

# Raiders notch WLAA win; Marlins beat Blazers

North Farmington earned its second Western Lakes Activities Association victory in girls basketball Thursday at the expense of host Livonia Stevenson, 37-31.

The Raiders built a 21-10 halftime lead, weathered a Spartan rally in the third quarter that trimmed their lead to five, 29-24, and were one better in the finale, 8-7.

"It was a good game for us," North assistant coach Jeff Simpson said. "The team stepped up and played really well. I think our defensive intensity was definitely the key tonight."

The Raiders had center Meghan Callahan back in the lineup from an injury, and she led all scorers with 13 points.

Jehan Hindo added 10 points, Callahan also had eight rebounds and Lindsay Hartzel six. Hindo made six steals. North was 13-of-27 at the line.

Catherine Koch was high scorer for the Spartans with seven points. Stevenson was 4-of-13 shooting free throws.

The Raiders are 2-6 in the Western

Lakes and 5-8 overall; the Spartans are 0-7 in the WLAA and 3-9 overall.

**MERCY 47, LADYWOOD 42:** Farmington Hills Mercy reached the .500 mark Friday with its second victory of the season over host Livonia Ladywood.

The Marlins are 7-7 overall and 3-5 in the Catholic League Central Division. The Blazers are 8-6 and 4-4.

Mercy entered a one-point, first-quarter deficit by outscoring Ladywood in the second quarter, 14-7, to take a 26-20 halftime lead. The Blazers were one better in the second half, 22-21.

Whitney Johnson was the only member of the Marlins to score in double figures with 12 points, but nine of 12 players contributed to the team total.

Kaitlyn Risk added seven points; Tessa Kuyfendall, Megan Garagiolo and Delirio Jones chipped in four apiece.

Kuykendall also had seven blocks, Garagiolo 10 rebounds, Jones eight rebounds and four assists and Risk seven rebounds.

"We came mentally focused and played a great basketball game," Mercy coach Kristin Wright-Guinn said. "Everybody contributed and it was a total team effort."

Nikki Watts scored 14 points and Ruth

## BASKETBALL

Svenitkae nine for the Blazers, who were 9-12 at the line. The Marlins made 10 of 15 free throws.

Ladywood entered the game minus center Liz Ovrcht (stress fracture) and last point guard Amber Willoughby with a sprained ankle three minutes into the contest.

"Because Mercy is so quick, (Willoughby) definitely would have helped us out in the area of quickness," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "We need to get everyone healthy and we'll be OK."

**W.L. CENTRAL 60, FARMINGTON 47:** Winning and losing aside, Farmington is starting to get the attention and respect of other teams in the WLAA.

Coming within 13 points of host Walled Lake Central, always one of the WLAA's top teams, was much better than the Falcons have done in the past.

"Central is a very good team - a big, tough team," Farmington coach Scott Lowe said. "We're into the meat grinder right now. It doesn't get any easier for us, and I'm hoping the kids will hang in there and keep competing."

The kids are earning respect from coaches in

the league. Coaches come up to me and tell me we're not the typical Farmington team from the past. The program is a lot more tough and competes more than in the past.

"The kids do work their hind ends off. They have to put up with a lot from me, and they have to fight through it. They're earning a lot of respect from people."

"I'm still hoping to pull off another win or two. I feel deep down we can knock somebody off, yet."

The Vikings scored 18 points in each of the first three quarters and held leads of 15-11, 32-27 and 48-38 before outscoring the Falcons by three in the finale, 12-9.

Brittany Corram and Katie Radamecher scored 22 points apiece to lead Central, which is 5-2 in the WLAA and 8-5 overall. Michelle White added 13 points.

Julia Kimmel scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Falcons, 3-4 in the WLAA and 7-5 overall.

Junior guard Melissa Patterson scored 13 points in her first starting assignment. Brittany Coleman added 10 points and Jaria Atkins had 13 rebounds.

Patterson played really well and I'm proud of how she competed tonight," Lowe said. "I've been expecting her to do this. We had to play her and she came through for us."

Central made eight of 15 free throws, Farmington nine of 14.

"I'm not happy to lose the game, but I'm proud of the way the girls competed," Lowe said. "We were within one point of Northville, and tonight we were within six or seven."

The kids hung in there and that's a positive, especially when you're putting kids in there who haven't had a lot of playing time like Patterson.

"I keep verbally riding them all the time. They probably don't know it, but they have a coach who's pretty proud of them."

"If they keep hanging in there and keep their heads up, people will notice them."

**LUTHERAN NORTH 52, CLARENCEVILLE 24:** The Trojans are getting the shots, coach Maurice Brantley says; they just aren't making them.

"We're getting better," Brantley said Thursday. "I can say that. And that's all I can ask for at this point."

Host Clarenceville trailed, 7-4, after one period, but Mooms Lutheran North exploded for a 17-7 second quarter to take command of the Metro Conference game.

