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Blue Jays edge Hawks in finale

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

It was Senior Night at Southfield High School on Tuesday night, and the senior Blue Jays did not disappoint in leading the team to a 43-36 victory over Farmington Harrison. Seniors Kandace Evans (13 points), Kineta Tylor (11 points) and Kenya Sutton (11 points) spearheaded the win in an Oakland Activities Association Division II consolation game.

It was the final regular-season game for both teams. The state tournament begins Monday with district play. "It was a nice game to win, to get on a winning note before we go to the districts," said interim Southfield head coach Rafael Peterson. "Anytime you get a win it's always good, and it will get us motivated to get hungry to win the districts." Peterson also acknowledged how well his seniors played in the final home game. Jazmin Williamson scored four points, while Natalie Webb and Jaria Atkins also saw good playing time.

For Harrison (8-12) senior post player Maggie Condeni registered 12 points – half from the free-throw line. Chipping in with four points apiece were Jessica Condeni, Britney Lacy and Jessica Vihelje.

"We had a hard time adjusting to what they were doing defensively," said Harrison head

coach Pete Mantyla. "And we couldn't get into any kind of rhythm."

Mantyla said he is frustrated because his team is playing hard and generally holding teams "right around 40 points. But it seems there are so many little things that we're just not doing well as a group."

The Hawks actually held their own much of the evening. Southfield's lead after one frame was just 11-10, with Sutton scoring the home team's first eight points.

Early in the second quarter, a basket by Harrison's Lacy gave the Hawks a brief 12-11 lead. But Tylor scored seven points, including a last-minute triple, to give the Blue Jays a 20-15 advantage at halftime.

It was 30-25 Southfield after three quarters before the Blue Jays (13-9) put the game away with a 13-1 run. Peterson then took his seniors out with 2:16 to play, and Harrison made the game closer against Southfield's reserves.

Harrison will play Farmington Hills Mercy in a district tournament game Monday at West Bloomfield.

"The bottom line is we're going to have to play better to beat Mercy," Mantyla said. "But we're working so hard and the kids really care."

FERDALE 42, FARMINGTON 32: Han Moore scored a game-high 23 points Tuesday to lead the host Jays to an OAA tournament consolation win over the Falcons.

Ferdale led 23-16 at halftime; Farmington closed the gap to 27-25 at the end of three quarters, but Ferdale finished with a 15-8 advantage in the fourth.

Britney Coleman scored 13 points to pace the Falcons. Deanna Gault had six points and seven rebounds, and Bettie Wade added six rebounds.

(Wade) adds some speed and energy," Farmington coach Greg Ambrose said. "She's played the last couple games with us. She adds another dimension. But it just wasn't enough tonight."

"We just haven't shot the ball well all year. We miss a lot of easy shots, and they come back and hurt us. We had our opportunities, we just couldn't get the job done."

The Falcons shot 28 percent from the floor (12-of-43) and made 50 percent of their free throws (9-of-18).

Kim Walker added eight points for the Eagles, who were 11-of-34 at the line. Moore sank 10 of 18 free throws.

Both teams are 3-17. They split their first two games, each winning at home.

Ferdale outworked us; they beat us to loose balls; they beat us to rebounds," Ambrose said. "They just seemed to play a little harder than us."

"It was the third time we played them, and I thought we knew what we needed to do. But Han Moore is a real good player. She handles the ball well and does what she needs to do to get to the basket."

Berkley defeated Farmington on Thursday, 37-33. Wade had eight points and eight rebounds; Coleman led the team with nine points.

MOTT 40, FARMINGTON 22: Five players scored six points apiece Tuesday to lead Waterford Mott to a tournament consolation win over North Farmington. The Raiders led by a point after one quarter, 3-2, but the Corsairs outscored the Raiders in the second quarter, 15-5, and the second half, 23-14.

Becca Weiss and Kristin McLean were the leading scorers for North (4-16) with six points each. Christy Stockton added five points; McLean also had seven rebounds.

Mott made nine of 14 free throws, North five of nine.

K'zoo judge accepts MHSAA's plan

On Friday (Nov. 8), the United States District Court in Kalamazoo accepted the compliance plan submitted by the Michigan High School Athletic Association to reschedule its postseason tournaments consistent with the District Court's opinion and order of last August.

Unless the MHSAA prevails on appeal, it will reschedule its Lower Peninsula Golf and Tennis tournaments, moving girls tennis and boys golf from

fall to spring and boys tennis and girls golf from spring to fall. The MHSAA will offer Upper Peninsula soccer tournaments for boys in the spring and girls in the fall.

"This configuration complies with the Court's Aug. 1 Injunctive Order," states the Final Injunctive Order issued on Nov. 8.

Girls basketball and volleyball seasons would also be reversed by the Court's order of Aug. 1.

However, all these changes are subject to appeal, and on May 9, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio, stayed the District Court's order that the changes take place in the 2003-04 school year.

The first round of the Circuit Court appeals process is expected to take approximately one year, delaying the implementation of any District Court ordered plan until at least the 2004-05 school year.

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