

Raiders from page B1

Lakes Activities Association standings with an 8-1 league mark. North is 10-6 overall. Salem dropped to 8-7 and 4-5.

"When you play a good team like North Farmington, every possession is critical, so you have to take care of the ball," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Towards the end, they seemed to get every loose ball and every rebound. I give them a lot of credit. They played hard."

"I was proud of my team, too. I thought we played extremely hard. We just gave them too many opportunities."

After McCaffrey rebounded a missed North free throw with 24 seconds left and Salem trailing by two, Brodie emphatically tried to call a timeout, so he could diagram a play for his team. However, his efforts went unnoticed by the three officials.

"I don't know if it was because it was so loud in the gym or what, but the ref couldn't hear me (calling for the timeout)," Brodie said. "We wanted to set up a play that would have had us take the ball hard to the rim, so we could get an opportunity to either tie the game or win it. But

I couldn't get the ref's attention." Minus the timeout, the Rocks couldn't penetrate the Raiders' sagging zone defense and were forced to pass the ball around the perimeter before settling for Kocloski's 23-footer.

"I was very worried at the end when they had the ball, because the way the game was going, it just seemed like the team that took the last shot was going to win," Negoshian said. "Throughout the entire game, every time we would get a little lead, it seemed like they would come right back down and hit a three and get back into it."

"I'm sure it was a fun game to watch, but coaching was hard work tonight," he said, smiling.

The effort of North senior Emir Medunjanin also brought a smile to Negoshian's face. The 6-foot-6 center punished Salem with his work around the glass, scoring 23 points and hauling down a game-high 11 rebounds.

Medunjanin was especially tough down the stretch as he scored eight of the Raiders' 14 fourth-quarter points.

Senior Phil Watson shined from the perimeter for North, scoring

10 points, including two momentum-swinging three-pointers in the latter stages of the third quarter. Bridges scored just three points, but his defensive presence was instrumental in shutting down Salem's inside game.

Offensively, the Rocks were paced by McCaffrey (13 points), guard Ryan Cook (13) and Kocloski (12).

McCaffrey excelled, blocking four Raider shots. He also had three steals.

The Raiders threatened to blow the game wide open early when a long three-pointer by junior Mike Patterson gave them an 18-10 lead 2 1/2 minutes into the second quarter.

However, Salem countered with a 10-0 run over the next three minutes to take a 20-18 lead. North closed out the first half with two Wathn free throws and an offensive tip-in from Medunjanin with one second left, and led 22-20 at intermission.

The most scintillating play came early in the second half when, on a fast break, Cook dished off a perfect behind-the-back pass to a streaking Ryan Haydon, who laid the ball in to

put the Rocks up, 25-24.

Salem's last lead of the game came at the 3:10 mark of the third quarter on a steal and layup from Kocloski.

Wathn made a crucial play with 1:30 to go when he grabbed a missed Bridges' free throw and converted the basket to put the Raiders ahead, 44-41.

Thirty seconds later, Medunjanin hit a short jumper to extend the lead to 46-41. However, Cook countered at the other end with a long-range three-pointer with 38 seconds left.

The Rocks intentionally fouled North guard Brian Shulman with 24.7 seconds left. Shulman missed the free throw, setting the stage for the final, dramatic seconds.

Both teams shot well from the field. The Raiders hit 17 of 40 shots (42 percent) while the Rocks connected on 16 of 39 (41 percent).

North was 9-of-15 from the free-throw line (60 percent). McCaffrey took all seven Salem free throws, and he hit nothing but set on all seven.

North committed 15 turnovers compared to Salem's 14 miscues.



Hoop action: North's Emir Medunjanin double pumps in an effort to fool Matt McCaffrey and attempt a shot.

Falcons from page B1

Franks (nine points) as the two combined for five 3-pointers.

The Falcons, however, drew a little closer after three quarters, 42-39, despite Moton's inside basket with nine seconds to go.

Farmington finally pulled even, 44-41, on Mike's three-pointer with 6:32 remaining in the game. The Falcons then took the lead for keeps on Tillman's hoop with 4:21 to go.

Glenn pulled within one on two separate occasions during the final minute on a three-pointer by Franks and two free throws by Darnell Dorris.

But each time Glenn inched closer, the Rockets found themselves playing catch-up by trying to pick up quick fouls.

"With about 2:08 left I kind of panicked because we had six fouls to give," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said.

Moton, the only Glenn senior in the lineup, finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

"Yaku wasn't with us last year and Michael Gore (a junior) is really the only player with varsity experience," Schuette said. "The kids have been playing so much better the past two games.

It's like night and day.

"The kids had nothing to salvage (as far as the season) because they've been playing hard all year. Our goal the rest of the year is to get better."

Farmington was 20 of 54 (37 percent) from the floor, while Glenn was 20 of 48 (41 percent). Glenn turned the ball over 15 times, while Farmington made just six turnovers.

"The second quarter they (Farmington) came with a full-court pressure and our inexperience got the best of us," Schuette said. "But we came back pretty

well."

The difference may have come at the free throw line. Glenn was just five of nine, while Farmington was 13 of 20, including six for six by Mikel.

"I just figured it out just the other day that Matt in shooting 60.2 percent from the line," Denny Mikel said. "It's automatic. When a team has to foul us, Justin (Mills) knows he has to get the ball to him (Matt). And that's probably the only perk for being the coach's son."

But on this night, it proved to be a pretty good perk.

NORTHVILLE 63, HARRISON 56: Northville gained the advantage over host Farmington Harrison in the battle for a Western Lakes Activities Association playoff berth Friday.

Northville and Watkin Lake Central are tied for seventh place and the last two playoff spots with 4-5 records. The top eight teams qualify. Harrison is presently in ninth place at 3-6.

"If we win our last two, we're still right there," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said. The Hawks, who are 8-7 overall, play 11th-place Westland John Glenn and 10th-place Livonia Franklin in their last two round robin games.

Harrison was down 34 points to start the fourth quarter, 53-17, but battled back to within three, 53-50, with over four minutes left thanks to the effort of a reserve unit consisting of Terrell Mabrey, Matt Knox, Chris Robertson, Dave Condon and Winston Coffee. "I can't ask the comeback group to do any

more than they did," Turnquist said. "They played their hearts out and left it all on the court."

"They got us in position to win it, and we didn't get it done."

Coffee, a junior guard, scored a varsity career-high of 14 points, which included three three-point baskets.

Senior Joe Hundley had 12 points and nine rebounds, and senior Brian Nelson added seven points. Juniors Aaron Hudson and Dave Gregor paced the Mustangs (7-7) with 24 and 17 points, respectively. Hudson also made three triples. Harrison had the lead early in the game, but Northville went on an 18-3 run and led 31-21 at halftime. The Mustangs extended their lead by four points through three periods. The second and third quarters were ugly. Turnquist said "it wasn't one of our better efforts."



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