

# Marlette, North Branch fall

## Vassar last real test for title bound Hawks

Friday, one of the teams in the Thumb B Association with at least an outside chance of derailing Cass City's championship express will be in town.

Friday's the day that the Vassar Vulcans are scheduled to play at Cass City. In the first game between the two schools, Vassar battled to the wire before losing, 74-68.

The team that will play Friday is better than the team that faced the Vulcans in the first encounter. In recent games the Hawks have been coming on strong. Against Marlette Tuesday night they demolished the Red Raiders, 76-44.

And the game wasn't any closer than the final score indicated. Cass City's defense which was porous in the early going was rock ribbed against the Raiders.

Two of the first four baskets came directly from the pressing defense. The two turnover baskets plus a couple of hoops by Ken Martin pushed Cass City into a 10-2 lead.

In those first few minutes Marlette was unable to bring the ball down the court with consistency and when the team was able to do so they missed comparatively easy shots. It was the story of the game.

By the end of the first quarter Cass City was in front 22-8 and the customers were yawning.

Continuing to dominate using the press Cass City moved in front 33-11 with 3:17 left to play in the first half. By intermission the score was 39-17.

Even trailing by 22 points,

Marlette came out to play some of its best ball of the game in the first 5½ minutes of the third quarter.

Cass City was guilty of several turnovers on bad passes and the Raiders chipped a couple of points from the huge Cass City lead. With 2:33 left in the

### Hawks move up in volleyball race

Cass City won three dual volleyball meets during the week with victories over North Branch, USA and Marlette.

Last Wednesday, the Hawks topped USA in three games. Coach Michelle Ansbomb said that it was the strongest performance she has seen from the Patriots. The scores were 15-9, 7-15 and 17-15.

The Hawk JV also topped USA. After losing the first game, 15-7, the girls rallied to take the next two games, 15-5, and 15-8.

Thursday night North Branch bowed at Cass City in straight games. The first match was won 15-8 and the second, 15-5.

The coach pointed to Sherry Bader and Vickie Pobanz for excellent serves in the matches.

In the JV contest the Broncos won, 15-7, 14-16, and 15-0.

Finally, the Hawks topped Marlette Monday in straight games. The first game was

third period the score was 45-25.

After that the Hawks found the range again and at the end of the third quarter was in front 56-31.

Both teams looked at their benches and Cass City still dominated during the last 8 minutes to complete the runaway.

the closest as Cass City won 16-14. Cass City took the first match with a second game win, 15-12.

In the second match the Hawks measured the Raiders, 15-5 and 15-6.

The coach pointed to the spikes of Padgett Randall, Tammie McKee and Pobanz in pacing the win. Also outstanding were 100 percent services from Tammi Rabideau, Krys Meecker and Sherry Bader.

In the JV match Cass City won easily, 15-2 and 15-3.

With the wins Cass City moved into second place in the Thumb B Association behind undefeated Bad Axe.

Standings:

| Team         | W | L |
|--------------|---|---|
| Bad Axe      | 8 | 0 |
| Cass City    | 6 | 2 |
| North Branch | 5 | 3 |
| Caro         | 4 | 4 |
| Vassar       | 3 | 5 |
| Lakers       | 3 | 5 |
| Marlette     | 2 | 6 |
| Sandusky     | 1 | 7 |

Todd Comment, Craig Tonti and Ken Martin led balanced scoring for Cass City with 12 points each. Greg Moriarty of Marlette was high for the game with 14 points.

