

Chiefs win defensive battle with Hawks

By ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

Some high school basketball games have the lightning-quick tempo of a NASCAR race. Others have the pace of a tractor pull. Friday's Farmington Harrison-Plymouth Canton game had John Deere written all over it.

Canton's 46-34 victory may not have included a lot of high-octane, fast-breaking, rim-slaking offense, but it did offer 32 minutes of baseline-to-baseline, in-your-face, don't-give-an-inch defensive pressure that would have made the Baltimore Ravens proud.

How intense was the defense? There were no turnovers recorded than successful three-point shots.

The victory improved Canton's to 6-7 overall and 5-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Harrison dropped to 2-11 and 0-7.

"It was a big win for us because we're heading into the part of our schedule where we start playing teams that are ahead of us in the league," said Canton coach Jeremy Rheault. "We came out tonight a little

shaky, but I thought we were much more focused and sharp in the second half.

"Defensively, I thought we played well throughout. They tried to work it into the low post against us, and I think we handled it well."

The scoreboard didn't tell the whole story about his team played, Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said.

"I know 34 points aren't going to win a lot of basketball games, but I was actually proud of the way we executed an offense tonight," he said. "We have a young team that is improving with each game."

"I was pleased with the way we played defensively. Canton is a very patient offensive team. They try to wear you down, then break you down. We kept coming at them."

With both teams employing full-court, trapping defenses, turnovers were abundant. Harrison lost the ball 19 times without taking a shot, while the Chiefs threw the ball away 18 times.

Canton senior guard Oliver Wolcott had the game's most telling stat line: two points, four rebounds, four steals and at least three floor burns from diving across gym surface.

Senior forward Jerry Gaines led the winners in scoring (11 points) and rebounding (seven). Andrew Holmes added 10 points and Jay Sofka eight.

Canton played without the services of senior guard Nick Cabauatan, who is one of its top outside shooting threats.

"I was very pleased with Andrew Holmes, Jerry Gaines and Oliver Wolcott tonight," Rheault said. "They all played real hard at both ends of the court."

Harrison was paced offensively by junior Matt Elsey, who notched nine points and seven rebounds. Junior Dave Couden contributed eight points and junior Jeff Ross tossed in six.

"Matt Elsey was throwing his body all over the court," Turnquist said. "And Marvin Hicks doesn't score a lot for us (three points), but he's a rock on defense. He's the glue that held us together on defense tonight."

Canton enjoyed its best shooting quarter in the opening eight minutes when it connected on half of its 10 shots to take a 13-8 lead. Holmes was the go-to guy early on, netting five first-quarter points.

The Hawks cut their deficit to 16-14 early in the second when Hicks converted a strong drive to the basket with 6:30 left in the half. However, those were the final two points Harrison would score in the quarter, which ended with Canton up, 22-14.

Harrison, which never led, closed the gap to 31-26 on an Elsey baseline jumper with 3:15 left in the third. But the Chiefs countered with an 8-0 run to close the third and open the fourth, and they never looked back.

The Hawks hit just one of 14 shots in the fourth. Canton milked the clock offensively for much of the final period.

Canton connected on 15 of 38 field-goal attempts (39.5 percent) and 15 of 20 free throws (55 percent). Harrison made 12 of 41 shots from the field (29.3 percent) and eight of 13 from the line (61.5 percent).

CC coasts to victory over Ontario squad

Redford Catholic Central scored early and often against Tecumseh (Ontario) St. Anne on Friday night and wound up with an 80-46 boys basketball win over the Saints.

"We got out early in the passing lanes, forced turnovers and got some easy layups," CC assistant coach John Mulroy said. "They worried about layups and that freed up Anthony Coratti and Ryan Celeskey for a couple of 3-pointers each in the first quarter. It was 'katie-bar-the-door' from then on."

Celeskey used five 3s to wind up with 28 points, while Tom Jakacki added 13.

Mark Willoughby chipped in with 12, while Joe Pawlic added nine in the second half for CC, which plays Tuesday at Warren De La Salle.

Willoughby also added 10 assists and Ryan Murphy had 12 rebounds.

Justin Goggins paced the Saints, who wound up with 25 turnovers, with 16 points and Lucas Romeo added 14. Both teams are 11-3 overall.

