

Lakers fall short of reaching Final Four, lose to Fraser

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Oh, what could have been.

The West Bloomfield Lakers' girls basketball team blew an early lead, then ran into foul trouble in their Tuesday state quarterfinal game against Fraser. And when all was said and done, the Lakers fell 67-62 to just make out on a trip to Central Michigan University for this weekend's Class A semifinal and final games.

The momentum changed in the second quarter, with one shot that could have knocked out the Ramblers. As time ran out in the first quarter - and the Lakers already holding a seemingly commanding 18-9 lead - junior guard Samantha

Mahoney launched one from nearly half court. It rattled in and out of the basket, signifying new life for Fraser.

Then, in the second frame, both Mahoney (22 points, 4 steals) and senior forward Cassandra Calcagno (21 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals) picked up their third fouls and Fraser climbed back, trailing 33-32 at the intermission.

For the rest of the contest, played at East Detroit High School, those two Laker stalwarts were not able to play with the same aggressiveness for fear of drawing additional fouls.

"After all those kind of cheap fouls (called against Mahoney and Calcagno) we played tentative," lamented

West Bloomfield head coach Pam Mahoney. "We didn't play to win after that. We were kind of slaying away. And they (Ramblers) came, they brought it."

Fraser head coach Dave Kuppe, whose 23-3 squad will play Friday at CMU, said he was surprised that Calcagno sat several minutes during the fourth quarter, after drawing a fourth foul. The 6-0 Laker fouled out in the final minute.

"She's obviously very solid in what she does," Kuppe said. "But with Calcagno out, Fraser's front-line of 6-3 junior Katie Price (19 points), 8 Rebonds and 6-0 junior Angie McGinnis (14 points, 6 rebounds) were able to control

the glass and, in turn, the game itself.

It also didn't hurt that Fraser played double- and triple-teamed Mahoney at one end of the floor and made the most of their shots at the others.

Contributing to a balanced attack, Junior Elizabeth Jankowski scored 15 points and senior Allison McHenry added nine.

"I didn't think we rebounded well or played great defense in the first half, but we got a lot of offense, which we don't normally get," Kuppe said. "But in the second half, we knew if we didn't slow down Mahoney, she was going to kill us."

That shift in defense against the multi-talented Mahoney - combined with foul trouble -

impacted her normally aggressive approach to offense.

"The way the calls were going, she could have easily gotten an offensive charge," said Pam Mahoney, who emphasized that officials called the game evenly for both teams.

Fraser also lost a big lead. After a six-point run opened up a 46-40 advantage with 3:40 remaining in the third, Mahoney connected on a triple and Calcagno converted back-to-back lay-ups to help the Lakers go back in front, 48-46.

A basket by Fraser freshman Mary McGinnis gave the Ramblers a 50-49 lead with eight minutes to play.

In the fourth, a nifty finger-roll lay-up by Mahoney gave the Lakers a 60-57 lead with

4:45 left. But Price got the rebound of her own miss and put it down to deadlock the game again.

However, amid Fraser's towering defense, the Lakers twice missed lay-up opportunities that would have given them the lead. Still, the Fraser lead was cut to 63-62 when senior guard Veronica White (7 points) collected a missed Mahoney foul shot and put it into the basket.

Calcagno returned to the game, and nearly grabbed an important defensive rebound that could have given the Lakers another chance to take the lead. But Price managed to wrestle the ball away, and Calcagno was called for her fifth foul.

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Whalers in fight for West Division lead

The Plymouth Whalers remained in the hunt for the top spot in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with a win and a tie last weekend.

On Friday, the Whalers - who are 7-1-2 in their last 10 games - battled back from a 3-1 second-period deficit to edge the Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 4-3.

Chad LaRose had two goals, including the tying score, and an assist in the game and Ryan Ramsay knocked in the game-winner and assisted on two others.

On Saturday at Compuware, Plymouth scored two power-play goals and gave up two power-play scores in getting a 2-2 draw with the London Knights.

The two results left the Whalers in second place in the division with a 17-6-3-1 record (38 points), one point behind Sarnia. London was 11-13-2-1 through the weekend (25 points), third in the OHL's Midwest Division, while

OHL HOCKEY

Saginaw fell to 5-14-3-4 (17 points) with Friday's loss.

In the tie with London, the Whalers got on the board first when James Wisniewski (from Canton) scored on the power play at 3:18 of the second period. Ramsay got the assist.

London knotted it at 1-1 at 12:17 of the second, but the Whalers regained the lead when Ramsay scored on the power play at 1:14 of the third, assists going to Wisniewski and Karl Stewart.

Friday's game against the Spirit required the same kind of determination by the Whalers, who had an early lead when LaRose scored 4:06 into the first period.

It'll be a busy weekend for the Whalers, starting tonight in Windsor. They visit Saginaw Friday, then return home to play Sault Ste. Marie at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Compuware Arena.

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DIVISION I
Final standings: 1. Rochester, 9-2-0-2; Farmington, 7-4-1-3; Troy Athens, 7-5-0-4; Troy, 5-4-3-5; Royal Oak Kimball, 5-6-1-6; Rochester Adams, 5-6-1-6; Clarkston, 0-11-0.