#### JV GAME

The Cass City JV squad made it two in a row with a last period rally to top the Marlette JV, 52-45.

| Player           | FG | FT  | PTS |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|
| Cass City Ferris | 1  | 0-1 | 2   |
| Johnson          | 5  | 0-2 | 10  |
| Tonti            | 6  | -   | 12  |
| Comment          | 4  | 4-4 | 12  |
| Richards         | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Guinther         | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Hoag             | 5  | -   | 10  |
| Fahrner          | 3  | 2-3 | 8   |
| Loomis           | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Clarke           | 2  | 0-1 | 4   |
| Martin           | 6  | -   | 12  |

| Player         | FG | FT  | PTS |
|----------------|----|-----|-----|
| Marlette Brown | -  | 0-1 | -   |
| Campbell       | 5  | 1-2 | 11  |
| Cook           | 1  | 4-4 | 6   |
| Moriarty       | 6  | 1-2 | 14  |
| Leveille       | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Vandwarker     | -  | 0-1 | -   |
| Reid           | 1  | 1-2 | 3   |
| Kloss          | 2  | 1-3 | 5   |

#### NORTH BRANCH GAME

The Cass City Red Hawks had little trouble chalking up their second win of the season Friday over North Branch as they rolled past outmanned Broncos, 69-46, in a Thumb B Association game.

| Player         | FG | FT    | PTS |
|----------------|----|-------|-----|
| North Branch   | 27 | 15-22 | 69  |
| Bush           | 2  | -     | 4   |
| Lake           | 2  | -     | 4   |
| Lyman          | 6  | 0-1   | 12  |
| McNaughton, J2 | 2  | -     | 4   |
| McNaughton, P1 | 1  | -     | 2   |
| Milne          | -  | 0-1   | -   |
| Richmond       | 2  | 4-7   | 8   |
| Ruhlman, J     | 1  | -     | 2   |
| Snoblen        | 4  | 2-4   | 10  |

The victory kept the Hawks on top of the league a game ahead of the Lakers. There was little doubt about the outcome after the first quarter.

For the first seven minutes the two clubs played on even terms. The Hawks converted a couple of fast break baskets but were guilty of numerous turnovers.

The Hawks moved in front 9-6 midway through the period. The Broncos took advantage of Cass City turnovers to stay in the game. With 1:31 left in the first quarter the Hawks were in front by a point, 11-10.

In the next minute and a half Cass City outscored the visitors 7-2 to move ahead 18-12 at the end of the quarter and from then on there was little doubt about the eventual winner.

Cass City played some of its best defense of the night in the second period. The press caused numerous turnovers and the North Branch scoring was restricted to some fine outside shooting by Rob Lyman from 20 feet.

At intermission the Hawks had moved in front 43-20 and at the end of the third period the margin moved to 55-32.

After that the benches for both teams moved in to finish out the game.

The Hawks outrebounded the visitors two to one. Part of the reason for the large margin was the shooting percentages. Cass City made 50 percent of its 52 shots while the Broncos converted just 20 of 56 for 36 percent.

Cass City didn't do as well from the free throw line. The Hawks have been super from the foul circle all year. Friday they were only average, hitting 67 percent. North Branch was downright poor cashing in on just 46 percent of its free throws. The Hawks had three players in double figures headed by Craig Tonti with 18. Todd Comment scored 11 and Ken Martin, 10. For the visitors Lyman was tops with 12 while Ronald Snoblen netted 10.

#### JV EXCITEMENT

The only real excitement of the night came in the preliminary. The Cass City JV won, 51-50. It was a game of ups and downs.

The Hawks had a 6-point lead with less than a minute and a half left. North Branch came back to tie it.

