

Chiefs find Raiders are for real

■ North Farmington upped its basketball record to 2-0 in Western Lakes Activities Association games Friday by defeating host Plymouth Canton, 57-42.

By ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington entered Friday night's Western Lakes Activities Association game at Plymouth Canton like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The defending WLAA co-champion's record (3-4) was soft and unimpressive, but its game had plenty of bite.

North stymied Canton's offensive effort with a quick, swarming zone defense and shot 71 percent from the floor in the first half before cruising to a 67-42 victory.

The Raiders improved to 2-0 in the WLAA. The Chiefs dropped to 2-6 overall and 1-1 in the league.

North was led in scoring by senior guard Phil Watha, who poured in 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting from the floor. Senior forward Adrian Bridges chipped in 13 points and nine rebounds for the Raiders.

Senior Jason Waidmann paced Canton with 16 points and five rebounds, despite getting tripped-trained whenever he touched the ball. Junior guard Nick Cabanatan also had a solid game, netting 12 points, nine of which resulted from a trio of three-point bombs.

The Raiders mediocre record has more to do with their brutally-tough pre-conference schedule (three of their losses were by highly-respected Belleville, Detroit, DePue and Detroit Renaissance) than their level of play.

They're experienced (eight seniors), tall (five of their top six players range in height from 6-1 to 6-6) and they can shoot (63 percent from the floor and 72 percent on the line Friday night).

North jumped to a 17-7 lead after one quarter and led 35-14 at the half. The Chiefs scored the first 11 points of the third quarter but couldn't get any closer than 10 the rest of the game.

"I thought we played very well in the first half," said North coach Tom Negosian, assessing his team's performance. "But I told our kids at halftime that no Canton team coached by Dan Young is going to quit — and they didn't. I have to give Canton a lot of credit. They came out in the second half and put a nice run together.

"I like the way our kids off the bench played tonight. Overall, we're getting better each game."

Young said he had bad vibes going in. Please see RAIDERS, B4



Major contributor: Senior Adrian Bridges played a key role in North Farmington's 57-42 win Friday with 13 points and nine rebounds, helping the Raiders stay unbeaten in the Western Lakes.

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Flyers defeat Rocks

Farmington got a pair of third-period goals Friday night to defeat Plymouth Salem, 4-2, in a hockey game played at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Ross Patterson had two goals and an assist for the Flyers (6-4). Scott Salomonson had a goal plus two assists, and Mike Frayne collected the last goal as Farmington improved to 5-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Steve Nagel and David Bida scored Salem's two goals, both of which came in the second period to forge a 2-2 tie. Farmington scored once in each of the first two periods.

The Rocks dropped to 1-12 overall and 1-7 in the WLAA.

Goalie Logan McLean faced 23 shots for Farmington; Scott Stukel faced 47 in the Salem net.

The Flyers lost a non-league game Wednesday to Troy, 6-3.

Top Prospects Game

There are 40 players in the Canadian Hockey League who will take part in the Fifth Annual 2008 Home Hardware Canadian Hockey League Top Prospects Game Feb. 2 in Toronto — and five of them will be Plymouth Whalers.

No other team will be as well represented.

Three Whalers' forwards and two defensemen will take part in the game. The forwards are Justin Williams, who was tied for the team lead in scoring (through Jan. 10) with 37 points, on 18 goals and 19 assists; Tomas Kurka, who led the Whalers with 20 goals, including five game-winners and six on the power play; and had 33 points; and Kris Vernarsky, who had eight goals, 13 assists and 21 points.

The two defensemen selected are Jared Newman (one goal, seven assists, 75 penalty minutes) and Labor Ustrul (five assists, 99 penalty minutes).

The Top Prospects game will be played 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, at Toronto's Air Canada Centre.

Mott tops OCC cagers

Mott Community College defeated host Oakland CC in men's (95-65) and women's (64-31) basketball Wednesday at the Highland Lakes Campus Gym.

Nate Brown led five Mott players in doubles figures with 25 points in the men's game. Alonzo Evans scored 18, and three others had 11.

Edward Wallace, Tim Swafford and Jeff Townsend scored 14 points apiece to lead OCC. Eric Smith added nine and Walter Malone eight.

The Raiders are 1-3 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and 6-9 overall; the Bears are 1-3 and 12-4.

Tyrn Gay had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the unbeaten Mott women's team (4-0, 11-0).

Mahogany Fletcher of Farmington Hills was the only OCC player in doubles figures with 16 points. Sara Weston added nine.

The Lady Raiders are 2-2 and 4-10.

Soccer club sign up

Spring registration is under way in the Farmington Soccer Club. Registration forms are available at Farmington public libraries, the Farmington YMCA and Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office.

The fee is \$45 for returning players and \$65 for new players. An additional \$25 late charge will be assessed after Feb. 18.

Please call the FSC registrar at (248) 426-7146 or visit the website at www.leaguesonline.com/fsc/

Mercy needs coaches

Farmington Hills Mercy is searching for coaches to fill the following positions: varsity girls soccer, JV girls soccer and softball. Call the Mercy athletic office at (248) 476-2836.