Andrea Wichibierd scored 14 points to lead Lutheran North (6-4, 4-0) while Jacqui Booth added 13.

Jessica Leach paced the Trojans (1-11, 0-5) with eight.

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Richmond missed the first six games, all against non-league opponents, with a knee injury, but she returned just in time for Harrison to begin the WLA season.

"She's so calm under pressure," Mantyla said. "We've had teams that went after her hard. She doesn't get rattled, she's unselfish and she's able to make shots when people are making contact with her."

The Hawks, who are 6-7 overall and climbing toward .500, maintained their focus through the dark days of early September.

"When we 0-6, we never worried about winning or losing," Mantyla added. "We believed we were getting better, and that's made all the difference."

"It's easy for a coach to understand playing good teams makes you better. It's a tribute to the kids to believe that. They didn't let their egos get caught up in winning and losing."

Junior Maggie Condenti supported Richmond's effort with 13 points and with her sister, Jessica, controlled the glass. Maggie had 12 rebounds and Jessica, a freshman, 10. Morrill DeRose added eight points.

Senior Dawn Dawood led the visiting Warriors (7-6) with 20 points; junior Kristin Burgess and sophomore Lauren Talbot tossed in nine apiece.

"I thought it was a big thing for us to match their toughness," Mantyla said. "After seeing them play several times, I think they're one of the more athletic teams we've played."

The teams went to overtime tied at 47. Following single free throws by DeRose and Western's Katie Rousseau, Richmond made her third triple of the game to give Harrison a 51-48 lead with 2:05 to play.

"It was a relief, really," Richmond said. "We finally did the play completely and got the screen. I think it gave us a boost a little."

"We just had to be focused and pick up the intensity at the end, especially in overtime when we were all tired."

A short time later Harrison had four shots at the basket on one possession. Maggie Condenti's second attempt and successful putback gave the Hawks a five-point advantage and more momentum. Richmond's free throws with under a minute remaining sealed the deal.

"Those were two big series," Mantyla said, adding he was pleased to see the Hawks "continue to battle like that on the offensive glass. Both Condenti just didn't quit down there."

"I'm happy with our chemistry, our toughness

and our effort. We understand we're not the kind of team that can just show up. If we don't come with great effort, we're very average."

Harrison led 14-12 after one quarter and used a six-point run late in the second to take a 29-22 halftime lead.

The Hawks led by nine, 31-22, early in the third and then it was eight, 33-25, when the Warriors went on a 10-2 run to tie the score.

Western tied it again at 38 with Dawood's three-point play to start the fourth quarter.

The lead changed hands four times before Richmond's free throw with 25 seconds left in regulation knotted the score at 47.

The Warriors had the ball last and used a time-out to set up a play, but Dawood's shot at the buzzer was no good.

Free throws have been a problem area for the Hawks, but they provided the margin of victory Thursday.

Harrison was 19-of-32 at the line, Western 8-of-25. Each team made four three-point baskets. Overall, the Hawks made 16 of 57 field goals (28 percent) and the Warriors 18 of 37 (49 percent).

When the Hawks were without Richmond, they never lost heart despite the poor start and saw it as an opportunity for others to step up.

"When Ayana was out, we knew it would force us to do more than we thought we were capable of doing," Mantyla said.

"We've practiced so many extra days this year. We've held the girls 45 minutes over, because we felt we needed the work. And they haven't blinked; they've showed up and continued to work hard."

"We've had contributions from everybody playing minutes for us. You can't beat good teams without that."

**SALEM 45, JOHN GLENN 21:** The Rocks and Rockets put on a demonstration of stability Thursday night.

"We wanted to make all of our possessions up to a minute long," said Westland John Glenn coach John Albrecht, trying to refocus his team after some roster turmoil.

"We wanted to reduce our turnovers and rebound better. And for the most part, Salem got just one shot. They were very, very good."

"They really did a nice job," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "I know their team is depleted. But their kids played hard and tried to compete."

Many Lou Lebau had 19 points and nine rebounds for undefeated Plymouth Salem (12-0, 7-0) while Kelly Jaskot had eight points plus five assists and Laura Baumgart scored eight points.



**Hoop action:** Farmington Harrison's Maggie Condenti (foreground) and Western's Lauren Talbot got tangled up while diving on the floor in pursuit of a loose ball.

Sophomore Jennifer Thauvette led John Glenn (11-1, 0-7) with seven points, while senior Crystal Davis scored four and "played a very, very good free game," Albrecht said.

Salem jumped out to a 13-4 lead and expanded it to 23-11 by the half.

"They played ball possession and we did too," Albrecht said. "I think we finished the game with 11 turnovers. The real difference was they converted and we didn't."

John Glenn made 8-of-10 shot from the free throw line, while Salem converted 5-of-8.



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