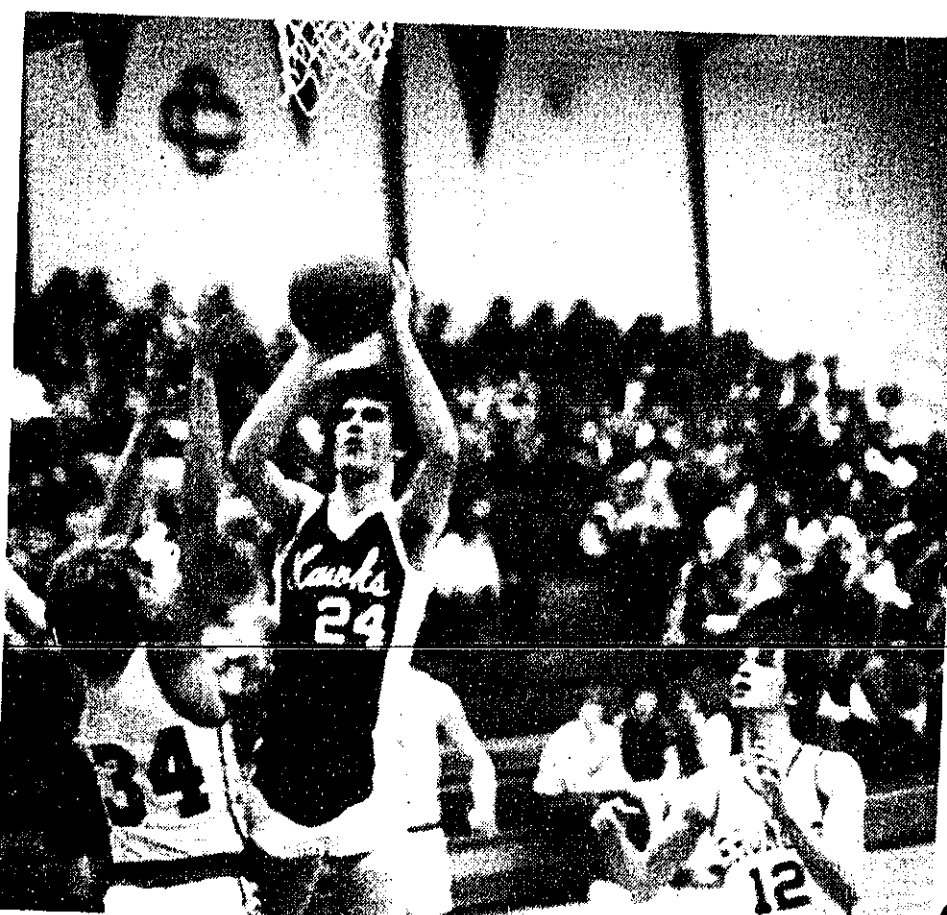
In the overtime North Branch scored first and then Cass City went ahead. The Broncos came back to take the lead with 10 seconds left. With two seconds left Ray Ferris canned a jumper to put the Hawks ahead again.

Using timeouts to kill the clock, North Branch got the ball to a player who turned and shot. The ball went in the basket, spun around the hoop twice and fell out as the whistle blew.

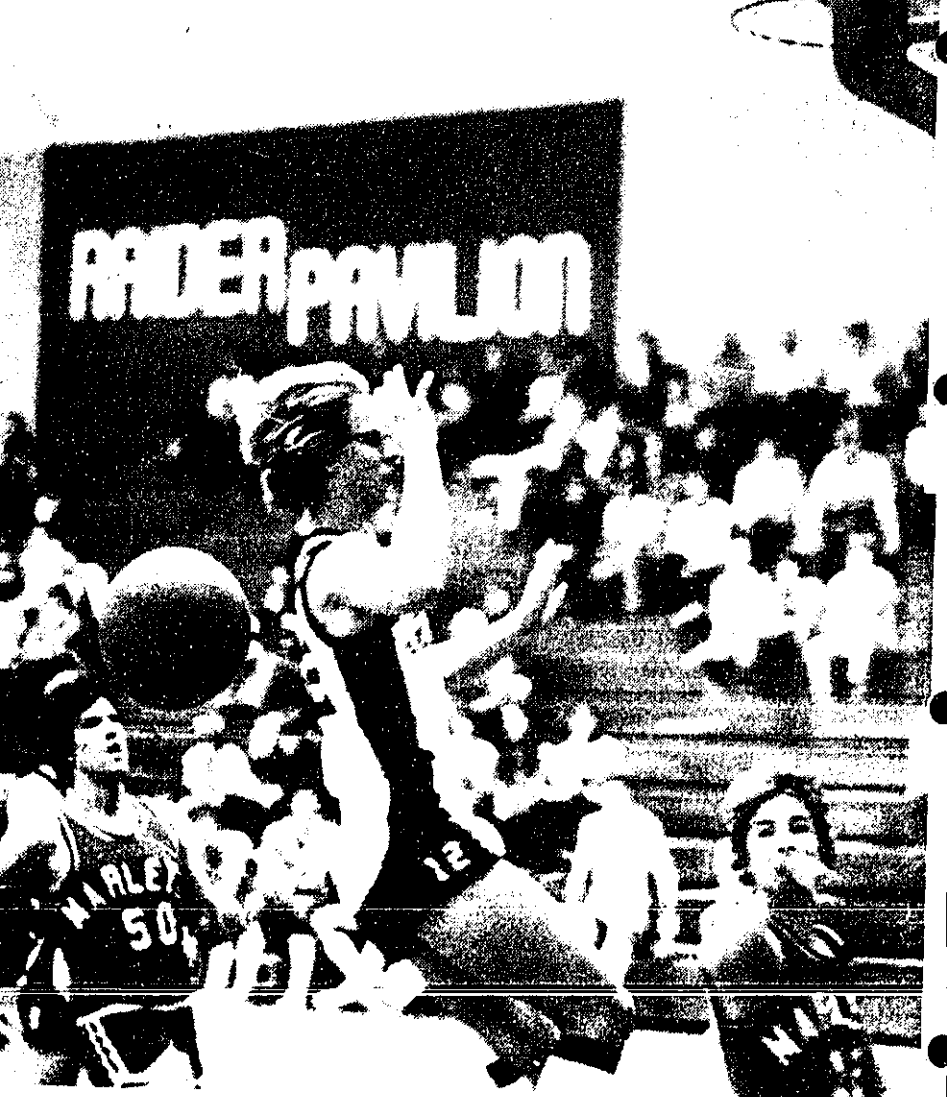
The box score:

