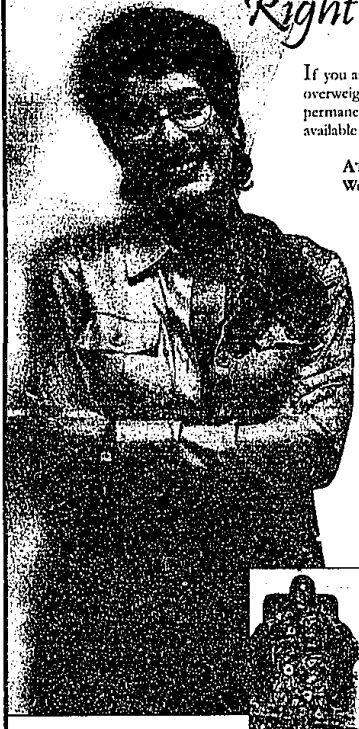


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## BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE D1

overtime, 49-46. It was 43-41 at the end of regulation play, North's Gary Kennedy hit a three at the start of the extra session, but Brian Schmidt answered with a triple for Kettering with a minute to play.

Most Leach sank two free throws and Sean Mackler one to clinch the win for the Raiders, who lead the OAA's Division III with a 10-1 record and improved to 12-5 overall.

The Captains, who missed a three-point shot at the buzzer, dipped to 4-7 in the division and 7-10 overall.

Kennedy finished with 19 points and Mackler 12. Robert White added six points; Marcus McComb, Leach and Darrin Rawls had four each.

Mackler also had seven rebounds and White five. McComb had eight steals and two assists, Kennedy five steals, Leach four assists and three rebounds.

Justin Switzer netted a game-high 20 points for Kettering, and teammate Grant St. Armour chipped in 10 points.

The Raiders were 13-of-23 at the line and the Captains 6-of-15.

"The kids did a real good job of executing down the stretch," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "Late in the fourth quarter and in overtime, we kept playing good D."

"We had some good looks, not long looks but a lot of four-footers and close ones that we weren't making. To the kids' credit, they kept playing good defense and executing offensively."

North led 14-4 after one

quarter and 24-21 at halftime, but Kettering was ahead at the end of three, 32-29. The Raiders needed a 14-11 fourth quarter to force the game into overtime.

"Mackler, in the post, carried us in the fourth," Negoshian said. "We went to him three or four times and he scored."

"(The Captains) were extending on Marcus and Gary, and we were smart enough to get the ball to Sean."

With three games remaining, the Raiders can clinch a share of the division title by winning Friday at home against Royal Oak Kimball.

"It's a struggle, but we're going to keep battling away," Negoshian said. "The kids have been saying all year, 'Let's get ready for the next one.'"

### Falcons fight off Barons

Second-place Farmington avoided an upset by last-place Bloomfield Hills Andover with a 45-43 victory in an OAA Division IV basketball game Tuesday.

The Falcons were behind going into the fourth quarter, 41-36, but they outscored the host Barons over the final eight minutes, 9-2.

"Toughness - physical and mental toughness" were crucial to the Farmington victory, coach Steve Norgrove said. "It would have been very easy for us to give up after missing the front end of two one-and-ones in the last minute."

The Falcons also fouled an Andover player while shooting a three while three seconds on the clock and the Barons down two. He missed all three foul shots, however.

"The foul didn't really bother me," Norgrove said. "We fouled one of their big guys. It's easier

to make one shot at the end of the game and bank one than it is to step up and hit three shots."

"I wasn't as upset as I would've been if the person we fouled had been a three-point shooter, because it was an aggressive foul and not because he wasn't playing hard."

Farmington remained one game behind division-leading Madison at 9-2 and improved its record to 10-7 overall.

Andover is 2-9 and 4-13. Georgio Holt led the Falcons with 16 points, which included four triples. Marcus Holman added nine points and Danny Preston seven. Farmington made seven of 15 free throws.

Andover's Jason Trotter, who averages 29 per game, scored 20 points, and Jordan Sherman added 10 for the Barons. They were 10-of-17 at the line.

"Danny Preston should be commended, because he held the second-leading scorer in the OAA, I believe, to 20 - and five in the second half," Norgrove said.

"He knew what he had to do to help us win. He did a better job of fronting him in the second half, played a little harder and was a key factor for us being able to close out the game."

Defense has been Farmington's forte all season. The Falcons held the Barons to 13 second-half points and one field goal in the fourth quarter.

"It was very important that we stepped up our level of defensive tenacity," Norgrove said. "It's tough to win on the road, and I was very pleased with the way we closed out the game."

"The guys listened and responded coming out of timeouts. We played our game and didn't let the game get to us."

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>BOYS BASKETBALL</b> Friday, Feb. 21 Kimball at N. Farmington, 7 p.m. Harrison at Berkley, 7 p.m. Farmington at Clawson, 7 p.m. (Metro Conference Playoffs) Hamtramck at Clarenceville, 7 p.m. <b>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</b> Thursday, Feb. 20 Clarenceville at Riv. Richard, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 Farmington, Farmington Harrison at U-W Dearborn Inshore, 9 a.m. Wery at Ladywood Inville, TBA.	<b>BOYS HOCKEY</b> Saturday, Feb. 22 Redford CC vs. Brother Rice, 8 p.m. at Redford Ice Arena. <b>GIRLS HOCKEY</b> Saturday, Feb. 22 F.H. Mercy vs. Grosse Pointe Lippett, 5:30 p.m. at Suburban Training Center. <b>ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE</b> Thursday, Feb. 20 Whalers at Jarvis Sling, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 Whalers at Guelph Storm, 7:30 p.m.	Saturday, Feb. 22 Oven Sound at Whalers, 7:30 p.m. <b>BOYS SWIMMING</b> Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 19-22 OAA division championships, TBA. <b>GIRLS GYMNASTICS</b> Thursday, Feb. 20 OAA meet at Roch. Adams, 5:30 p.m. <b>BREASTLING</b> Saturday, Feb. 22 Individual regional tournaments, TBA. <b>PREP BOWLING</b> Monday-Friday, Feb. 17-21 Regional team and singles, TBA.
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