

W. Bloomfield '5' still No. 1

West Bloomfield maintained its grip on the No. 1 position in the Observer & Eccentric's girls' basketball poll with a pair of easy victories last week.

Several of the other teams in the ratings weren't so lucky. This week's sixth and seventh ranked teams both came away with two wins. Rochester surprised Rochester Adams and also hung on to beat Bloomfield Hills Andover. The Falcons, tied for sixth a week ago, held that position themselves this week.

Southfield Christian won a pair to improve its record to 15-3. The Class D school, rated in a tie for sixth last week, was unbeaten in winning the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference championship.

The other four teams in the poll all

absorbed losses during the week's action.

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy held onto the No. 2 rating despite losing in a Catholic League semifinal playoff game to Rachelle Bostic and Royal Oak Shrine. Bostic scored 36 points in the 59-63 triumph to offset four Mercy players who scored in double figures.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser remained third in the rating, but was ambushed by Bloomfield Hills Andover. Troy, rated fifth last week, moved up a notch with a pair of wins that pushed the Class B school into the Oakland Athletic League (OAL) finals.

One of the Colts wins came against a tough Oxford team, but they couldn't repeat the performance against an equally good Clawson team in the OAL

championship game. Troy lost to Clawson, 54-45.

ROCHESTER ADAMS, beaten by Rochester last week, dropped a notch to fifth. Adams has been forced to play without Rita Snow, one of the team's top performers. Snow injured an ankle two weeks ago in the Lahser game.

The regular portion of the prep season ends this week and the state district competition begins next Monday. The five Class A teams in the poll will participate in two districts.

Rochester hosts one of those districts. Joining the host team will be Adams and Lahser.

Lahser is the favorite going into that district.

The two top teams in the rankings,

West Bloomfield and Mercy, will play in the Class A tournament at Southfield. West Bloomfield merits a slight edge over Mercy, but two other teams may make it interesting — Andover and Detroit Henry Ford.

Southfield Christian will host a Class D district, with its biggest challenge expected to come from Royal Oak St. Mary. Class B Troy will be among the field at the Birmingham Marian district.

O&E BASKETBALL RATING

1. West Bloomfield (27 points) . . . 17-1
2. Farmington Mercy (21) . . . 14-3
3. Bloomfield Hills Lahser (15) . . . 14-4
4. Troy (12) . . . 14-5
5. Rochester Adams (9) . . . 15-4
6. Rochester (6) . . . 13-6
7. Southfield Christian (5) . . . 16-3

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Ladywood stuns Shrine, 56-52

Ladywood, which has qualified for the Catholic League girls' basketball playoffs the past four years, finally won all of the marbles.

The Blazers defeated Royal Oak Shrine 56-52 last weekend at Calihan Hall to claim the championship.

A balanced attack was the key to victory. Leslie Nadeau scored 16 points

and snared 16 rebounds. Liz O'Brien notched 14 points and grabbed 20 rebounds. Donna Greenberg had 11 points and nine rebounds and Aggie Conti chipped in with nine points.

The Blazers led 16-8 after the first eight minutes and 31-22 at the half. Ladywood extended its advantage to 42-32 after three periods, then held off a Shrine rally to secure the win.

"I think that the biggest reason we won was that we played as a team. It was a total team effort," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh.

Rachelle Bostic, Shrine's most prolific scorer this season, finished with 20 points. However, Ladywood's Cheryl Jamieson, who guarded Bostic in the Blazers' box-and-one defense, limited Bostic to four points during the first half.

"We planned to hold her (Bostic) the best we could but stop the other four

girls on their team," said Kavanaugh.

"Cheryl played outstanding defense," Kavanaugh also cited the play of Geri Petrik, who "came off the bench and scored two big baskets in the third and fourth quarters," and Nadeau, who has been selected for the all-Catholic team.

"We didn't score a field goal the last five minutes," said Kavanaugh. "I think we probably played a little too conservative at the end. Fortunately, it worked."

Stingray sets mark

Scott Christie won five events, including a record-shattering performance in the 11- and 12-year-old boys' 500-yard freestyle, last weekend at the Clarenceville Swim Club AAU swim meet for Class A swimmers.

Christie, 12, a Farmington Hills native, swims for the Farmington-based Michigan Stingrays. He stroked to a winning time of 5:11.42, to better the previous record of 5:13.42, set in 1976 by Greg Patrell.

His other wins came in the 100-yard individual medley (1:03.63), the 100-yard breaststroke (1:13.69), the 200-yard individual medley (2:17.68) and the 200-yard freestyle (1:59.08). He was also second in the 100-yard backstroke (1:05.60) and third in the butterfly (2:29.14).

Christie teamed with Chris Leslie, Pat Danigan and Scott Slinson for two third-place finishes in the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:53.35) and the 200-yard medley relay (2:10.2).

Chris MacMillan, swimming in the 9- and 10-year-old girls' division, finished first in the 100-yard breaststroke

(1:23.85), second in the 200-yard freestyle (2:19.84), second in the 50-yard freestyle (30.22) and third in the 200-yard individual medley (2:45.33).

KIRSTEN KINSMAN, 15, swimming in the Open Division, placed second in both the 200-yard butterfly (2:22.57) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:07.1) and third in the 400-yard individual medley (5:02.55).

Nancy MacMillan was fourth for the Stingrays in the 200-yard freestyle (2:05.03) in the 13 and 14 age group and captured a pair of fifths in the 400-yard individual medley (5:11.99) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:53.84), both in the Open Division.

Other high placers for the Stingrays included Margie Cramer, fourth in the 9 and 10 girls' 100-yard breaststroke (1:28.33), Gary Schwedl, a sixth in the 9 and 10 boys' 50-yard butterfly (35.5) and Katy Hardden, a fifth in the 13- and 14-year-old 200-yard butterfly (2:24.89).

All told, the Stingrays won 26 medals at the meet.

Laker makes Jr. Olympics

Mark Shaw finished 23rd in the cross country state finals and was West Bloomfield's top runner at the end of the season. He qualified for the National Junior Olympics by finishing seventh in the Region Six competition.

Shaw, a junior, raced the 2.5 mile course in 13:15 in the 14-15 age group

held last week at Miamisburg, Ohio. "He averaged out over the season as our second runner, but was our No. 1 man at the end of the season," Laker coach Lee Averill said.

Shaw will compete in the National Junior Olympic meet in Hittstown, N.J., on Dec. 8.

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