

# Hawks rally to defeat Raiders

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## BASKETBALL

Just because a game starts poorly doesn't mean it has to end that way.

Farmington Harrison proved that Tuesday night when it rallied to defeat host North Farmington in the Western Lakes Activities Association opener for both teams, 48-42.

The Hawks fell behind 10-0 right away and trailed the entire first half, but they turned it around in the second and outscored the Raiders, 24-11.

"That's certainly not the way you want to start a game," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said. "But the history between these two teams shows there's a lot of back and forth and ups and downs."

Mike Leach scored 10 of his game-high 14 points in the first half as North led 17-9 after one quarter and 26-15 in the second before settling for a 31-24 halftime advantage.

"(Jeff Ross) kept us in it in the first half," Turnquist said. "He gave us a great spark after we

spotted them the first 10 points. "Our intensity level was not where it needed to be. That's when Jeff came off the bench; we went full court the rest of the way, and he helped keep the tempo where we needed it to be."

The Hawks (4-1) outscored the Raiders (2-4) in the third quarter, 14-4, to gain the lead, 38-35.

Matt Eley put Harrison on top for the first time, 34-32, with a pair of free throws in the final minute.

But Sean Mackler's free throw and putback gave North the lead for the last time, 35-34. Baskets by Dave Condeni and Terrill Mayberry put Harrison ahead to stay.

"When coming from behind, you have to take care of every possession," Turnquist said. "The first five or six trips in the third quarter we got the ball inside. Fortunately, we got a couple misses and rebounds at the other end, and that got it back to even."

"We felt, if we could continue to not give them open looks and limit them to one shot, that was our only chance of coming back. We did a pretty good job of that in the third quarter."

Harrison's size and strength advantage around the basket became a factor in the second half, forcing North to shoot off-balance shots and even rush some shots.

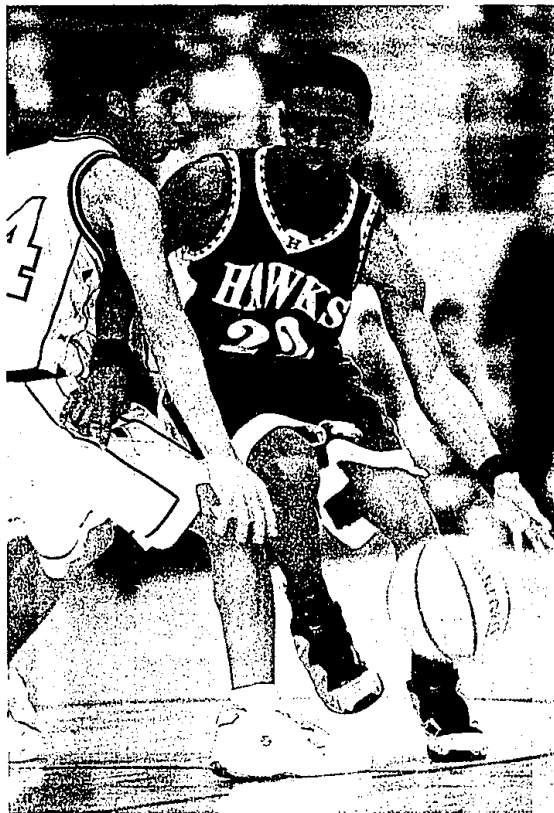
Shooting percentage was a big factor in the outcome. While the Hawks were 18-of-41 from the floor for 44 percent, the Raiders made just 15 of 65 shots for 23 percent.

North's Jason Neal made the only three-point basket of the game. Harrison was 12-of-17 at the line and North 11-of-24.

"Obviously, we didn't shoot the ball well, but you have to give their defense credit, too," North head coach Tom Negoshian said. "We lost to a good and talented team."

"When the lead swung, they were getting second and third shots," North assistant coach Pete Mantyla said. "They got back in it

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Hoop action:** Harrison's Terrill Mayberry dribbles around North's Earle Higgins in the league opener for both teams.

## Wings are district-bound

The third-seeded Farmington Hills Wings advanced to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association's District 4 Pee Wee (ages 11-12) playoffs with a double-overtime, 5-4 shootout victory over the No. 2-seeded Farmington Hills Devils in a game played Friday at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

Brian Welsh scored the game-winning goal in the second shootout after captain Phil Sontag tallied the game-tying goal with three minutes remaining in the final period to make it 4-4. Sontag also scored in the first shootout.

After trailing 1-0, the Wings pulled ahead 3-1 on goals by Nick Dirusso, Kevin Longe and Scott Balais. But the Devils tallied three within a four-minute span of the final period to take a 4-3 edge.

Other members of the Wings include Cote Brown, Adrienne Cercione, Vincent Dirusso, Julie Hersey, Tom McCandlish, goaltender Joe Mattana, Jacob Perrin, Bryant Powers and Kevin Uetz.

Scott Marzolino is the head coach. He is assisted by Lew Hersey, Bob Mattana and Greg Longe.

The Wings finished third in the 12-team Farmington Hills Hockey Association's house league with a 13-3-1 record.