| Player           | FG | FT  | PTS |
|------------------|----|-----|-----|
| Cass City Ferris | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Johnson          | 2  | -   | 4   |
| Hartel           | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Tonti            | 5  | 8-9 | 18  |
| Comment          | 4  | 3-4 | 11  |
| Richards         | 3  | 3-3 | 9   |
| Guinther         | 1  | 0-1 | 2   |
| Hoag             | 2  | -   | 4   |
| Fahrner          | 2  | 0-1 | 4   |
| deBeaubien       | 1  | 1-2 | 1   |
| Clarke           | 1  | 0-2 | 2   |
| Martin           | 5  | -   | 10  |

| Player            | FG | FT  | PTS |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|
| North Branch Bush | 2  | -   | 4   |
| Lake              | 2  | -   | 4   |
| Lyman             | 6  | 0-1 | 12  |
| McNaughton, J2    | 2  | -   | 4   |
| McNaughton, P1    | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Milne             | -  | 0-1 | -   |
| Richmond          | 2  | 4-7 | 8   |
| Ruhlman, J        | 1  | -   | 2   |
| Snoblen           | 4  | 2-4 | 10  |



STEVE RICHARDS gets in close for an easy lay-up Friday as the Hawks easily topped North Branch for the second time this season. Defending is James Bush. Watching is the Broncos' John MacNaughton.



OOPS! NO BALL - Brad Hartel was going up for a basket Tuesday against Marlette and lost control of the ball just as he was going to shoot. Defending is Tony Brown, left, and Mike Campbell of the Red Raiders.

## Hawks to host district tourney

Cass City will play host Saturday to an expected 169 wrestlers from 13 schools competing in the district wrestling tournament.

Preliminary rounds start at noon and will run until about 5 p.m. Finals start at 7 p.m. Action will be taking place on three mats at once, "just like a circus," according to Athletic Director Roland Pakonen.

In addition to the Red Hawks, other teams competing will include Burton Bentley, the defending state Class C champion, and New Lothrop, currently ranked No. 1 in Class C. Other teams will be Armada, Bad Axe, Atherton, Burton Bendle, Capac, Flint Hamady, Goodrich, Marlette, Lakers and Sandusky.

There are 13 weight classes, so if all 13 schools have a wrestler in each class, there will be a total of about 200 matches, Pakonen said.

It will be the first time Cass City has hosted the district event in four or five years. Winners will compete in the regionals Feb. 23 at Ithaca High School, with winners there going on to the state tournament.

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