

Basketball from page B1

passing the ball and getting high-percentage shots.

"I know (the Hawks) up-tempo and I was concerned we were going to try to match them with our up-tempo, but I thought our kids played very smart."

"Defensively, our box press bothered them, and we turned it into some easy baskets for us. I thought our kids played the game plan out very well."

Harrison shot a respectable 40 percent (6-of-15) from the floor in the first quarter; however, Farmington's shooting percentage was a sizzling 75 (9-of-12).

Bodily had seven points and Tillman six in the opening period, and the Falcons had a 22-13 lead at the end.

Turnquist said shell-shocked was a good term to describe the state of his team after the first quarter.

"We might have been shell-shocked before the opening tip, and we were definitely shell-shocked after the first three minutes," he said.

"It was a big game, a city rivalry; we had a tough loss Tuesday and were looking forward to bouncing back against a very good team. I thought we could compete at this level, and I still think we can."

Consecutive baskets by Elsey midway in the second period kept the Hawks within eight, 27-19, but the Falcons scored the next seven points and were up at halftime, 54-23.

Mazes had a pair of dunks among his six third-quarter points, and Harrison struggled to stay within 10 before Farmington finally broke the game open.

The Hawks had six straight points (four by Condeni) to get it back to 46-35, but the Falcons pulled away after that, leading 49-35 through three periods and 57-40 in the fourth.

"We had three chances to cut it to eight, and I don't think we got a shot off on any of those possessions," Turnquist said.

"I'm not sure how many turnovers their press caused, but it took us out of a rhythm."

We had no chance to execute. It seemed we were always scrambling. They controlled the tempo."

"They changed defenses and went more man on us," Mikol said. "We spread it out (later in the game) and ran our four-to-score offense, trying to take some time off the clock. If we didn't get easy baskets, we were at the foul line."

Farmington shot 52 percent (23-of-44) from the floor overall, which included 8-of-9 shooting from three-point distance. The Falcons made 16 of 30 free throws.

"We tried to control the tempo and, defensively, try to make them take perimeter shots, because we really tried to pack the zone in," Mikol said. "When they weren't hitting, it was to our advantage."

"This is a senior team, so we expect the kids to play with composure. We have the seniors. We hope the experience we have, not only in our starters but our bench players, is paying off."

Turnquist had special praise for Matt Mikol, the senior point guard and four-year starter for the Falcons.

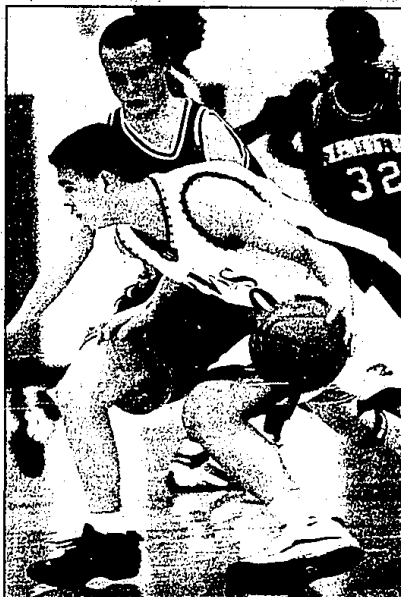
"Matt Mikol has more experience than my varsity team," he said. "I don't say that as an excuse but as a compliment. He still makes that team go. He can make any team in the county go."

Harrison was 20-of-50 from the field for 40 percent. The Hawks made four of 17 three-point tries and seven of 11 free throws.

"I will humbly admit (Farmington) surprised me, because I should know better," Turnquist said. "Denny, in his heart, is a zone coach, and he baited me last Friday by playing Franklin man-to-man for 32 minutes."

"The bottom line is he had a game plan to win the game, and his was a whole lot better than mine."

W.L. WESTERN 68, N. FARMINGTON 55: Friday's North Farmington-Walled Lake Western boys basketball game took awhile to play, but the



Hoop action: Harrison's Matt Elsey tries to dribble past Layne Boddy, who gives ground grudgingly.

host Warriors didn't mind the wait. Western opened its Western Lakes Activities Association season with a 66-58 victory as junior forward Bryan Verdun led three players in double figures scoring with a game-high 19 points.