W.L. WESTERN 66, CHURCHILL 51: Senior guard Chris Eagle poured in 19 points, while teammates Steve Sobleck and Jason Clark added 12 and 11, respectively, powering Walled Lake Western (8-5, 5-2) to a WLAA victory at Livonia Churchill (2-1, 1-6).

Western trailed 14-13 after one quarter, but rallied with a 14-4 second quarter run followed by a 16-10 scoring edge in the third period.

Will Perdergrass and Dan McMahon tallied 11 and 10, respectively, for the Chargers.

Churchill was 11 of 18 from the foul line, while Western was 13 of 23.

W.L. CENTRAL 64, JOHN GLENN 50: Western Lakes leader Walled Lake Central (13-0, 7-0) jumped out to a 21-11 first-quarter lead to earn the victory Friday against visiting Westland John Glenn (3-11, 2-5).

Steve Horn led the unbeaten Vikings with 19 points, while 6-8 center Mark Borz contributed 17.

Twelve of Glenn's 13 players scored led by Jeff Brantley's nine (all on three-pointers). Mike Gore and Michael Franks added eight and seven, respectively.

Central made 15 of 16 free throws, while Glenn was 10 of 16.

LUTH. NORTH 64, CLARENCEVILLE 38: Steve Green, a 6-foot-10 center headed to Western Michigan, scored 15 points and teammate Joe Blanchard contributed 13 as Macomb Lutheran North (7-5, 3-2) pulled away after one quarter for the Metro Conference triumph at Livonia Clarenceville (4-8, 1-5).

Clarenceville was tied 15-all at the end of the first, but North outscored the Trojans 17-8 in the second period and 19-6 in the third quarter to put it away.

Adam Carpenter had 16 of his team-high 17 points in the opening half for Clarenceville. Scott Wise and Tim Shaw added eight and seven, respectively.

"We had a lot of turnovers in the first half, about 30 for the game," Clarenceville coach Kevin Murphy said. "We shot about 30 percent. We just couldn't get into the game. We got out-hustled."

Basketball from page B1

"Scott isn't going to score a lot of points, but he boxes out, plays defense and rebounds," Mikel said. Griffin had eight rebounds and Tillman six.

Farmington also earned the title of city champion while improving to 6-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 10-3 overall.

The second-place Falcons remain one game behind unbeaten Walled Lake Central in the WLA.

Weiss had 15 points and Marcus McComb 12 for the Raiders who are 4-3 in the WLA and 7-6 overall. Mike Patterson and Mike Leach added eight points apiece.

In the third quarter, Farmington made eight of 17 field goals (47 percent) and was 8-of-11 during one stretch. North was just 2-of-16 for a shooting percentage of .125.

"Barenie had an unbelievable run in the third quarter," North assistant coach Pete Mantyla said. "Both teams had similar shots during that stretch. He hit shots and we missed them."

"We had two timeouts during that stretch. We tried to stop the run, and he kept hitting shots. He had a real big moment right there."

The first-half scoring was fairly even — it was 12-12 after one quarter and 26-23 in favor of North at halftime — but the Raiders, who were aggressive on defense and offense, seemed to be playing better overall.

"At halftime I was worried," Mikel said. "I thought North was

playing harder than we were. They had a good game plan going."

"Our guys were not in sync. We were doing too much dribbling and playing one-on-one basketball."

"We got on them and challenged them to play better. We came out in the third quarter, and we didn't know how they were going to respond."

"The Falcons, due largely to Barenie's long-range shooting, answered in the positive."

"We wanted to look for good shots, not force anything and play better defense," Mikel said. "All that came together in the third quarter."

"(Barenie) has never been shy about shooting. He'll shoot it when he's open. I was just glad

they were going in."

The Raiders, who were 17-of-50 from the floor and 12-of-21 at the line, got away from what they were doing in the first half, according to Mantyla.

"When we've played our best we've attacked the basket and didn't settle for perimeter shots," he said. "We became a perimeter team trying to answer the great run (Barenie) had."

"Defensively, I wish we could've recognized and got to him a little quicker. We doubled but didn't rotate quick enough."

The Falcons were 16-of-43 from the floor (42 percent), including 6-of-14 from three-point range, and 20-of-35 shooting free throws. Barenie had five threes.

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