan Celesky who scored a game-high 23 points, combined to connect on six-of-six. "That helps," Coratti said. The Shamrocks (4-5) broke open a 21-20 game by outscoring Rice 26-10.

"That was a pretty good quarter for us. Almost all of our kids shoot the three. We're kind of a three-point shooting team," Coratti said.

The Shamrocks should stick to the outside. They connected on 11-of-16 from three-point range, but only 11-of-30 from inside the arc.

Rice (4-5) registered its four wins by keeping the score low.

"We knew they were a good shooting team," Warriors coach Don MacAloon said. "We were aware of that. We were prepared for that. We stymied them in the first half, but then they started to get a couple open looks because we started getting a little tired and they started knocking down the shots."

The Warriors played an aggressive man defense to carve out a 14-10 first quarter lead as they hit on four of nine from the field. But Rice's shooting touch went cold in the second quarter as it hit only one field goal in 13 tries and the Shamrocks outscored them 11-6 as they hit two more field goals. Rice managed 15 of 48 from the field on the night.

Rice picked up its shooting in the third quarter, but the Shamrocks were deadlier. Another problem for the Warriors was holding on to the ball, as they turned the ball over eight times in the third quarter and ended up committing 24 turnovers to 10 for CC.

"We came out and turned it over three out of our first four possessions in the third quarter. We got down by eight and didn't fight hard enough to get back in the game," MacAloon said. "At that point they started putting in some three pointers and that broke the game open.

"We had 16 turnovers for the second half and that's inexcusable. We have to become a better passing team," MacAloon said. "It seems this year we have momentary lapses and other teams have taken advantage of it"

Catholic Central didn't stop shooting in the fourth quarter, either, as it outshot Brother Rice 27-18. CC collected 11 of its points from the free throw line and two more treys early in the fourth stretched the lead to 56-33 with 4:56 left in the game.

"We're struggling a little now. We need to play with the same defensive intensity for four quarters that we have been playing for two and three quarters," MacAloon said.

Hitting in double figures for Rice were Hayes Grooms with 15 and Chris Aguwa with 11. Rob Sparks scored 16 for CC; Anthony Coratti and Mark Willoughby tossed in eight points each.

Coratti told his team at halftime to "keep running hard, keep playing hard. We weren't playing that bad in the first half and we were missing some shots so the shots were there, and rebound and defense and things will work out.

"It's always a big win when you play Brother Rice," Coratti said. "They're our biggest rival, especially coming here and beating them."

"I think these kids have the resiliency to bounce back," MacAloon said. "This is the same team that was 2-7 last year and fought back to the Catholic League finals. So they have it within them to fight back, and we're looking for that type of effort for the rest of the year."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 18
Luth. Westland at H.O. Huron, 7 p.m.
Luth. East at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Farmington at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Roch. Adams at Harrison, 7 p.m.
[illegible], 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Inkster, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Fairlane, 7 p.m.
Milford at Churchill, 7:30 p.m.
Borgess at O.L. St. Mary's, 7:30 p.m.
Utica Luth. at St. Alphonsus, 7:30 p.m.
Agape at Ply. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 21
Liggett at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Luth. North at Luth. W'sld, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Woodhaven, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Carlson, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Farmington at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Salem at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Northville at Canton, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Temple Christian at Agape, 7 p.m.
DeLaSalle at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.
Notre Dame at Borgess, 7:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at St. Florian, 7:30 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Reeper, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Monday, Jan. 17
Borgess at Det. Urban, 6 p.m.
Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Northville at Franklin, 7 p.m.
W.L. Central at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Farmington at North Farm., 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Thurston, 7 p.m.
A.A. Richard at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
St. Agatha at DePorres, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Wayne, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 18
Fairlane vs. Huron Valley
at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
Mercy at Marian, 6:30 p.m.
Ladywood at Regina, 7 p.m.
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
PCA at Franklin Road, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 19
St. Alphon. at Luth. W'sld, 6:30 p.m.
N. Farmington at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
W.L. Central at Canton, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Trenton at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Ecorse at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.
Redford Union at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 20
Huron Valley vs. [illegible]
at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
Borgess at Det. [illegible]
Clarenceville at Luth. East, [illegible]
Notre Dame at Mercy, 6:30 p.m.
Ply. Richard at Ladywood, 7 p.m.
Benedictine at St. Agatha, 7 p.m.
[illegible]
Friday, Jan. 21
Temple Christian at Agape, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22
[illegible] Tourney, 9 a.m.
[illegible] Tourney, 9:30 a.m.
[illegible] Tournament, 9 a.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Jan. 21
Ply. Whalers at S.S. Marie, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22
Ply. Whalers vs. Owen Sound
at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Jan. 18
G.P. South vs. Lakeland
at Arctic Pavil., 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 19
Churchill vs. Franklin,
W.L. Central vs. Stevenson
at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 20
Redford Unified at Allen Park, 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 21
Canton vs. Northville
at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
Salem vs. Churchill
at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Redford CC at E. Kentwood, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Farmington
at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Stevenson vs. W.L. Western
at Lakeland Ice Arena, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22
Crestwood vs. Redford Unified
at Redford Ice Arena, 1 p.m.
Farmington vs. Canton
at Ply. Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. North
at Fraser Arena, 8:20 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Jan. 17
Flint Mott at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 19
Madonna at Siena Hts., 7:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22
Aquinas at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Delta College at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Jan. 17
Flint Mott at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 19
Siena Hts. at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Oakland CC, 5:30 p.m.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGNUP

South Farmington Baseball will be registering players for the 2000 season at the William Costick Center on 11 Mile Road 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22. Players should bring a birth certificate and health insurance information. The costs are $40 for T-ball, $80 for softball, ages 7-18; $80 for baseball, ages 7-16; and $120 for baseball, ages 16-18. Umpires can sign up at registration or call Lori McCarthy at (248) 476-7243. Call the SFBI hotline (474-3925) or visit the website at www.sfbi.org for additional information.