Marlins spike Ventures

Farmington Hills Mercy defeated host Madison Heights Bishop Foley in a Catholic League crossover volleyball match Thursday, 15-7, 15-10.

Carris Brankiewicz had 12 kills and Liz Cash seven kills to lead the Marlins. Amy Miller had 28 kill sets.

Mercy plays at Birmingham Marian in a Central Division match Tuesday.

Farmington coasts to win at N'ville

By DAN O'MEARA
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Being down early in a game was nothing new for the Northville basketball team, but there was no come-from-behind win for the Mustangs this time. Farmington made sure of that.

The undefeated Falcons jumped on the host Mustangs at the start and never let up en route to a 66-30 victory Friday night.

Farmington is 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 7-0 overall. Northville falls to 1-1 and 4-3.

"We have a nice little win streak, and the kids are pushing each other to keep it going," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "But every game is a new one. You can't rely on what you did in the last one."

In earlier games, Northville spotted

BASKETBALL

Brighton a 13-1 lead and was down 10 points to Westland John Glenn.

The Mustangs went on a 39-4 run against the Bulldogs and outscored the Rockets by 25 in the second half as they rallied to win both games.

"They're the strongest team we've faced," Northville coach Scott Baldwin said of the Falcons. "I didn't realize it was happening, but we came in overconfident and didn't get started."

"We just could not turn it on tonight when we got down, and they kept pulling away."

Farmington had an 11-0 run in the first quarter for a 15-2 lead, and they were ahead 18-4 at the end of the period.

Senior Chad Seaborn scored eight of

his game-high 14 points in the first quarter to spark the Falcons, who made a 14-0 run in the second period and all but won the game by halftime, holding a 32-9 lead.

"The kids really played well tonight," Mikel said, understating his team's first-half dominance. He added the Mustangs had been playing well, too. "I was concerned about their size; they go 6-11 and 6-6."

Farmington negated Northville's size advantage with its quickness on defense, disrupting Northville's offense and causing it to appear out of sync.

"That's one of the points we stressed," Mikel said. "They are big, but we're quicker than them. We were going to try to take their size away with our quickness, and it looks like it worked."

Seaborn was the only player in double figures, but 11 scored for the Fal-

cons as Mikel emptied his bench and rotated units of five.

Farmington's Justin Milus and Jeremy Mates scored nine points apiece, Matt Mikel (who had back-to-back threes in the second quarter) eight, Garlin Gilchrist and Mike Griffee six each. C.J. Whitefield and Layne Bodily added four apiece.

"The nice thing is everyone played; everyone contributed," Mikel said. "I really believe one of our strengths is our numbers."

"We can play so many kids. When we substitute, we don't lose much. The kids want their minutes. When they're in there, they know they have to play hard."

Brian Davies, who led the Falcons with 18 points in their last game, had a team-high eight rebounds. Seaborn and

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Spartans dominate dual with Falcons

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A much closer wrestling match was expected, but it soon became apparent Livonia Stevenson wasn't going to let that happen.

The Spartans gradually built a commanding lead and dispelled that notion in the process of dominating the scoreboard if not host Farmington, 45-21.

All week we were telling the kids it was going to be a tight match, and all the kids came out with a lot of fire," Stevenson coach Joel Smith said. "We knew our kids were capable of this, and this is what we've been expecting. We just haven't seen it."

"Our kids are well conditioned and tonight was a good test of that. Our conditioning won about three pivotal matches."

The Spartans are 8-3-2 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. The Falcons are 9-2 and 1-1.

WRESTLING

Stevenson won four of the first six bouts to take a 23-9 lead, but Farmington kept the score relatively close, which it had to do until the strength of its lineup came into play.

But the Spartans made that a moot point by winning the next five bouts and clinching the victory while holding a 39-9 lead.

One of the pivotal matches occurred at 140 in which Stevenson's Matt Radley edged Tom Mahon in overtime, 6-4.

Late in the third period, Mahon found an escape and scored a three-point nearfall as time was about to expire, knotting the score at 4-4. Radley achieved the winning takedown 1:29 into overtime.

Stevenson's 145-pound Chris Cooperider prevailed in a 5-0 decision, and Imad Kharbush clinched the team victory with a major decision at 152.

That gave the Spartans a 33-9 lead and, with the Falcons being void at 189, was enough to put them over the top.

"We knew, if we didn't win (at 140), it would be real tough after that," Farmington coach Al Beyar said.

From 152 pounds on, the Falcons needed four pins and a decision in the remaining five bouts to win the match.

"That wasn't going to happen," Beyar said, regarding the four pins, "because (the Spartans are) strong up there like we are."

"Their conditioning is excellent. You have to give them a lot of credit. They were just better prepared than we were."

Some of the best wrestlers on each team faced each other from 152 to 171, and the Spartans won all three bouts.

In addition to Kharbush's 13-0 win, Mike Falton and John MacFarland earned minor decisions, but

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