The Warriors (4-3, 1-0) led by as many 17 points in the second half and held on down the stretch thanks to excellent free throw shooting. David Zettin sank 10 of 12 foul shots in the fourth quarter - the aforementioned junior guard hit 12 of 14 in the contest as Western outscored the Raiders 29-27. The Warriors finished 24-of-33 at the free throw line compared with 20-of-33 for North Farmington (3-4, 1-1).

"This was an important game for us considering we play our next three on the road (Plymouth, Salem, Plymouth Canton and John Glenn)," Western head coach Rex Glensiek said. "We wanted to get this win and get on a roll because you know how it is with a young team. The more you do early, the more confidence you build."

Zettin scored 16 points and Tim King chipped in 12 points. Stanczak also praised the play of Mike Pisha, who scored two points and was a standout defender in his first game of the season.

Kenny Kaszouhanan topped North with 17 points. Mike Patterson added 10 and Marcus McComb nine. Western went off at halftime ahead 25-14 following Pisha's tip at the second-quarter buzzer. The Raiders closed within 39-29 after three quarters, setting the stage for a wild final eight minutes.

Shamrocks go to OT for win over Borgess

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

There are times when the cost of victory can be measured.

Redford Catholic Central won a game Friday night, defeating Redford Bishop Borgess in overtime, 79-74, but lost two players in the process.

One, center Steve Larkin, suffered a serious right ankle injury. Just how serious was not known after game time but the ankle was immobilized and he had to be put in a chair to be taken off the court.

The other, a left ankle sprain suffered by leading scorer Ryan Celeskey, wasn't as severe but he left the game after the first period and did not return.

Celeskey sat in a chair for the remainder of the game but hobbled away from the Bishop Borgess gym unaided. "I'll play next Friday," he vowed.

CC withstood the twin second quarter blows and fought through a valiant comeback by a Borgess team it had hammered by 40 points on Dec. 30 in their first meeting.

"We came up short down the stretch," Spartans coach Chuck Albright said. "But the boys played hard. I'm pleased, but I'm getting tired of saying the same thing."

"It was a lot of patchwork," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "We had a lot of kids fill in. Losing Celeskey put a 25-point hole in our lineup."

Mark Willoughby came up big in the overtime for CC, scoring nine of his 25 points.

Willoughby snapped a 72-72 tie with a three from with 1:32 to play, then added four free throws in the final 15 seconds after Borgess had pulled within one on a baseline drive by Harvey Johnson with 1:23 to play.

Tom Jakacki drove the lane for a layup to break the 68-68 tie that overtime began with. George Toles sank two free throws to re-tie the score and the Spartans fugged a brief 72-70 lead with solitary free throws by Mario Peoples and Brandon Jennings.

Johnson's baseline shot with 27 seconds to play created the 68-68 tie that sent the game into overtime.

Isaac Knight led Borgess (2-5, 1-2) with 16 points while Toles had 13 and both Darien Bynum and Jose Kincannon scored 10 apiece.

Ryan Clark backed Willoughby with 14 points. Jakacki scored 11 and Larkin 10 for Catholic Central (7-2, 3-0).

"The guy who did a real great job was Ryan Murphy," Coratti said. "He usually plays about eight minutes a game."

CC normally lives and dies with the three-point shot but this time it lived without it. The Shamrocks made just four in the game out of 19 attempts.

"We usually make about nine threes a game," Coratti said. "That hurt us. We can shoot the ball."

Catholic Central started out with Larkin and Celeskey doing all the scoring in the first period, which ended with Borgess holding a 19-17 lead.

The Shamrocks took a 27-23 lead on the play where Larkin got injured. He made a nifty reverse layup on a baseline drive but came down on someone's foot and rolled his ankle severely with 4:49 to play.

CC held a 36-31 lead at the half but Borgess chipped away until tying the score at 45 with 51 seconds left in the third period. CC got a free throw by Jakacki and a rebound basket by Clark to take a 48-45 lead into the fourth quarter.

The final period was tight until CC took a 65-59 lead with 4:20 to play. Borgess got back into it with a 7-2 run.

"We're improving," Albright said. "That's a Class A team and we're just a little Class D school."

"A lot of the people we've lost to are ranked. But they all knew; they were in a game. Everybody who plays us knows they were in a fight."

BASKETBALL

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