# Raiders *from page C1*

by Watha) to take a 27-21 as the Rocks went 1-of-8 from the floor in the second quarter.

"We were in control early and then we started shooting real quick for some reason," Brodie said. "It was like we wanted to go for the jugular and we couldn't knock them down.

"Then they were coming down and scoring. It's a long night if you're not making (North) play some defense at the other end."

Shulman had 11 points on three triples and two free throws in the third quarter. Mike Patterson had the second of his two threes and Watha sank his third as North outscored Salem 23-16 and took charge of the game, leading 50-37 at the end.

"I think we swung the ball a little better in the second half, and we didn't rush our shots as much," Watha said. "We try to get the ball in the post to Emir, but when they collapse on him that gives us open shots."

Medunjanin worked his way open to score nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, boosting the North lead to 57-40 in the first half of the period.

But just when the Raiders appeared on the verge of a blowout win, the Rocks (11-9) came charging back.

Salem's Ryan Cook, who made four threes, scored all 14 of his points in the second half, and McCaffrey had 11 in the fourth quarter.

The Rocks, who outscored the Raiders 21-10 over the final half of the fourth quarter, closed to 61-56 with under a minute remaining.

Salem was within four, 65-61, after a Ryan Nimmerguth three with four seconds left. Watha added two free throws to finish the scoring.

Brodie said he told his players 'We've been here before; let's see if we can't suck it up and get back in this game.' (The Raiders) were playing not to lose, and we were playing with nothing to lose.

"We played that way all season, with a lot of heart and emotion, even before Mark (Bolger) passed away. We've never played to win or lose, just to put forth the best effort we can."

"They're a good team," said Negoshian of the Rocks. "They have big kids and good guards. We happen to hit a few threes and then here they come."

Nimmerguth tossed in seven points. Patterson and Salem's Andy Kocoloski, who had two threes, added six points each.

North shot 39 percent (24-of-61) from the floor and Salem 34 percent (19-of-56). The Raiders attempted 23 threes; the Rocks made seven of 31. North was 9-of-14 at the line and Salem 16-of-19.

Patterson and Blair Weiss, who played well off the bench for the Raiders, filled crucial support roles, according to Negoshian.

"(Weiss) gave us a lot of energy," he said. "(Weiss) hung in there (during the season); he didn't have a lot of minutes, but when push came to shove he stepped up. He touched the ball a lot, kept some rebounds alive and was a real key. (Patterson) playing the minutes he did with Adrian out was another key."

The tournament championship is North's second and first since 1986. The Raiders are the first school in Farmington to win back-to-back WLAA regular season championships.

**FARMINGTON 69, HARRISON 65:** Farmington fought off a comeback attempt by Farmington Harrison to win the regular-season finale in boys basketball Tuesday.

The host Falcons put a halt to a two-game skid heading into the district tournament next week while extending Harrison's losing streak to three.

Farmington (15-5) led by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter and survived the Harrison (9-11) rally by making free throws down the stretch.

Junior Matt Mikel, who made four of four free throws late in the game, led the Falcons with 16 points. Seniors Chad Seaborn and Brian Davies finished with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

Senior Brian Nelson scored 20 points and senior Nick Hall 15 for the Hawks, who trailed at the end of each quarter — 18-14, 42-39 and 53-48.

The Falcons sank 25 of 34 free throws overall; the Hawks made 12 of 26.

**HAMTRAMCK 55, CLARENCEV. 35:** Eli Warren couldn't be stopped Tuesday in the Metro Conference boys basketball championship game.

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound senior swingman hit 13 of 15 shots en route to a game-high 30 points as the host Cosmos captured the title with a 55-35 victory over Livonia Clarenceville.

Clarenceville (13-7), which tried to spread the floor and use time on the clock, trailed 24-10 at the intermission.

Hamtramck then created some breathing room with a 23-11, third-quarter run as Warren scored 13, including a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"He's just way too good," said Clarenceville coach Bill Dyer of Warren. "He's unflappable, never gets rattled."

Irman Islamovic added 11 points for the Cosmos (14-3).

Joe Keough and Scott Carr scored nine and eight, respectively, for Clarenceville.

**DISTRICT PAIRINGS:** In the Class A tournament at West Bloomfield, the host Lakers will play Farmington at 7 p.m. Monday. In a Wednesday doubleheader, Farmington Harrison meets Bloomfield Hills Lahser at 6; North Farmington faces the Monday winner at 8. The final game is 7 p.m. Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

**Triple threat:** *Brian Shulman made five 3-pointers.*

# St. Mary's faces PSL champ

BY CHRIS MAYER
STAFF WRITER
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**BASKETBALL**

With a second straight Catholic League Central/AA boys basketball championship secure, Orchard Lake St. Mary's can now focus on yet another high-profile opponent.

The Eaglets travel to Calihan Hall on Saturday – the same arena they posted a 79-56 win over Redford Catholic Central in Sunday's league final – for a matchup with Detroit Public School League champion Detroit Renaissance in the Operation Friendship championship game. Tipoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

Top-ranked St. Mary's (19-0) and No. 4 Renaissance (18-1) are arguably the state's top two teams in Class B. OLSM's 19-game winning streak includes victories over Class A powerhouses Lansing Waverly and Flint Northwestern. The Phoenix, meanwhile, captured the school's first PSL championship with a 41-37 triumph over Detroit Redford on Feb. 18.

Renaissance boasts Missouri-bound senior Rickey Paulding, a 6-foot-6 guard who scored 20 first-half points in the win over Redford.

St. Mary's head coach George Porritt said it will be a tough game for his team, particularly since the Class B state tournament starts two days later. The Eaglets and Phoenix could meet again in a Class B regional.

"It's a hard game to play, because the state tournament means a lot," Porritt said. "The city championship is a big game for us, so we have to prepare for them and, hopefully, we can play a good game."

The Eaglets were ready to defend their Central/AA title. Jermaine Gonzales poured in a game-high 23 points and junior center Charles Davis had a double-double with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

The Eaglets scored the first eight points and the Shamrocks trailed 38-22 at halftime.

"We wanted to hit some early threes and get some momentum and maybe get a lead," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "But it didn't work out for us today. St. Mary's has so many weapons, but Davis really hurt us today."

OLSM, which had a 39-21 rebounding edge, led by as many as 33 points (76-43) in the second half.

Senior guard Maurice Searight chipped in 17 points, 11 in the first half, for the Eaglets.

The Shamrocks had 10 points apiece from senior Matt Loridas, junior Ryan Celeskey and sophomore Tom Jakacki. CC (9-10) sank eight three-pointers, two each by Celeskey and Jakacki.


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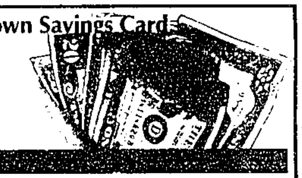

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