## Trackmen place for U-M

Two former trackmen from Farmington high schools contributed to the University of Michigan team effort Saturday in the Jack Harvey Invitational in Ann Arbor.

In the 200-meter dash, the Wolverines placed three runners among the top four. Junior Kevin Loh (Haslett) was second (22.48) to Nduku Awazie of Eastern Michigan. Sophomores Anthony Beal (North Farmington) and Dustin Gress (Farmington) finished third and fourth with times of 22.34 and 23.09, respectively.

Michigan had one first place from senior Jeremy Schneider (Bloomfield Hills Andover) in the 400-meter dash and eight other top-three finishes in the non-scoring meet.

## Shabaj earns All-America

Farmington Harrison senior Agim Shabaj was named to the Student Sports magazine's All-American second team as a multi-purpose player.

Shabaj was a standout wide receiver who started at defensive back and returned punts and kickoffs for the 12-time state champion Hawks.

Shabaj, who is headed to Michigan State along with senior quarterback Drew Stanton, was named to the All-Midwest first team on defense.

Other Michigan players on the All-Midwest first team are Clarencville senior Tim Shaw (multi-purpose), Southfield senior Gabe Watson (offensive tackle) and East Lansing senior Antoine Bagwell (defensive back).

Harrison finished as the No. 1 team in the Midwest Feb 50. Other Michigan schools in the final rankings are Redford Catholic Central (15), Saginaw (21), Jackson Lumen Christi (26), Utica Eisenhower (27), Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley (32), Rochester Adams (38), Fruitport (42) and Flint Powers (43).



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Veteran skier:** Junior Nicole Zaleski is one of several experienced skiers who will help to make Mercy a strong team in 2002.

## VOLLEYBALL

BY DAN O'MEARA  
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Farmington volleyball coach Alex Perrin felt a lot better about his team's performance Saturday as opposed to Thursday.

The Falcons rebounded from what they considered a poor showing in the city tournament two days earlier to reach the semifinals of the 20-team Walled Lake Central Tournament.

Farmington was undefeated (3-0) in pool play and seeded second in the gold bracket. The Falcons won a quarterfinal match before losing to Birmingham Marian, 7-15, 8-15.

"That was an outstanding result in the biggest and best volleyball tournament in Oakland County," Perrin said. "We played the best I've ever seen a Farmington team play."

In pool play, the Falcons defeated Westland John Glenn, 15-2, 15-8; Birmingham Seaholm, 15-9, 15-13; and Bloomfield Hills Andover, 15-10, 15-2. In the gold quarterfinals, Farmington beat Grand Lodge, 15-7, 10-15, 15-12.

"Thursday was like a disaster for us, but we turned it around," Perrin said. "Friday we had an outstanding practice and came out firing on Saturday. We could've played with anybody on Saturday."

Jessica Janowicz had 28 kills, eight blocks and three digs; Meghan Young had 11 kills, 14 digs and five blocks; Deanna Gauer had 16 kills and 19 blocks; Randin Brown had 71 assists, 15 kills, nine digs and five blocks; and Julie Kimmel had 15 kills, 15 digs,

four blocks and three assists.

"Because we were passing better, Randin could step up and show what she could do as a setter," Perrin said.

Regarding the Marian match, "The frustrating thing was we served well all day long," he added. "We corrected most of the serving errors we had Thursday and served well all day until we got to Marian."

"We missed nine serves in the first game. If we had played as well as we did early in the day, it would have been an interesting match."

The Falcons are 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association after winning a dual meet Monday at Walled Lake Western, 15-1, 15-4.

Gauer had "an all-star game," according to Perrin, with six kills on 21 attacks, 10 blocks and two digs.

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# Marlins plan to stay at top this season

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The object of the sport is to go downhill as fast as a pair of skis can take you there.

But, when the 2002 season is complete, the Farmington Hills Mercy ski team might still be at the top, having earned the title Queen of the Hill.

The Marlins are defending league and regional champions, and they would like to improve upon their sixth-place finish in the Class A state meet.

"I think we have a really nice mix of experience and talent," coach Tom Gable said. "I don't for a second think the underclassmen won't take up the slack from the people who graduated, and the seniors have a couple years of experience."

"I think this team will be strong. We'll be vying for the top at Mount Brighton and again in the regional."

The Marlins lost three good skiers to

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graduation — Nikki Anderson, Laura Burek and Marcy Godlow — who would be difficult to replace "except we do have a couple underclassmen who got a lot of experience last year and some very, very strong seniors," Gable said. Sophomore Liz Kujala had an impressive rookie season and was Mercy's top skier in some of the big meets.

"She popped into some good finishes," Gable said. "When she was finished, she was one of our top skiers. Of course, she's a little stronger and a little more experienced. Obviously, we expect great things from her."

Junior Nicole Zaleski is following in the footsteps of her brother, Scott, whom Gable coached at Redford Catholic Central and is skiing for a club team at Michigan State University.

"We've been on the snow a couple times, and she has really impressed me," Gable said, adding Zaleski is an

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