

Mikel nets 26 in Concordia victory

Farmington's Matt Mikel scored a game-high 26 points, hitting six of nine three-point attempts Saturday, to lead Concordia University of Ann Arbor past host Madonna in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's basketball opener for both schools, 89-85.

Madonna, up 44-38 at half-time, led by as many as 23 points before Concordia stormed back.

Jared Adamson contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Cardinals (7-8, 1-0), while Mary Fox added 17 points. Livonia Churchill's Erik Uhlinger had nine assists and seven rebounds.

Chris Behrens led Madonna (8-7, 0-1) with 22 points while Farmington's backup point guard had 17. Joe Kofahl added 14 points, Dan Kurtnaitis 12 and Chad Nadolni, who had eight rebounds, nine points.

Concordia outbounded the Fighting Crusaders, 45-31.

OCELOTS ROMP TO VICTORY

Schoolcraft College overcame a sluggish first half and poor shooting to earn a 94-66 men's basketball victory Saturday over host Oakland Community College at Highland Lakes Gym.

Schoolcraft, 14-1 overall, led by only six at intermission, 39-33, before pulling away with a 55-33 spurt in the second half.

The Ocelots, defending Eastern Conference champion, shot just 42.7 percent from the floor (35-of-82).

Schoolcraft was 10-of-26 from three-point range.

Torvris Baker led the Ocelots with 17 points, 13 rebounds, nine assists and five steals in 32 minutes. James Holmes grabbed 12 rebounds off the bench.

Other scorers in double figures for Schoolcraft included Marcus Bennett (16), Ronald Dorsey (14) and Gary Johnson (11). Dorsey was 4-of-5 from three-point range, while Andre Scott grabbed 12 rebounds. Q Craig Myree led the Raiders (2-12, 0-1) with 15 points, while Michael Russell and Will Pendegras (Livonia Churchill) added 12 and 11, respectively.

OCC was outbounded, 55-36.

Birmingham skates past Lake Orion

BY DANIEL STOCKRAUT
STAFF WRITER

The difference between Birmingham Unified and Lake Orion on the ice Tuesday evening cannot be defined just by the final score.

Unified, a successful program now in its 11th season, had no problem posting a 10-0 Oakland Activities Association crossover victory over Lake Orion at the Troy Sports Arena. Despite the goal differential, there are other substantial reasons for the current disparity in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men's hockey between the teams.

■ Birmingham's program, a unified team between Groves and Seaholm, has had eight more years of competitive play together. Lake Orion is just in its third season.

■ Unified has developed into one of the state's better programs, as it's No. 4 ranking in Class A indicates.

■ Birmingham has a senior-laden roster, including a starting senior goaltender and five senior defenders. Lake Orion, in contrast, only has two seniors, including its backup goaltender, and has struggled playing games with a team made mostly of freshmen and sophomores.

■ Birmingham is 9-0-2 on the year. Lake Orion is 2-9-0.

"We are young with almost all freshmen and sophomores, and we are taking a beating in some of these games, but everyone is having fun," said third-year Lake Orion coach John Lukevich, whose team has earned victories this winter over Mount Morris and Madison Heights Lamphere.

HOCKEY

"We have kids that want to be here and we are seeing the progress. We are like a family and we are working hard and improving."

First-year Birmingham coach Steve McIntyre, who replaced veteran Bill Reepmeyer who served as the coach for 10 years, has one of the best teams in Oakland County that has a chance to win the OAA Division I title this winter. Unified has tied defending champ Clarkston 1-1 and plays second-ranked Farmington Unified this weekend.

"Our guys are playing really well this year," said McIntyre. "We are very experienced with a lot of seniors, especially on defense. We have very good goaltending and guys that can put the puck into the net."

"We also have a lot of team speed and I think we've been able to use that to our advantage in most of our games this year," he said.

That was evident Tuesday as the game was called after two periods because of the state mercy rule. Birmingham scored three times in the game's first 6:33 and led 6-0 after the first period. Lake Orion did show some spark when Ben Sullivan claimed a shot off the crossbar from just inside the blue line when the Dragons trailed 1-0, but Birmingham's speed and experience opened the flood gates in a hurry seconds later.

Birmingham outshot Lake Orion by a convincing 38-4 margin, including 28-1 with

shots directly on net.

Backup goaltenders Ryan Stein and Eric Stone combined to make one save for Birmingham's fourth shutout of the year. Unified has only allowed 10 goals in 11 games this season. Offensively, 11 players got into the net for Birmingham, led by a hat trick from Ryan Zimberg and one goal and four assists by Geoff Elson. Craig Roos had two goals and three assists, while (Chournal) Delvecchio, Kevin Collins, Jeff Berkowitz (one assist) and Chris Hubert also tallied goals. Four different players registered one assist apiece.

Despite the onslaught, Dragons freshman goaltender Joey Adkisson played well, stopping 10 shots in the first period alone.

"Lake Orion is young, but they didn't give up," said McIntyre. "We didn't want to let down and we didn't want to run the score up, either. We have to go out there and play hockey the way we know how to. But Lake Orion actually started to play us tougher in the second period. You have to give them credit."

That is the sign of an up-and-coming program.

"We have a freshman that starts in goal, and he's going to be a good one," said Lukevich, whose squad was coming off a 10-day hiatus. "And we're young in front of him. But these guys will get better by playing tougher teams. We might not see it right now, but down the road we will."



Lindsay Smith's performance on balance beam Saturday helped the Farmington Unified A gymnastics team win the Salem Invitational.

GYMNASTICS

SALEM INVITATIONAL
Jan. 4 at Plymouth High School

Team standings: 1. Farmington Unified A, 155.2; 2. Brighton, 141.3; 3. Hartford, 139.2; 4. Spring Lake Unified, 134.0; 5. Livonia Churchill, 132.45; 6. Salem, 131.85; 7. Holt, 130.8; 8. Adrian, 131.30; 9. Jackson County Unified, 110.95; 10. Farmington Unified B, 109.0; 11. Ann Arbor Huron, 107.5; 12. Fraser, 105.5; 13. Rochester, 104.0; 14. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 123.70; 15. Plymouth, 112.5; 16. Saline, 105.17; Westland John Glenn, 102.95

Individual scoring

Farmington Unified A: All-around - Sara Puchins, 36.65; Alyse Oudin, 34.95; Caitlin Peterson, 34.85; Dayna Wuehl, 34.75.

Team - Lindsay Smith, 12.95; M. Peterson, 12.85; E. Rochester, 12.60; M. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 12.30; 15. Plymouth, 11.5; 16. Saline, 10.50; 17. Westland John Glenn, 10.25

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