All-division team: Ryan Dick, Josh Marquiso, Ryan Dimock, Lela Heslop, Jeff Forgue, Ben Greshart (Rochester); Matt Monopinski, Matt Okopny, Joe Russo, Matt Cave, Eric Gaughan (Farmington); Jason Massoglia, Doug Lewis, Rick King, Chris Horro (Troy Athens); Mark Voibe, Nathan Zuzga, Dan Mason (Troy); Steve Cole, Brian Martin (Royal Oak Kimball); Simon Omekanda, Nathan Norman (Rochester Adams); Mike Holody (Clarkston).

DIVISION II
Final standings: 1. Birmingham Groves, 131-0-2; Bloomfield Hills Lakeshore, 10-2-2-3; North Farmington, 9-2-2-4; Lake Orion, 6-5-3-5; Bloomfield Hills Andover, 6-6-2-6; Birmingham Seaholm, 4-8-2-7; Waterford Mott, 2-11-1-8; Waterford Kettering, 0-2-1.

All-division team: Greg Byrd, Lionel Jackson, Tom Montague, Terry Dowding, Cody Weiss, Keith Christianson (Birmingham Groves); Rob Ranney, Brandon Reed, Ryan Driehaus, Tristan Horvath, Ryan Doyle (Bloomfield Hills Lakeshore); Matt Holland, Steve Deaton, Andrew Houranke, Alex Uglyanski (North Farmington); Billy Weaver, Brian Lee, Geoff Williams (Lake Orion); Sho Fujita, Nao Ushiku (Bloomfield Hills Andover); Sebastian

Lounis, Evan Heiss (Birmingham Seaholm); Ben Anderson (Waterford Kettering).

DIVISION III
Final standings: 1. West Bloomfield, 11-0-2-2; Madison Heights Lamphere, 10-1-1-3; Auburn Hills Avoncote, 5-5-2-4; Berkley, 5-5-2-5; Stony Creek, 4-7-1-6; Farmington Harrison, 0-11-1-7; Royal Oak Berkley, 0-12-0-8.

All-division team: Noah Stern, Dan Beke, Josh Boren, Zack Stern, James Clancy, Gary Shuster (West Bloomfield); Chris Leili, Vinnie Warner, Matt Selim, Andrew Kelly, Mike Larchenfeldt (Madison Heights Lamphere); Goran Kijac, Jermaine Walters, Pato Margetic, Bruce Kallou (Auburn Hills Avoncote); Hale Martin, Steve Hagerman, Alan Grayfield, Adam Pigeon (Berkley); Brett Jones, Anthony Gratson (Stoney Creek); Eric White (Farmington Harrison).

DIVISION IV
Final standings: 1. Clawson, 10-0-1-2; Hazel Park, 11-2-1-3; Ferndale, 9-5-0-4; Southfield-Lathrup, 5-10-1-5; Pontiac Northern, 4-0-0-6; Pontiac Central, 3-10-1-7; Madison, 0-14-0-8; Southfield.

All-division team: Brandon Hauswirth, Dan Stratton, Scott Gillam, Dan Wickham, Adam Wornick, Chris Urbank, Ryan Cox (Clawson); Danny Mabe, Adam Berens, Matt Clayton, Joe LaBelle, Kyle Stuel (Hazel Park); James Podzikowski, Clark Geering, Jason Gieseware, Ryan Squibb (Ferndale); Samuel Uresti, Marc Hofmeister (Pontiac Central); Anthony Elenis (Madison); Nate Johnson (Southfield).

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WRESTLING
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is a transfer from Northville where he also wrestled.

Mayer was the center, Ledbetter a guard and Bartlett a defensive tackle on Farmington's 10-2 football team.

Senior Cam Murland and sophomore Chris Thuge are a pair of returning 171-pounders who will probably compete at 160 as they gradually cut more weight.

Farmington's starting lineup includes sophomore Robert Kammer (103), sophomores Andrew Anderson or Robert Escott (119), freshmen Andrew Pardy (130) and Eric Mortens (140), juniors John Antonietti or Dan Mortens (145) and junior Mike Boyden (160).

All but the freshmen wrestled JV matches last year, although Boyden had some varsity experience.

Farmington's only graduation losses were 136-pound Robert Easterday and heavyweight Adam Hardow.

The Falcons, who were 4-2 in dual meets, are in Division II of

the Oakland Activities Association, but Beyar doesn't expect the competition to be any easier than it was in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"Division II of the OAA is still a pretty strong division for wrestling," Beyar said. "We'll have our work cut out for us. I don't think it has gotten any easier for us."

"A lot of matches are double duals, so a lot of JV kids will have matches that way. Overall, it's a better format than doing single duals."

Beyar's longtime assistant, Barry Walsh, has retired, but Beyar found a pair of capable replacements in Dick Cook and Lou Milani.

Cook, who had been retired, has been a head coach at all three Farmington high schools. He and Milani are former FHS and collegiate wrestlers.

The Falcons begin the season with a double dual at home tonight against Farmington Harrison and Walled Lake Northern.

"Our goal is to be better at the end of the season, of course, with a young team like this," Beyar said.

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