

Harrison's Merrill DeRose dribbles away from Mercy's Dior Harris in a district tournament game Monday at West Bloomfield.

## Lakers down Raiders in district

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

A word of advice for opposing teams: Don't score the first basket when playing a girls basketball game against West Bloomfield.

Oak Park led 5-0 over the Lakers in the Oakland Activities Association Division I-II tournament title game a week ago, and North Farmington grabbed a quick, 3-0 lead Monday in a district opener.

West Bloomfield (17-4) roared back to win both games handily - 60-40 over Oak Park and 64-46 over North.

In the latter, after the Raiders struck first, the Lakers went on a 21-point run and switched into cruise control in the second half with every player (except for injured Jessica Howard) seeing action.

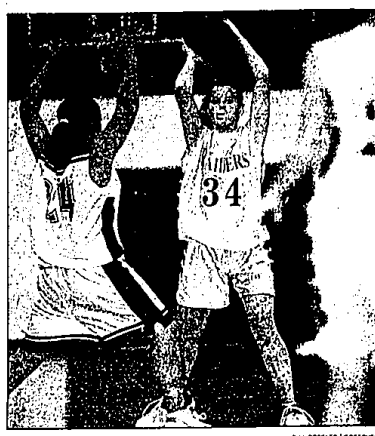
"Veronica (White) had an awesome game," Lakers coach Pam Mahoney said. "She sparked us up and we jumped on her back. And Cassandra (Callegno) is another one who just came with everything she had, and determination."

White scored five of her seven points in the first half and Callegno 15. Junior Samantha Mahoney added 16 points.

Mahoney said White and two other seniors, Dana Roschert and Lauren Clayborne, helped inspire the team with a take-off of the Al Pacino movie *Any Given Sunday*.

"The senior captains did a great pregame presentation about taking it an inch at a time, giving it all you've got," Mahoney said.

"And those inches will add up in the end to one heckuva long mile. That's what we're going to do this postseason. Hopefully, it will all add up to the (state) final game."



North Farmington's Jamie Hirsch prepares to pass the ball over the reach of West Bloomfield opponent Rebecca Kam in tournament play Monday.

The Lakers led 39-17 at halftime and the teams played evenly the rest of the way. North senior guard Christy Stockton (26 points) tried to bring her team back to respectability.

"The Stockton kid, wow," Mahoney said. "I don't know how many threes she had today. In time they're going to come and be a force."

Junior Brittany Pajewski added 10 points for the Raiders (4-17).

With West Bloomfield's starters resting most of the second half, players such as junior Caryn Grant, junior Holly Keway and sophomore Katie Rasheen contributed on offense. Grant scored six points, Keway and Rasheen four each.

West Bloomfield played without one of its starters, Howard, who sustained a twisted ankle in practice. But Mahoney was confident the player would be recovered enough to play Wednesday.

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## MARLINS

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also had nine rebounds and six steals. Whitney Johnson netted 12 points; Lindsay Loridas had seven points and seven rebounds.

The Marlins overcame an early, 7-2 deficit by going on a 17-2 run that gave them a 19-9 lead two minutes into the second quarter.

Mercy, which led 26-17 at halftime, extended its lead to 12 points twice. Johnson scored off a turnover at 3:10 in the third quarter to make it 34-22 the second time.

But the Hawks didn't fold and outscored the Marlins during the remainder of the game, 19-11.

"We play up; we play down," Guinn said. "We've done that all year. The girls have all the confidence in the world that we can do it. It's just a matter of

not taking anyone lightly. "We were slow to read passes; our reaction making was not what I've seen. What the girls don't realize is that, in a one-game elimination, anything is possible."

"Harrison is a very good team and was well prepared. Our hut goes off to their coach. They were ready to beat us."

Jessica Condenti was the leading scorer for the Hawks with nine points; Maggie Condenti had eight, Karen Ternes seven, Kristen Ternes six, Kayla Condenti and Jessica Vitellie five apiece.

An 8-0 run by the Hawks put them within four of the Marlins at the start of the fourth quarter, 34-30.

Vitellie and Karen Ternes made two free throws each for a three-point game with five minutes remaining, 39-34.

"As a team, we gave ourselves a chance to win," Mantyla said.

"It's hard to control the ball going in the basket."

"We held other good teams right at 40 points. We've been knocking on the door the whole time and can't open it."

Mercy made 14 of 46 field goals (30 percent) and 16 of 35 free throws. Harrison was 9-of-44 from the floor (20 percent) and 22-of-36 at the line. Each team made one three-pointer.

"I'm proud of our effort and the way the girls hung together all year," Mantyla added. "They kept working to get better as a team, and that's what high school athletics is all about."

"That's what made this team so enjoyable to coach. They never stopped believing they could do that."

"I'd like to thank all the girls for working so hard all year, especially the two captains (and only seniors), Maggie (Condenti) and Merrill (DeRose)."

## Marlins to play for tournament title

BY DAN O'NEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy advanced to the final game of the Class A district tournament at West Bloomfield by defeating

Farmington Wednesday, 69-28. The Marlins (12-8) will play West Bloomfield for the championship at 7 p.m. Friday. The Lakers (18-4) beat Bloomfield Hills Lahser in the second game Wednesday, 65-50.

All but one of Mercy's 14 players scored. Barb Maczka had 15 points and Whitney Johnson 13 to lead the team.

Valesha Turner added seven points, Dior Harris six and Anne Roosevelt five. Lindsay Loridas, Samantha Foggio and Natasha LaGrande chipped in four apiece. Loridas also had 10 rebounds.

"We tried to work on some things for Friday," Mercy coach Kristin Guinn said. "The biggest thing was playing better basketball than we did Monday. We had more focus tonight, no matter what the score was."

The Falcons (3-18) had an early, 6-5 lead, but the Marlins switched to a press and took control of the game. Mercy scored the next 14 points, went

on a 29-2 run and took a 36-12 lead into halftime.


"Our press was really the turning point," Guinn said. "I thought we could do OK by staying back. We started in a zone, and I think we were too relaxed."

"As a coach, I had to do something to create pressure and get us back in the game. The press really jump-started us."

Angie Palaian scored 14 points for the Falcons. Melissa Patterson added six and Bettie Wade four.

Mercy shot 39 percent (28-of-72) from the floor and Farmington 29 percent (13-of-45). The Marlins were 12-of-20 at the line and the Falcons 2-of-2.

"I just know it will be a close game (Friday), no matter who we play," Guinn said. "I know, when my team faces good competition, it rises to the occasion. Hopefully, that will bring us a victory Friday."



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