Raiders *from page B1*

into this game based on how his team performed in practice last week. The Chiefs had been idle since their emotional two-point win against cross-campus rival Plymouth Salem Jan. 7.

"We played like we practiced all week — very inconsistently," Young said. "We had four days to prepare for North Farmington. They were just a better team than we were in all phases of the game — offense, defense, toughness and rebounding. We're just going to have to learn from our mistakes and try to build from here."

Young said his team's lone bright spot was its gutsy comeback to start the third quarter.

"I give the kids a lot of credit for that stretch to start the second half," Young said. "I was proud of the way they got us back into the game. However, if we're going to win, we have to play more consistently for the entire game."

After knocking in a short jumper with one second left in the first quarter, Watha came out smoking in the second quarter, scoring the Raiders' first six points. After failing to get a shot off in the first quarter, Waidmann scored all seven of the Chiefs' second-quarter points.

North went into the intermission with a commanding 35-14 lead.

Like the team of jump-ropers from Gallimore Elementary School who performed at halftime, the Chiefs came out of the second-half gate energized. Sparked by a conventional three-point play from Waidmann, a basket off an offensive rebound by forward Kenny Nether and a three-pointer from Cabauatan, Canton went on an 11-0 run to start the third quarter, cutting its deficit to 35-25.

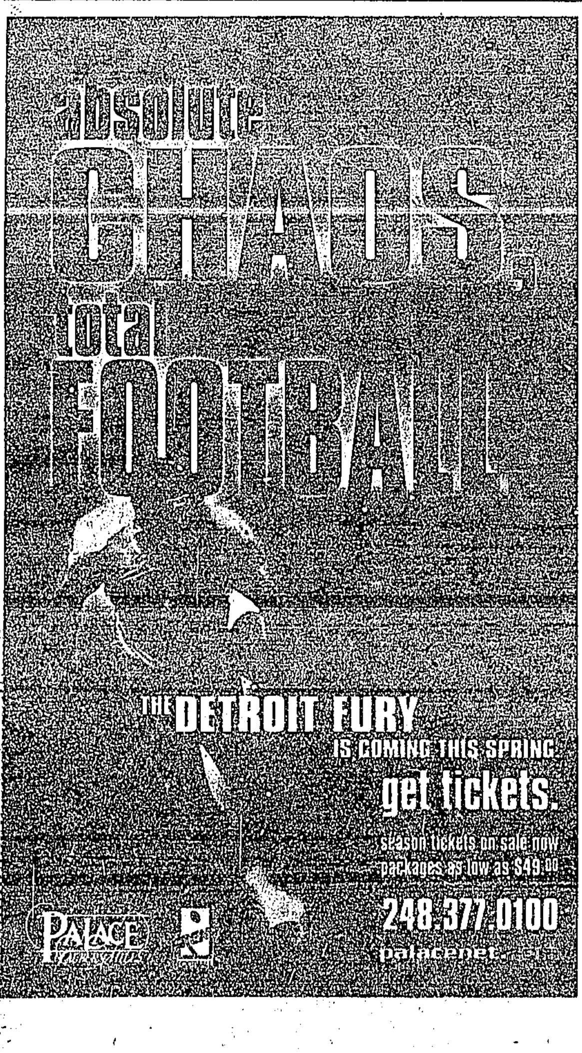
The two teams traded baskets before North finished the stanza with a 6-0 run to take a 46-30 lead into the final eight minutes.

Amazingly, the Raiders failed to make a single field goal in the fourth quarter. They did, however, sink 11 of 16 free throws to ice the win. Mike Primeau was perfect from the line late in the game, calmly drilling all six of his shots.

Excluding their impressive run to start the third quarter, the Chiefs never strung together two consecutive baskets against the Raiders' pesky zone defense. Canton actually shot better from the field (40 percent) than it did from the free throw line (37 percent).

Led by Bridges and senior Emir Medunjanin, North outrebounded Canton, 27-22.

Canton travels to Northville Friday. North visits Livonia Stevenson on Friday.



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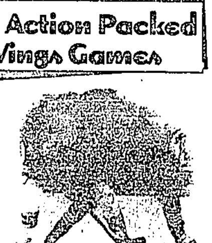
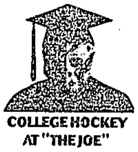


PACKAGE J
FRI. FEBRUARY 25 vs. NY ISLANDERS • 7:30
THUR. MARCH 16 vs. TORONTO • 7:30
WED. MARCH 22 vs. CALGARY • 7:30



PACKAGE K
SUN. FEBRUARY 27 vs. TAMPA BAY • 7:00
SUN. MARCH 26 vs. NY RANGERS • 1:00
FRI. APRIL 7 vs. WASHINGTON • 7:30

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